

FIRST PRINCIPLES STUDY NOTES

"..... shall so come in like
manner as ye have seen him go
into heaven....."





February 2009

Online Version Published by:

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First Principles

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Lesson 1

The Bible

Called "The Holy Bible"
Holy = **Separate** Bible = **Book**
Holy Bible = **Separate Book**

1. What the Bible is

- The Bible is 66 books in one volume, divided into Old & New Testaments (or covenants).
 - **Old Testament**
 - contains 5 books of Moses
 - historical books - Joshua to Job
 - meditative books - Psalms, Proverbs etc
 - the Prophets
 - **New Testament**
 - contains the four gospels
 - the Acts of the Apostles
 - Epistles of Paul, Peter, John, James & Jude
 - the Revelation to John

2. How the Bible was written

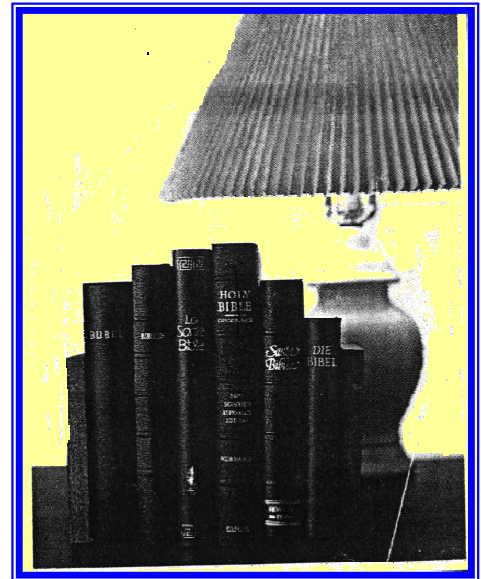
- God moved men to write by His Spirit - **2 Peter 1v21**
- Written over a period of 1,600 years
- Various writers from all walks of life

Kings	David, Solomon
Prophets	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel
Priests	Samuel
Statesmen	Daniel
Physicians	Luke
Shepherds	David
Fishermen	Peter, John

- Written from different places and countries

Arabia	Moses
Babylon	Ezekiel, Daniel
Palestine	Matthew, Mark
Asia	Paul
Italy	Paul
Patmos	John

- Written in two different languages
 - The Old Testament in Hebrew
 - The New Testament in Greek
 - The Bible as we know it today is translated from these languages
- Despite all these facts, the Bible does not contradict itself, but evidences an incredible harmony of thought and unity of doctrine.



The Bible is the World's Best Seller

3. The Bible is God's work - inspired and infallible

- Inspired - by inspired we mean that God was its author **2 Tim 3v16**
- Infallible - by infallible we mean it is true and reliable in all its parts

4. Both Old and New Testaments are of equal value - it is all God's Word

- See **2 Tim 3v16; Romans 15v4; 1 Corinthians 10v11**

5. The Bible proven to be reliable

- The witness of Archaeology - the archeological discoveries of the last two centuries have proved beyond doubt the accuracy of the Bible history. Examples of this area:
 - o The flood described in **Genesis 6**
 - o The captivity of Israel by Babylon
 - o The prism of King Sennacherib the Moabite Stone
 - o Many other clear testimonies to the Bible's story
- The Bible's internal structure - though written by different men at different times all its books agree without contradiction. The brilliance of the Bible's numerical structure is also beyond human explanation
- The witness of Bible prophecy - there is no clearer evidence of the Bible being a Divine book than the incredible accurate prediction of future events. Only God can do this.

ISRAEL

- Their scattering predicted - **Deut 28v63-67; Matt 23v37-38**
- To be preserved while in dispersion - **Jer 30v11; 33v24-26**
- To be regathered in the land of Israel - **Romans 11v1; Jeremiah 30v3; Ezek 37v12, 21-22; Jer 16v14-16**
- Jerusalem to be free again - **Joel 3v1-2; Luke 21v24;**
- Israel to dwell in safety - **Ezek 38v8**

BABYLON

- A powerful nation that ruled the world in the time of Daniel - **Dan 4v28-30**
- The prophecies of **Isa 13v19-22 & Jer 51v53-58; 50v9-11** came to pass exactly
- Babylon was completely destroyed and became desolate and uninhabited

RISE OF RUSSIA

- In **Ezekiel 38v1-2,4-7,14-16 & Dan 11v40** the Bible predicted the rise of a powerful nation to the north of Israel called the prince of Rosh, Meshech & Tubal
- This nation can be identified as Russia, Moscow and Tobolski (or Siberia). The military might of this power and its impending invasion of the Middle East are the subject of a Bible prophecy made 2,500 years ago
- It is only in the last 50 years that both a powerful Russia and a regathered Israel coexist.

PERSIA, ETHIOPIA & LIBYA

- Events concerning these nations today were predicted long ago **Ezek 38v5**
- As predicted all have come under Russian influence

The exact fulfillment of prophecy in the past, assures us of the certain fulfillment of those prophecies which are still to come to pass

6. How to read the Bible

- The Bible contains a very diverse range of styles of literature
- The main substance of the Bible is *literal narrative* (e.g. what actually occurred)
- Some parts of the Bible are *symbolical* (graphic representations) **Rev 1v1 cp Rev 12v1-7**
- Some parts of the Bible contain *parables* (stories with a concealed lesson) **Matthew 13v3-23,34-35**
- Some parts of the Bible are *prophetical* (predicting future events) **Psalm 22v18; cp Matt 27v35**
- Some parts of the Bible contain *types* (a life or events foreshadowing a future event) **Matthew 12v39-40**
- Some parts of the Bible contain *metaphors* (graphic expression) **Deut 4v20**
- Some parts of the Bible contain *personification* (speaking of an abstract thing as a human e.g. wisdom) **Prov 3v13-16**
- Some parts of the Bible contain *metonymy* (transposing cause & effect) **2 Cor 5v21**

It is vital to understand Bible Passages in context and in the style of writing employed.

7. What the Bible can do for us

- Make us wise unto salvation **2 Timothy 3v14-17**
- Give us hope of eternal life **Romans 15v4; 2 Peter 1v4; Acts 20v32**
- Purify our character **John 17v15-19; Psalm 119v9; 2 Cor 10v4-5**
- Encourage us to continue **Hebrews 10v24-25**
- Give us peace of mind **Colossians 3v15**
- It offers us more abundant living now and immortality in the age to come **1 Timothy 4v8-15**

The Bible - Our Basis Of Faith

To the Bible, then, all must come at last if they would be truly wise in spiritual things. This is a great truth, which few of the sons of men have learned to appreciate according to its importance. A man may be a theologian profoundly skilled in all questions of 'divinity'; he may be well versed in the mythology of the heathen world; he may be able to speak all languages of the nations; compute the distances of orb from orb, and weigh them in the scales of rigid calculation; he may know all science and be able to solve all mysteries - but if, with all this, he be ignorant of "*the things of the spirit*"; if he know not the true meaning of the Bible; he seemeth only to be wise, while he is, in fact, a fool.

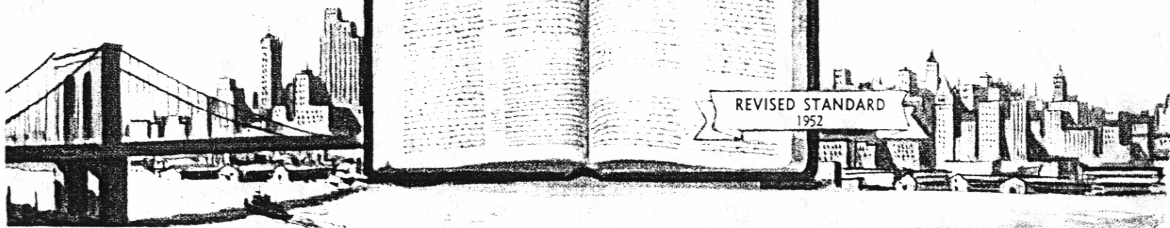
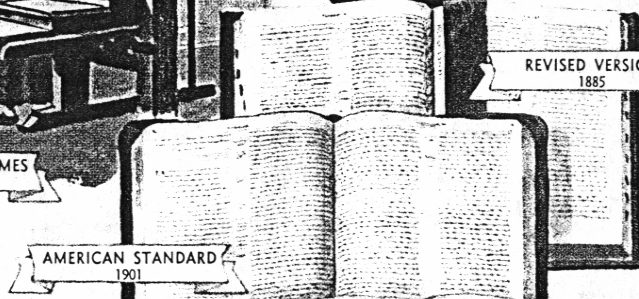
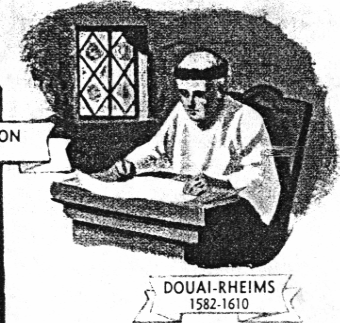
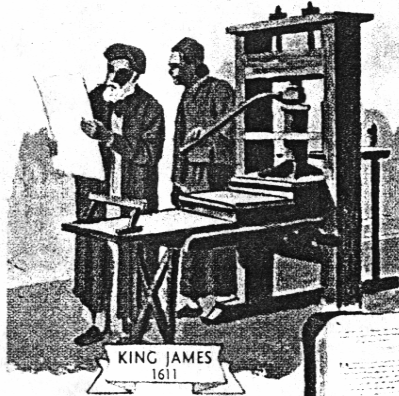
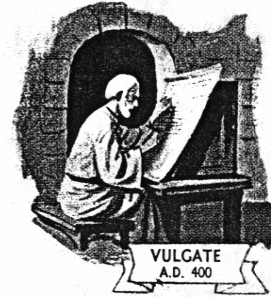
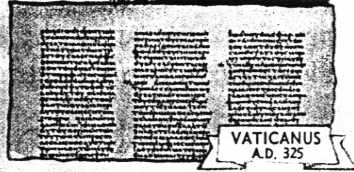
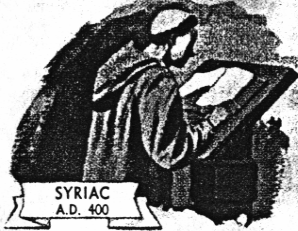
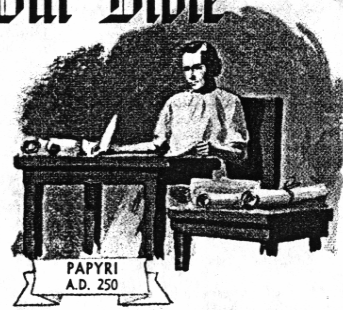
No one has any right to set up his own ignorance as the limit of what God hath revealed. A thing may be unknown to such a man, but it doth not therefore follow that it is either absolutely unintelligible or a secret. He may not know of it, or, if explained to him, he may not have intellect enough to comprehend it, or his prejudices, or sectarian bias may darken his understanding - this by no means makes the thing unintelligible or mysterious to other people. All that such persons have a right to say is "we do not know anything about it...."

Let the example of the noble-minded Bereans be ours. They searched the scriptures daily to see if the things taught by the apostles were worthy of belief. "*Therefore they believed*" **Acts 17v11**

..... Let us be contented with nothing less than a "*thus it is written*" and a "*thus saith the Lord*" for He has laid it down in His law, that no one is worthy of belief who does not speak after His rule. "*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to THIS WORD, it is because there is no light in them*". If then their light be darkness, how great is that darkness.

Elpis Israel pages 3,4 & 6

How We Got Our Bible



Lesson 2

The Gospel

1. What the Gospel is

- The word 'gospel' means the good news or the glad tidings
- The gospel is that message from God which has the power to save mankind
Romans 1v16; Mark 16v15-16; Matthew 28v19-20
- It must be believed, obeyed in baptism and enacted in a life of dedication to effect salvation.

2. There are 2 key elements of the Gospel

- The Gospel of the Kingdom of God
- The salvation offered in Christ Jesus **Acts 8v12; 28v23,30-31**

3. There is only one true gospel that can give salvation

- This fact is the reason why Paul and the other apostles contended so strongly against those who taught false doctrine. **Eph 4v4-6; Acts 20v29-31; Jude 5; Titus 3v10-11; Gal 1v6-8**
- Christ himself predicted that because there was only one true Gospel there would be few who found it. **Matt 7v13-14**
- One therefore should let the Bible speak as the only authority **Isa 8v20; 1 Thess 5v21**
- To believe error will deny is salvation **2 Peter 3v17-18**

God Manifestation

The Fundamental Doctrine of the Bible

The one doctrine that distinguishes the Truth from all other forms of religion is the subject of God Manifestation ie., that man was created to reflect the glory of his Creator, and that in all his ways he must endeavour to show forth the Righteousness of God in his life.

"Men were not ushered into being for the purpose of being saved or lost. God manifestation, not human salvation was the grand purpose of the Eternal Spirit. The salvation of a multitude is incidental to the manifestation, but it was not the end proposed. The Eternal Spirit intended to enthrone Himself on the earth, and in so doing, to develop a divine family from among men, every one of whom shall be spirit because born of the Spirit; and that this family shall be large enough to fill the earth when perfected, to the entire exclusion of flesh and blood."

Herald of the Kingdom - April 1855 John Thomas

"God has permitted the recovery of the Truth in these latter days and there is a liability that it might be lost again through the inability of complacent minds of limited grasp to see its wide-lying breadth and through their tendency to sympathise more readily with the human than the divine bearing of its doctrines. The doctrines of the Truth embody the thoughts of God, and the thoughts of God are higher than the thoughts of men, and therefore, the majority of men easily fail to rise to the height of them, or easily fall from the height when lifted up to them. The death of Christ has more to do with the exaltation of God, than the salvation of man. Most men take in the latter more easily than the former, and quickly get astray through the power of mere humanitarianism'.

Diary of a Voyage - page 70 - Robert Roberts

Lesson 3

God's Purpose with the Earth

"For thus saith Yahweh that created heavens;
God himself that formed the earth and made it;
he hath established it, he created it not in vain,
he formed it to be inhabited"

Isa 45v18

- 1. God created the earth with a clear purpose - To fill the earth with His Glory**
 - "But as truly as I live all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord."
Numbers 14v21 cp Isa 11v9; Hab 2v14; Psa 72v19. This glory of God will be revealed in both the natural and the spiritual creation.
- 2. What is God's glory?**
 - God's glory was revealed to Moses Ex 34v5-7 cp Ex 33v18-19. It is His eternal qualities and character, as well as His physical majesty.
 - God's glory (His name or character) can be described under 2 main headings
 - o **Goodness**]
 - o **Severity**] Romans 11v22 God is merciful, kind and loving but also is holy & righteous
- 3. God created mankind with a purpose in mind - that all should reflect His glory of character**
 - Man was created with the unique capacity to think like God, and to imitate God Gen 1v26; 1 Peter 2v9-10
- 4. Jesus Christ manifested the Father's name or glory when he walked on earth**
 - "I have manifested Thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world..." John 17v6; cp John 1v14; 2 Cor 4v6
- 5. God is still calling from the nations, individuals for his name (to reflect His character)**
 - God intends to perfect those who respond to His calling and immortalize them so that the earth will be filled with His glory in them
 - "God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name" Acts 15v14; Romans 5v1-2
- 6. The earth will finally be filled with God's glory at the return of Jesus Christ**
 - This will occur when God establishes a world wide divine government under the Lord Jesus Christ Dan 2v44; Matt 6v10; Zech 14v9
 - God's purpose with the earth will be completed when all sin and death is removed. This will be when Christ hands the kingdom back to God at the end of the 1,000 year reign and then -

GOD WILL BE ALL AND IN ALL

1 Cor 15v28

Lesson 4

About God

God Himself

1. God is a personal, physical being

- God is the eternal, infinite Creator of all things
- He has a bodily existence, dwelling in Heaven in unapproachable light
1 Timothy 6v15-16; Psalm 123v1; Matt 6v9; 1 Kings 8v30,34,39; Gen 1v26 cp James 3v9

2. God is One

- The Father of all
- God is not a trinity
- **Deut 6v4; Eph 4v6; Mark 12v29-32; 1Tim 2v5; 1Cor 8v6; Isa 45v5; Gal 3v20**

3. God is omnipresent (*everywhere present*) & omniscient (*all knowing*)

- By His spirit which fills heaven and earth, proceeding from Him as light and heat does from the sun **Psalm 139v2-12; Jer 23v24; 1 Kings 8v27**

4. God is omnipotent

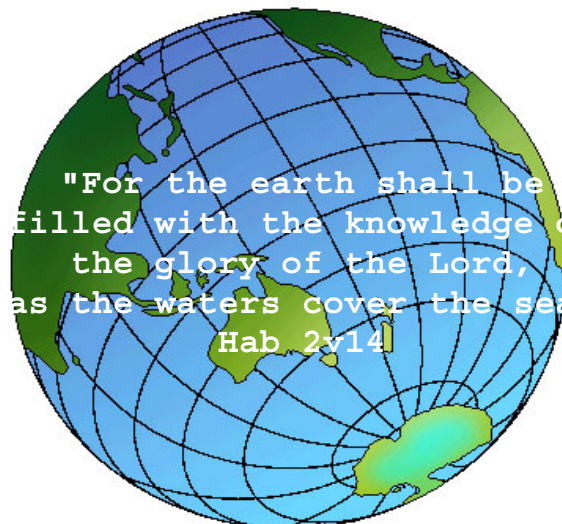
- All powerful, all wise, immortal, eternal and the sustainer of all. **1 Tim 1v17; Job 33v4; 1 Timothy 6v15-16**

5. God's character is just

- He is the epitome of goodness and mercy, balances by truth and just severity to the disobedient **Romans 11v22; Ex 34v6-7; Psa 103**

6. God demands

- He demands that man know Him and believe His purpose and existence
John 17v3; Heb 11v6



God Manifestation

Because God is physically unapproachable by mortals, He reveals Himself through agents - men, angels or Jesus. They are His messengers or ambassadors and as such are manifesting (revealing) God. We have to grasp the principle that God's messengers or agents are often called God, as they do His will or purpose. (i.e. the Fire Brigade are here, or the Police are here - the man at your door may be Bill Smith, but to you he is the Fire Brigade). In the same way angels represent God to men.

1. Angels are called 'God'

- Or they speak for God [Gen 32v24-30](#); [Psa 8v5](#); [Ex 20v20-23](#); [Gen 35v1](#)

2. Men are sometimes called 'God'

- Because they represent God [John 10v33-35](#); [Ex 6v29](#); [7v1](#); [22v28](#); [Psa 82v6](#)

3. Jesus Christ was called 'God'

- Because he manifested or revealed God [John 1v18](#); [20v28](#).
- He did God's works [John 5v3](#)
- He spoke God's words [John 12v49-50](#).
- He did God's will [John 14v7-11](#)
- He manifested God's name [John 17v6](#) cp [Heb 1v8](#)

4. We should also bear God's name

- [Acts 15v14](#); [Rev 14v1](#); [Matt 28v19](#) 1 Thess 1v1; [John 17v23-26](#)
- We can do this by revealing God to others

God Manifestation is
US
Living in a way that others may see
God living in us

The Holy Spirit

Holy - set apart, sanctified or special

The Holy Spirit is the power of God to perform his will.
It is manifested in miracles and inspirations.

Acts 2v22; 2 Peter 1v19-22

1. The Holy Spirit is God's power

- Acts 1v8; Luke 1v34-35; Acts 10v38; Psalm 33v6
- God has the power to create and change things as he wishes

2. The Holy Spirit is often personified

- Is sometimes confused as a second part of the so called trinity. The use of personification (the speaking of abstract things as beings) is common to scripture. (cp Romans 6, sin as a king; Prov 8v1 wisdom as a woman). The spirit is personified because God spoke and acted by it John 14v26-27;16v7-8
- The spirit would replace the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and would enable the disciples to achieve great things in preaching and to finish the Bible

3. The Holy Spirit is distinct from God's free spirit which motivates nature.

- The free spirit of God is the "spirit of lives" or life force found in all creatures. Psalm 51v10-12; Job 34v14; Gen 7v22

Jesus Christ

His name means

"God shall save by His anointed one"

1. He was the Son of God

- Begotten by God's power on Mary Luke 1v35; Matt 1v20; Isa 7v14

2. He was born bearing human nature

- With all its inherent lusts and weaknesses Gal 4v4; 1 Tim 2v5; Acts 2v22; Heb 2v14-18; 4v15; 5v7-8;

3. He was given the control of God's power

- Through which he did miracles and spoke the words of God Acts 10v38; Luke 3v22; 4v14;

Lesson 6

The Foundation of the World

God is the
Eternal Creator

Infinite in time, distance and power. The Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God" **Psalm 19v1**. David the king of Israel also said, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained, what is man, that thou are mindful of him." **Psalm 8v3-6**.



The Earth

Some incredible statistics about Space

The Bible describes God as He that 'hangeth the earth upon nothing' **Job 26v7**

- The earth has a diameter of 7,926 miles (12,681 kms)
- Weighs some 6,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons
- Revolves upon its own axis at a speed of 1,037 mph at the equator (1,660 kmph)
- Hurtles through space, on its orbit around the sun at a speed of 66,600 mph (106,560 kmph)
- Travels through space each year, a distance of 584 million miles (934 million kms)

Alpha Centauri

The closest star to our solar system

- 42 light years away or 26,000,000,000,000 miles (41,000,000,000,000kms)
- If the rocket that landed on the moon was directed to Alpha Centauri it would take 741,500 years at a speed of 5,000 mph (8,000 kmph) or 118,600 years at 25,000 mph (40,000 kmph)

Sirius

Sirius is called the Dog Star. It is the brightest star we see at night.

- It light takes 9 years to reach us
- If this star was in the position of our sun, our oceans and even the polar ice caps would boil away and life would vanish from Earth.

Betelgeuse

Betelgeuse is one of the biggest stars, being many times bigger than our Sun.

- It is 350,000 miles in diameter (560,000 km)
- If this giant star was in the position of our Sun, it would engulf the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

The Milky Way

Our sun is only one of the many billions of stars that make up the Milky Way

- Such a group of stars is known as a galaxy, from the Greek word "gala" meaning milk
- The distance from one rim to the other of our galaxy is 1,000,000 light years.

Yet for all his incredible control of this vastness,
the creator is willing to recognize humble people on this tiny
planet.

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

Isa 57v15

The book of Genesis is called "the foundation of the world", because it lays the pattern for the whole Bible. [Rev 13v8](#); [1 Peter 1v20](#). God's plan has never altered since creation. It is critical that we carefully analyse God's foundations and His purpose in creating the world.

The Creation of the Earth

1. Genesis 1v1 "In the beginning"

- We are told God created the heaven and the earth at some time in the past. The creation of the planet Earth and the heavens (the solar system) was not necessarily accomplished only 6,000 years ago. Rather, at that time God began to move to fashion Earth into the creation as we now know it. God, being eternal and infinite, has been active in various spheres long before the creation recorded by Moses. There may have even been previous life on the planet Earth before the time of Genesis 1 and this may account for some of the fossils we now see.

2. "God" (Elohim - *plural*) - "He created" (*singular*)

- Hebrew "Elohim" - the word means ***mighty ones***, and is a plural noun, unusually followed by a singular verb. This is showing us that God performed his will in other beings.
- God created by is power [Psalm 33v6-9](#) which was manipulated by the angels, or "the elohim" as they are called in these chapters. [Psalm 103v20-22](#); [104v3-5](#); [Gen 1v27](#); [Job 38v7](#).

3. Genesis 1v2 "The earth was without form and void"

- Hebrew "***a catastrophe***" Rotherham translation - "had become waste and wild". This indicates that the earth had suffered a great destruction at some time previous which had left it "waste and wild", enveloped in thick cloud and covered by water.

4. "The spirit of God moved on the waters"


- Literally "was hovering on the surface". The angels arrived to begin the new creation that The creator had determined.

5. The Key to the six days of Creation (*see diagrammatical notes over page*)

- It is essential to the understanding of the record to note that the events take place from the point of view of a man standing on the face of the Earth. This explains why the Sun, though in existence was not sighted until the fourth day, when the cloud cover eventually cleared sufficiently.
- Note the logical order of the things created. A special note on [v16](#) - "And God made two great lights" The word "made" in this verse is better rendered "appointed" or "placed in position" - see [Psalm 104v19](#).

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: He layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."

Psalm 33v6-9



"In the Beginning"
"a catastrophe' Gen 1v2

The earth was covered with water

Dense cloud & Darkness over all the earth

Day One
Cloud cover thinned

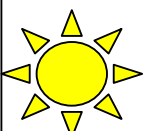
The earth covered by water

Day One completed

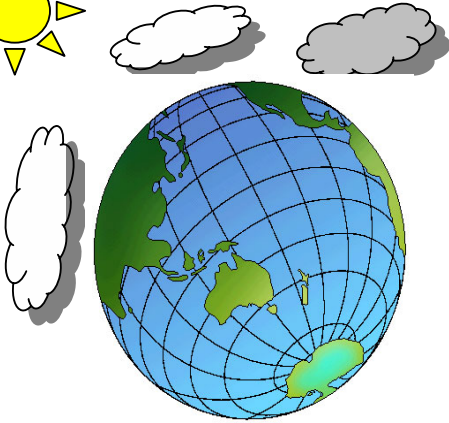
Days Two & Three
Dry land appears

The Firmament (Atmosphere)

not



Day Four



Cloud cover further reduced

Sun, moon & stars now seen

The Theory Of Evolution

In 1959, just 100 years after Darwin presented his theory of evolution, Sir Julian Huxley said "Darwin's theory... is no longer a theory but a fact". Since then our whole society has been influenced by evolutionary and humanist philosophies. Evolutionary ideas certainly did not begin with Darwin. They arose first among the ancient Greeks; Anaximander taught that men evolved from fish, and Empedocles asserted that animals had developed from plants. These views, however, were not generally accepted.

Another widely accepted view put forward by Aristotle and others around 400 BC was that of Spontaneous Generation. It taught that fish and frogs arose suddenly from mud and slime, rats and mice from rubbish, and maggots from rotting flesh. Others such as Gregory pointed out in 400 AD that if this was the true, then there was no need to believe in God as Creator. This notion held popularity for hundreds of years, but in 1668 Francesco Redi proved that maggots came from fly eggs laid in rotting meat. In the mid 1800's Louis Pasteur completely disproved the theory by showing that bacteria would not grow in sterilised materials.

How is it possible for a false theory to be believed so passionately and for so long against the advice of many eminent scientists and contrary to scientifically controlled experiments? The reasons are exactly the same as those for which evolution is believed today. They are summed up in the opinion of the scientist Haeckel; who claimed that Spontaneous Generation must be, true because otherwise it would be necessary to believe in a Creator. People believed this theory -because they did not want to believe in the "old superstition".

Modern evolution has a host of problems. It is false science which has been postulated but never proven, asserted but not supported by valid evidence and dogmatized but never demonstrated. It fails to meet scientific criteria:

1. It is not useful in predicting future natural occurrences.
2. Not subject to experimental tests because its supposed events are unique, unrepeatable and irreversible, and require extreme spans of time
3. Not capable of falsification because it is so plastic it is able to explain anything, even contradiction
4. Its probability is essentially zero.
5. It has no substantial support in natural processes or laws.

The theory has several other major weaknesses.

1. The lack of transitional forms as acknowledged by Darwin himself ('Origin of Species' p. 207)
2. The sudden appearance of complex forms in the lowest fossil bearing rocks.
3. The ignoring of data which contradicts the theory.
4. Improbability of uniformitarian assumptions.
5. Degenerative nature of mutations.
6. The inability of untold scientists to produce even one living thing from non-living materials.

Lesson 7 The Principles of Spiritual Creation

The days of creation
also teach lessons,
for those seeking
to obey God

Day 1 **Light must penetrate darkness**

- This principle is clearly taught in the Bible - God's truth must replace our natural ignorance [1 John 1v5-7](#); [1 Pet 2v9](#); [Col 1v13](#); [John 12v46-48](#)

Day 2 **Separation - must occur from the troubled sea of nations**

- God requires His servants to come apart from the world in baptism
- [Isaiah 57v20](#); [Rev 17v15](#); [2 Cor 6v14-18](#) separated into two classes by water

Day 3 **God calls people to be separated in order that fruits are produced**

- The fruits that God requires are obedience and right actions [1 Peter 2v9-13](#); [Romans 6v22](#)

Day 4 **The light must shine**

- True followers of God will radiate their faith to others [Matt 5v14](#); [Phil 2v15](#)

Day 5 **The Grace of God goes to Gentiles**

- The number 5 is the Bible's number of grace.
- The birds and fish represent those that God is calling
- o Newness of life developed by personal choice [Rom 6v4-5](#)

Day 6 **The Man & his Bride are formed and united**

- The 6,000 years of creation will culminate in Christ & His bride being joined together [Eph 4v24-30](#); [Rev 19v7-8](#); [2 Cor 11v2](#)

Day 7 **Rest from our labours**

- The Sabbath day rest foreshadowed the Kingdom of God [Heb 4v9](#); [Rev 14v13](#)

Lesson 8

The Creation of Man

God created the man and the woman on the 6th day (hence 6 is the number of man - and men have dominion for 6,000 years).

Genesis 1

v26 Why man was created

"and God (Elohim) said"

- This refers to the angels who used God's power to create. [Job 38v7;](#)
[Psa 103v20-21](#)

"let us make man in our image"

- Heb "Tselem" means "bodily shape" or "appearance".
- For this reason men and angels are often confused. See [Gen 18 & 19](#)

"after our likeness"

- The Hebrew word for "likeness" indicates 'mental capacity or constitution'.
- Adam was made with the ability to reason on moral principles and divine ideas.
- All other animals including the serpent were able to reason - but not on moral principles (e.g. love, hope, faith, mercy, justice, respect, holiness, righteousness)
- The animals were amoral creatures subject only to natural propensities or instincts. They could not absorb God's moral laws and ideals. [Rom 8v6-8](#)

"have dominion"

- The angels declare that this was the purpose for which man was created
- It was a position later lost through transgression.
- Man was intended to use his greater mental capacity to subject the animal minds and to rule over them.
- When he let his animal mind fall to animal thinking he lost that dominion. This will only be regained when Christ reigns as universal king, and "all things" are subjected to him [Psa 8v6-8;](#) [Heb 3v6-8;](#) [Eph 1v19-22;](#)
[1 Cor 15v24-28;](#) [John 17v2;](#) [Matt 22v18.](#)

v27 "male and female created He them"

- Man and woman were created both in the image of the elohim (the angels), suggesting perhaps elohim also were male and female before their exaltation.
- When the faithful saints are glorified, they will become equal to the angels
[Luke 20v34-36](#)

v28 "dominion"

- Is emphasized again as the mission of the man given in the Creation

v31 "very good"

- All things the angels had made (including the serpent) were very good in God's eyes.
- The serpent could not therefore be an intrinsically evil creature as some suppose.

The Days of Creation

In an attempt to accommodate the scientific theory of evolution, some commentators bend the scriptural account of creation by claiming that each day of creation was in fact a longer period than 24 hours, and it is suggested that each day represented a period from 1,000 years to billions of years. Yet Moses wrote "the evening and the morning were the first day" etc., in other words a diurnal revolution of the earth which is 24 hours in duration.

The matter is made very clear in **Exodus 31v17** "For in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested". In **v 15** He said "six days may work be done, but the seventh is a Sabbath of rest". Here Yahweh is directing Israel to work for six literal days on the basis that the creation took six literal days to perform.


In **Genesis 5v5**, Adam's age is given as 930 years, but if each day of creation were 1,000 years, it would mean that he lived part of the sixth day, conservatively say 500 years, plus 1,000 years of the Sabbath. Thus by the end of creation alone he would have been 1,500 years.

It should be noted that all life, both animal and vegetable, depends on light, and if there was darkness for 500 years all would have perished and Adam would have experienced at least one period of 500 years of darkness.

However, **2 Peter 3v8** states "that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day". The key to understanding this lies with the statements "is as", that is there is a typical application of a day which spans a thousand years.


Thus the creation was typical of Yahweh's purpose with mankind. There would be 6,000 years of human history when man would work the works of the flesh and when Yahweh would take out a people for his name, typically doing this in the fashion of another creation, based on the patter of the first. This would be followed by 1,000 years of rest from the domination of the flesh, when the Lord Jesus Christ's authority will be supreme.

The first miracle, in the light of what the rest of the universe is like, is that there IS an ocean here! In the universe as a whole, liquid water of any kind - sweet or salt 0 is an exotic rarity.




Contrary to common belief, the liquid state is exceptional in nature; most matter in the universe seems to consist either of flaming gases, as in the stars, or frozen solids drifting in the abyss of space

We live miraculously on this planet, protected from eight killer rays from the sun, by a thin layer of ozone high up in our atmosphere.



If that little belt of ozone, approximately forty miles up and only one eighth of an inch thick (if compressed), should suddenly drift into space, all life on earth would perish.

If the earth's diameter were 7,200 miles instead of 8,000, almost the whole earth, due to a lessening of its atmospheric mantle, would be reduced to a snow and ice waste.



If there were a variation of only 10 percent, either in the increase or decrease of the size of our world, no life as we know it on earth would be possible!

The Sabbath
Genesis 2

v2 "God rested"

- "ceased" not because His power was in need of rest (Isa 40v28) but to institute a principle for the sake of man.
- God did not want man to work 7 days a week so He set one day aside so that man might cease from his own works and consider God and His ways
Ex 31v12-27; Isa 58v13-14; Mark 2v27

"the Sabbath"

- Is a type or shadow of the Kingdom of God.
- This will be 1,000 years of rest after 6,000 years of labour and toil.
- God will again create a perfect state from a situation of chaos Heb 4v4,9-11

v3 "God blessed the Sabbath"

- The blessing would be upon those who kept it in the correct spirit Isa 58v5-8.
- God set this day apart to teach a lesson to man

"sanctified it"

- Set it apart - as a completely different day to the others
- A day to rejoice in God's works.
- Israel was required to observe it as a nation

After Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law of Moses, the Sabbath no longer was observed.

- Christ's disciples met on the first day of the week, not the Sabbath Acts 20v7; 1 Cor 16v2
- Sabbath keeping is no longer required Gal 4v10; Col 2v16

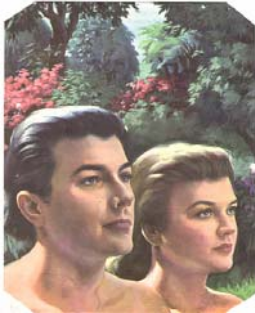




The Earth's Climate

Genesis 2v5-6

Apparently when the earth was created, a different system of watering the ground was in operation. This unique climate possibly remained until the flood, when rain was first seen, rainbows appeared and seasons were experienced. [Gen 7v11](#); [Gen 8v22](#); [Gen 9v13](#); [Heb 11v7](#).



The Creation of Man

Genesis 2v7

More detail is now supplied concerning the mechanics of the creation of man and woman. There are three basic elements that make up a living person.

1. **Dust of the ground**
 - Physical elements to which man returns at death [Eccl 12v7](#); [Gen 3v19](#)
2. **Breath of life**
 - Hebrew "Neshemet Chayim" - breath of lives i.e. atmospheric air [Psalm 146v3-5](#)
3. **Spirit of life**
 - see [Eccl 12v7](#); [Job 33v4](#); [Psalm 104v29-30](#)
 - Heb "Ruach Chayim" - breath of spirit of lives.
 - The instrumentally formative power of God - the "electricity" which sustains body function and nervous system etc. This is found in every creature and returns back to God at death. [Gen 7v15](#) It has no relation to personality or memory.
 - Man became a **living soul**. (Heb "Nephesh Chayah) - a breathing frame, a living body, not an eternal soul.
 - See also [Job 27v3](#); [33v4](#); [34v14](#);
 - See [Gen 1v30](#) where the word is translated as "life"

**The Seventh Day...
Was Adam obliged
to keep it?**

The 7th day was Saturday, and on God's standard for a day, it was Friday sundown to Saturday sundown. "The evening and the morning were the day". From **Exodus 16** onwards the Scripture refers to this day as the Sabbath; a word meaning "rest".

Moses wrote that at creation, God sanctified it, i.e. He set it apart, but there is no suggestion that Adam and Even observed it as a special day. It was the Elohim that had worked the work of creation and who rested on that day. Adam had done nothing to rest from.

Yahweh had set it apart as a type of the Millennium, and gave it to Israel as a day of rest. But they changed it to a day of ritual, to which they became subservient. However, the Lord Jesus Christ clearly condemned this, saying that "the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath." In other words, the Sabbath was designed for man's benefit, that he might enjoy a day of rest, unencumbered by the mundane things of life, so that he could think on and enjoy the things of God. That the Sabbath was given only to Israel and did not apply before or after the Mosaic covenant is clearly seen in the words of Moses in **Exodus 31** "verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep; for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever."

When instructions were first given to them to keep the Sabbath, Israel knew nothing of Sabbath keeping. That narrative reveals that it was something new to them and not something they were familiar with. Israel misunderstood its purpose. It was not only designed to give them a day of rest, which under the restrictions of the law became a drudgery to them. Its principal purpose was that they could spend a day thinking about Yahweh and His wonderful law. Isaiah said that Yahweh would bless them **Isaiah 58v13**. 'if thou turn away....from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight; Holy of Yahweh honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words".

The law of the Sabbath is not repeated under the "Law of Christ" but it has a typical application as we read in **Hebrews 4v3**; "For we which have believed do enter into rest (Sabbath)" **v10** "for he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works as God did from His". Thus it is that the truth necessitates living a life dedicated to God; not just one day in the week, but every day, ceasing from the works of the flesh, like the Lord Jesus Christ who never did the works of the flesh, labouring in the works of God; **v11** says "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest (i.e. this stands for immortality) lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief", as manifested by Israel. Thus the seventh day is a glorious type of God's purpose with His creation, when the "earth will be full of the glory of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea".

The Garden & God's Law

There were 2 trees in the Gardens of Eden that were important.

Genesis 2v9 God planted 2 trees with special significance, the **tree of life** and the **tree of knowledge of good & evil**

Genesis 2v10-14 The garden was a delta surrounded by four rivers

Genesis 2v15 Man was set to work to tend the garden

Genesis 2v16-17 ➤ God's law was placed on the tree of knowledge of good & evil

The reason for the law ➤ Man was in an untried state and the law would test his obedience to God's law.

➤ It is needful to test faith to perfect it, thus developing character. **1 Peter 1v7**

➤ God tests all men to improve their faith **Job 23v10; Acts 14v22; Heb 12v5-12 Deut 8v1-3; Heb 5v7-9; Gen 22v1**

➤ Adam was responsible to teach Eve God's law

The tree of life ➤ Had the ability to give the eater eternal life **Gen 3v22** but apparently they never ate of it

➤ This was most likely because they never felt a need to be different from their "very good" state, until after they had sinned.

The Tree of Life

This tree was literally placed in the midst of the garden **Gen 2v9**, indicating that it was at the centre of God's purpose. As the law of cause and effect applied when Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good & evil, changing him physically, so he would have been literally given immortality had he eaten of the **tree of life Gen 3v22**.

This then raises the question, why didn't he eat of it? Possibly it was not ripe, or perhaps it did not look attractive (to the people of the world the truth appears to be unattractive to their fleshly minds and they find it hard to appreciate that it is through much tribulation that we can get eternal life).

Although Adam was prevented from eating of its fruit and was expelled from the garden the "way" i.e. "path, road" has been preserved **Gen 3v24** (keep = preserved), so that as Adam engaged in divine worship he could see the tree of lives in the distance and learnt that one day certain men and women would have the privilege of eating of its fruit and living forever.

The wise man tells us that there is a sense in which we can eat of its today when we partake of divine wisdom. **Prov 3v18** says "she (wisdom) is a tree of life to them that lay hold on her".

In the Hebrew the word 'life' is literally "lives" (chayim, 'im' making it plural). Thus the "tree of lives" gives us a mental picture of a tree with many fruit, all of which would give immortality to the eater thereof, This will be the great gift given by the Son of God to the worthy **Rev 2v7** who thus figuratively become trees. The product of the fruit of a tree is designed to reproduce the tree, thus we have David in **Psalms 1v3** writing "and he shall be like a tree whose leaf shall never wither" i.e. perennial = immortality. This is expressed by **Isa 61v3** "called trees of righteousness the planting of Yahweh". Such a picture is presented in **Rev 22v2** where the saints are depicted as a wood or forest ('tree' - "xulon" is a Greek word like our word sheep which is either singular or plural; here it must be plural for it is on both sides of the river), while the word 'life' is singular. We are therefore being taught that the "tree of lives" becomes a "forest of life", that gives "12 manner of fruits", and "the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations", illustrating the work of the saints in the Kingdom age.

The Garden and God's Law (cont)

Genesis 2v16-17 **The tree of knowledge of Good and Evil**

- Conferred the ability to know good and evil merely because in eating, one disobeyed God and received evil as punishment.
- Their lusts were excited in the act and the consequent shame and fear brought a knowledge that good had been lost.
- There was, after sin, a far greater awareness of the difference between good and evil.

Thou shalt surely die

- Yet they did not die that same day.
- The margin gives the correct sense "dying thou shalt die"
- A process of gradual decay was set in action that culminated in death **Genesis 3v19**

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

Many Bible commentators claim that this tree would impart the ability to discern right from wrong, but this is contrary to Moses' intention. His account presents the tree as one who fruit, like that of the Tree of Lives, would bring about a physical change in the eater.

The effect of partaking of the "**Tree of Knowledge**" was to awaken latent impulses within man, making him susceptible to the experience of both pleasure and pain, thus to "know" what was desirable and what was harmful.

The onset of adulthood brings a growing awareness of these experiences and impulses both pleasant and harmful, whilst "little ones" or children, have "no knowledge of good or evil" **Deut 1v39**. Our sensitivity to these things is at its peak when we reach maturity, but tapers off with the onset of old age. Thus Barzillai the Gileadite said "I am eighty years old, can I discern between good and evil?" This aged man is not suggesting he has learnt nothing in his 80 years, but is referring to the dulling of his senses and his loss of ability to enjoy life's experiences; "can thy servant taste what I eat, or what I drink? Can I hear any more the voice of singing?" **2 Sam 19v35**

His explanation helps us to understand what is meant by these terms in **Genesis 2v9**. Solomon further illustrates the deterioration of the ability to "discern good and evil" with advancing age, in the graphic description contained in **Eccl 12v1-7**.

The "knowledge of good and evil" imparted by the tree in Eden, thus includes the whole range of human experiences wherein the enjoyment of pleasure is tempered by the recognition of danger and pain - we can enjoy the warmth of fire, yet know the danger of coming too close.

Because of its effects, this tree could be called the "tree of desire", or the "tree of death". Like the "tree of life" it was unique among the trees of the garden, and apparently did not propagate itself.

Whilst we recognize that much can be learnt in a natural sense by the experiencing of "good and evil", we are unable by nature to discern what is right or wrong in God's eyes. Eternal wisdom in those matters comes from only one source; the study of God's work. Therefore "study (Roth 'give diligence') to show thyself approved unto God.... rightly dividing the word of truth" **2 Timothy 2v15**.

Lesson 10

Creation of Woman

The details of the Woman's Creation Genesis 2

- v18** ➤ The man viewed all the animals with their mates and found no creature with which to share his greater capacity (v 20). God said it was "not good for man to dwell alone" -- he was incomplete if he could not learn to socialise and needed someone to interact with.
- **"help meet"** Heb. "a counterpart" - RSV "a helper fit"- the woman was designed to complement the man, to reflect his glory and being made of a different emotional nature, to draw from him the latent characteristics which he may not so easily have displayed. The man had a less emotional nature and was not deceived by the serpent's deceit. **1 Tim 2v13-14, 2 Cor 11v2**. As a unit they would manifest the principles of God's character.
- As one writer has expressed - *"Man is the head, but only for nurture and protection and honour of the woman. Woman is man's equal fellow-heir of the salvation that is offered in Christ, but not to usurp the position that belongs to man both by natural judgment and achievement. Woman is for grace, sympathy and ministrations. Between them they form a beautiful unit - 'heirs together of the grace of life'.* Law of Moses p 220
- v 21** ➤ **"One of his ribs"** In this unique method of creating Eve, God intended that there should be a closer relationship between man and woman than existed between the animals. This relationship was typical of Christ and his bride-the ecclesia. **Eph 5v22-33; Rev 19v7-9; Matt 22v2-14**.
- At Christ's death his side was opened in a similar way. As a result of his death (deep sleep) the ecclesia was formed, and should be at one with him. **John 19v34-37**
- v 24** ➤ **"One flesh"** - a greater sympathy and love existed between them as a result of their special creation and greater moral and intellectual capacity.
- Marriage therefore is for life: and cannot be dissolved. **Matt 19v2-9; Mark 10v2-12; 1 Cor 7v39**
- v 25** ➤ **"Not ashamed"** - because shame is the result of a defiled conscience. **Genesis 3v7** There was no guilt or sense of wrong in them before sin.

Marriage

From one man (Adam) Yahweh created two persons with the intent that they should again become one.

In **Matthew 19v4** the Lord Jesus Christ declared that "He (God) made them male and female" (which we understand as man and woman), so that they come together in marriage. This is to be a permanent arrangement until death separates them. The prophet Malachi **2v15-16** states that Yahweh "hates putting away". A husband and wife should share each others hopes, joys, sorrows, aspirations and ideals and thus be "one flesh" both in body and mind.

The creation of Eve from Adam made such ideals possible, for as Adam said, "She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh".

Yahweh made Adam knowing that he would be lonely, and impressed this loneliness upon him by causing the animal creation, male and female, to pass before him. He saw that they had companionship, "but for Adam there was not found a help meet" (companion, counterpart). Because Eve was taken from his flesh and bone instead of from the earth (as it was with the animals), Adam and Eve had a greater compatibility and fellow feeling than the animals could have. This would allow them to more easily fulfill the divine ideal that the two persons that He had made from one, should become one in desire, action and thought.

Yahweh said that for this reason "shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife". **Gen 2 v 24; Matt 19 v 4-5**.

Paul in Eph 5 v 31 states that this verse illustrates the personal, intimate relationship between Christ and the ecclesia. It shows the figurative application the creation of Eve has to the formation of the bride of the second Adam, who was put into a deep sleep that his bride might be formed out of him.

This chapter also provides guidelines to normal marriage. The wife is to be in subjection to her husband as the ecclesia is to Christ. Let her revere him as she would the Lord, and let the husband respect his wife and render to her due benevolence in the manifestation of a true sacrificial love that seeks her good before his own.

God declares that it is not good that a man should remain alone, because the experience of marriage will develop in him the need to mutual understanding and consideration and the exercise of the unselfish love that a successful marriage demands. This helps in a practical way, to develop Christ-like qualities.

Marriage was developed by God as a channel for the fulfillment of the divine purpose; the eventual bringing forth of a righteous seed. The Lord Jesus Christ endorsed marriage and graced a wedding feast with his presence **John 2v1-2**. Paul acclaims marriage as honourable and desirable.

But even better than literal marriage is the spiritual espousal of ourselves to Christ **2 Cor 11v2** which means that we can constitute part of his glorious bride at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Lesson 11

The Fall of Man

How sin
came into the world
Genesis 3

- v 1 **The serpent** was one of the beasts of the field (v14) which God had made, and was therefore "very good" in God's eyes (1v31). He was a literal animal (2 Cor 11v3) and one given the power of speech (cp Balaam's ass 2 Peter 2v16) was **more subtle** Roth. ,crafty", literally "more discerning" than the other animals. His wisdom (reasoning and discernment) was commended by Christ as a virtue Matt 10v16. He had the power to **speak**, to **move about** freely and the power to reason on facts. However, the serpent was still an animal and had a carnal mind ... this could never be answerable to God's laws nor could it appreciate moral virtues Rom 8v7. So we see that the serpent was not held accountable for its utterances.
The serpent had a theory he had arrived at, about the law of God in relation to the trees of the garden. He now put the theory to the woman. His question came in a way that suggested he had thought through the discussion.
- v2-3 **God hath said**. The woman repeated what God had said. As such she spoke God's law. The woman thus represents those who understand and speak God's law.
- v 4 **Ye shall not surely die**. The serpent now expressed his theory, which seems to be based on a device to overcome the sentence of death attached to the tree of knowledge of good and evil, by eating also of the tree of life (3v22). He had observed that the man and woman lacked the experience of good and evil possessed by the angels he saw in the garden. Note the serpent made no allowance for the fact that God might uphold His law. see John 8v44. The serpent was a "liar" - unintentionally, but still a liar. He 'spoke of himself' because there was "no truth in him".
- v5 He was correct in his observation about increased knowledge (v7) but was wrong in his assumption that God would tolerate Adam and Eve disobeying Him
- v 6 **The woman saw....** the woman made a fatal mistake. She did not use the greater mental ability that she possessed over the serpent and the moral capacity to absorb God's laws. Instead, she adopted the serpent's reasoning, which appealed to the natural desires of her body.

Three Aspects of Temptation

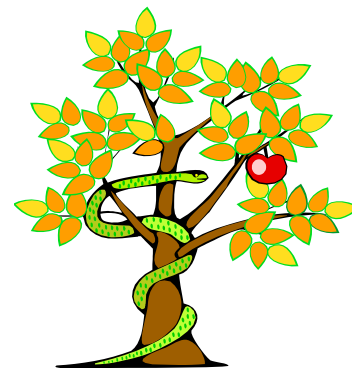
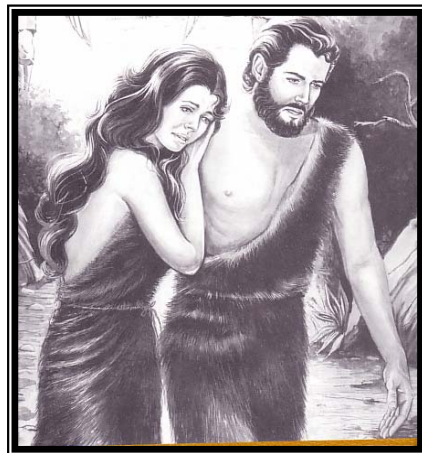
1 John 2v15-16; James 1v14-15; Mark 7v20-22

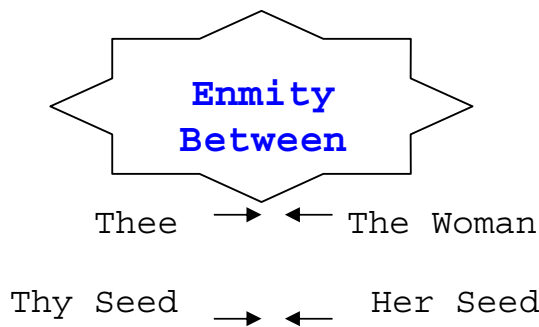
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|----------------------------|-------------------|
| ➤ Saw it was good for food | Lust of the flesh |
| ➤ Pleasant to the eyes | Lust of the eyes |
| ➤ Desired to make one wise | Pride of Life |

The Process of Sin
James 1v15-17

- Defiled mentally when she heeded the teaching of the serpent - **Gen 3v6**
- Defiled morally when she ate of the fruit - **Gen 3v6**
- Defiled physically when mortality took hold of them - **Gen 3v19**

- v 6 **Gave also to her husband.** Very likely Adam was with Eve, but failed to uphold God's law. Adam was not deceived (**I Tim 2v14**) but he listened to the voice of his wife above what he knew to be right in God's eyes (**v17**)
- v 7 **Their eyes opened** - an awareness of sin now came over them. The serpent felt no shame because he was not capable of it but the man and woman had a conscience which was now awakened by their sin
- Fig leaves** - their shame caused them to be aware that God was watching them. They devised their own covering for their nakedness, but God later provided a covering, teaching us that we cannot cover our own sin, but we must rely on God to provide a covering for us. **Prov 28v13-14; Job 31v33.**
- v 8 **They hid themselves** They felt a sense of shame and hid from God. There was now fear and regret as a result of their sin. They lost the confidence of past days.
- v 10 **I was afraid** - Adam's answer testified to his guilt. There had been no fear and shame before their sin. Sin is transgression of God's law. **I John 3v4**
- v 11 **The woman thou gavest to me** - Adam blamed God for his temptation. Adam was later sentenced, but first God pursues the source of blame. Eve blamed the serpent and the serpent had no-one to blame.
- V 14 **God cursed the serpent** by removing his powers of speech and motion. God did not punish the serpent for wickedness **but as a lesson to the man and the woman** to impress them with the folly of serpent thinking that leaves God out of account. It is interesting to note that serpents smell by sucking in fine dust for analysing at the roof of their mouths. God's word is confirmed by scientific discovery.
- v 15 **The first great promise of redemption** - God spoke now to the serpent, not because he could appreciate the words but to illustrate the principle to the man and woman that there must be a difference in their thinking to that which the serpent manifested. Also included in God's words was the first promise of redemption and freedom from the power of death.





The Results

A temporary wound	The heel for the woman's seed	Jesus crucified yet raised Isa 53 v 10
A fatal wound	The head for the serpents seed	sin completely destroyed Heb 2 v 1

The Meaning

God established that there would be both a natural and mental enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent.

The seed of the serpent	Those dominated by natural thinking, who leave God out of account
The seed of the woman	Christ and all those who think like him Those who know God's law.

The Enmity

Ultimately Christ will destroy the thinking of the serpent and those dominated by it.

- **CHRIST** **Matt 1 v 18 - 25; Gal 4 v 4** had enmity with the serpent minded Jews of the day. **John 15 v 19; 16 v 33; Matt 23 v 33**
 - He called them 'vipers'. He also fought and destroyed natural thinking in himself **Col 2 v 14**
 - **CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS** will have enmity both in themselves as they struggle to overcome their own nature and the power of the serpent's seed in the earth. **Eph 6 v 12; Rom 7 v 18 - 23**
- v 16 **The sentence on the woman** - as she sought to gratify the flesh, so God made this the basis of her punishment. Pain and sorrow in childbirth was to be her lot. Her conception would be increased as the conflict of the two classes of people in the earth would cost many lives. She was also placed in subjection to her husband. **1 Tim 2v9-14**
- v 17 **The sentence on the man.** As we noted, the man was punished for listening to the voice of his wife, rather than obeying God's law. His punishment was the loss of the easy life in the garden. He now had thorns and thistles to contend with, the ground was cursed and he would have to labour hard to get a living. He would be impressed with the value of what he had lost by transgression.
- v 19 **The sentence of death,** was pronounced in **v 19**. This declared the fate of man from that moment onward. God had said "dying thou shalt die" and now the words came to pass. Man was created from the dust of the ground and was to return there. God now changed their nature from the "very good" state to mortality, a process of gradual ageing and corruption.

- v 20 **Adam called his wife Eve** - Adam's faith expressed itself *in this name. He saw that life could come through the promised seed of the woman. This is a direct contrast to **v19** (mortality).
- v 21 **God clothes them**. God had to teach them that they could not cover the results of their sin, but they must look to God to provide. God slew an animal before them, **teaching that they were worthy to die** as that animal had. **Heb 9v22; Lev 17v1**. God also was teaching that a sacrifice was to be made that would provide for the sins of mankind and hide their shame 'in the eyes of God. (cp **Rev 13 v 8**). Jesus Christ becomes the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". (see also **John 1 v 29**)
- v 22 **The way of the Tree of Life**. Death having been pronounced, God ensured that they did not eat of the Tree which could have given eternal life. The man was driven out of the garden. The way of the Tree was guarded by God firstly to provide a place of worship for the man and also to keep open the prospect of eternal life as the ultimate reward **Rev 2v7; 22v14**
- v 24 **God placed cherubim**. This appears to be an angelic manifestation that God placed at the entrance to the garden. The Cherubim represent the "faces of God" (**4 v 14**) where men could come to sacrifice before God. Cherubim are the heraldry of God's Kingdom.

Principle
Death came by mental, moral & physical corruption
Life comes by mental, moral & physical change

**Three Temptations Common To Man
 Defeated By Jesus Christ**

Key quotation I John 2 v 16

Eve Gen3v6	1 John 2 v 16	Christ Luke 4
Good for food	Lust of the flesh	Command this stone that it be made bread v3
Pleasant to the eyes	Lust of the eyes	All this power will I give thee v6
A tree to be desired to make one wise	Pride of life	Cast thyself down from thence v9

How Sin changed all Creation

Before Adam and Eve sinned, the creation was pleasant and harmonious. There was no death, thorns or thistles. The fact that in the Kingdom age "the lion will eat straw like the ox and the wolf shall dwell with the lamb" ([Isa 11v6-8](#)), indicates that this was the condition of things before man sinned. As Moses stated, all creation was 'very good'. In [Genesis 1v30](#) it clearly states "every beast, fowl and creeping thing, I have given every green herb for meat". It would therefore appear that Yahweh implanted latent conditions in the creation that would be triggered off by what we call the law of cause and effect, once sin was committed.

Originally Adam and Eve had no sinful lusts, for God made them upright [Ecc 7v29](#). But when Eve believed the serpent, a change took place in her body which released "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life", which John says "were not of the Father" [1 John 2v15-16](#). (i.e. were not part of the original creation but which became a physical part of our nature).

Man became subject to death, a process that now commences at birth; 'dying thou shalt die'. This process is evident in the illnesses and diseases we suffer. The body cells which constantly reproduce, gradually break down, until in old age they cease to function as they should and eventually we die.



At creation Adam and Eve possessed a nature capable of corruption but not subject to it. But now we are dying creatures subject to inevitable corruption.

All creation changed as we saw with the animal creation. The earth brought forth "thorns and thistles", and the fertility of the ground was affected, so that man would experience difficulty in extracting a living from the soil. Ultimately the purpose of God is to change this state, so that the earth and all creation will revert back to how it was at the beginning, and in addition, man will be deathless and reflect the glory of the Creator - "and there will be no more curse" [Rev 22v3](#).

Lesson 12

Cain & Abel

The Development of the
Two Seeds
Genesis 4

God gives us an illustration of the inevitable conflict or enmity between the two seeds. One listened to God, the other did not. [1 John 3v12](#). Cain was of the carnal mind.

v1 Cain

- Hebrew 'acquired'.
- He was a tiller of the ground
- Eve saw him as the promised seed

v2 Abel

- Was a keeper of sheep
- Perhaps he saw the significance of "the lamb slain from the foundation of the world".

v3 In process of time

- In the Hebrew this means "at the end of days" (see mgn), so we see there was apparently a set time for sacrifice to God.
- This was probably conducted at the east of the garden where the Cherubim kept the way of the Tree of Life.
- Cain brought produce from the earth, which God had cursed.

v4 God has respect to Abel's offering

- Why? Because Abel saw the principle involved in the shedding of blood to provide a covering for sin.
- A man who sins is worthy of death, and the animal's death was his declaration of this fact.
- It also pointed forward to the one who was to come (the seed of the woman) who would die for his brethren ([Heb 9v22](#); [Matt 26v28](#); [Col 1v14](#))
- God probably consume Abel's offering with fire but did not recognize Cain's offering.

The lesson for us

See [Hebrews 11v3](#)

- Abel's offering was by faith ◀
- This comes by hearing God's word [Rom 10v17](#) ◀
- Abel will be raised again because of his faith ◀

v5 Cain was angry

- Because his offering would have taken more effort than Abel's
- Cain had done his best but lacked faith in God's purpose
- He now refused to see the principle

v6-7 God endeavours to show Cain that there is opportunity for him to be restored to favour

- A "sin offering" was at the door.
- If he used it he could regain his rights as firstborn, and Abel would be subject to him.
- Cain refused God's offering - he was a will worshipper who would not submit to God's terms.
- The word "sin" is Hebrew "chaattah" - is rendered "sin offering" see **Numbers 6v11,14,16**.
- The word 'lieth' is Hebrew "rebets" which means 'crouches'

v8 Cain slew Abel

- Cain refused to humble himself before God and took out his frustration in murder.
- The enmity of **Genesis 3v15** was already at work.
- Cain, by his attitude, began the "seed of the serpent" cp **Matt 23v34-35**
- The seed of the serpent has always opposed the Truth and sought to crush its followers.

v9-10 God questions Cain

- Cain clearly indicates his lack of concern for his brother.
- He also proved he was a liar **1 John 3v12**

v11-15 Cain's banishment

- From the 'faces of God' (mgn **v14**)
- As a punishment Cain was sent away from the place of worship and forgiveness

v16-24 The development of the serpent's seed

- This gives us a history of Cain's seed.
- The predominant member who is given as an example of their wickedness and defiance is Lamech.
- Lamech was contemporary with Enoch see **Jude 11-14** (also the seventh from Adam).

v25-26 The seed of the woman

- Seth was born to replace Abel
- The descendants of Seth "began to call themselves by the name of the Lord" (see mgn)
- Thus the two seeds began - two distinct classes of people and two different styles of living.

The lesson for us

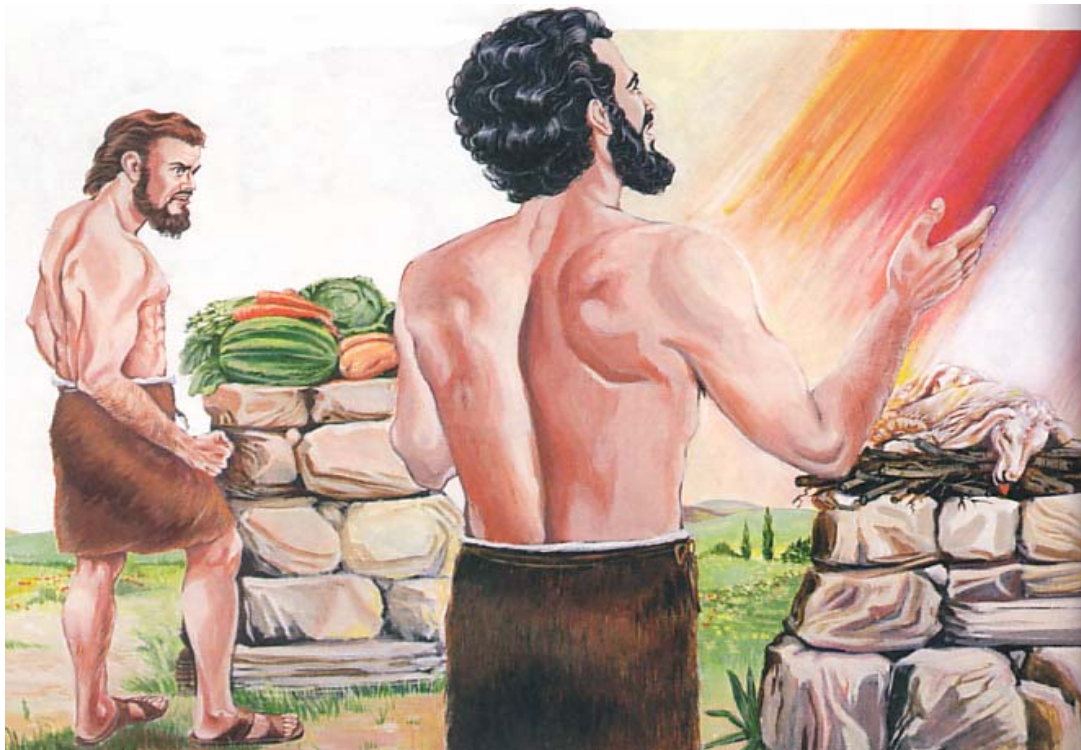
Principle - to acceptably worship God we must do so in **sincerity & truth**
John 4v24; Matt 7v21

- Cain gave effort but did not recognize God's principles <
- Sincerity without truth will not save <

Abel
as a type of the
Lord Jesus Christ

Abel	Jesus Christ
➤ Was the 2nd son	➤ The 2nd "Son of God"
➤ He was a shepherd	➤ "The Great Shepherd"
➤ He pleased God	➤ "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"
➤ Abel was not worthy of Death	➤ Innocent of any act worthy of death
➤ Offered a better sacrifice	➤ "With a better sacrifice than these"
➤ Received the birthright	➤ "I will make him my firstborn"
➤ He was killed in a field	➤ "Outside the city"
➤ Typical resurrection in the appointment of Seth Gen 4v25	➤ Literal resurrection

However, the blood of Abel cannot atone for our sins, so the Apostle Paul bearing this in mind, impresses on us that the blood of Jesus Christ "speaketh better things than that of Abel."



Lesson 13 From Creation to the Flood - 1656 years

The generations before the flood Genesis 5

- v 4 **Adam** lived to 930 years - this illustrates the great patriarchal ages. cp. **Psa 90v10; Gen 6v4-7**
- v 21 **Enoch** walked with God. Enoch was a faithful man who was in the line of Seth (seed of the woman or the sons of God) He "walked with God" in opposition to Lamech (**ch. 4**) and opposed Lamech's evil ways. cp **Jude v14**
- v 24 **Enoch** was not, for God took him. We learn from **Hebrews 11v5** that Enoch was "removed" or "carried away" by God to avoid seeing death at Lamech's hands. God probably removed him so that the evil men would not triumph over God's faithful servant. **Isa 57v1-2**
- v 27 **Methuselah** lived 969 years. His name means "when he is dead it shall be". It seems he was named by Enoch to indicate that the flood was to come. The fact that he became the longest living person ever illustrates God's longsuffering. **I Peter 3v19**. Methuselah died in the year of the flood.
- v 29 **Noah** means "rest". The faithful saw Noah as the salvation from God. Noah had three sons - Shem, Ham and Japheth.

The Goodness And Severity Of God

In the book of Romans (**11v22**) we read, "behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but towards thee, goodness: if thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off". Paul is here alluding to the state of natural Israel compared with that of spiritual Israel. God's severity was about to fall on natural Israel, while His goodness was extended to the believers in Christ Jesus, but only on the condition that they remained in thought and deed within the cover of His goodness otherwise they too would be given over to His severity.

We see an enactment of these principles in the pre-flood periods, when His severity eventually came on all living creatures except Noah and those with him in the ark. These only remained within the sphere of His goodness. The world around us teaches that God is only a God of love, completely ignoring the other side of His character. But the scripture is full of examples of not only His love but also His severity. He will extend His goodness to those who continue to walk in His ways, but in due course His severity will fall heavily on much of His creation which will return to the dust from which it originated. A powerful example of what can be expected is shown to us in the punishment He exacted by the great flood that swept away man, beast, creeping thing and fowl. What a salutary warning to us that the only worthwhile thing in life is pleasing God, so that eventually He will extend to us His goodness - the gift of immortality.

Life Expectancy

After the flood, men's ages declined rapidly.

➤ Shem	600 years
➤ Arphaxad	438 years
➤ Salah	433 years
➤ Eber	468 years
➤ Peleg	239 years
➤ Reu	239 years
➤ Nahor	148 years

Gradually life expectancy was reduced to seventy years **Ps 90v10**. This should impress us with a constant need to invest in the future. Life is so short, we should set our hearts and hands to the things of God, that our life may be extended to all eternity.

During the Millennium, life expectancy will again increase as **Isa 65v20** tells us: "he who dies a hundred years will be thought to be a mere youth" (NIV).



The mountainous area of Ararat in Turkey includes Mount Ararat where the ark is thought to have come to

Lesson 14

The Genesis Flood

Why God destroyed the Earth Genesis 6

v1 Men began to multiply

- Bearing in mind the long lives of men and the recorded generation gaps seen in **Genesis 5**, a conservative estimate of the population is as follows:
 - o Average of 6 children per family (most likely many more)
 - o 90 years per generation (most likely much less)
 - o Therefore population = 2 (Adam & Eve) x 3^{18 factor}
 - o The factor being the number of generations in 1,656 years. The figure thus deduced is about 2 billion, or one third of today's population of the world. "Men" multiplied i.e. "flesh + sin multiplied".

Daughters were born

- An obvious statement.
- This is telling us they were "daughters of men" or if you like, the real examples of the fleshly mind.

v2 The sons of God

- Not angels - but those of "the seed of the woman".
- The descendants of Seth (**4v26**) who until now had kept separate from the serpent class.

Saw the daughters of men were fair

- The lust of the eyes
- To reach this state they lost their desire for separation (the enmity) and had compromised to a situation where temptation arose.

They took them wives

- The lust of the flesh
- The intermarriage between the two seeds was a contravention of God's principle of enmity and separation.
- God does not allow marriage to unbelievers (after baptism) as this is destructive of separation **1 Cor 7v39; Deut 7v3-4; 2 Cor 6v14; Neh 13v25-27**

v3 God said

- Rotherham - "my spirit shall not always rule within man".
- God recognized the nature of flesh and its evil tendencies.
- Therefore, after the flood, he limited the life span of man to 120 years
- There was also 120 years left before the flood came.
- 120 is 3x40 years and 30 is the Scripture's number of trial and probation.
- God allowed 3 times the normal to allow men to change. Peter says in **2Peter 3v20** "The long-suffering of God waited".

v4 **Giants in the earth**

- Hebrew - "the nephelim" - attackers, men of extreme violence (such as Lamech)

After that, when Sons of God married the daughters of men

- The fruit of the mixed marriages were "men of renown" or as the Hebrew means "a hero or champion". These were men who became famous for the culture and prowess - they combined the skills of war and industry from the line of Cain with the morality and social graces of the line of Seth.
- In these the pride of the flesh was seen

v5 **God's estimation**

1. Wickedness very great
2. Every imagination evil continually
3. Corruption on every hand
4. Violence filled the earth
5. "God's way" was corrupt

v6 **God repented**

- God does not change His mind or make errors to regret, but He does suffer sadness at men's failures (even though He knows them in advance).

Grieved Him

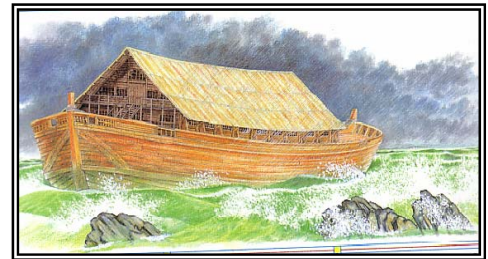
- **Ezekiel 33v11** God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked

v7 **A flood intended**

v8 **Noah finds grace - or favour with God**

v9 **Noah's qualities**

1. "just" - righteous
2. "upright" - honest
3. "walked with God" - reverent + obedient



v14-22 **The Ark prepared**

- See **Hebrews 11v7** - Noah believed God and acted to save his house.
- Faith without action is useless
- The ark was big enough for all the animals plus food for 12 months
- The ark was a symbol of baptism - it saves us from perishing with the world
- **1 Peter 3v20** - Note Noah was saved "by": water, not from it. Had the flood not come the faith, or God's way, would have been lost.

Chapter 7 - 9 The Flood

- Was worldwide **Genesis 7v19-20** "all dry land"
- Destroyed all men and animals outside the ark **Genesis 7v21-22**
- Lasted about 12 months
- Flood legends are found as a part of the traditions of all races
- There are 80,000 writings in 72 languages and the stories are consistent between continents.
- The flood effected dramatic changes on the earth's crust and its climate (rainbows **9v11**, seasons **8v22**)

Genesis 8-9 After the Flood

- Noah thanked God for his preservation [8v20-21](#)
- God promises never to use a flood again - the Covenant of the Rainbow was given [9v11-15](#)
- Though the race of sinners had died, sin in the flesh survived - a fact destined to bring evil and death ever since [9v18](#)

The lesson for us

- We have to be in the ark (have accepted Christ in baptism) to be saved [1 Peter 3v20](#) ◀
- God requires faith and action [Hebrews 11v6-7](#) ◀
- Separation is vital [2 Cor 6v14-16](#) ◀

A warning
to our generation
[Luke 17v26-33](#)

These verses tell us:

- God's judgments will be poured out when similar conditions exist [2 Peter 2v5](#); [Isaiah 26v9](#)
- Conditions today are a sign of Christ's return
- Men who imagine God will not act should be warned [2 Peter 3v1-8](#)

It does matter what we believe

This divine principle is powerfully illustrated in the early chapters of Genesis. Sin and condemnation came into the world because Eve believed the serpent, rather than God. The serpent pointed out that the evidence of what they could see, seemed to contradict the statement made by God. How could she die if there was access to the 'tree of life'? Thus she believed the serpent's lie "thou shalt not surely die" bring condemnation o herself and all flesh, illustrating very clearly that it does matter what we believe.

When we come to the story of Cain and Abel this is again emphasized. Cain thought he could worship God as he wanted to, but the evidence of the story shows that his disregard of what God required destroyed his chance of pleasing God, and emphasizes that God will be worshipped in the way He has appointed and in no other.

It was essential to the salvation of Noah and his family that he believed that God was going to send a flood on the earth and that the only escape from it was to build an ark exactly to the divine specifications given to him. Any deviation would have led to destruction. Not only did he have to believe, but his salvation depended upon his whole-hearted effort in building the ark and preaching to others. Peter writes that he was "a preacher of righteousness". His time and substances (physical and material) went into this project, indicating that we must not only be hearers of the word but doers only. Paul write to the Ephesians that "ignorance alienates us from God" and to the Hebrews "we must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". The Phillipian jailer asked the question "what must I do to be saved?" to which the apostle answered that he must "believe"

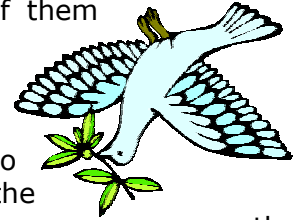
Therefore we can conclude that the first step to salvation, one that is absolutely essential, is to recognize that [it does matter what we believe](#). What we have to believe is "the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ". When this is done then we must put into practice those things that God requires us to do, such as baptism and obedience to His commandments.

A Universal Flood

Some Bible commentators propound the theory that the flood was only a local catastrophe and not universal in its effect. This theory seems to be based on the findings of Sir Leonard Woolley, who excavated the ruins of ancient Ur and found a 3m layer of water-laid silt under which were the remains of a superior and quite different culture. From this it was assumed that though a devastating flood had occurred, it possibly affected only the area of the Middle East. But it is now known that this layer of water-laid silt can be found in places as far apart as Alaska and Arizona. Much more evidence is available today, indicating that the earth was subject to a universal flood of a huge magnitude.

In the historical records that have been unearthed there are records of lists of kings referring to a pre-flood age like we today refer to B.C. and A.D. dates. All ancient civilisations through-out the world have a flood story, many of them similar to the Bible account.

However, a query that readily comes to mind if the flood were universal is, where did all the water come from and as water is an eternal substance, where has it all gone to? It is interesting to note that only 30% of the earth's surface is dry land and that the average depth of water surrounding this land is 4,200m deep, whereas the average height of the dry land is 860m. In other words, there is 15 times as much water below the sea level as there is land above it and if the sphere of the earth was smoothed out (i.e. no mountains) there would be 2,900m of water covering the earth. Dry land is just the top of the mountains.



The Genesis account states that it not only rained for forty days, but that "the fountains of the deep were broken up" ([Gen 7v11](#)). This indicates that the sea poured in, which would have happened by God raising the sea bed. On May 20th, 1960, an earthquake off the Chilean coast caused a change in the topography off the coast, which sent a tidal wave 16m high and traveling at 800 kph. It reached Japan 16,000kms away causing much damage and loss of life

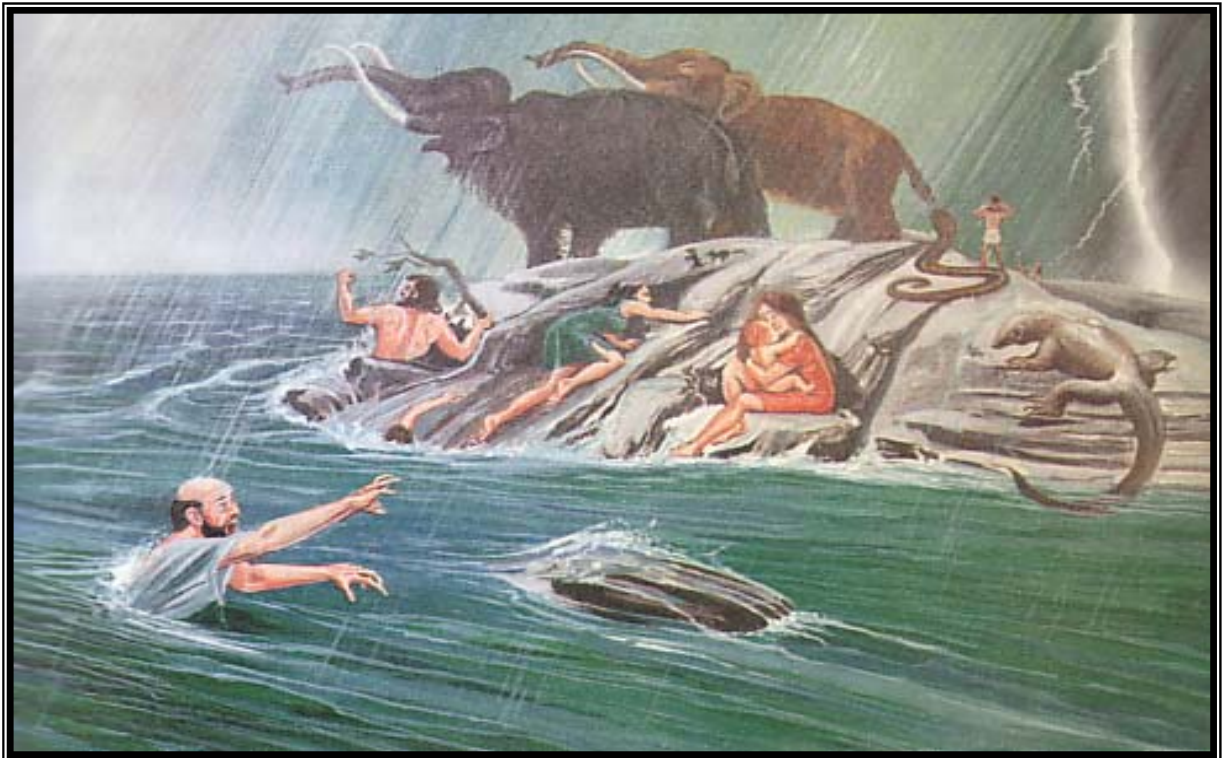
The earth's axis is tilted at 23.5°, but before the flood it was probably perpendicular (there is evidence to support this). It would have caused a huge wobble that would have created waves traveling at 1,600kph and 10km high at the equator. Such waves would cause great masses of debris of rocks, churned sediment, pulped vegetation, animal carcasses and marine animals to be flung about in huge quantities.

Waves of this magnitude would have sucked air from the polar regions, causing sudden freezing. The Siberian Tundra has been found to contain thousands of frozen mammoths and other animals. They are perfectly preserved, green food is found in their mouths and stomachs. These graveyards consist not only of the mammoth elephant but also sabre tooth tigers, giant elk, cave bear, musk etc. The area is no longer producing fodder of the type that they needed and this points clearly to a sudden catastrophe of the type that only a universal flood could achieve. These animals had to die and be simultaneously frozen and buried.

In warmer climates, preservation was not possible, but there are "death pits" and caves containing the bones of dozens of different types of animals, not compatible yet somehow brought together and dumped in common graves. It is now admitted that oil is derived from the bodies of vast shoals of fish dumped together and buried simultaneously under great pressure, as could have only happened under the circumstances of giant amounts of water crashing round the earth. Coal beds are formed on a similar basis when huge forests must have been uprooted, flung together and buried in like fashion. Coal and oil are found within the Arctic Circle, indicating a change of climate as we have seen necessary in the freezing and preservation of the mammoths.

Even on the highest mountains, evidence of marine life, such as shells and fossilised fish can be found. Three quarters of the earth's surface including the tops of the mountains is covered by sedimentary rocks. The remaining quarter is covered by volcanic rock. That these thick layers of sediment were deposited within a short time, is shown by fossils of animals and trees, which are found at times extending through several strata, up to 6m thick. The top parts of these fossils are as well preserved as the lower, showing that the whole animal or tree was submerged in a short time by rapidly deposited layers of sediment. In Edinburgh, a fossilised tree trunk has been found. It was 25m high and had 12 layers of strata, which would have taken thousands of years to be covered normally, yet it was uniformly preserved, obviously indicating that each layer had been laid rapidly on the top of the other.

Every indication around us suggests a universal flood that had a devastating effect on the earth and its inhabitants. For those interested there is an abundance of reading matter printed by qualified scientists giving abundant evidence that Moses' account of the flood is fact and not fiction.



Lesson 15

The Tower of Babel

The World Resettled Genesis 10

The world was divided after the flood into 70 nations

From the sons of Noah came the basic divisions of humanity

- Shem Semitic ([Arabs & Jews](#))
- Ham African ([Negroid races](#))
- Japheth [European & Asian races](#)

All three races of humanity are to be finally reunited in the Gospel of Christ. An example of this is seen in the Book of Acts

- Acts 8 Ethiopian Eunuch ➤ [Ham](#)
- Acts 9 Paul - Jew ➤ [Shem](#)
- Acts 10 Cornelius - The Roman ➤ [Japheth](#)

[Nimrod](#) - the founder of Babylon

- After the flood Nimrod (means 'a rebel') began to defy God ([Gen 10v9](#)) and to rebuild the cities of man

The Tower of Babel Genesis 11

The story of the Tower of Babel describes the clumsy attempts made by man after the flood to unite men on the basis of fleshly reasoning.

- v1** ➤ The earth was of one language - but men had not spread out as God intended
- v2** ➤ Men journeyed "eastward to Babylon" (see margin - the name means 'confusion')
- v3-4** ➤ Their desire to build a tower sprang from the recent flood.
 ➤ It had affected their thinking to the extent that they desired some form of security
 ➤ The tower was for their own glory. "Let [us](#) make [us](#) a name" [Psalm 49v11-14](#)
- v5-6** ➤ God cannot tolerate pride and rebellion - He sees that matters will soon get worse
- v7-9** ➤ God confuses their language to enforce a scattering.
 ➤ God hates cities and the evil they bring [Gen 4v17](#); [Rev 16v18](#); [Mic 4v4](#)

The Principles for us

- God's purpose cannot be frustrated by men. ◀
- In the end God will cause all nations to be reunited with one pure language [Zeph 3v9](#) ◀
- Man can only be united on the principles of the truth [Isa 2v1-4](#) ◀

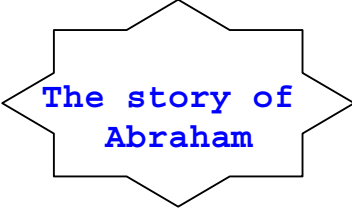
Lesson 16

Abraham - Father of the Faithful

The Promises to Abraham are one of the foundations of the Bible's teaching, and are vitally important to understand the Gospel.

Consider these verses which show how important the promises are:

- Galatians 3v8 ➤ "God preached the Gospel before to Abraham"
- 2 Peter 1v4 ➤ "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature..."
- Ephesians 2v12 ➤ "That at that time ye were without Christ being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."



The story of Abraham

1. Who was Abraham?

- He was a man of the tribe of Shem
- He was called Abram until God changed his name Gen 17v5
- Originally dwelt in Ur of the Chaldees (Iraq today) Gen 11v31
- Was the son of Terah, husband of Sarai and the Uncle of Lot Gen 11v31
- Was called by God because He now desired to develop a nation as the focal point of His purpose Deut 4v6-8; John 4v22

2. Abram was called by God to leave Ur

- Was an idolater before his call Josh 24v2
- Called by God to go to another land Gen 12v1; Acts 7v2
- Went to Haran in obedience to God's command Gen 11v31-32
- Showed faith to separate himself from family and idolatry in response to God Heb 11v8. God sometimes demands this of us Matt 10v34-39; 2 Cor 6v16-18
- God called him again at Haran and enlarged the promise Gen 12v2-4
- After crossing the Euphrates he was known as Abram the Hebrew (one who crosses over) Gen 14v13
- Abraham entered the Land of Canaan - a land of evil and idolatrous people Gen 12v5-7 - the promised land was defined by God.
- Went to Egypt in time of famine - showed lack of faith and suffered embarrassment Gen 12v10-20
- Lot and Abraham were forced to separate. Lot was given a choice and unwisely moved toward Sodom Gen 13v5-13
- Abraham received further promises Gen 13v14-18
- The invasion of Northern Kings. Lot was captured. Abraham rescued Lot and the King of Sodom. Gen 14
- Abraham met Melchizedek - King of Salem Gen 14v17-20; Psalm 110; Heb 5-7
- Vision of reassurance and the testimony of his faith Gen 15v1-6
- The promises confirmed by God. The history of Israel foretold. Gen 15v7-20

3. The Life of Abraham - a pilgrimage of Faith **Gen 16-25**

- The problem of Sarah's barrenness - no seed as promised. Hagar's son born **Genesis 16**
- The promise repeated - Sarah defined as the mother of "the seed" **Gen 17v1-6**
- The Covenant of Circumcision **Gen 17**
- The visitation of the angels. Sodom's doom predicted. Abraham pleads for Lot **Genesis 18**
- Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed. Lot rescued by the angels. His wife perishes **Genesis 19**
- Sarah is taken by Abimelech, King of Gerar. God withholds childbearing from women of the king's house. God visits Abimelech to warn him. Abimelech restores Sarah to Abraham. Abraham is rebuked but prays for Abimelech and God heals the barrenness of his wives **Genesis 20**
- Sarah now 'receives strength' by faith through seeing God's ability to give or remove conception in the house of Abimelech. **Gen 21v1-5; Heb 11v11**. Faith is the power to believe God's promises, despite how unlikely it may appear **Hebrews 11v6**
- Isaac is born **Gen 21v5-7** Ishmael mocks Isaac and is cast out with his mother **Gen 21v8-21**
- The offering of Isaac. **Gen 22** The promises confirmed and enlarged. Sarah dies at 127, Abraham purchases the Cave of Machpelah as a burial place **Gen 23**
- A wife is found for Isaac **Gen 24**. Note the evidence of Abraham's preaching to his faithful servant, and his determination to find a faithful wife **Gen 24v7**
- Abraham dies at 175 - buried with Sarah **Gen 25v1-9**. He did not inherit the promises in this life **Acts 7v5**.
- He rests in hope, awaiting the resurrection **Heb 11v12-20, 39-40**, when he will surely inherit the land for ever.



Lesson 17

Sodom and Gomorrah

The destruction of Sodom is one of the most dramatic events in the world's history. God moved powerfully to destroy a wicked civilization and to rescue the faithful Lot. As such it provides a warning to those who live in the shadow of Christ's return.

1. The Background

- **Genesis 13v1-9** ➤ Abraham & Lot decide to go separate ways
- **Genesis 13v1-12** ➤ Lot chooses to dwell near Sodom - he takes the easy way of life but does not properly consider the dangers.
- Note the progression of a man called to be a pilgrim
- **Genesis 13v10** ➤ **Looked** - towards the well irrigated plain (**lust of the eyes**)
- **Genesis 13v11** ➤ **Chose** - the easy way of life
- **Genesis 13v11** ➤ **Went** - to the area - near to the world
- **Genesis 13v12** ➤ **Pitched** - his tent near Sodom (**compromise**)
- **Genesis 14v12** ➤ **Dwelt** - in Sodom - to his discomfort
- **Genesis 19v1** ➤ **Sat in the Gate** - became involved in the world's politics
- **Genesis 19v15** ➤ **Nearly consumed** - with the city
- **Genesis 19v14,26** ➤ **Lost** - his family and wife who were destroyed with the city

The lesson for us

- As much as we can, choose the life of separation from the world◀
Psalms 1; 2 Corinthians 6v16-18
- Avoid the temptations of associations with corrupt practices◀
Romans 13v14

2. Sodom's doom Predicted

- **Genesis 18v16-18** ➤ The "Yahweh" angel, having visited Abraham & Sarah, leaves to go to Sodom.
- He decides to tell Abraham because of his faith & his faithfulness to instruct his children
- **Genesis 18v20** ➤ Sodom's defiance described
- **Genesis 18v22** ➤ Abraham stays with name-bearing angel as the other 2 angels go to Sodom
- **Genesis 18v23-33** ➤ Abraham pleads for the safety of Lot and the family
- Abraham shows great reverence to the angel
- The angel agrees - yet the 10 were not found
- However, they delivered Lot for Abraham's sake **Gen 19v29**

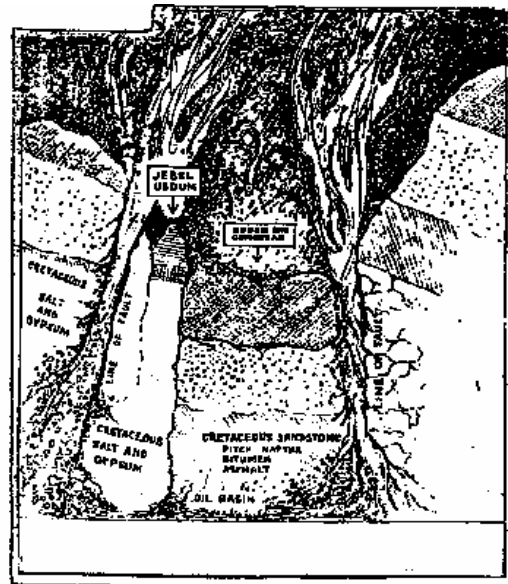
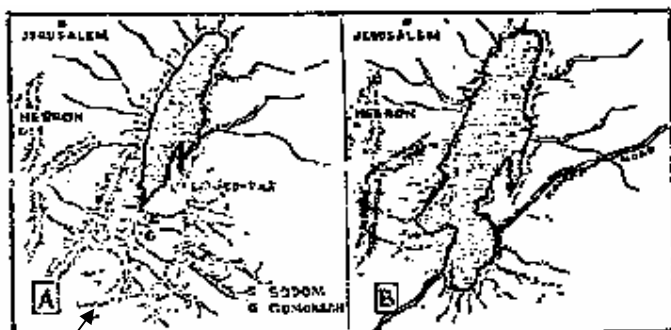
3. Why God destroyed Sodom

Genesis 13v13
Genesis 19v4-7

- A general description of their evil condition
 - v5 'rape them' Moffatt
 - Sodom was rife with homosexuality - however this was only a symptom of the morality of the society
- Ezekiel 16v48-49
- Note the way God viewed Sodom - these things exist around us today
- Isaiah 3v9
- Their arrogance was defiance of God

4. How God destroyed Sodom (see diagrams)

Diagrammatic Representation of the upsurge of oil, gas, sulphur, salt, bitumen etc., due to extra pressure upon the oil field.



- A. Dead sea area showing location of the cities of the plain about 2000bc.
- B. Dead sea today showing south portion of sea covering area overthrown.



5. Proof

- A burnt out oil bed exists today under Sodom
- The whole area is covered with salt, sulphur and bitumen [Gen 19v24](#)
- The area is completely infertile [Gen 19v25](#)
- Roads once crossed the area and evidence of civilizations uncovered shows that there was a populace about 2,000BC
- Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the prophets all refer to Sodom's destruction as a literal event

6. The last night of Sodom

- [Genesis 19v1-3](#) ➤ The angels accept Lot's hospitality [Heb 13v2](#)
- [Genesis 19v4-8](#) ➤ The open immorality of the city is seen
- [Genesis 19v9](#) ➤ We see the testimony to Lot's character
 - The world should see us as different to them [2 Peter 2v6-9](#); [John 17v14-15](#)
- [Genesis 19v12-14](#) ➤ Lot's vain pleading with his family
- [Genesis 19v16](#) ➤ Lot forcibly removes
 - His involvement in the city nearly consumed him
- [Genesis 19v17-22](#) ➤ Lot enters Zoar, an unwise choice- but an example of the angel's compassion
- [Genesis 19v24-26](#) ➤ His wife engulfed in the destruction [Luke 17v23](#)
 - A warning to all of us not to have our heart in Sodom
- [Genesis 19v30-38](#) ➤ Lot's daughters engage in incest - an indication of the effect Sodom had on them

The warning for our day

[Luke 17v28-32](#)

When similar conditions exist, as they do today,
we can expect a similar divine judgment.

Our duty is to ensure we are removed by God [Isaiah 26v20-21](#)
and are not so involved with the world that we are destroyed with it.

The people in Sodom

There were four classes of people in Sodom - all have lessons for today

- Lot** ➤ The righteous minority who reject the ways of Sodom and are saved
- Lot's wife** ➤ Who had the chance to be saved but looked back - she had Sodom in her heart
 - She was destroyed after being removed - a figure of those rejected at the judgment
- Lot's family** ➤ Who heard the warning and mocked
- The Sodomites** ➤ Who were destroyed in their evil ways

Lesson 18

The Promise to Abraham

The Promises Given

Genesis 12v1-4	The first promise
Genesis 13v14-17	The promise of the land
Genesis 15v18	The land defined
Genesis 17v4-8	The promise repeated
Genesis 22v16-18	The promise confirmed and extended to Christ

The promises were repeated and extended to Isaac and Jacob
Genesis 26v3-4; 28v13-14; 35v10-12

1. The Promises Explained

The National Promise (the earthly seed)

- The Jewish nation to become great and be preserved **Jer 30v11**
- Israel is to become the head of the nations **Micah 7v19-20 Zech 8v23; Luke 1v33**
- Nations are blessed or cursed according to their attitude to Israel **Zech 1v14-15; 2v8; Joel 3v1-4; Jer 30v11** (examples - Rome, Germany, Britain & Russia)

The Personal Promise

- Abraham's name was to be great **Luke 13v28**
- He became the Father of the Faithful **Rom 4v12**
- Abraham's resurrection is guaranteed **Acts 7v5; Luke 20v37-38; Heb 11v16,39-40**
- He will inherit the land forever **Rom 4v13**

The Family Promise (the heavenly seed)

- Abraham's seed by baptism into Christ **Gal 3v28-29**
- Share his promises by faith **Gal 3v8-10**
- They have forgiveness and the promise of eternal life
- Membership of Abraham's family is by having the same faith as Abraham **Gal 3v7**

The International Promise

- The gospel **Gal 3v8**
- All nations will be blessed through the coming Kingdom of God **Psalms 72 Acts 3v19-21 Isa 2v1-7**

2. The promises were confirmed in Jesus Christ

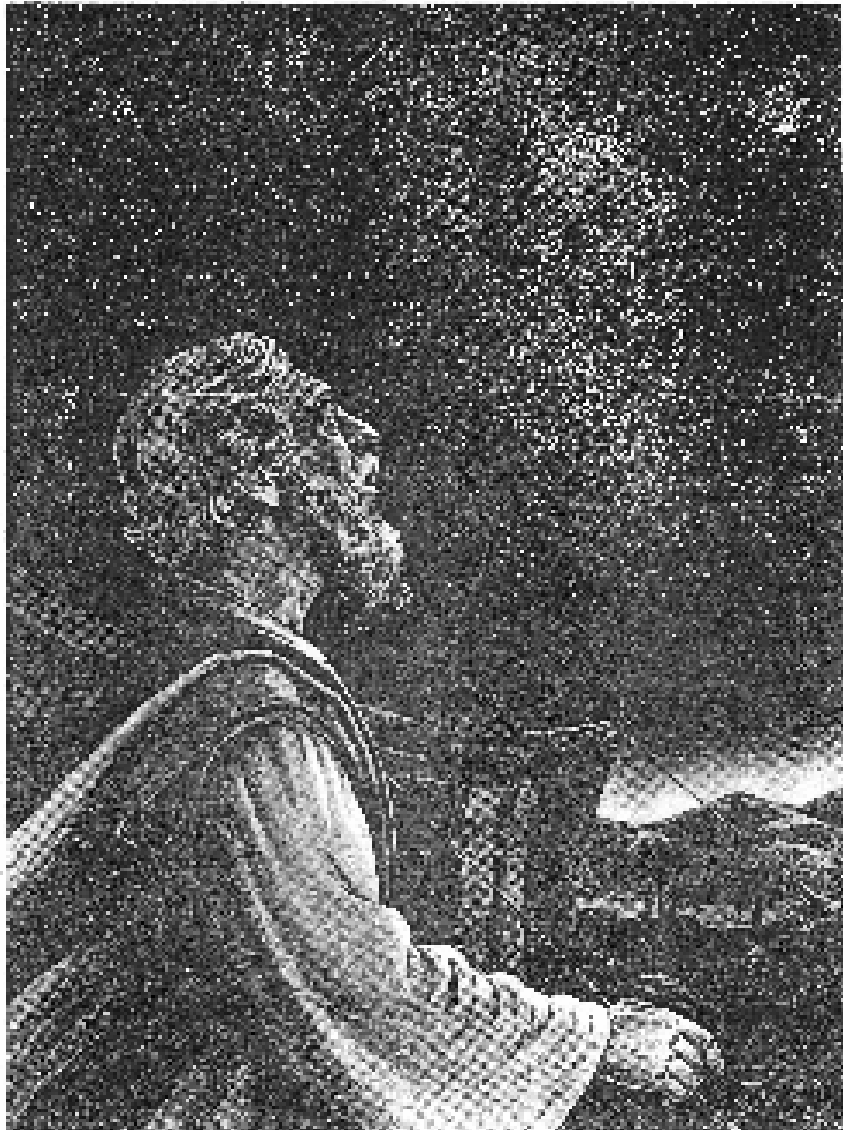
- Christ Jesus came to confirm the promises made to Abraham
- [Romans 15v8](#); [Matt 1v1](#); [Luke 1v55,68-74](#)

3. How we become related to those Promises

- Not by natural birth [John 8v39-40](#)
- We must manifest the same faith as Abraham - believing God [Gen 15v6](#); [Rom 4v13](#)
- We must be baptized into Abraham's seed - Christ [Gal 3v27-29](#)

4. The outworking of the Promises

- They are an assurance of resurrection [Acts 26v6-8](#); [Luke 20v36-37](#)
- The promises become the foundation of all God's purpose with world history
- The promises are essential to our salvation [Eph 2v10-13](#)
- Jesus Christ is the "one seed" of Abraham [Gen 22v17](#) who will eventually control all the world and bring blessings to all nations
- Assurance of forgiveness of sins [Acts 3v25-26](#)



Lesson 19

The Sacrifice of Isaac

**God was foreshadowing the sacrifice of His own son.
Abraham rejoiced to see the far off event
John 8v56**

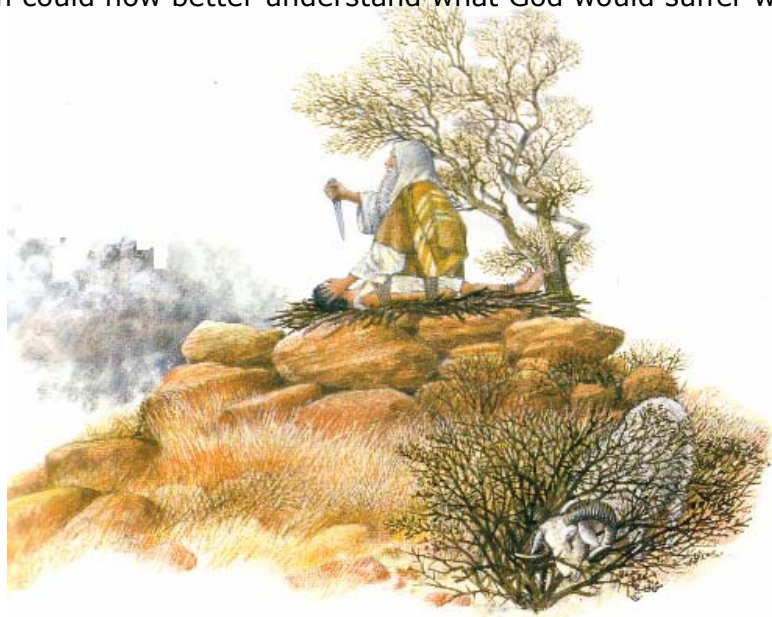
This was a test of Abraham's faith. God tests our faith to perfect it.
1 Peter 1v7; James 1v2-4; John 15v2

1. As a result of his obedience and faith, Abraham became known as:

- God's friend James 2v23; 2 Chronicles 20v7
- The 'Father of the Faithful' Romans 4v12-13
- The 'Chosen of God' Nehemiah 9v7
- The 'Called of God' Isaiah 51v2

2. The lessons for us

- Abraham obeyed God - even if it risked all he had waited for so long for
- The seed and the promises were bound up in Isaac - Abraham's faith was supreme Heb 11v17-19
- Abraham's faith now proved in works of faith James 2v20-24 - we cannot have faith without it being followed by actions
- Isaac was 25 and Abraham 125. It is obvious Isaac co-operated v6,8 - his faith and obedience were a testimony to Abraham's education of his children Gen 18v19
- The promises were enlarged and confirmed because of Abraham's obedience Gen 22v16-18
- Abraham could now better understand what God would suffer when Christ died



"God will provide Himself a Lamb"

A parable of Isaac

Genesis 22

Isaac	Jesus Christ
➤ "Take thine only son" v2	➤ "God gave His only begotten son" John 3v16
➤ The child of promise	➤ Jesus Christ - confirmed the promises Rom 15v8
➤ Born by operation of God's spirit Gen 18v14	➤ The power of the highest shall overshadow thee Luke 1v35
➤ "the son whom thou lovest" v2	➤ "This is my beloved son" Matt 3v17
➤ "For a burnt offering" - total dedication v2	➤ "A body thou hast prepared" Heb 10v7-10
➤ Isaac rejected by Abraham's fleshly seed Gen 21v10	➤ "We be not born of fornication - we have Abraham for 'our father'" John 8v33-41
➤ Careful preparation by father v3	➤ "Delivered by the determinate counsel & foreknowledge of God" - "Jesus was crucified" Acts 2v23
➤ "To the land of Moriah" v2	➤ Same locality as Calvary - Jerusalem
➤ "The third day" v4	➤ Christ in the third year of ministry set his face to go to Jerusalem - the cross came into sight
➤ at the start of the third day the place of sacrifice came clearly into sight	➤ Was raised on the third day
➤ Isaac had been dead in Abraham's mind for three days	➤ "The lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world" Rev 13v8
➤ "Abraham saw the place afar off" v4	➤ Jews & Gentiles wait for Christ
➤ two young men left to wait for his return	➤ "Christ should rise again the third day" 1 Cor 15v2
➤ "will come again to you" v5	➤ "Christ went forth bearing the cross" John 19v17
➤ "Laid the wood on his son" v6	➤ "Went forth into a place called Golgotha" John 19v17
➤ "Came to the place God had said" v9	➤ Christ made like his brethren, caught in death & Adam's curse by having power of flesh in himself Heb 2v14-18
➤ "Caught in the thicket by his horns" v13	➤ "There they crucified him" John 19v18
➤ Bound him to the altar v9	➤ "Not my will but thine" Mark 14v36
➤ "Went both of them together" v8	➤ "This Jesus hath God raised up" Acts 2v32
➤ "Received him from the dead" v11; Heb 11v12	➤ First advent - sacrifice
➤ Angel calls the second time v15	➤ Second advent - glory
➤ Blessings to Abraham's seed v18	➤ "Heir of the promise" Gal 3v29
➤ Enemies subjected v17	➤ "The last enemy...is death" 1 Cor 15v26
➤ Takes a faithful wife from afar Gen 24	➤ "Blessed are they that are called to the marriage of the Lamb" Rev 19v9

Lesson 20

Isaac and Jacob

Isaac & Jacob manifested the same faith and pilgrim attitude that commended Abraham to God.

Hebrews 11v9-16

They also received the blessings of the promises made

Isaac

- His faith seen in **Genesis 22** in submitting to Abraham
- A wife chosen for him from among believers **Genesis 24v7**
- Twins born to Rebekah **Gen 25v20-24** - Jacob & Esau
- The two sons became the fathers of 2 nations - Israel and Edom
- Showed faith to bless Jacob **Heb 11v20**

Jacob

- Esau despised his birthright **Gen 25v29-34 Heb 12v16**
- Jacob and Rebekah deceive Isaac to obtain Esau's blessing **Gen 27**
- Jacob flees before Esau's rage - goes to family of Laban at Padam-aram
- God visits Jacob - gives him a promise of protection **Gen 28v10-15**
- Jacob marries Leah & Rachel **Gen 29**
- Twelve sons born **Gen 30**
- Jacob increased by God and decides to return to Canaan **Gen 31**
- Preparation to meet Esau - the visit of the angel - Jacob forced to rely on God **Gen 32**
- Name changed to Israel "Prince with God"
- Reconciliation with Esau **Gen 33**
- The seduction of Dinah - Simeon & Levi's cruel revenge **Gen 34**
- The promises repeated **Gen 35v1-12** Rachel dies **v18**, Isaac dies **v29**, Benjamin born **v18**
- Jacob later goes down to Egypt to Joseph - dies there **Gen 46v1-7, Gen 47v8-10** Jacob blesses Pharaoh
- Jacob worships God - requests burial in the land **Gen 47v27-31**
- Jacob blesses the sons of Joseph - **Gen 48v1-20; Heb 11v21** Recognises God's protection **Gen 48v15**
- Jacob's prophecy concerning his sons and the tribes of Israel **Gen 49**
- Jacob dies **Gen 49v33**
- Joseph buries him in the land of Promise **Gen 50v1-3**

Principle

Jacob's life was a development of character
Jacob needed to learn to trust God rather than rely on his inborn resourcefulness

Lesson 21

Joseph - a type of Christ

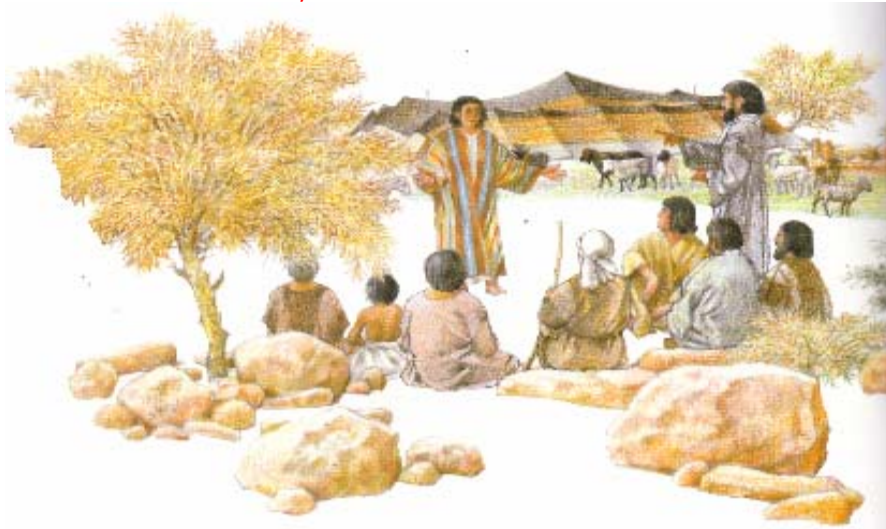
The story of Joseph

- Joseph was the 11th son of Jacob, the firstborn of his favourite wife Rachel
- Jacob loved Joseph above all his sons **Genesis 37v3** which led to him being envied of his brethren
- God planned to send Israel into captivity for 215 years **Gen 15v13-16** that He might bring them out at the appointed time
- This was achieved in the life of Joseph - God sent him before all the family to prepare the way
- God's providence is clearly seen in his remarkable life



The faith of Joseph **Genesis**

- Joseph believed God would visit Israel
- Joseph believed God would give them the land
- Gave commands concerning his bones **Heb 11v22**
- This was fulfilled **Ex 13v19; Josh 24v32**



Joseph as a type of Christ
Section 1: Christ's first advent
Genesis 37-40

Joseph Heb "the increaser"		Jesus Christ "He must increase" John 3v30; Isa 9v7; 53v10	
Gen 37v2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Joseph was feeding the flock ➤ Joseph was persecuted by the children of the bondwoman 	John 10v14 Gal 4v28-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I am the Good Shepherd ➤ He that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the spirit
Gen 37v3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He told his father of their evil report ➤ Jacob loved Joseph more than all his sons ➤ Jacob made him a coat 	John 8v44 Matt 21v31 Matt 3v17 Col 1v13 John 19v23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ye are of your father the devil ➤ This is my beloved son ➤ His dear son ➤ And also his coat, now the coat was without seam
Gen 37v4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ His brethren hated him without a cause 	John 1v15 Psa 35v19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They hated me without a cause
Gen 37v8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shalt thou indeed reign over us ➤ They hated him the more for his dreams 	Luke 19v23 John 19v15 Matt 21v45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We shall not have this man to reign over us ➤ We have no king but Caesar ➤ They perceived his parables spake of them (Pharisees) and sought to lay hands on him
Gen 37v18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 11 brethren conspired to slay him while he was afar off 	Matt 26v4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ And consulted to take Jesus by subtlety and kill him
Gen 37v19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This dreamer cometh 	Matt 27v29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mocked him saying 'Hail king of the Jews'
Gen 37v23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They stripped Joseph of his coat 	John 19v23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Took his garments, also his coat
Gen 37v24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ And cast him into a pit ➤ Pit was empty - no water in it 	Psa 40v1-3 Acts 2v31 Zech 9v11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Out of an horrible pit ➤ Prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. ➤ Symbol of the grave
Gen 37v26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Judah (Judas) proposed to sell him 	Luke 22v4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How he might betray him unto them
Gen 37v28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ishmaelites carried him to Egypt ➤ Twenty pieces of silver ➤ Dipped the coat in blood 	Luke 19v12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A nobleman went to a far country ➤ For thirty pieces of silver
Gen 37v31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dipped the coat in blood 	Rev 19v13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clothed with a vesture dipped in blood
Gen 37v32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deceived Joseph's father 	Matt 28v13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Say ye, his disciples came by night and stole him away
Gen 39v14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Joseph falsely accused despite faithful service 	Mark 14v56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Many bare false witness against him
Gen 40v1-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Joseph was imprisoned with two transgressors. One was restored, the other was hung 	Luke 23v39-43 Matt 27v26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christ was between 2 malefactors, one was restored, the other died in his sin

Joseph as a type of Christ

Section 2: Resurrection & Exaltation Genesis 41

Joseph Heb "the increaser"		Jesus Christ "He must increase" John 3v30; Isa 9v7; 53v10	
Gen 41v1	➤ At the end of two full years (or in the 3rd year)	Matt 27v63	➤ After 3 days I will rise again
Gen 41v14	➤ He shaved and changed before he came to Pharaoh	Lev 14	➤ Cleansing of leprosy (death) required this
Gen 41v39	➤ A man in whom Spirit of God was	John 20v17	➤ Christ came before God changed
Gen 41v40	➤ Thou shalt be over my house ➤ Only in the throne was Pharaoh greater	Isa 11v2	➤ The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him
Gen 41v42	➤ Arrayed him in vestures of fine linen ➤ Joseph was given the symbol of authority (cp Est 3v12)	Heb 3v6	➤ As a son over his own house
Gen 41v42	➤ Put a gold chain about this neck	John 14v28 Rev 3v21 1 Cor 15v28	➤ My father is greater than I
Gen 41v43	➤ All made to bow to him	Rev 19v8	➤ For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints
Gen 41v45	➤ Called Saviour of the World (Zaphnath-paaneah)	Matt 25v18	➤ All power is given unto him
Gen 41v45	➤ Given Asenath (dedicated) for a bride	1 Pet 1v7 Rev 1v13	➤ Symbol of tried faith ➤ Christ's girdle
		Phil 2v9-11	➤ At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow
		Phil 3v20	➤ The Saviour Jesus Christ
		Eph 5v20-23	➤ Bride of Christ given to him

Joseph as a type of Christ

Section 3: Christ's Second Advent

Genesis 42-50

Joseph Heb "the increaser"		Jesus Christ "He must increase" John 3v30; Isa 9v7; 53v10	
Gen 42v6	➤ Joseph was governor of the Land - his brethren bow	Matt 23v39	➤ Ye shall not see me henceforth until ye say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord
Gen 42v8	➤ Joseph knew his brethren but they knew him not	Zech 13v6	➤ What are these wounds in thine hands
Gen 42v21	➤ We are guilty, therefore is this distress come upon us	Zech 12v10	➤ They shall look upon him whom they pierced
Gen 45v1	➤ Joseph made himself known to them	Jer 30v7	➤ Time of Jacob's trouble
Gen 45v3	➤ They were troubled at his presence	Zech 13v6	➤ These wounds are those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends
Gen 45v5	➤ Be not grieved	Zech 12v10-11	➤ And they shall mourn for him
	➤ God did send me before you to preserve life	Isa 61v3	➤ He shall comfort all that mourn
Gen 45v7	➤ To preserve you a posterity in the earth	Heb 9v28	➤ He shall appear the second time without sin unto salvation
Gen 42v7	➤ To save your lives by a great deliverance	Isa 49v6	➤ And to restore the preserved of Israel
Gen 42v10	➤ Thou shalt dwell in the Land of Goshen	Rom 11v26	➤ All Israel shall be saved - there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer
Gen 42v8	➤ It was not you that sent me hither, but God	Acts 3v21	➤ The times of restitution
Gen 46v3	➤ God shall make you, Israel , a great nation	Matt 21v42	➤ The stone which the builders rejected the same is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing
Gen 47v20	➤ Joseph brought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh	Mic 4v8	➤ Unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion
Gen 47v22	➤ Only the lands of the priest brought he not, for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh	Isa 60v12	➤ The nation and Kingdom that will not serve thee, shall perish
Gen 50v20	➤ Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good - to save much people alive	Psalm 72v8	➤ He shall have dominion also from sea to sea from the river unto the end of the earth
Gen 47v20	➤ All nations forced to come because of famine	Rom 5v9	➤ Saints do not lose their inheritance. We shall be saved from wrath
		Zech 14v9	➤ And the Lord shall be king over all the earth
		Zech 14v6	➤ God withholds rain from the earth to cause nations to come to Jesus Christ

Lesson 22

Name & Titles of Deity

**In Exodus 3 God revealed His name to Moses.
The Name of God epitomises His character and His eternal purpose**

The Authorised Version Renderings with Hebrew equivalents, their usage and significance are explained below.

English Form (found in A.V)	Hebrew Equivalent	Significance
God	El Eloah Elohim Tzur	Might or Power Mighty One Mighty Ones Rock or Strength
LORD, GOD or Jehovah	Yahweh	He who will be (manifested)
LORD or Jah	Yah	An abbreviated form of Yahweh
Lord	Adon Adonai	Lord or Ruler Lords or Rulers
Almighty God	El Shaddai	The Might of the Powerful Ones
Most High God	El Elyon	Supreme Might
LORD God	Yahweh Elohim	He who will be Mighty Ones
Lord GOD	Adonai Yahweh	He who will be Rulers
LORD of hosts	Yahweh Tz'vaoth	He who will be Armies

- El**
- Pronounced Ail, rendered "God"
 - As this work passed before the mind of the Hebrew, the idea of Power, Might, Strength, stood out in bold relief (Dr Thomas)
 - It always presented to the Hebrews the idea of strength and power
- Eloah**
- Rendered "God"
 - Signified Mighty One
 - One who might is derived from El
 - Thus Deity in specific manifestation See [Job 19v26](#)
- Elohim**
- Rendered "God"
 - Plural form of the above
 - Deity in multitudinous manifestation
 - The word, though plural, is often used with a singular verb, indicating that though the Elohim may constitute a multitude, one Eternal Spirit motivates them all
- Shaddai**
- Rendered "Almighty"
 - From the root "shadad" to treat with violence, attack, invade, plunder, lay waste, destroy, thus signifying omnipotent power for good or ill (see [Amos 3v6](#); [Jer 44v27](#); [Isa 45v7](#))
 - Shaddai is plural, signifying Powerful Ones
 - Their power to destroy was exhibited in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - El Shaddai (God Almighty) signifies "The Strength of the Powerful Ones."

- Tzur**
- Rendered "God" **Isaiah 44v8** "Mighty God" **Hab 1v12**
 - Usually translated "strength" or "rock", it signifies a strong foundation upon which one can build with confidence
 - Firmness, durability and stability are implied by this title
- Adon**
Adonai
- Both rendered "Lord"
 - The singular and plural forms of the Hebrew word signifying "Master", "Owner", "Ruler", "Sovereign" etc.
 - Yahweh is Adon of all the earth **Josh 3v11,13** the Possessor of Heaven and Earth **Gen 14v22**
- Elyon**
- The most high
 - Teaching by implication that there are others of the heavenly host inferior in status **1 Cor 8v5-6**
- Yahweh**
Yah
- Rendered LORD or GOD in small capitals, occasionally Yah or Jehovah
 - The Memorial name of Deity **Ex 3v15; Hos 12v5** signifies "He Who Will Be".
 - It compresses in a Word, Deity's purpose to manifest His glory in the earth;
 - o firstly in an individual **Matt 1v23; 2 Cor 5v19**
 - o secondly in a community **1 Thess 1v1; Rev 14v1; Rom 5v2**
 - o finally in all the earth **Num 14v21; 1 Cor 15v28**
 - The full implications of the Name were first revealed to Moses when Deity was about to act on behalf of Israel, in remembrance of His covenant with Abram; and it is proclaimed as "His memorial unto all generations" **Ex 3v15**
 - The name is prophetic of the future intentions of Yahweh **Rev 1v8** when He will be manifested in the earth
 - This manifestation will be revealed through the Ecclesia which consists of individuals who have accepted the Divine invitation to separate themselves from the Gentiles, a people for the Name **2 Cor 6v17-18; Acts 15v14**
 - Yahweh is occasionally condensed into Yah, and in this form finds its place in the Hebrew form of Jesus - YAHSHUA (Yah shall save **2 Cor 5v19**)
 - "Jehovah" is a corrupt form of the name
- Yahweh**
Tz'vaoth
- Rendered "LORD of hosts"
 - Tz'vaoth signifies "hosts" or "armies" and this is the militant title of Deity
 - Throughout the ages, the heavenly Elohist army has revealed its strength on the behalf of Yahweh's people **Josh 4v13-15; Psa 34v7; Rom 9v29; James 5v4** but as this title is prophetic of the future there is yet to come a similar revelation of Divine Power **Rev 19v11-12; Isa 55v4; Psa 149; Hag 2v6-8; Isa 9v7**
 - Christ is today recruiting individuals for this Divine army of the future **2 Tim 2v3-4**

The beauty of the Hebrew original is not found in the Greek translations, so that the above titles apply to the old testament only.

The Name of God

And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Exodus 34v5-7

Lesson 23

The Exodus from Egypt

Israel was in Egypt for 215 years from the time Jacob went down to Joseph in the time of famine. The time drew nigh that God would fulfil His promise to Abraham ([Gen 15v16](#)) to bring His seed out of bondage.

Summary of Events

Exodus 1-6

- Israel grows from 70 persons into a rapidly expanding population [1v7](#), causing concern among the Egyptians [1v9-10](#)
- A new dynasty of Pharaoh's arose [1v8](#) who had no respect for Joseph and were hostile to Israel
- Because Israel were a security risk, the Egyptians made them to serve as slaves [1v11](#), however this caused increased growth [1v12-14](#)
- The Egyptians seek to use the Hebrew midwives to kill all male children - but without success [1v14-21](#). God blessed the faithful midwives
- Pharaoh commands the death of Hebrew baby boys [1v22](#)
- Moses is born and concealed by his parents, who by faith saw in him God's deliverer [2v1-4](#); [Acts 7v20-21](#); [Heb 11v23](#). They placed him where he would be found
- Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses and adopts him [2v5-6](#). Nursed by his own mother first, he later grows up to be trained in the wisdom of Egypt [Acts 7v22](#)
- Moses rejects the glory of Egypt that he could have had and seeks his people [Heb 11v24-26](#)
- Moses kills an Egyptian and flees confused [2v14-15](#). He had thought to deliver his brethren, but God needed to prepare Moses by 40 years in the wilderness [Acts 7v29](#)
- Moses - after 40 years - is visited by God in the burning bush. God reveals His name and His purpose to Moses [Ex 3](#)
- Moses and Aaron request freedom for Israel to leave Egypt but are refused by Pharaoh [Ex 4-6](#)
- Ten plagues are given to force Pharaoh's hand without success, until the last terrible plague [Ex 7-11](#)
- The final plague was the destroying of the firstborn of Egypt



Lesson 24

The Passover Lamb




For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us
1 Cor 5v7
Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world
John 1v29

The Passover Lamb was called such because on the same night the angel of God smote the firstborn, he passed over those Israelites who had placed the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts. **Ex 12v13**

Israel's Law	Application to Christ and us
Israel in bondage in Egypt Ex 13v3,14; Ex 20v2	We are in bondage to sin Rom 7v24
A lamb of the flock without spot	Christ "the lamb of God" John 1v29 ; without sin 1 Pet 1v19; 2v22-23
Penned up for inspection Ex 12v3-6	Entered Jerusalem for final conflict with Jewish leaders Luke 21v37; Matt 21v10,23
The death of the lamb Ex 12v6	The death of Christ 1 Cor 5v7
Killed on the 14th day of Abib Ex 12v6	Christ killed at time of Passover Luke 2v44-46; 22v1; Matt 27v45
The blood on the doorposts and lintel Ex 12v7 . Must not be trodden underfoot	Represents the atoning work of Christ for his house i.e. the ecclesia Heb 10v29
Sprinkled blood saves Ex 12v13	Christ's sacrifice saves those who enter the door and remain inside 1 Pet 1v1; Heb 10v22; John 10v7-9
Roasted with fire Ex 12v9	Christ as Passover lamb was to be crucified on a stake - to exhibit to the world that "the flesh with its affections and lusts" must be crucified Gal 5v24

Israel's Law	Application to Christ and us
<p>The flesh of the lamb to be eaten in the night Ex 12v8</p>	<p>We keep the Lord's Passover in times of Gentile darkness Luke 22v15; Psa 23v5</p>
<p>The lamb was to be eaten with unleavened bread</p>	<p>The Lord's Passover must be eaten with the unleavened bread of "sincerity and truth" 1 Cor 5v7; John 4v23 and with the "bitter herbs" - the sharing in common the suffering of Christ Phil 3v10</p>
<p>Abide in the house Ex 12v46</p>	<p>We must stay within the Ecclesial house Heb 6v4-6; 10v25</p>
<p>Prepared to go Ex 12v11 - loins girded, shoes on feet, staff in hand</p>	<p>We must always be ready. Loins girded with truth Eph 6v4; feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace Eph 6v15; staff of the word of God Ps 23v4</p>
<p>The angel who brought death passes over Israel to the Egyptians Ex 12v12-13</p>	<p>When Christ comes to pour out God's judgments on spiritual Egypt, those who "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" Rev 7v14 and who have "kept the feast" 1 Cor 5v7-8 will be able to sing the song of the redeemed "for thou was slain (the Christ Lamb) and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue, and people, and nation" Rev 5v9</p>





Forty
Years
in the
Wilderness

Exodus 1-17

Crossing the Red Sea - From Egypt to Sinai

- Israel left Egypt after the death of the firstborn of Egypt **Ex 13v17**
- Israel were sent by God on a long and circuitous route **Ex 14v18**. This 40 year journey of probation was God's method of proving Israel **Deut 8v1-3; Acts 14v22**
- Joseph's bones went with Israel as he had requested **Ex 13v19**
- God's protection was seen in the cloud and the pillar of fire that followed them **Ex 13v21**
- Pharaoh pursued Israel - the Red Sea opened and Israel passed over - a national baptism **Ex 14v21-31; 1 Cor 10v1-3**
- The Egyptians sought to follow Israel and were destroyed in the Red Sea

Note the principles of baptism that are taught here

- The Egyptians were seen dead on the shore - this represents old way of life crucified in Christ **Rom 6v6**
 - Israel were saved by the blood of the lamb and the water to begin a new life. We also should walk in newness of life **Rom 6v14**
-
- The songs of victory led by Miriam **Ex 15**
 - Bitter waters of Marah **Ex 15v23-26** - a need for patience and thanks
 - Elim - a picture of the Kingdom - the 70 nations draw water of life from Israel (12 wells)
 - The manna given **Ex 16v4-15** - a symbol of the daily intake of the word
 - Water from the rock **Ex 17v1-7**
 - War with Amalek - victory by prayer **Ex 17v8-16**
 - God's continuing fight against Amalek **Deut 25v17-19; 1 Sam 15v2; Num 24v20** is typical of our war against sin.

Exodus 19-20

The Law given to Israel

- The law was designed to teach God's principles and lead the people to see Christ. **Gal 3v24** It was to teach them separation from the nations **Deut 7v6; 4v5-10**
- The Law (as a ritual) could not give life - because no-one could keep it **Rom 8v3**
- The Law was fulfilled by Christ **Matt 5v17-18; Heb 7v18-19; 10v1**
- Israel was established as the Kingdom of God **Ex 19v5-6**
- The 10 commandments were given to Israel at Sinai **Ex 20**
- Details of the Law and Tabernacle were given to Moses

Exodus 21-34

From Mt Sinai to the Land

- The failure of faith - the golden calf **Ex 32v1-7** cp **Luke 12v45** - the lesson for our generation
- The Land spied out and the failure of faith **Numb 13v27-33**. Joshua and Caleb show faith in God **Num 14v1-9**
- God's condemnation of the wilderness generation **Num 14v21-33**
- Thirty eight years of hopeless wandering followed
- The death of Moses **Deut 34; Num 27v11-12**. He failed to enter the land, but will certainly gain the Kingdom.



Joshua

- Joshua was appointed by God to lead the nation following the death of Moses **Josh 1v1-8**. The name Joshua means "Yahweh shall save", and in the Greek form is "Jesus" **Heb 4v8** - hence he foreshadows Jesus Christ - the salvation of God who will lead his people into the Kingdom. See **Joshua 3** for the symbol of Christ entering the Kingdom ahead of his brethren **Matt 1v21**
- In **Joshua 1-16** the land is conquered and all organized resistance is overthrown. The tribes of Israel were now individually required to completely drive out the remaining Canaanites **Josh 23v3-13** and were to avoid their religions **Josh 24v15, 19-20**.
- The lesson of separation from the world and its ways is importance **2 Cor 6v14-18**. God desires our undivided commitment.

Judges

- Following the death of Joshua and his generation, Israel failed to obey God's command to drive out all the Canaanites **Judges 1v19,21,27,30,31,33**.
- The result was 319 years of sin and suffering **Jud 2v3,11-15**. This began a pattern of:
SIN - SUFFERING - SUPPLICATION - SALVATION
as God raised up deliverers to save Israel each time they repented
- The time of the Judges is characterized by the words "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" **Jud 21v25**
- Samuel was the last judge and the first of the prophets. Born by a miracle, he often saved Israel by his faith. However, Israel rejected him and God, and desired a king they could see. **1 Sam 8v5-7, 19-20**

Principles

- Separation from the world is essential that we might serve God acceptably **1 John 2v15-16; Phil 2v15-16**
- Christ has defeated the power of sin, but each of us must go on to remove sin from our own lives

The Six Episodes of the Judges

Quote	Sin	Suffering	Seeking God	Salvation
Judges 3v7-11	"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served Baalim"	"Therefore the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim, King of Mesopotamia"	"And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord"	"The Lord raised up a deliverer, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother"
Judges 3v12-30	"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord"	"And the Lord strengthened Eglon the King of Moab against Israel"	"But when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord"	"The Lord raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera a Benjamite, a man left handed"
Judges 4&5	"And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord when Ehud was dead"	"And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, the captain of whose host was Sisera"	"And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord"	"And Deborah, a prophetess, she judged Israel at that time, and also sent and called Barak"
Judges 6-8	"And the children of Israel did evil"	"And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years"	"And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord because of the Midianites"	"And there came an angel unto Gideon"
Judges 10-12	"And the children of Israel did evil again and forsook the Lord"	"And the anger of the Lord was hot, and he sold them into the hand of the Ammonites"	"And the children of Israel cried saying, We have sinned against thee"	"Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah"
Judges 13-16	"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord"	"And the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines forty years"	There is no cry recorded on this occasion, it doubtless being included in the cry of Judges 10v15. On that occasion the Philistines and Ammonites. Jephthah repelled the latter and Samson commenced the work of deliverance from the former.	"The angel of the Lord said, He (Samson) shall begin to deliver"

Behold therefore the Goodness and Severity of God Rom 11v22

Lesson 27

The History of Israel

Time of the Judges to Captivity

Samuel

- Samuel was born to Hannah by miraculous means, and was given by his mother to become a priest in the house of God **1 Sam 1v27-28**
- Samuel grew before God - serving in the Temple of God **1 Sam 3v1** and became a faithful servant **1 Sam 3v19-20**
- Israel desired a king like the other nations around them - failing to see that Yahweh was their king **1 Sam 8v4-7**

Saul

- Saul was chosen to be the first king and was chosen for his outward appearance **1 Sam 9v2** God's choice of David was on a different basis. **1 Sam 16v7; Acts 13v22**
- Saul was rejected for disobedience **1 Sam 13v13-14; 15v22-26**

David

- David was chosen by God to replace Saul **1 Sam 16v7, 11-12; Psa 78v72**
- David was forced to be a refugee from the jealous Saul until Saul met his death (see **1 Sam 31**) The suffering and trial he endured prepared him for kingship
- David was a faithful man despite his failings **Acts 13v21-23**
- David wrote many Psalms, and spiritual songs, full of praise and of prophecy (see **Psalm 72**)
- David came to power over all Israel and resigned in Hebron for 7 years and Jerusalem 33 years **2 Sam 5v1-5**
- David received eternal promises concerning God's kingdom **2 Sam 7** (see next lesson)
- After he sinned in the matter of Bathsheba, **2 Sam 11**, his power deteriorated but he faithfully prepared the Temple of Solomon by gathering materials **1 Chron 29v1-3**
- After David died Solomon took the throne of the Kingdom of God over Israel **1 Kings 1&2; 1 Chron 28v5**

Solomon

- Increased greatly in wealth and wisdom **1 Kings 4**
- Built the Temple of God at Jerusalem **1 Kings 6**

Solomon's Kingdom

- This was so magnificent that men came from all lands to hear his wisdom and see the glory of it **1 Kings 10**.
- After his death the kingdom was divided between Rehoboam and Jeroboam and the 2 southern tribes became known as Judah - the 10 northern tribes became known as Israel or Ephraim **1 Kings 12**



Separate Kingdoms (Israel and Judah)
God's prophets

- After the division of the Kingdom the nation was divided until all Israel went into captivity
- The kings had help from the prophets who were contemporary with them
- God used these men to
 - record His will **Amos 3v7**
 - plead with His people **2 Kings 17v13,23**
 - foretell future events **Acts 2v18,24**
- The prophets include faithful men such as Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Micah, Zechariah & Malachi - all from different circumstances and backgrounds. Some were unwilling **Jer 20v7-9**, but all were moved by God's spirit to write the messages of God **2 Peter 1v21; 2 Tim 3v15-17**
- As often happens, those who preach the God's word are unpopular **Lam 3v14-32; Jer 20v7**, but the prophets are an example to us of patience in affliction **James 5v10**
- Their prophecies have been proven true to date and will be even more so in the future. We should give earnest heed to them **2 Peter 1v19**
- Eventually the prophets ceased their message, and silence descended on the nation until the time of Christ's birth **Mic 3v7**



Lesson 28

The Promise to David

2 Samuel

7

Background to the Promises

2 Samuel 7v1-3

- David desired to express his thanks to God **v1-2** by building a grand temple for God's worship. David felt the anomaly of the contrast between God's tabernacle and his own house.
- God revealed His will through Nathan the prophet, reminding David that He does not need such a house **Acts 7v48-49**
- David could not build God's temple, **1 Chron 28v2-3**. David had been a man of war. God desired that the one to build His house would be a king of peace, a proper type of Jesus Christ the 'Prince of Peace' **Isa 9v6; Zech 6v12-13**

The Promise
and it's
meaning

- The importance and certainty of the Promise (**Psa 89v28-32**) – note how **v30-31** apply a different use of the word "iniquity" – now applied to Christ's brethren) **Luke 1v32,69; Psa 132v11-17; Jer 23v5-6; Rev 22v16**



Promise	Explanation	Fulfilment
<p>"He will build thee a house" v11</p> <p>"When the days be fulfilled" v12</p> <p>"I will set up thy seed"</p> <p>"I will be his Father, he shall be My son" v14</p> <p>"If he commit iniquity I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men" v14. The phrase "if he commit iniquity" is Hebrew "beha watho" - a unique word meaning - "in his subverting" or literally - "in his deprivation of justice- his unjust condemnation" It is not a conditional phrase as it reads in the AV.</p>	<p>"House" signifies posterity or people Acts 2v36</p> <p>After the death of David</p> <p>God would provide a righteous king from David</p> <p>The birth of this son would be through Divine intervention</p> <p>This is better rendered "In suffering for iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes due to the children of Adam" (Adam Clarke Commentary). John Thomas - "whom in his being caused to bow down I will chasten him with a scepter of men and with stripes of the sons of Adam"</p>	<p>The redeemed who inherit the promise Isa 55v3</p> <p>A long while after. Lk 1v32-33</p> <p>Jesus was the son of David Matt 1v1</p> <p>Jesus is the son of God as well as the son of David Lk 1v35</p> <p>Though Jesus did no sin he inherited the effects of sin by coming in the nature of all mankind, and suffering the stripes due to the children of Adam who first brought sin into the world Gen 3v17-19; Isa 53v3-12; Heb 2v14; 4v15; 5v8; Acts 8v33.</p>
<p>"He will build an house for My name" v13</p>	<p>David wished to build a temple for God but was not permitted to do so. 1 Chron 22v7-8. Christ the promised son will do so.</p>	<p>Christ will set up a Spiritual temple of living stones made up of the resurrected and glorified faithful. 1 Peter 2v5-9; Eph 2v19-22</p> <p>At his second coming he will erect at Jerusalem a House of prayer which will unite all mankind in one worship. Zech 6v12; Isa 56v7; 2v2-4</p>
<p>"I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever" v13</p>	<p>God will establish a kingdom to last forever</p>	<p>Yet toe be fulfilled on earth. Luke 1v32-33; Dan 2v44; Zech 14v9; Psa 22v28; 1 Cor 15v23-28; Rev 11v14</p>
<p>"It shall be established forever before thee" v26</p>	<p>"before thee" signifies that David will see this though he shall first die v12</p>	<p>By the resurrection of David from the grave Acts 2v34; Psa 71v20-21 and the bestowal of immortality Titus 1v2-3 at Christ's coming 2 Tim 4v1,8</p>
<p>"I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more" v10</p>	<p>This statement anticipates the scattering of Israel and their ultimate regathering to the land again. The current return of the Jews shows that the time is at hand for the vindication of the promises to David</p>	<p>Israel will be established as the head of the mortal nations, over which will reign Christ and his immortal associates. Jer 30v3,24; Ezek 37v21-22; Rom 11v25-27</p>

Lesson 29

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

Daniel 2

2,500 years of World History

Daniel 2 is a major foundation of Bible Prophecy, and outlines the grand sweep of God's purpose.

"There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days"

Daniel 2v28



Babylon

Gold

- "Thou (the king of Babylon) art this head of gold" v38
- Gold is a fit symbol for "Babylon the glory of Kingdoms" Isa 13v19
- Babylon is called "the golden city" Isa 14v4
- "After thee shall arise another kingdom" v38 but in outright defiance of this prophecy the king of Babylon made an image of all gold Dan 3v1

**Medo
Persia
Silver**

- The two arms of the image showed the dual nature of the Medo-Persian kingdom
- As silver is inferior to gold so the Medo-Persian empire was 'inferior' to the Babylonian empire in wealth, luxury and magnificence, but not in extent
- According to Herodotus (the historian) the taxation and tribute demanded by Persia of those she conquered was paid in silver talents

**Greece
Brass**

- The descendants of Javan settled in what was later known as Greece, and were noted for their trading in Brass Ezek 27v13
- The Greek soldiers used brass in the armour and are known in history as the "Brazen coated Greeks"

**Rome
Iron**

- The Roman legions were noted for Iron swords and breastplates
- The two legs of iron stood for the eastern and western division of the Roman Empire with headquarters in Rome and Constantinople

**The Feet
& Toes**

**Iron
&
Clay**

- The iron from the legs continues into the feet and toes, showing that the Roman influence continues.
- This is seen today in the Roman Catholic Church.
- The Roman Empire became ten major tribes, corresponding to the ten toes or to the nations of Europe.
- Rome will join Russia and its confederate nations Ezek 38v1-7; Zech 14v1
- Gatherings of nations are symbolized by Clay Hab 2v5-6

The Latter Days

- This prophecy outlines "what shall be in the latter days"
- Since all the metals of the image were to be broken up together (v35) a confederacy of nations must exist in 'the latter days' of the kingdom of men.
- This great confederacy of nations will incorporate all the territories once occupied by the empires represented in the image

The Stone



- The stone represents Christ Matt 21v42, and his immortalized saints who will assist him in executing God's judgments upon the nations Psa 149v5-9
- Christ referred to himself as the stone of Daniel 2 "Whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken, but on whomsoever it shall fall, it shall grind him to powder" Matt 21v44

The Mountain

- Mountains are symbolic of nations and powers Jer 51v25
- The stone was "cut off the mountain without hand" (v45) so Christ was God's work, not mans.
- God's kingdom will be centered around Mt Zion Isa 2v14

The Battle of Armageddon Rev 16v16

- Armageddon is a Hebrew word which means a 'heap of sheaves in a valley for judgment'
- It describes the nations, who 'shall be as the chaff of the summer threshing floor' (v35), blown away to be found no more.

Still Future

- The image represents more than just the development of four consecutive kingdoms in history. There are four features of the interpretation which point to the future
 - o The metals represent developments in 'the latter days' v28
 - o All four empires must be 'broken to pieces together' (v35) which means that a single dominion must arise which will weld all the territory of the four empires into one huge kingdom
 - o 10 Western Europe powers composed of Catholic (iron) and Russian democratic or socialist (clay) elements in government will exist at the epoch of Christ's return (v43-44)

The Outcome

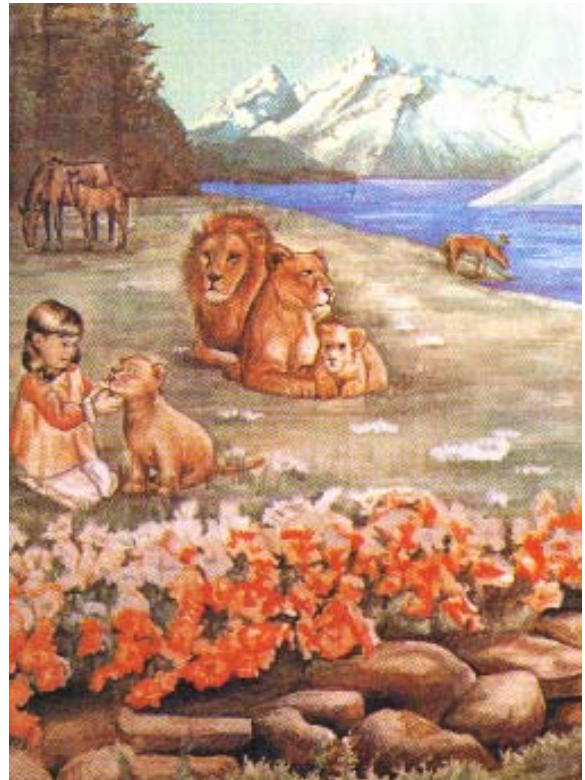
- "and in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" Dan 2v44

Lesson 30 Return of Christ

Gospel of the Kingdom & the

- **God is in control** of human affairs and His hand can be seen working among the nations. **Dan 2v20-21; 4v17; 10v13,20-21.**
- **God has a fixed timetable** and has an appointed day for the end of the times of the Gentiles. **Acts 17v30-31; Psa 102v13; Mark 13v32**
- **Though no man knows God's timetable**, He has given us signs that should warn us of the nearness of Christ's return
 - The revival of Israel **Ezek 36,37,38 Jer 16v14-16; Luke 21v24-36; Jer 30v3**
 - Russia's rise to prominence **Ezek 38v1-8; Dan 11v40**
 - The decline of Turkey **Rev 16v12-14**
 - The arms race **Joel 3v9-10**
 - A state of perplexity and fear on the earth **Luke 21v25-26; Dan 12v1-2**
 - Declining morality **Luke 17v26-30; 2 Tim 3v1-4**
 - The recapture of Jerusalem by the Jews **Luke 21v24; Joel 3v1-2**
 - Persia (Iran), Ethiopia and Libya join a Russian led confederacy **Ezek 38v5; Dan 11v43**
- **Before Russia invades Israel**, Christ will return to his brethren and those responsible for judgment
 - He will come 'as a thief' to the world **Rev 16v15; 1 Thess 5v1-2**
 - The dead will rise first **1 Thess 4v16; John 5v28-29**
 - The living will be taken suddenly **1 Thess 4v17**
 - The responsible will be judged **Rom 14v10-12; 2 Cor 5v10; 2 Tim 4v1; Psa 50v2-5**
 - The righteous will be rewarded with eternal life **Dan 12v1-4; Phil 3v20; Luke 20v36**
 - The unworthy will be cast back into the world to be eventually destroyed in Armageddon **Matt 25v29-30; Luke 12v46**
- **Russia** – having united Europe and with the support of the Vatican **Rev 17v12-14** will invade the Middle East and Egypt **Dan 11v40-45; Ezek 38v8-16**
- **The battle of Armageddon**
 - All nations will become involved militarily in the war of Armageddon at Jerusalem **Zech 14v1-4; Rev 16v16; Joel 3**
 - Armageddon "In the Hebrew tongue" is a combination of 3 Hebrew words
 - ARMA** A heap of sheaves
 - GE** in a valley
 - DON** for judgment of threshing
 - The battle of Armageddon will be fought near Jerusalem **Zech 14v1-2; Joel 3; Ezek 38**
- **Christ returns to the Mount of Olives with his saints, at the crucial moment**
 - His return has been promised **Acts 1v9-11; 3v19-21; Zech 14v4**
 - An enormous earthquake will rock the earth **Zech 14v4-7; Rev 16v18-19; Isa 2v19-21; Ezek 38v20**
 - God will fight the nations using the forces of nature **Ezek 38v22; Zech 14v12-13**
 - Israel will be rescued **Jer 30v7; Joel 3v1-3**

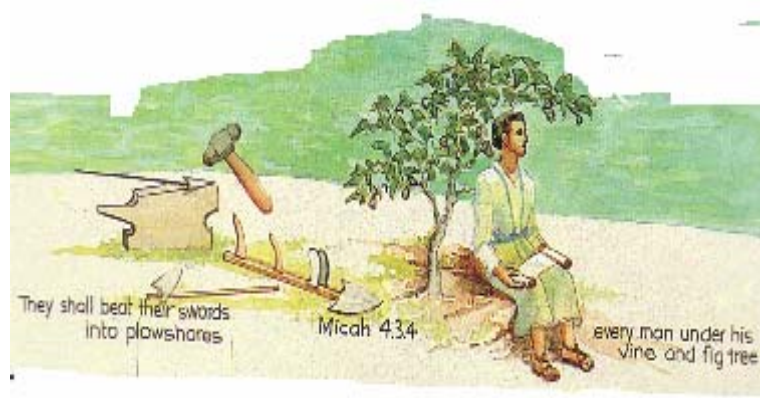
- **The governments of this world** will be defeated and replaced by God's kingdom
 - God will judge mankind **Jer 25v31-33; Acts 17v30-31; Isa 26v9,20; Zeph 3v8**
 - Men will be compelled to submit to God **Isa 2v1-4; Micah 4v4-5**
 - God's Kingdom will take over all others **Dan 2v44; Isa 9v6-7**
 - Jerusalem will be the capital of the world and the centre of worship **Zech 14v16-18; Jer 3v17; Matt 5v35**
 - A glorious House of Prayer is to be built in Jerusalem **Isa 56v4-8**
 - Nations will willingly come to worship God there **Zech 8v20-23; Isa 66v18-23**
- **The Jewish nation** will be converted and restored to favour **Rom 11v26-28; Jer 31v31-34; 31v8-9; Zech 13v6; 12v9-14**
- **Israel** is to become the head of the nations **Zech 8v23; Zeph 3v14-20**
- **The Kingdom** will be a reign of the Lord Jesus Christ and his saints lasting 1,000 years
 - The millennium (1,000 years) promised to the saints **Rev 20v4-6**
 - The saints reign with Christ **Matt 5v35; Rev 2v26-27; 5v9-10; 2 Tim 4v7-8; 2v11-12; 1 Peter 5v1-5**
 - The nations will learn righteousness, and peace & prosperity will follow **Isa 32v16-17; Psa 67; Psa 72; Isa 11v1-8; 33v6 Psa 46 Psa 68**
 - Longer life plus freedom from disease will occur during the millennium **Isa 65v20-23; 35v4-6; 35v10; Rev 7v17**
 - The earth will bring forth fruits in abundance **Amos 9v13**
 - The saints will guide the nations **Heb 2v5; Isa 30v18-21; 1 Cor 6v2**
- **The Final Rebellion**
 - At the end of the 1,000 years some will rebel against Divine rule **Rev 20v1-9,12-15**
 - After the rebellion, God will conduct the second resurrection and judgment – of those who died during the millennium
 - Death will finally be abolished **1 Cor 15v24-28**
- **The End**
 - God will eventually dwell with men **Rev 21v1-4**, and will be all and in all **1 Cor 15v24-28**



Events subsequent
to the Return of
Christ

How the events will unfold		
To the household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christ returns to the earth ➤ Dead in Christ rise first ➤ He comes to find some faithful servants ➤ The living are taken suddenly to join resurrected dead ➤ Gathered to Mt Sinai for judgment ➤ Rejected sent back into Time of Trouble ➤ Righteous rewarded with eternal life ➤ Glorious marriage of the Bride of Christ – His true Ecclesia ➤ Elijah sent forth to the Jews ➤ Saints march from Sinai 	<p>1 Thess 4v16 Acts 3v19-21</p> <p>John 5v28-29 1 Thess 4v13-17 Acts 24v14 1 Cor 15v21-23 Isaiah 26v19-20</p> <p>Luke 12v37-40 Matt 24v42-51</p> <p>1 Thess 4v16-17 Matt 24v39-41 Psalm 50v3-5</p> <p>2 Tim 4v1 Romans 14v10-12 2 Cor 5v10 Matt 25v31-34 John 12v48</p> <p>Matt 25v29-30;24v50-51 Luke 12v46-48 Romans 2v3-11 Heb 10v27-29</p> <p>Rom 2v6-7; 8v11 Phil 3v20-21 1 John 3v1-2 Isa 40v28 Luke 20v36-38 2 Tim 4v7-8</p> <p>Rev 19v6-9; 3v20-21 2 Peter 1v10-11 1 Peter 4v13; 5v1</p> <p>Mal 4v4-6</p> <p>Deut 33v2-3 Psa 68v17-21 Hab 3v3 Isa 63v1-4</p>
To the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He comes as a thief to the world (unexpected and unseen) ➤ Increasing sorrows and strife 	<p>Rev 16v15</p> <p>1 Thess 5v1-4</p>

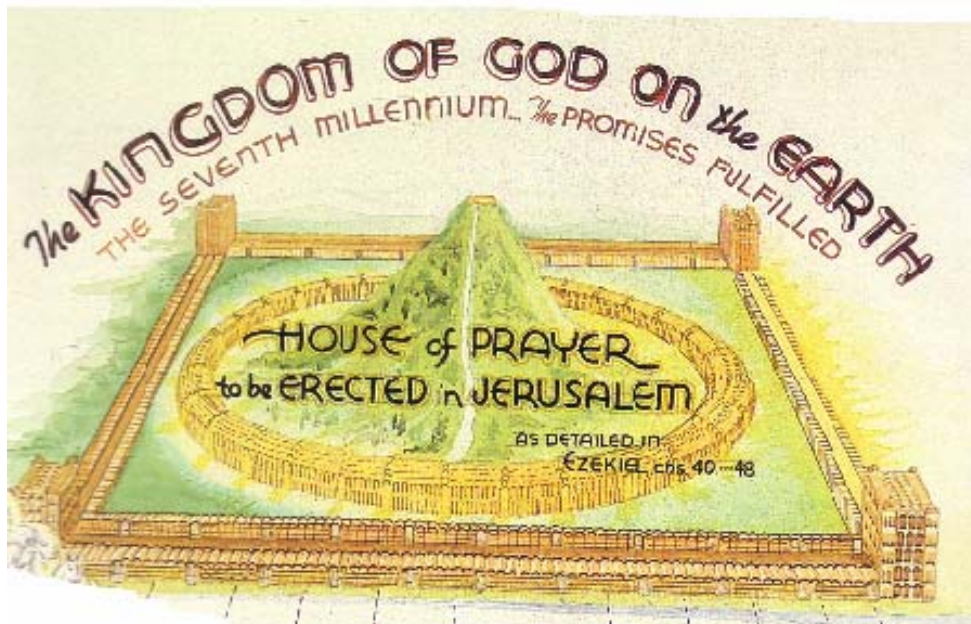
The time of trouble such as never was		
<p>Yahweh's controversy with the nations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Time of trouble unleashed ➤ Whirlwind of war and trouble rages ➤ Russia unites Europe ➤ Russian takes Turkey ➤ Russia sweeps into Egypt & Israel ➤ All nations gathered to Jerusalem ➤ Jews in dire situation ➤ Western powers protest 	<p>Dan 12v1-4 Luke 21v25-28</p> <p>Jer 25v32; 23v19-21 Joel 3v9-10</p> <p>Dan 11v40-45 Ezek 38v15-16</p> <p>Ezek 38v6 Dan 11v40</p> <p>Dan 11v40-45 Ezek 38v15-16</p> <p>Rev 16v14,16 Zech 12v2-3; 14v1-3 1 Thess 2v19-21 Joel 3v1-2</p> <p>Zech 14v2 Jer 30v7</p> <p>Ezek 38v12-13</p>
<p>Armageddon and its aftermath</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christ & saints appear on mount of Olives ➤ Enormous earthquake and volcanic activity in Israel ➤ Russian host and armies of nations destroyed by divine power 	<p>Acts 1v9-11 Zech 14v4-6 Hag 2v6-7, 21-22</p> <p>Zech 14v4-6 Ezek 38v19-23 Rev 16v16-18 Isa 2v17-21</p> <p>Ezek 39v1-7 Zech 14v3,12-13 Joel 3v14-17</p>



The time of trouble such as never was (cont)

Christ's reign on earth

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ David's throne re-established in Jerusalem ➤ Nations commanded to submit ➤ Rome resists and is obliterated ➤ Great rejoicings in Jerusalem (the supper) ➤ European Catholic opposition opposes Christ ➤ Worldwide judgments at hands of saints and Jews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ House of prayer established ➤ 1,000 year reign of peace & blessing ➤ Earth filled with God's glory | <p style="color: red;">Psa 2v6
Dan 2v44; 7v13-14</p> <p style="color: red;">Rev 14v6-7
Psa 2
Acts 17v30-31</p> <p style="color: red;">Rev 14v8-11
Rev 18v1-9, 21-24
Rev 19v1-6</p> <p style="color: red;">Rev 19v19-21</p> <p style="color: red;">Psa 149
Rev 2v26-27; 19v11-16
Jer 25v31
2 Sam 7v10-16
Rev 5v9-10</p> <p style="color: red;">Isa 55v6-7; 2v1-4
Zech 8v20-23
Zech 14v16
Isa 25v6-8
Mal 1v11</p> <p style="color: red;">Isa 11v1-9
Psalm 67; Psalm 72
Isa 32v17; 33v6
Rev 20v4-6
Isaiah 35</p> <p style="color: red;">Num 14v21
1 Cor 15v24-28</p> |
|--|--|---|





The subject of the Kingdom is the major theme of the Bible. The Bible calls the Kingdom 'the Hope of Israel'

Acts 28v20

- The Gospel of the Kingdom of God was the most important function of Christ's preaching work at his first advent **Mark 1v14-15; Luke 4v42-43; 8v1; Matt 4v17; 9v35**
- The Gospel of the Kingdom was the main theme of the apostles preaching **Acts 8v12; 20v30-31; 8v25, 19v8**
- The Kingdom of God will be a divine, universal government which will replace present governments **Dan 2v44; Zech 14v9; Dan 7v27**
- The Kingdom existed in the embryo form in the days of David and Solomon as the Kingdom of God in Israel **1 Chron 28v5; 2 Chron 13v8; 9v8**
- The Kingdom of God (David's dynasty) was overturned because of wickedness **Ezek 21v25-27; Hos 3v4-5**
- The Kingdom is to be re-established **Acts 1v6; 3v19-20 Amos 9v11; Micah 4v6-8 Acts 23v20**
- Jesus Christ will return to be king **Luke 1v30; Isa 9v6-7; Acts 17v30-31; 2v30; Matt 19v28; Jer 33v15; Zech 6v12-13**

A Basic outline of the Kingdom

A king	Jesus Christ	Luke 1v31-33
Land or dominion	The whole earth	Dan 7v27; Zech 9v10
A people or subjects	All nations	Dan 2v44
A law or constitution	God's ways	Isa 2v1-4
An aristocracy or administration	The saints	Rev 5v9-10; 2v26-27
A capital city	Jerusalem	Jer 3v17

Lesson 32

Jesus the Messiah

The Old Testament Background

We have noticed the Old Testament points forward in many ways to Jesus Christ, the focal point of all God's dealings with man. His son, Jesus Christ was foreseen in God's purpose in all His dealings with man from the very beginning. He is termed in various ways such as:-

- o "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"
 - o "The Seed of the Woman"
 - o "The Seed of Abraham"
 - o "The Son of David"
 - o "The Branch"
 - o "The Messiah"
- The Law of Moses was a shadow or type of Christ who was to come. **Heb 10v1; Gal 3v24**
- The promises all developed the purpose of God to raise up a Saviour **Gen 3v15; 22v16; 2 Sam 7**
- The prophets gave the details of:
- o his birth **Isa 7v14; Micah 5v2-4**
 - o his life **Isa 42v1-3**
 - o his death and resurrection **Isa 53**

When Jesus was born he crystalized all these promises

Romans 15v8 "Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers

Gal 4v4 "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His son, made of a woman, made under the law

The Record of his life

The choosing of his family	Matt 1v1, 18-25
The message to Zacharias	Luke 1v5-25
The angels visit to Mary	Luke 1v26-37
The birth of John the Baptist	Luke 1v57-66
Zacharias' prayer of thankfulness	Luke 1v68-80
God works in the affairs of men to arrange events	Luke 2v1-5
The birth of Messiah in the humblest circumstances	Luke 2
His early childhood	Luke 2v10-17
His baptism by John to fulfill all righteousness	Luke 3v10-17
His temptation	Matt 4v1-11

- God subjected Jesus to the temptation to prove him
- o compare God's purpose with Israel in the wilderness **Deut 8v2-3 1 Peter 1v7**
 - o the temptation was of God – "The spirit led him" **v1**
- The quotes used by Christ to deny the temptation were
- o **Deuteronomy 8v3**
 - o **Deuteronomy 6v16**
 - o **Deuteronomy 6v13**

The Temptation of Jesus

All that is in the world	The downfall in Eden	The temptation of Jesus	Jesus' reply to the tempter
1 John 2 v16 "the lust of the flesh"	Genesis 3 v6 "tree was good for food"	Matthew 4 v3 "command these stones be made into bread"	Matthew 4 v4 "man shall not live by bread alone"
"the lust of the eyes"	"pleasant to the eyes"	v8 "sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world"	v10 "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God"
"the pride of life"	"tree to be desired to make one wise"	v6 "if thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down"	v7 "thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God"

- Christ's work - to Preach the Kingdom
- Christ's Parables
- His death, burial & resurrection

[Luke 4v43](#)
[Luke 4](#)
[John 19, Matt 26](#)

The Mission of Jesus

- His mission was seen in the meaning of his name - "to save his people from their sins" see [Matt 1v21](#)
- His purpose was to manifest God's name, character and glory to men [John 17v6](#); [1 Tim 3v16](#); [John 1v14](#); [14v8-9](#)
- His impact was that no other individual before or since has so altered the course of the world's history - "Truly this was the son of God" [Mark 15v39](#)



Even as a boy, Jesus had a love of God's word

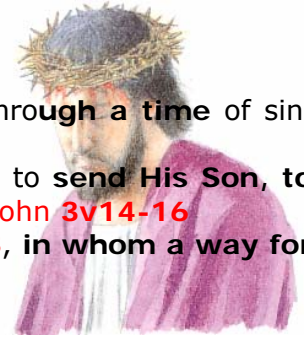
The Twelve Disciples

Simon Peter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Also called Cephas, a stone (from Aramaic for Peter) ➤ The son of Jonas (Bajona) ➤ A fisherman of Bethsaida ➤ Originally a disciple of John the Baptist ➤ Wrote to epistles & influenced Mark in writing his gospel 	<p>John 1v42 Matt16v17 Matt 4v18 John 1v44</p>
Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Peter's brother who had been a disciple of John the Baptist ➤ Introduced Greeks to Jesus 	<p>John 1v35,40 John 12v20-23</p>
John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Also a fisherman, a son of Zebedee, also of Bethsaida ➤ With James, called Boanerges "the son of thunder" ➤ Probable cousin of Jesus, whom Jesus loved ➤ Wrote Gospel, three epistles & Revelation 	<p>Matt 4v21 Luke 5v10 Mark 3v17</p>
James	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ John's brother ➤ Like John, mother probably Salome, sister of Mary 	<p>Mark 1v19 Matt 27v56 Mark 15v40 Mark 16v1 John 19v25</p>
Philip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Also of Bethsaida in Galilee 	<p>John 1v44</p>
Bartholomew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Means son of Tolmai, & thought by many to be Nathanael mentioned only twice ➤ From Cana in Galilee 	<p>John 1v45 John 21v2</p>
Matthew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Also called Levi ➤ Son of Alphaeus ➤ A publican or tax gatherer in Galilee ➤ Wrote first Gospel 	<p>Matt 9v9 Luke 5v27</p>
Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Called also Didymus, meaning "a twin" 	<p>John 11v16</p>
James	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The son of Alphaeus ➤ Possibly James the Little or Less 	<p>Matt 10v3 Matt 27v56 Mark 15v40 Mark 16v1 Luke 24v10</p>
Lebbaeus Thaddaeus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Also called Judas, not Iscariot ➤ Thought by some to be brother of James "the Lord's brother" 	<p>Luke 6v16 John 14v22 Jude 1 Luke 6v16 Gal 1v19</p>
Simon Zelotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A member of the political party called the Zealots ➤ The term Canaanite applied to him should be Canaanite from Kanan, Aramaic for Greek "Zelotes" 	<p>Luke 6v15 Matt 10v4</p>
Judas Iscariot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Son of Simon Iscariot ➤ Iscariot is "ish Keriath" man of Keriath in the South of Judah ➤ Betrayed Jesus & was later replaced by Matthias 	<p>John 6v17 RV Josh 15v25 Acts 1v23-26</p>

Lesson 33 The Atonement

The Sacrifice of Christ -

**God's
Eternal
Purpose with
Christ**



- God foresaw and fore planned that the Creation would go through a time of sin, death and vanity, as part of His purpose **Rom 8v19-22 RSV**
- God foresaw the need for a Redeemer, and always intended to **send His Son**, to die for the sins of the world **2 Tim 1v8-19; 1 Peter 1v18-20; John 3v14-16**
- Jesus Christ was to be the Lamb of God **John 1v29; Rev 13v8**, in whom a way for God to forgive sin could be achieved

The Atonement		
Man's Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adam & Eve sinned by disobeying God's laws ➤ As a result, death & suffering and a defiled conscience were passed onto all their posterity ➤ All mankind now has a nature which is inclined to disobey God ➤ Man is unable to save himself from the law of sin and death, and must rely on God's mercy 	<p>Gen 3v1-5 Rom 5v12 1 Cor 15v22-23 Rom 3v18-24 Jam 1v15-17 Matt 15v19 Rom 6v23 Eph 2v1-14</p>
God's Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christ was born - God's son but also of a woman ➤ Thus he is a true mediator ➤ Christ was also born in the line of Abraham and David to fulfil the Promises made to them ➤ Jesus came bearing the exact nature he was to overcome ➤ He knew the same temptations as all mankind - the natural inclinations away from God. ➤ Thus he shared totally humankind's problems and mortality ➤ Though sorely tempted he lived a sinless life ➤ He achieved this because God strengthened his capacity to overcome sin ➤ His life demonstrated that he was able to resist sin by drawing on God's help ➤ Though sinless he gave himself willingly to death 	<p>Gal 4v4 Luke 1v30-35 Heb 5v1-2 Acts 13v22-23 Gal 3v16 Rev 22v16 Matt 1v1 Heb 2v14 Rom 8v3 Heb 4v15</p> <p>Heb 4v15 2 Cor 5v20-21 Isa 11v1-5 John 2v25 Psa 80v17 Luke 22v40-43 Heb 5v7-9</p>

	to illustrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o That God was righteous in condemning human nature as the cause of sin o That the only way that he could be free from the human nature which tended away from God was to destroy It 	Rom 3v25-27 Heb 2v14 Rom 6v9
What was achieved in his death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God's righteousness (or justice) was declared ➤ Christ's own salvation ➤ God could now forgive those, who, unable to save themselves from death and sin, would believe in Jesus Christ and strive to copy his example 	Rom 3v23-26 Heb 9v12; 5v8 Phil 3v20-21
The resurrection of Jesus Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Happened because he was sinless ➤ It was not possible for him to stay dead ➤ Provides us with a mediator - one who goes between ➤ Christ is exalted because of his obedience to death 	Acts 2v23-24 Heb 4v15 1 Tim 2v5 Phil 2v5-12
Where we fit in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We cannot overcome sin in ourselves completely ➤ We must believe that Jesus did, that he was crucified and raised by God ➤ We must <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Confess our sins o Seek God's forgiveness through Christ o Endeavour to rectify our faults ➤ But first we must accept his sacrifice by identification in baptism 	Rom 7v18-19 1 John 1v9 Heb 7v25 Heb 4v12-16 Heb 10v26 1 Pet 2v21-25

This chart underlines the importance of the nature of Christ Jesus in the work of the Atonement. The apostolic teaching is that by bearing the nature of mankind, flesh and blood, he was able to remove the enmity between God and man. In the putting to death of sinful lusts, the fleshly man was rightly condemned and God's righteousness alone exalted. Thus is emphasized the fundamental principle of God's reconciliation.

"I will be sanctified in them that come nigh Me, and before all the people I will be glorified"

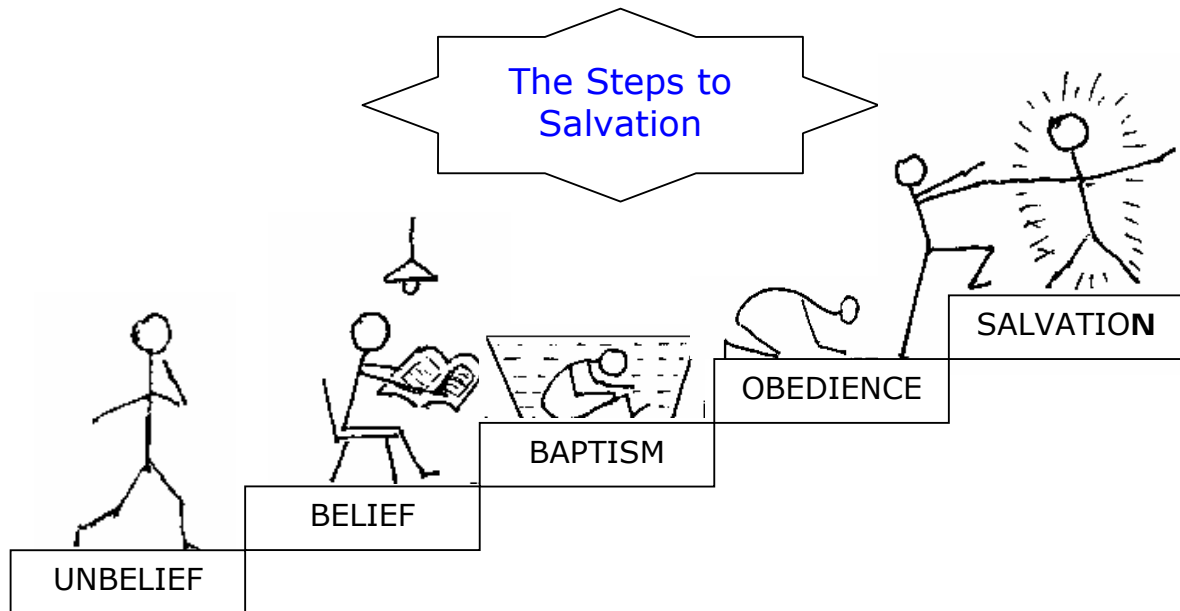
Lev 10v3

Consistent apostolic teaching on the principles of the atonement

Reference	Christ's relationship to Sin	The description of His sacrifice	The Purpose for His coming in Flesh & Blood	Result
Heb 2v14-15	Partook of flesh and blood	Through death	Destroy that which has the power of death i.e. the devil	Deliverance
Rom 8v3-4	Likeness of sinful flesh	By a sacrifice for sin (RV)	Condemned sin in the flesh	Righteousness
Col 1v20-22	Body of his flesh	Through death	Remove enmity	Reconciliation
Eph 2v15-16	In his flesh	By the cross	Abolish the enmity	Peace

Lesson 34

Baptism

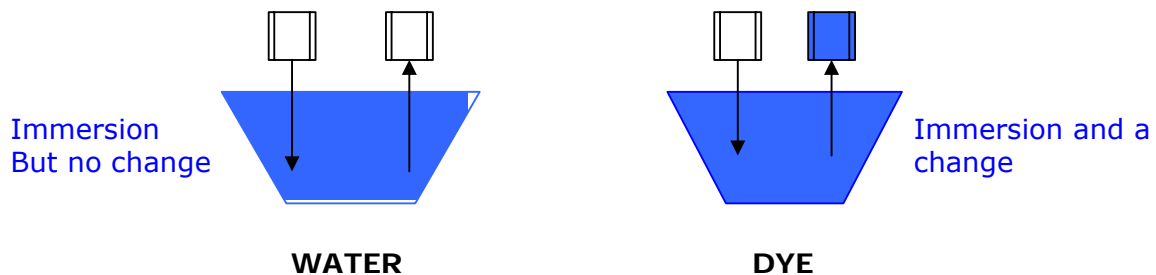


Belief

- Is an essential pre-requisite to baptism [Mark 16v15-16](#); [Acts 8v12-13, 35-38](#); [9v18](#); [16v27-34](#); [22v15-16](#)
- Baptism is the answer or response of a good conscience [1 Pet 3v21](#); [Rom 6v17](#)
- It is the first act of obedience to God

Baptism

- Baptism is essential for salvation [John 3v5](#); [Acts 2v38](#)
- The Greek word for baptism, "baptizo" means an immersion or washing in water
- The root word "bapto" means to dip. This word was used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment.



- True baptism must be accompanied by a change in heart not merely be immersion in water
- Baptism is a death, burial & resurrection [Rom 6v3-13](#)
 - o In baptism we are baptized into Christ's death, burial and resurrection
 - o Like Christ, we go to our symbolic death and with Christ declare the

righteousness of God **Rom 3v25**

- o We declare that God was just in requiring death to the desires of the flesh **Gen 3v19**

The old man dies	We are crucified with Christ Rom 6v6
The old man is buried	We are buried with Christ Rom 6v4
The new man is raised	We are buried with Christ Rom 6v4-5
The old man is put off	The new man is put on Col 3v1-10
We change masters	We now serve God and not sin Rom 6v17-22
Baptism becomes a daily process	Gal 2v20; 5v25; Rom 6v9-11

- What baptism achieves
 - o Identification with Christ **Gal 5v24; Col 3v1-2**
 - o Forgiveness of sins - past & future **Acts 22v16; 2v38; 1 John 1v9**
 - o Inclusion in the covenants of promise **Gal 3v27-29; Eph 2v12-13**

Obedience

- Baptism alone does not save us, it only enters us into the race for eternal life.
- We have to live a life of obedience to the commandments of Christ, and even then we are only saved by the grace of God **Matt 28v19-20; Heb 11v6; 1 Peter 2v1-3**
- Endurance in faithfulness to Christ's coming is necessary **Matt 10v22; 24v13; Rev 2v25-28; Luke 21v34**
- It is impossible to reverse one's decision **2 Peter 2v20-22; Luke 9v62; 1 Cor 9v27**
- Baptism is a covenant with God that we cannot break

Infant Sprinkling

This is the unscriptural practise of "baptizing" babies at birth. It is ineffective for the following reasons

- Baptism can only follow belief **Heb 11v6; Matt 28v19-20**
- Full immersion in water is required **John 3v23; Matt 3v16; Acts 8v36-38**
- Greek for "sprinkling" is "rhantiso" **Heb 9v13; 13v24**. This word is never used for baptism in the Bible
- Infant baptism was introduced by the Roman Church in the 4th century, and has no scriptural precedent, and is therefore useless in salvation

Your Position before Baptism

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

Ephesians 2v12

Lesson 35 The First Century Ecclesia

The Acts of the Apostles

This is Luke's record of the early ecclesia and the Gospel going to all nations.

- The risen Lord instructs them before his departure
 - The angels promise his physical, visible return
 - The Holy Spirit gifts are received
 - Large number of conversions occur
 - Stephen is stoned by the Jews
 - The gospel goes to the Gentiles
 - Paul is converted - a chosen vessel to God
 - Paul's preaching work - Ecclesias are established throughout the world
- Acts 1v1-6
 - Acts 1v9-11
 - Acts 2v1-37
 - Acts 2v38-42
 - Acts 4v4,31-35
 - Acts 6 & 7
 - Acts 10
 - Acts 9
 - Acts 13-28

The Epistles of Paul, James, Peter, John & Jude

- These are letters written by men directed by the Holy Spirit that God has caused to be preserved for our benefit.
- They contain God's message to mankind and guidance for daily living



The Book of Revelation

- This is God's last message to His servants
Rev 1v1-2
- There are two vital factors that must be understood in the interpretation of the book of Revelation:
 - o The message is conveyed to God's servants in "signs" or "symbols"
Rev 1v1
 - o It reveals "things hereafter" or events future to the time of AD96
Rev 1v1; 4v1.
- Thus we find it reveals, in symbolic form, the history of the world from AD96 to the end of the Millennium. The symbols that are used are drawn from other parts of the Bible.

Lesson 36

The Nature of Man

Some Vital Points

Man is a creature - formed of the dust of the ground - living by God's free spirit (the energy of nature)

Gen 2v7
Job 33v4-6; 27v3
Psalm 104v29-30
Psalm 51v10-11

When the free spirit of God (or man's breath) is removed, man dies and returns to the ground

Eccl 12v7
Gen 3v17-19
Job 34v14-15

Hence man is mortal - a temporary being and does not possess an immortal soul

James 4v14
Psalm 39v5; 144v4

In the death state, man is unconscious and knows nothing at all

Eccl 9v5-10
Psalm 6v5; 146v3-4

After death the body corrupts, in the same way as any animal

Psalm 49v9,14; 88v10
John 11v39

All men are subject to death as a result of sin

Rom 5v12-21; 6v23
1 Cor 15v22

The words "immortal soul" are never used together in the whole of the Bible - hence this doctrine is not true

The 'Heaven Going' Theory

- This theory is believed by many because it avoids the reality of death **2 Tim 4v1-4**
- The belief is wrong for the following reasons:
 - Man has no immortal soul
 - Judgment occurs at Christ's return, not at man's death
 - It destroys the need for the resurrection of the body
 - The reward of believers is eternal life on earth
- Confusion arises over the death state for two main reasons:
 - Some passages read as if our reward is in heaven. These passages merely indicate that our reward is there until Christ brings it to us when he comes. **1 Peter 1v4-7; Matt 5v12; Rev 22v12; John 14v1-3**
 - God's kingdom on earth is described as the "Kingdom of Heaven". This means the Kingdom will be based on Heavenly principles. The phrase 'of heaven' describes its character, not its physical location **Matt 5v3,10; 18v3**.
- Commonly used verses to support immortal soulism are:
 - **Luke 23v43** "This day I say to you" - see Rotherham Translation for the correct punctuation
 - **Luke 16v19-31** This is a story or parable based on the false beliefs of the Pharisees, not what Jesus believed. This is a parable not a literal event.
 - **2 Cor 5v8** Paul's sweeping description of the change to immortality that he hopes to experience, glosses over the intervening events such as resurrection and judgment (**v10**)

Lesson 37

Resurrection & Judgment

Death

Death is a complete cessation of life, both physically and mentally. Man dies and goes back to dust and remains there unless God raises him from the dead. Those raised will be judged and either rewarded with a change to everlasting life, or if unworthy, destroyed during Armageddon.

Who will be raised?

Those who have a knowledge of God's purpose will be raised to answer to God, whether they have believed His word or not. [John 12v48](#); [2 Cor 5v10](#)
These are the responsible who will be judged

Who will not be raised?

Since judgment immediately follows resurrection [2 Tim 4v1](#), only those accountable to judgment will be raised. Those who do not have an understanding of God's purpose (such as those who never hear the Gospel) will not be raised. [Isa 26v13-14](#); [Prov 21v16](#); [Jer 51v57,39](#); [Dan 12v2](#) (note "many" not "all") [Eph 2v12](#) (without hope); [1 Thess 4v14](#); [Psa 49v19-20 cp v15](#) for Psalmist's hope.

God is Just

He exercises His mercy by selecting some for judgment. God expects all men to seek Him. [Acts 14v15-17](#); [Rom 1v20](#) (see Weymouth Translation). However some men are blessed to directly receive His call [2 Peter 1v3-4, 10-11](#). This difference in opportunity is God's prerogative [Rom 9v14-23](#).

Resurrection

Old Testament	Dan 12v2-3 Job 19v25-27 Psa 17v15 Cp 1 John 3v2 Isa 26v19	Resurrection was clearly the hope of believers
New Testament	John 11v23-43 Luke 20v35-58 Acts 24v4-5 1 Cor 15v1-23 2 Tim 4v7-8 1 Thess 4v14-18	Note, nowhere in this record does anyone believe Lazarus is in heaven and in fact the Lord subsequently raised him from the dead - 4 days after he supposedly should have gone to heavenly bliss. Martha's hope was in the resurrection 'at the last day' v24 Christ and the Apostles based their hope around the resurrection - nowhere in the Bible is the transition of souls at death taught.

When does resurrection and judgment take place?

- At Christ's return - when the then living are gathered **2 Tim 4v1,7-8; 1 Thess 4v13-17; Matt 24v38-42; 24v31**
- Judgment will be on the basis of how we have used the Gospel and the opportunities God gives us **Rom 14v10-12; Matt 25v14-30,31-46; John 5v28-29; Luke 12v36-48; 9v26.**
- Those accepted receive a change to immortal life. They receive a spirit body - as the risen Lord. **Phil 3v20-21; 1 John 3v2; 1 Cor 15v22-23, 50-54.**
- The rejected are sent back into the world to suffer the second death in the battle of Armageddon. Suffering will be proportionate to opportunity. **Luke 13v24-30; 12v46; Dan 12v2; Rev 2v11**
- The second resurrection and judgment take place at the end of the 1,000 years of the Kingdom, when all those who have lived and died during the Kingdom will be raised and judged. **Rev 20v4-6, 11-14; 21v8**
- Finally death itself will be abolished **Rev 20v14; 21v4; 1 Cor 15v25-26**



One Group's Imagination of what the rapturous lift-off would supposedly trigger in next morning's newspapers

Lesson 38 The Contrast of Truth & Error

The Bible is not always easily understood

God has written it this way because He expects man to diligently seek His message.
Prov 25v2; 1 Thess 5v21; John 4v24; Luke 11v9-10; 2 Tim 2v15; 3v15-16; 2 Thess 2v10-13

Truth is essential to salvation

John 8v31-32	Truth makes us free
Isaiah 8v20	The Bible is our only source of absolute truth
Gal 1v6-9	The Apostle's concern emphasizes that to believe even a slight perversion of the true Gospel endangers salvation
Eph 4v2-6	There is only one true belief and one true baptism
2 Pet 3v15-16	To have incorrect doctrines will result in destruction

The Lord and the Apostles predicted a large departure from the faith

Mark 13v21-23	False religions would arise
2 Tim 4v3-4	Men would seek more acceptable doctrines - fables such as heaven going
2 Peter 2v1-3	The heresy predicted
Jude 3-4	The faith needs to be defended
Acts 20v29-30	The decline of truth to come from within
1 John 4v1-3	The need to discern the spirits (doctrines)
2 Thess 2v1-11	The Papacy in all its arrogance and evil to be revealed

We should not be concerned to see the multitude of religions - our need is to find the Truth.

There is but few who find the way to life - the Truth has been and always will be a minority Matt 7v13-14

There is no ground for tolerance or compromise with those who do not hold the Truth 2 Peter 3v16-17; 2 John v7-12; Rev 2v14-16



The Greek Philosopher Plato taught the existence of an immortal soul that undergoes frequent

JOB 14

1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.
2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.
3 And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?
4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.
5 Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;
6 Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.
7 For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.
8 Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;
9 Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.
10 But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?

Lesson 39

The Devil & Satan

There are many wrong views about the Bible Devil. We need to be sure we understand correctly.

The importance of the subject

An understanding of the subject is critical to an appreciation of the life and death of Jesus Christ.

- **Heb 2 v 14** Christ's death destroyed the devil.
- **I John 3 v 8** Christ's mission was to overcome the works of the devil

Popular conceptions about the devil

The mainstream religions all believe the devil to be:

- a fallen angel who rebelled against God
- an immortal sinner who opposes God
- the force of evil who causes men to sin
- a being who can use governments to oppose God
- a creature who inhabits a fiery place called hell where he and his fellow demons torture sinners for ever.

General comment

This widely accepted concept about the devil is largely due to ideas of men like Milton and his work "Paradise Lost". The concept of a horrid horned monster has been refined in later years to a more subtle deceiving angel. The translators of the Authorised Version of the Bible believed in this traditional concept of a fallen angel and this reflects itself in some very biased translation. In understanding the subject we must reject all preconceived notions and examine the evidence.

What the Bible DEVIL really is

- In the Old Testament the word "devil" is only used in reference to the idols of the nations **Lev 17v7; 2 Chron 11v15; Deut 32v17**. There is no reference to a fallen angel.
- In the New Testament the word "devil" is used often. The Greek word used is important to understand:-

DIABOLOS - is actually a compound of two words

DIA

"through" eg. dia-meter -distance through circle

BOLLO

"to throw or cast, in the sense of striking or stabbing by accusation" (Bullinger)

- Parkhurst, in his lexicon tells us that the word means to slander, to utter malicious falsehood and to speak lies. So we see a diabolos, or devil, is a false accuser, an enemy or a liar.
- This correct meaning is confirmed in the Authorised Version where the same word diabolos is translated differently on three occasions **I Tim 3v11; 2 Tim 3v3; Titus 2v3**

- God uses the word "diabolos" to describe the power of sin which is His enemy, which falsely accuses Him and which leads men to destruction. [Psa 10v6,11,13](#)
- The translators bias in translating the word 'diabolos' as 'devil' is reflected in the inconsistency of translation. Other more accurate translators such as the Diaglott and Rotherham do not use "devil" but the terms "enemy" or "adversary".

The following comments are helpful to appreciate this subject

'The Devil' therefore, for purposes of understanding is best to be read in English as The Liar, The Slanderer, or The Accuser; and then the way lies open to ask, Why sin should be personified as a liar, a slanderer? The answer to this will be seen in the nature of sin. It is the doing of that which God has forbidden, not because God has forbidden it, but because gratification or advantage will come of it. When Adam disobeyed in the garden of Eden, it was not from a bad motive, as men talk; it was from a conviction that the forbidden tree was good, and would open his eyes and make him wise. So the narrative informed us in Eve's case ([Gen 3v6](#)). A man may not commit sin from sheer wickedness, but to get some good for himself. The good he seeks cannot come of it. Hence, sin universally is a lie, and, when personified, is a liar. It is also a slanderer, and a slanderer of God. It, so to speak, presents itself to its victim, and says, "Listen to me; do as I tell you and you shall have great enjoyment and benefit. God is unkind in putting restrictions upon you: He keeps you from much happiness. Life and joy are in my ways and not in His". Thus it slanders God and utters falsehood to the ruin of those who listen; for destruction and misery are in the ways of sin; and the highest joy and purest well-being are connected with that loving submission to God in which we are exercised in the keeping of His commandments.

Sin, as the great deceiver of mankind, is there well spoken of as the Liar, the Accuser, the Slanderer of God - *alias* the Devil. In its literal aspect, it is, of course, an impersonal thing, tempting without being a conscious tempter, as expressed by James. "Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed; then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death" [James 1v14](#).

By ROBERT ROBERTS, "The Evil One" pg 12

Summary

The devil of the Bible is the power of sin which is opposed to God. It can be seen in human nature, ([Heb 2v4](#)) in individuals moved by lust, (Judas, [John 6v70](#)) or in organisations which oppose God ([Eph 6v11-12](#); [Rev 2v10](#)). This power of sin, though an impersonal thing, is personified. (This is a Biblical method - where abstract principles are described as persons (Holy Spirit gifts [John 14v16](#), The world [John 15v19](#), sin, wisdom etc.). Much of the confusion arises because people fail to appreciate this style of literature.

The Devil

What the truth is about the devil The real source of temptation

Man is not tempted by a fallen angel, but from within. **James 1v13-15; Mark 7v 20-23.**

Christ destroyed the devil when he overcame human nature.

Heb 2v14 The flesh and its lusts had to be destroyed, not a fallen angel
Heb 9v26

I John 3v8 Christ destroyed the power of sin in his own body

Gal 5v24 We must also try to destroy the power of sin in ourselves

Scriptural truths that deny popular ideas about the devil

- God's will is done in heaven **Matt 6v10**
- God only is immortal **I Tim 6v16**
- Sin is from within **James 1v13-15**
- God creates evil circumstances **Isa 45v7**

Satan

'Satan' is an un-translated Hebrew word which has been left in the record as a name. It should be translated as "the adversary" or "an opponent". It can be human lust, individuals who oppose God, or human organisations.

Satan can be used of good or evil persons or things.

Numb 22v22,32 an angel becomes an "adversary" or 'satan' to Balaam

I Chron 21v1 Satan is used of God - who was opposed to David

Matt 16v23 used of Peter

Acts 5v4 human's evil thoughts

Luke 22v3

Rev 2v9 religious opposition to the truth

2 Cor 12v7 Paul's disease from "Satan"

Job 1 an adversary of God and Job

Demons

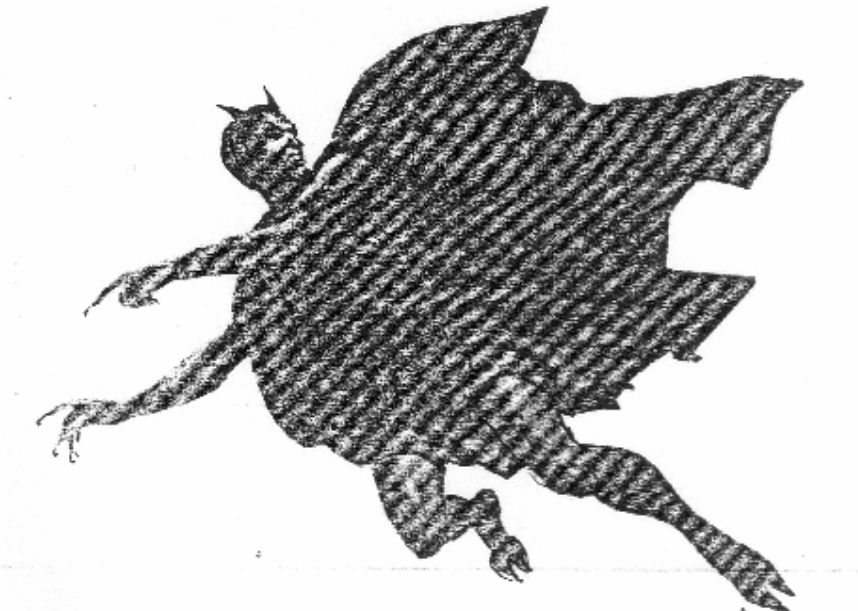
Greek "daimon" - rendered "devils" is a different Greek word from "diabolos".

- It does not refer to agents of the devil of popular theology nor to evil spirits
- The demons spoken of in the Bible were a result of Greek culture where all diseases and mental disorders were imagined to be caused by evil spirits inhabiting the sick. In an age of medical ignorance this explanation was widely believed. When Christ healed he often gave visible signs to indicate the departure of the demon because the sufferer believed that he was possessed. **Mark 5v1-7; James 2v19.**
- To cast out a demon was merely to cure the person of his sickness. **Matt 17v15-18 (epilepsy). Matt 15v22; 12v22; Matt 4v24; John 7v19-20**
- The use of the common vernacular by Christ does not mean acceptance of the mythological idea any more than it does when we use terms such as "lunatic" and "Sunday".

Other Issues

Some other verses that need to be correctly understood are:-

2 Peter 2v4 Jude v 7	The 'angels' here are Korah, Dathan, and Abiram
Ezekiel 28	A prophecy about the king of Tyre
Isaiah 14	A prophecy about the king of Babylon



Lesson 40

Hell & Everlasting Torment

The popular notion of Hell is one of eternal torment in flames. It is connected with two other false ideas - the concept of a supernatural devil and the immortal soul.

What "Hell" really is

"Hell" is an old English word, used by the translators of the Authorised version in 1611 AD to express the concept of the Hebrew word "Sheol" and the Greek words "hades", "gehenna" and "tartaros".

What did "Hell" mean to the translators?

The word "hell" is from an Anglo-Saxon word that means "to hide or cover over" an object. For example to "hell" potatoes is to bury them for planting.

The word was considered parallel to the meaning of "sheol" and "hades" and was used in the A. V. translation, except where the context prevented it. Because of prevailing beliefs on the subject the translators incorrectly made hell a proper name, translated it inconsistently where the concept did not fit and also applied it for "Gehenna" which is actually the name of a valley near Jerusalem, not a supposed place of torment. Thus we have a concept implied in the word 'hell' that was never intended in the original scripture.

What do the original words mean?

Old Testament (Hebrew)

"**SHEOL**" - the grave or the concealed place. Notice the inconsistency of translation.

- o "hell" 31x
- o "the grave" 31x
- o "the pit" 3x - (see [Isa 14v9-11](#))
- In every case "grave" should be inserted for "hell", Not one context suggests eternal torment and in fact most contexts in which "sheol" occurs exclude the idea of a place of torment. See [Gen 37v35](#); [Psa 6v5](#); [89v48](#).
- There is no suggestion of eternal torment in any part of the Old Testament. (see [Eccl 9v5-10](#); [Psa 146v4](#))

New Testament Words (Greek)

"**HADES**" -occurs 10x - means "that not seen - or the covered place"

- The occurrences of the word in the New Testament are:

Quotation	AV Translation	Comment
1 Cor 15v55	Grave	Shows inconsistency of translation
Acts 2v27,31	Hell	From Psa 16v10 Christ's grave
Rev 1v18	Hell	The grave
Rev 6v8	Hell	The grave
Rev 20v13-14	Hell x2	Note margin (a) but surely those in hell have been judged? (b) how can hell be cast into lake of fire?
Matt 11v23	Hell	The destruction of Vespasian AD 70 caused many deaths

Luke 10v15	Hell	The language is taken from Isa 14v12
Matt 16v18	Hell	RSV "power of death" - Christ can unlock the grave Rev 1v18
Luke 16v23	Hell	This parable was based on incorrect beliefs of Pharisees

"GEHENNA" - means the "Valley of Hinnom". This was the Jerusalem rubbish dump - a place of contempt where the bodies of the poor and the criminals were thrown to be consumed by the fires which continually burned.

- History of Gehenna
 - Located south-west of Jerusalem Josh 15v8;18v6
 - Children sacrificed to Molech 2 Chron 28v3
 - Sennacherib's army destroyed there Isa 30v31-33
 - Idols destroyed by Josiah there 2 Kings 23v10
 - Place of slaughter for Israel Jer 19v2-7
 - Became a receiver of rubbish and bodies of poor and criminals. Fires burn continually on the heaps of rubbish. To be buried in Gehenna was the most shameful burial possible
- The future of Gehenna
 - A place of judgment - Zech 12v2-3
 - A memorial grave - Isa 66v20-24
 - Finally to be made holy - Jer 31v38-40
- Quotes where the word 'Gehenna' is rendered "hell" are:-
 - Matthew 5v22,29; 10v28; 18v9; 23v15
 - Mark 9v43,45,47
 - Luke 12v5
 - James 3v6
- Note - "Gehenna" was only used in writings to Jews or people familiar with Jerusalem and its surroundings.

"TARTAROS"

- This word occurs only once in the New Testament.
- 2 Peter 2v4 - a place in Greek mythology which signified the deeps of the earth. (used by Sept. in Job 41v32). Those who rebelled against Moses were swallowed by the earth to be reserved for the judgment day. (An English Equivalent example is the metaphor 'sent to Coventry').

"EVERLASTING FIRE"

- This phrase is used occasionally as a symbol of complete and total destruction. The perpetual action of the destroying agent is used to emphasise the inevitability and finality of the destruction. See Jude 7; Mark 9v45; Rev 14v11; Jer 7v20. The concept is unstopability rather than eternally burning.

Conclusion

Not only is eternal torment out of harmony with God's character, but also because there is no immortal soul there is no possibility of eternal punishments as many believe.

Lesson 41

The Trinity

The word "triinity" is not a Biblical expression - it is a word meaning "three" and is applied to God.

Titles such as "God the Son", "God the Holy "Spirit", are also not found in the Bible.

Where the doctrine of the TRINITY came from

The doctrine is one of confusion, because it is drawn not from the Bible, but from pagan mythology. The Encyclopedia Britannica, in one edition states:

"The propositions constitutive of the dogma of the Trinity, were not drawn directly from the New Testament, and could not be expressed in New Testament terms. They were the products of reason speculating on a revelation to faithThey were only formed through centuries of effort, only elaborated by the aid of the conceptions and formulated in the terms of Greek and Roman metaphysics. "

That is confirmed by a statement made by Mr FJ Wilkin, M.A., D.D., Professor of Theology, Baptist College of Victoria, Australia. In a book attacking Christadelphian teaching, he made the following revealing comment:

"In the Old Testament, the Unity of God was clearly affirmed. The Jewish creed, repeated in every synagogue today, was "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" (Deut 6v4). This was the faith of the first Christians, so Paul writes, "There is one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in you all" (Eph 4v6). But gradually some addition or modification of this creed was found necessary. Christians were fully persuaded of the Deity of Jesus Christ and later of the Deity of the Holy Spirit, and they were compelled to relate these convictions with their belief in the unity of God. During many years, the problem was discussed and many explanations were attempted. One advanced by Sabellius, that became fairly popular was that Christ and the Holy Spirit were successive manifestations of the Supreme Being, but finally, the belief prevailed that the words Father, Son, Spirit, declare eternal distinctions in the Godhead. That is, that the Trinity of manifestation revealed a Tri-unity of Being. In other words, that Christ and the Holy Spirit were co-eternal with the Father. With the exceptions of the Unitarians, this is the belief of Christendom today But Christadelphianism denies the Trinity.....In this denial it challenges all "Christian Churches ". (From Christadelphianism, published by The Australian Baptist, Victoria)

This statement is staggering in its frankness. It confesses that the doctrine of the Trinity is not to be sought for in the Bible, that it differs from the teaching of the apostles, and that it was only "adopted" by the Church after many years of contention, because members were "fully persuaded by the Deity of Jesus Christ, and later of the Deity of the Holy Spirit".

How the TRINITY is defined

The trinity is further defined thus:

"There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker and Preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

Ecclesiastical history shows how that the doctrine of the Trinity was gradually superimposed upon the Truth until it completely obscured it, fulfilling Paul's warning ([2 Tim 4v1-3](#)). Consider the following gradual declension in the early church:

Stages of Church History	
AD 120	The Apostles Creed says, "I believe in God the Father Almighty"
AD 150	Justin Martyr begins to corrupt Christianity with the philosophy of the Greeks
AD 170	The word trias first occurs in Christian literature
AD 200	The word trinitas is first used by Tertullian
AD 260	Sabellius teaches:- Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three names for the same God
AD 300	No Trinitarian forms of prayer yet known to the Church
AD 310	Lactantius (orthodox teacher) writes: "Christ never calls himself God"
AD 325	The Nicene Council agree to call Christ, "God of God, the God of very God"
AD 350	Great conflicts in the church about the doctrine of the Trinity
AD 370	The Doxology, "Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost." composed, and complained of as a novelty
AD 381	The Council of Constantinople gives the finishing touch to the doctrine of the "three persons in one God"
AD 383	The Emperor Theodosius threatens to punish all who will not believe in and worship the Trinity
AD 519	The Doxology is ordered to be sung in all the Churches
AD 669	The Clergy commanded to commit to memory the Athanasian Creed incorporating the doctrine of the Trinity
AD 862	Bishop Basil orders the Clergy to repeat this creed every Sunday

Thus the Trinitarian error obscured the Truth. It is the responsibility of everybody who would serve God "in truth" to seek out the facts; to "prove all things, hold fast to that which is good" ([I Thess 5v21](#)). We urge that the reader give careful, critical consideration of the article now before him. Eternal life is bound up in his reaction to it.

The trinity is also described as co-equal, co-eternal and three persons in one and one in three. These terms are in contradiction in themselves and are not Bible concepts.

The Truth about God

- A full appreciation of God and Jesus Christ is essential to salvation. **John 17v3; 4v23**. We cannot treat the subject as a deep mystery" beyond human comprehension
- God (The Father) is one person
- - **Deut 6v4** If God was otherwise, then He deceived Israel
 - **Isa 46v9** The unity of God was clearly the way God revealed Himself
 - **Isa 45v5**
 - **I Tim 2v5** Christ's position is clearly stated by the apostle Paul
 - **Mark 12v29-30** Christ reiterated the Old Testament teaching of God (the Father) being the one God
 - **I Cor 8v6** These passages leave no room for Trinitarian beliefs
 - **Eph 4v4**
- The Holy Spirit is God's power (not a personal being)
 - **Luke 1v34-35** - God's spirit is 'the power of the Highest'.
 - **Acts 10v38** - this verse cannot be explained in terms of a trinity.
 - See also: **Acts 1v8; Psalms 139v12; Psalms 51v12**

The Truth about Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is a distinct and separate person to the Father

- Jesus was a man
 - **I Tim 2v5** - "The man" - see **I Tim 6v16** - "God only is immortal"
 - **Gal 4v4; Acts 2v22; Heb 2v14-17**
- Jesus was subject to temptation
 - **Heb 4v14-16** - God cannot be tempted **James 1v13-17**
 - **Luke 22v42** - Had a separate will to God's
- Jesus had to prove himself to God
 - **Luke 2v52** - how could he grow in favour to himself
 - **Heb 5v7-9** - Jesus learnt obedience by suffering
 - **Heb 2v10-11** - Jesus needed to be perfected
- Jesus was subject to God (not co-equal)
 - **I Cor 11v3; John 5v19,30; 1 Cor 15v28** - Jesus has always and will always be subject
- Jesus never sought equality with God
 - **Phil 2v5-6; John 14v28; Mark 15v34; Rev 1v1**

Difficult Passages Used To Support The TRINITY

Most misconceptions in regard to the Trinity occur because people read into scripture preconceived ideas. The correct understanding is obtained by correct translation and reference to the context.

Listed below are a few problem areas and keys to the correct understanding.

Gen 1v26	"And God said, Let us" - is this a plural God? Answer: the word 'elohim' refers to the angels of God Gen 32v30
Isaiah 9v6	Christ is called the "everlasting Father" Answer: v7 "shall be" - in the Kingdom of God- he will be called "the Father of eternity" or "the Father of the Age" as the Hebrew word indicates
John 1v1-3	Jesus appears to be pre-existent with God. Answer: See Diaglott translation which correctly excludes any personal pronouns. 'The word' is Gk. "Logos" - "an idea" - a word - "a purpose". I Peter 1v20 . God has a long term plan which foresaw Christ Jesus as a key figure. Fore-ordination is not pre-existence cp. Jer 1v5 .
John 3 v 13	See v31 for the explanation
John 6v33,35,51	The Divine origin is the essential point, not literally coming from heaven.
I John 5v6-7	These verses are now widely recognised as a spurious insertion to the text (see Diaglott & RSV)
John 8v23	Jesus is not saying he was a God, rather he was not of this world in attitude. We should not be "of the world" either. See John 17v14 ; Col 3v1-2 ; 1 John 2v15-16 . Refers to our spiritual attachment, not our physical origin.
John 8v58	Christ did not exist before his birth, except as a concept in God's mind. See I Peter 1v20 . Abraham saw in the offering on Mt Moriah, God's purpose with Christ's death.
John 10v30	Christ is talking about unity of spirit, not physical unity. See John 17v22-23 . We also should be one spiritually with God and each other.
John 14v9	See John 5v37 ; 1 Tim 6v16 , no man can see God. What they saw was God displayed in His Son John 1v18
John 17v5	God always had Jesus in his mind, even before he began this Creation. I Peter 1v20 ; Rev 13v8 . - "Pre-ordination" does not mean pre-existence. Jer 1v5 ; Eph 1v4 .
John 20v28	Jesus is called God by Thomas. This is because Jesus Christ was a revelation of the Father's character and now of His power John 14v9 . See Psa 82v1-6 ; cp. John 10v34-35 Those who manifest or reveal God are sometimes called by His name.
Heb 1v8	See above

The Pre-existence of Christ

Some religions believe Jesus existed before his birth of Mary.

Problem quotations fall into two categories.

- Quotes that appear to refer to Christ as a creator.
- Quotes that refer to Christ as a firstborn.

Some of these references are explained as follows:

- **Col 1v15-16** All things are made 'through' him. The Greek word for 'by' is 'dia' meaning 'through' him, or 'with' him in mind, The Creation here is new men and women, not earth, trees, and animals. **Eph 2v10; 4v23**.
The "Firstborn" are the first born from the dead.
I Cor 15v20
- **Heb 1v2**
- **Rev 3v14** These verses teach that Jesus Christ was the focal point in God's plan for the creation, not that Jesus was the first thing made.



Lesson 42

The Spirit Gifts

What the spirit gifts were

- Special abilities given to chosen men - so that they could perform miracles by means of God's power -the Holy Spirit.
- There were 9 different spirit gifts, see [I Cor 12v7-11](#)
 - Healing
 - Wisdom
 - Miracles
 - Knowledge
 - Speaking foreign languages (tongues)
 - Faith
 - Interpreting foreign languages
 - Prophecy
 - Discerning of spirits
- It was only the apostles who had all the gifts - others outside the apostles could only receive one gift [1Tim 4v14](#)
- The gift of discerning of spirits was very important as a guard against faith healers, hypnotists and deceivers [I John 4v1](#); [Acts 16v16-18](#); [13v8-10](#)
- The gift of tongues was the least important gift [I Cor 12v31;14v3](#)
- Tongue speaking was always meant to be used so that it was understood by the hearers [Mark 16v15](#); [Acts 2v6-8](#); [1 Cor 14v19-25](#)

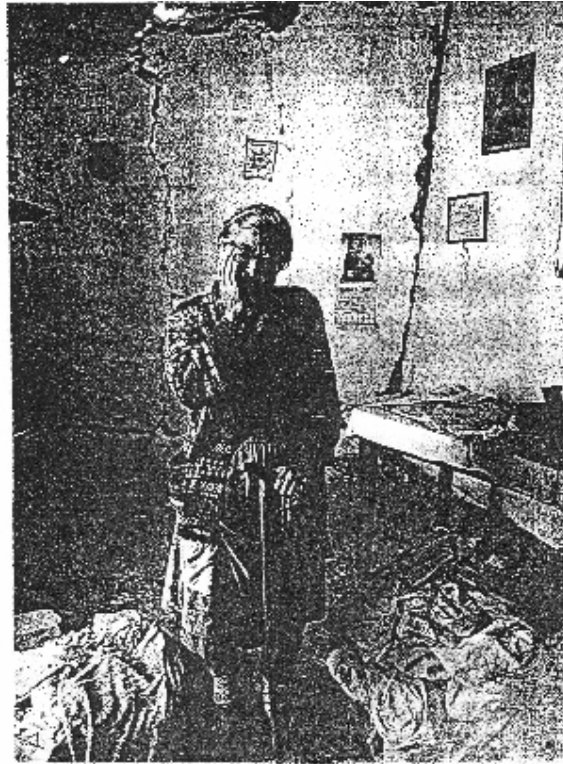


Why the spirit gifts were given

- As a witness to the work of preaching by the apostles. [Mark 16v13-14](#); [Acts 2v22](#)
- To demonstrate God's seal of approval on their work. This enabled them to advance a new doctrine into a hostile pagan world. [Heb 2v4](#)
- The power of the Holy Spirit was given to guide the apostles "into all truth" and "to reveal things to come" [John 15v26](#); [16v13](#).
- It would enable them to complete the scriptures. [John 16v7-13](#)

The gifts were a temporary phase only

- Limited to 2 generations only, [Acts 2v39](#) - including the Gentiles ([Eph 2 v 17](#) those "afar off")
- The gifts were to be replaced by a "more excellent way" [I Cor 12v31](#)
- The gifts were to cease once they had generated faith, hope and love [I Cor 13v8-13](#); [Eph 4v11-12](#).



An example is that of Adriana de Reichstein of Zacapa, Guatemala pictured overleaf. Mute for more than a year, she regained her speech the night of the earthquake, Feb. 4, 1976. (From National Geographic, June 1976, P. 828.) Obviously the condition was only functional.



Some ecstatic holiness churches in Kentucky, U.S.A, have taken up snake handling as evidence of "faith". Here a poisonous rattlesnake is handled at a meeting. The lay preacher holding the snake subsequently died from snake bite at a later meeting. (Religious Sects:

The Pentecostal Movement of today was predicted in the Bible

- Its impact was predicted by the Lord Jesus Christ, [Mark 13 v 20-22](#), who warned us to beware of miracle workers in the last days.
- There have always been deceivers imitating God's gifts [I John 4v1](#); [1 Tim 3v8](#); [Acts 19v13](#)

God is not the author of confusion [I Cor 14 v33](#)

Many different Pentecostal religions claim to have God's spirit, and to perform "miracles" yet they have vastly different beliefs and doctrines. They condemn each other as apostate or merely refuse to express an opinion about others. Yet the Spirit is supposed to lead to all truth, [John 16v7-13](#) and to unite, [Eph 4v10-12](#).

Standards of assessment of claims to spiritual gifts are:

- Spirit gifts are subject to the possessor of the gift. Sudden uncontrolled speaking in tongues is not scriptural. [I Cor 14v28-32](#)
- Women should never speak at meetings. [I Cor 14v34-35](#). This again evidences control, however at Pentecostal meetings women tongue speakers predominate.
- Languages were not "unknown" merely "foreign" ("unknown" should be omitted in most cases) See [Diaglott 1 Cor 14v13](#); [Acts 2v1-11](#)
- Spirit gifts were no guarantee of salvation (Judas [Luke 9v1-6](#); Paul [I Cor 9v27](#); See [Heb 6v4-6](#). Yet Pentecostals claim tongue speaking as proof of salvation.
- Acceptance of the Truth was an essential pre-requisite to receive the gifts. [Acts 8v14-15](#); [19v2-6](#); [Eph 1v13](#).

What form of the spirit is available today?

- The words of the Lord Jesus Christ [John 6v63](#)
- The Bible is the expression of God given through the Holy Spirit and revealed to men in every age. [Eph 6v17](#); [1 John 5v6](#); [2 Tim 3v14-16](#)
- The effect of the spirit word must be seen in the lives of believers. [Gal 5v16-22](#); [Rom 8 v 5-10](#).

The gifts are not available today for the following reasons

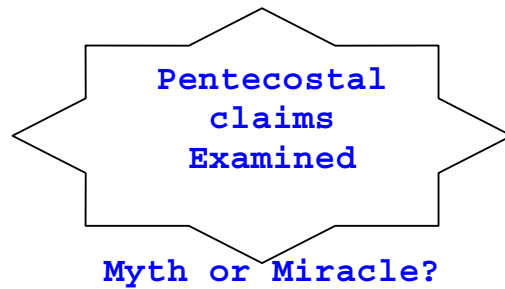
- Gifts could only be transmitted by the apostles who laid their hands on believers. [Acts 8v7-18](#); [19v6](#); [2 Tim 1v6](#). Thus they ceased to be given after the apostles' had died.
- They were never intended to exist after the completed Scriptures were written [Eph 4v10-16](#). There is no record of spirit gifts in Church history after AD 100

There are 3 epochs of spirit gifts outlined in the Bible

- The days of Moses [Num 11](#); [Ex 35v30-31](#); [Deut 34v9](#); [Mic 3v6](#)
- The times of Christ and the Apostles [Isa 61v1-2](#); [Luke 9v1-2](#); [1 Cor 13](#)
- When Christ returns [Joel 2v28-29](#)

The spirit is to be poured out again when Christ returns

- [Acts 2v17](#); [Isaiah 32v13-15](#)



**Pentecostal
claims
Examined**

Myth or Miracle?

"Miracles" explained

Tongue speaking as practiced today is not a gift from God but merely a long existent ability latent in the human body. Pentecostal churches have learned to use this ability and falsely claim it to be a gift from God.

Speaking in "unknown" tongues is a phenomenon found in many pagan religions, and occurs under emotional and religious stress.



**Pentecostal
Healings**

Healings

- Modern healers affect only areas related to psychological disorders. No-one grows legs, has fingers replaced or is raised from the dead. Few receive immediate or long lasting cures.
- Roman Catholics and various groups of Pentecostal churches with mutually antagonistic teaching, all claim miraculous healings, and yet all have admitted that some "miracles" claimed to be of God are in effect, not so. This is significant admission as it means that supposed miracles are open to question.

Cases of supposed healing

The question really is, what do we mean by miracles? To answer this we quote a M.D., A Rendie Short, "The Bible and Modern Medicine", p 127.

"Doctors, like other people, make mistakes and are not infallible prophets. If we are to attempt some kind of definition of a recovery that would be miraculous, it must be sudden, complete and long lasting. The patient must have been suffering from organic bodily disease with structural changes of a kind that do not normally get well. The element of suddenness is important. No doubt this definition is rather arbitrary, and some of the miracles of the gospels would fall outside it, though others would be included. The medical profession with few exceptions would agree that sudden, complete, and long lasting recovery from such afflictions as the following, without ordinary medical or surgical treatment, might fairly be called miraculous: a histologically proved ulcerating cancer of the breast or tongue; life long blindness with gross corneal opacities; blindness due to optic atrophy; a paralysed leg of long standing with great muscular wasting; a traumatic dislocation of the hip joint. On the other hand, most

doctors have seen cases of recovery, even sudden recovery, of such a character, that lay men would be sure to regard it as miraculous if they did not know all the facts. Two personal experiences may be quoted as illustrations.

Shortly after the first World War, a young man walked into my outpatient department complaining of paralysis of the right arm following a bullet wound through the neck of the region of the brachial plexus, that is, the main bundle of nerves supplying the arm, and he produced papers giving full particulars and the names of eminent specialists who had treated him. But this morning, he had been taken with complete flaccid paralysis of the left arm also. I told my class of students that it was obviously functional, and when I held his arm vertically over his head and let go, it did not drop, but he brought it down gradually. We arranged for suitable treatment to be started tomorrow. He went to his lodging, got his landlady to feed him with a spoon and light a cigarette for him, and as he smoked it, he recovered the full use of both arms. We had been so impressed by the names of the specialists, and the deep scars over the nerves, that we had barely look at the right arm, but it now became clear that the paralysis was functional on both sides.

Fairly recently, I operated on a woman with symptoms characteristic of cancer of the colon. At operation, there was a mass in the colon with the usual look and feet of a cancer and a nodule in the liver which seemed clearly to be a secondary growth. Both were irremovable, so we did nothing and gave the husband a gloomy prognosis. Three years later, she came to see me, perfectly well. It was not a miracle. It was merely an error of diagnosis. What at advertisement either of these patients would have been for Lourdes, or Christian Science, or a faith healing mission"

The alleged cures after the ministrations of one of the other of the above are by no means always permanent or even long lasting, and they fall almost always into one of the following categories. Perhaps the patient was a chronic invalid, liable to ups and downs, and only too anxious to convince himself that he was better. Or, a patient who had been making the worst of an ailment decided to make the best of it. Or, there had been a medical mistake as to the diagnosis. Or, the condition was functional, and the excitement of a big meeting highly charged with emotion, or the promises of an enthusiastic healer, effected a sudden cure. That is to say, nearly all the cases can be simply explained by the power of suggestion."

What then is responsible for the phenomena? The answer is that they are not genuine miracles at all, but a phenomena well known to science - the triumph of mind over matter.

Faith healing

"Faith" healing is the psychological result of mind over matter. Most doctors, whatever their persuasion, recognise the need for "faith" in effecting cures, for they recognise the power of mind over matter. "Faith" in their vocabulary does not necessarily mean to acknowledge God, but expresses a condition of blind acceptance of the patient in the one (whether he claims it to be of God or man) who is to effect the cure.

The power a 'doctor' has over the patient is sometimes remarkable. The power that the witch doctor has over the Australian Aborigine is an example. In a ceremony called "pointing the bone" (which is well known and attested by science) the bone is pointed at the victim who dies a lingering death.

Fear of the witch doctor has caused the death. In many cases medical science is powerless to stop it. On the other hand the medicine man can effect a cure that will elude his more knowledgeable white brother. Both death and cure have been brought about by psychological processes. It involves the 'faith' of the victim or patient in the potency of the magical means of death or cure. It does not involve any miraculous



The Pointing Bone

powers. The powers of hypnotism and mesmerism are also well known. Men can be induced to do all sorts of strange things so long as they commit themselves completely to the one under whose spell they have voluntarily given themselves. It has been used to cure certain nervous disorders and to dull pain.

Similar psychological processes can be induced by the dramatic stimulus of an emotional revival meeting, in which a form of mass hysteria is often deliberately encouraged. Under the influence of enthusiastic singing, arousing oratory, the emotions of the audience are whipped up until a high degree of excitation is developed and many find themselves en rapport with the speaker. By such means all inhibitions are released and the mind can be brought to such a state as to drive pain from the body, or to effect minor temporary cures.

Such emotionalism is of the flesh and not of God. The evidences are quite as convincing that the "Dervishes of Arabia and the Theosophists of India"

are now possessed of the "miraculous powers of God", as are those of the so called christian claimants.

Most cures happen naturally

Pentecostals often catalogue Testimonies of paralytics, the deaf, and drunkards as indications of the curative powers of the "Holy Ghost". The following comments by a medical doctor indicate that such examples are not proof of divine healing

"Diseases may be divided into three classes: first, those which are entirely mental; second, those which are physical but tend to cure themselves; third, those which are physical but do not tend to cure themselves. Eighty to ninety per cent of all diseases belong to the first two classes. A man with a paralysis of his leg of mental origin (or) with a head cold gets well under the attention of a faith healer, a chiropractor, or even by taking patent medicine, on the other hand, such diseases as diphtheria, malaria, syphilis, cancer, diabetes, tuberculosis, and pernicious anemia do not get well with faith healing, chiropractic treatment, or psychoanalysis. Under the ministrations of a faith healer these patients would die. But even if they did, the faith healer's result would be still 80 or 90 per cent effective. "

"None of the parts of the body is superlative or independent; they are all

dependent and correlated. Each organ of the body when disordered manifests a characteristic disturbance, and this disturbance involves all of the parts of the body which are depended upon the functioning of that organThe basis of faith healing lies in the influence of the mind on the activity of the body. The mind is a function of the brain and through the brain is in constant communication with every part of the body by means of the nerves which extend to and from the brain. The activity of every organ of the body is controlled by the nervous system".

"Paralysis of a limb and lameness are common symptoms of hysteria, limbs may be drawn up in a deforming contraction, or palsied. Persons with hysteria may become mute or blind, their sensations may be perverted, they may vomit obstinately or lose their appetite and waste away. Hysterical women may believe themselves pregnant and have colostrum in the breasts, morning sickness, and swelling of the abdomen. This may continue until the time for delivery has long passed and their minds have turned to some other manifestation".

"Not all men and women who have responded to faith cures are hysterical. There are numerous cases of bedridden invalids crippled by rheumatism and unable for years to put a foot on the ground, who nevertheless under some great stress, such as the house burning down around them, have shown remarkable returns of activity. The rheumatism which had crippled them had been real in the beginning, but during a long illness they had got into the habit of believing themselves crippled even after they were well. They had lost confidence in themselves."

Apparently "miraculous" results have been reported without the patients affirming belief in God. Some warts may be "charmed away" by pretending to pass under a ray, or simply suggesting to the patient that they will go away.

Even in the time of the apostles, some who failed to understand the truth in Jesus Christ, did not hesitate to falsely claim miraculous powers in his name: "Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." [Acts 19v13](#). Warning that such would be the case is explicitly indicated in the following references:

- [Jesus](#) "Not every one that said unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name have done wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" [Matt 7v21-23](#)
"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect". [Matt 24 v 24](#).
- [John](#) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" [I John 4v1](#)
- [Paul](#) "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come but evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived". [2 Tim 3v1,13](#).

Modern "faith healers" cannot tell which of their patients will be healed and which will not. The miracles of the Lord Jesus and the Apostles were not apparently subject to any such doubt.

When the gospels and the epistles were written and circulated, the written evidence of God's power was far more important and convincing than the unexpected recovery of a sick person could be. Sudden recovery may prove nothing at all. It was far better that new converts should base their faith on the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ than on some miracle they might chance to have witnessed.

Some rather sensational claims are made in Pentecostal publications. In an article, "They Let God Be Their Dentist!" [A.A. Allen](#) reports the testimonies of six persons who allegedly had their teeth miraculously filled.

"God filled four teeth for Beulah Clark as she sat in the audience", the article states, and "James drove all night in faith that God would do the work. He did' God filled three teeth." *Miracle Magazine*, 14 No. 9, (June 1969). Only in small print in Allen's *Miracle Magazine* can a reader find the careful disclaimer.....A.A. Allen Revivals, Inc. and "Miracle Magazine" assume no legal responsibility as to the degree of permanency of reported healings, deliverances or miracles.....We might ask.....why fillings?

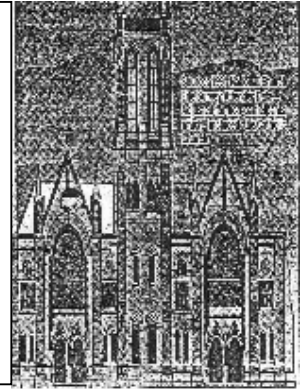
Fallen Angels
The Prime-time Preachers



Televangelists, clockwise from top left, Jimmy Swaggart, Pat Robertson, Jim Bakker and Jerry Falwell

THE BIG SWITCH

Anglican	-3.8%
Baptist	-1.6
Churches of Christ	+1.8
Congregational	-27.1
Lutheran	-0.6
Missionary Alliance	+8.4
Nazarene	+0.4
Pentecostal	+7.0
Presbyterian	-4.5
Reformed	-5.0
Salvation Army	+1.0
Seventh-day Adventist	+1.5
Uniting	-1.1
Wesley Methodist	+2.8



A Challenge to Pentecostals

Some questions that need answers??

1. Why couldn't Paul heal himself?
(2 Cor 12:9; Gal 4:13)
2. Why couldn't Paul heal his sick friends
(note 2 Tim 4:20; 1 Tim 5:23)
3. Why don't Pentecostals visit the Crippled Children's Homes to heal the sick?
4. Why don't Pentecostals:-
 - raise the dead
 - cure leprosy
 - replace lost limbs
5. Why are some healings only partial and many of them only temporary?
6. Why do so many different Pentecostal groups claim similar healings - yet preach such totally different beliefs?



'They are lowered to the floor and watched as they have spells of crying, laughing, growling, semi-comatose paralysis and barking'

Lesson 43

The Ecclesia

A Greek work 'ecclesia' means "an assembly of called out ones" [Acts 15v14](#). The word 'church' refers to a building and does not convey this meaning. Use of the word 'church' does not distinguish God's called out ones from the errors of Christendom.

The ecclesia was designed by God as a gathering of the community of saints. Unitedly they are a witness to God. [I Tim 3v15-16](#).



The objects of ecclesia's are described as:

A Lampstand	To witness to the world, by preaching the Gospel, and by example	Phil 1v27; 2v15; 1 Pet 2v9-11
A United Body	Mutual edification and comfort for brethren and sisters	Heb 10v22-25 1 Thess 5v11-15 Gal 6v1-2 Phil 2v1-5 Eph 4v15-16
A Temple	Character development - learning to work as a united body Sharing or fellowship of a common salvation. A united house made up of individual stones in which God's glory is manifested	Acts 2v42 Eph 2v19-20 1 Pet 2v5-11

Basic Principles of Ecclesial Life

- All things to be done "to the glory of God" [I Cor 10v31](#)
- All things to be done "decently and in order" [I Cor 14v40](#)
- All are brethren - service, not rulership the motivation. [John 13v13-15;](#)
[Matt 23v8-12; 20v25-28](#)
- Mutual submission of one to another is vital [I Peter 5v1-5](#)

Ecclesial Organisation

- [The Constitution](#) - This is a condensation of scriptural principles designed for the orderly conduct of Ecclesial life. These principles and procedures require mutual acceptance by all brethren and sisters who join the ecclesia.
- [The Commandments of Christ](#) - This is a condensation of the practical instructions found in the Bible relating to all facets of life and character.
- [The Statement of Faith \(BASF\)](#) - This is a definition of the basic beliefs forming a minimal basis of inter-ecclesial unity, amongst all Christadelphian ecclesias. In Australia, the 1958 Unity Basis further defines this agreed statement of common doctrine.

Fellowship

Is the sharing of a common salvation. [I John 1v3-7;](#) [Acts 2v42](#). It arises when men believe the same doctrine, accept the same salvation and unitedly determine to follow God. As such, they are in unity with God and each other. [I Cor 1v9-10;10v16-20](#) (same Greek word). Fellowship is shared around the emblems of Christ's death and resurrection, and in practical friendship. Sometimes fellowship must be withdrawn as a mark of disapproval and as a means to induce repentance. This may occur when a brother or an ecclesia departs from Scriptural doctrine or practise. [2Thess 3v6,14-15;](#)
[1 Tim 1v20;](#) [2 John 11;](#) [Matt 18v15-17;](#) [Titus 3v11](#).

The History of the Truth

- The name **Christadelphian** is derived from a Biblical phrase in the Greek:- "Adelphos en Christos" i.e. "Brethren in Christ" see **Col 1v2**. The name was adopted in the 19th century to identify and distinguish the truth from the various sects of Christendom. The "Way of the Truth" established by the apostles continues today under this name. **Acts 9v2; 2 Peter 2v2**.
- **The Pioneers** Brethren John Thomas & Robert Roberts were ordinary men raised up by God to rekindle the light of the Truth. They were not prophets, but were serious students of the Bible "who contended earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints". Their example and writings are enormous assets to our walk in the Truth. **Heb 13v7; 1 Thess 5v12-13**

Christadelphians not Christians

There is an increasing trend in the brotherhood to call ourselves Christians, and to use this as a fitting adjective when describing different aspects of our walk.

In so doing, we identify ourselves with the massive apostate system which in total calls itself "Christian".

We lose the distinction between light and dark, truth and error. It is part of an overall move to forget Yahweh's righteousness and only remember that 'God is love'. The gospel becomes 'salvation in Jesus' rather than 'the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ'. Human salvation supplants God manifestation as the central theme of Scripture.

Multitudes are called Christians who do not believe the truth concerning Christ or obey his commandments. It has become, in fact, the name for a system of fable, and error that has risen up in the world in the place of truth, in fulfillment of the predictions of the apostles. Therefore to be known as a Christian is not necessarily to be known as a believer of the Truth.

Furthermore, saints never called themselves 'Christians' but rather they were called Christians by those opposing the Truth, **Acts 11v26**. It seems from other scriptures that it was a term of contempt rather than a fitting title for the saints. The two other occurrences of the word use it in this way. In **Acts 26v28** Agrippa contemptuously says to Paul "In a short time you think to make me a Christian" R.S.V. The only other occurrence, which is in **1 Peter 4v16**, is speaking of the saint's fellowship of Christ's suffering, says "if any one suffers as a Christian".

Let us keep our heritage and remember that we are the 'brethren of Christ' not members of the wicked system known as Christendom.

HERE LIES, IN BRIEF REPOSE, WAITING THE RETURN
OF THE LORD FROM HEAVEN,

JOHN THOMAS, M.D.,

Author of "Elpis Israel", "Eureka", "Anastasis", "Phanerosis",
And Other Works,

In which he demonstrated the unscriptural character of popular
Christianity, and made manifest the nature of
THE LONG-LOST FAITH OF THE APOSTLES.

During a busy lifetime, by mouth and pen, he contended
earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, and at his
death left behind him as a result of his labours, a body of
people, in different parts of the world, known as

THE CHRISTADELPHIANS

To continue the work begun

Born April 12th, 1805; Died March 5th, 1871.

Our Bro. John Thomas

"A man in love with the word of God"

"Remember your former leaders - it was
they who brought you God's message.
Bear in mind how they ended their lives,
and imitate their faith".

Heb 13v7
Weymouth

Lesson 44

The Truth And Your Family

The Family Unit

God ordained the family unit as the basis of society **Gen 2v18-25**. He has also given us the guidelines for its operation.

- The **husband** is the head of the house, being the guide and leader in the family development. **I Cor 11v1-5; Eph 5v22-23**. The role of representing Christ involves self sacrifice, wisdom and leadership, not authority.
- The role of the **wife** is to be the counterpart to the man's character. The role involves submission to the husband and application of her natural sympathy and affection to her husband, her children and her brethren and sisters. **I Peter 3v1-7; Titus 2v1-7**. Her role is not of obvious leadership in teaching the ecclesia **I Tim 2v8-15**, but in a supportive capacity to her husband. **Prov 31v10-31**. The wife is to submit to the God ordained position of subjection to her husband. **Eph 5v22-23; 1 Cor 11v1-15**. The head covering worn at meetings is a token of this principle.
- Where a marriage partner is not in the Truth, special responsibility rest on the believer to give an example that may convert their partner. **I Peter 3v1-7; 1 Cor 7v12-16**
- **Children** are the heritage of God. **Psa 127 & 128**. Children are given to us by God that He might develop a "Godly seed". **Mal 2v15**. The scripture is clear on how children should be raised, a balance of discipline and instruction. **Eph 6v1-3** (Diaqlott "discipline and instruction") **Prov 29v15; 29v17; 20v6; 22v6,15;23v15**. Parents must instruct their children. **Psa 78v5-7; Deut 6v6-7**



Issues of Daily Discipleship

Work

- We work for our earthly masters - "as unto the Lord".
- This means honesty and effort. **Col 3v22-25; Titus 2v9-10**

Offences

- Being human it is inevitable that at times personal offences may occur. **Matt 18v4-7**. We must seek to reconcile and forgive **Matt 18v35; 5v22-25**
- Effort must be made by both parties to obtain reconciliation **Matt 5v23-26; 18v15-20**.
- Care must be taken not to cause offence. **Rom 15v1-3; 1 Cor 8v 9-13**

Separation & Standards

Being called to reflect God's glory we need to develop a positive attitude to holiness. Remember - it is more important to think- "Is it going to benefit" rather than "What's wrong with it?" [1 Cor 9v23-24](#); [1 Peter 1v13-17](#); [1 Cor 6v17-20](#); [1 Cor 8v9-13](#). This holiness or separation is reflected in all facets of our life:

- **Activities** - to avoid things which are desirable to the flesh. [2 Cor 6v16-18](#); [Eph 5v1-11](#).
- **Dress** - to set a positive example - [1 Peter 3v3](#); [1 Tim 2v9-12](#); [Num 15v38](#)

Make your Calling and Election Sure

In the race for life eternal, there are many things lawful enough in the abstract; but that viewed in relation to the object to be attained, are highly inexpedient, and to be "laid aside", as Paul advises. It is a simple, and a safe, and a reasonable, and a wise rule, and one that will give us much cause for joy at the last, to dispense with every habit or pleasure, or practice, or occupation, or friend that hinders our progress in the way. This is but another way of saying what Christ said: "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck, it out. It is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast in to the fire of Gehenna". It is better to make our calling and election sure ([2 Peter 1v10](#)), at the expenses of worldly friends and engagements and advantages, than to secure all these, in this present time, and find, at last, that we have cherished them at the expense of Christ's approbation, and we have to pay for them with the loss of the Kingdom of God.

ROBERT ROBERTS, *Seasons of Comfort*, page 61



Lesson 45

Our Life In The Truth

The Truth is a TOTAL commitment. Deut 32v46-47. Once having begun we cannot look back. Luke 9v23-26;57-62. Our reward of eternal life is only obtainable by a patient continuance in obedience to God. Matt 28v19-20; Rom 2v6-7; John 15v1-8; Heb 2v1-4;6v8-12.

Ecclesial Meetings - are designed for the benefit of the whole ecclesia. Our support is essential for their effectiveness, our own benefit and as an example to all. Heb 10v24-25.

The Memorial Meeting - the focal point of our life in the Truth. It is vital to keep our identification with Christ. I Cor 11v1-2, 23-32

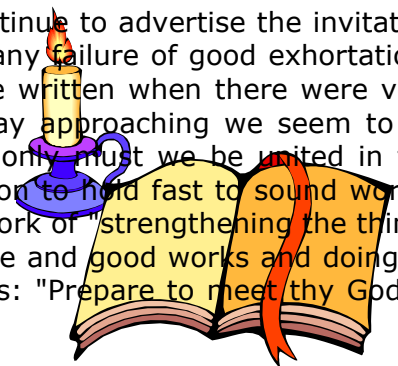
Study Classes - are designed to build our faith and increase our understanding. Acts 20v32; Rom 10v17; 2 Tim 2v15.



Other ecclesial meetings such as Sunday School, Business Meetings and Lectures also require our support. I Cor 15v58.

Prepare to Meet Thy God

Until we are called away to meet the Lord we must continue to advertise the invitation God has issued. Nor do we imply that there has been any failure of good exhortations in the past, for some of the most inspiring words were written when there were very few to pay heed to them But now that we see the day approaching we seem to be required in a special sense to exhort each other. Not only must we be united in the work of instructing others, not only firm in determination to hold fast to sound words, but above all we must be whole hearted in the higher work of "strengthening the things which remain", exhorting one another, provoking to love and good works and doing all in our power to realize the idea expressed in the words: "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel"



ISLIP COLLYER, Conviction and Conduct, pages 75

Lesson 46

Our Relations to the State

It is important for the disciples of Jesus Christ to understand their relationship to their country and nation.

- The servant of God is a citizen of the Kingdom of God. He is a stranger and pilgrim in this life. **Heb 11v11-13; 1 Chron 29v15; 1 Peter 2v11**. Our allegiance and obedience can be given to God only. **I Cor 7v20-24; John 15v14**.
- We must obey the laws of the land, only refusing to do so when they conflict with God's laws. **Rom 13v1-7; 1 Peter 2v11-15**.
- Obedience to God is sometimes in conflict with man's law - in such cases we obey God. **Acts 5v29; 4v19-20**.

Military Service is not to be undertaken by disciples of Christ for several reasons.

- It involves allegiance and obedience to the Crown. **1 Cor 7v23; Matt 6v24**.
- We are not to kill, **Matt 26v52** or to hate our enemies **Matt 5v44-48**.
- We could end up fighting and killing our own brethren.
- We could be fighting against God's purpose. **Dan 2v44; 4v17**
- The saints will only fight when they fight for God's Kingdom. **John 18v36; Psa 149**. Until then they are to refuse to resist evil by force. **Rom 12v18-19**.

Court action & Jury service are not available to the servants of God because:-

- We have to suffer wrong done to us. **Matt 5v38-44; Rom 12v17-21; 1 Pet 2v19-23**
- We have no right to judge others. **Matt 7v1**

Politics and Voting

- Because we are citizens of God's Kingdom we have no interest in maintaining the present system. We allow God to set up governments and to remove them as He pleases. **Dan 4v17; 2v20-21**
- Despite our separation from the governments of this world we should pray for a peaceful state in which to worship God. **I Tim 2v1-3; Jer 29v7**. Like Paul (**Acts 25v19-21**) we can use the provisions of the law where they may allow us to gain exemption from doing things contrary to God's laws.

Typical Questions Raised By Tribunals

- Which ecclesia do you regularly attend? Can you produce a record of your attendances?
- Do you know that the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" refers to private murder and not to war
- Would you stand aside and watch exhibitions of brutality against Jews such as have been said to have occurred recently in Germany?
- Do you think you have a right to food brought into this country by men who have risked their lives transporting it?

A life of obedience is vital for salvation

- Above all, our baptism is obedience to God. **Rom 6v17-18.**
- We begin life, a new creature **I Cor 6v9-11; Col 3v9-14** and must continue faithfully to the end.

Prayer and singing

- These are our means of communicating to God our praises, worship, thanksgiving and requests. **Col 3v16; Luke 18v1;21v36; Matt 6v5-15; Heb4v16; Eph 5v19**

Bible reading

- This is our way of listening to God.
- It should be done regularly and carefully - feeding the spiritual man. **Acts 20v32; 2 Tim 3v14-17; Heb 4v12.**

Patient endurance

- This quiet steadfast consistency is necessary until the coming of Christ **Luke 12v15-40**

The Chastening Hand

"Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth". As this chastening is by means of evil, it follows that circumstances of an utterly vexatious and apparently fortuitous character may be of God, though His voice and hand may be unmanifest, and worse - hid in storm. We shall not in all things be able to read present experience aright till we can look upon it from the serene atmosphere of the Kingdom of God.

ROBERT ROBERTS, *The Ways of Providence*, page 272

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I Cor 15 v 58



Bro. Thomas wrote that "God manifestation and not human salvation" is the purpose of God with the human race. Yahweh declared to Moses "But as truly as I live all the earth shall be filled with the glory of Yahweh". This will be achieved by the inhabitants of the earth bearing the divine likeness, and thus revealing the divine glory. In **Rom 5v2** Paul states that we live in hope of this, "wherein we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God". Of his hope in the future life on earth, David writes in **Psa. 17v15**, "As for me, I will be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness". This is further amplified by Peter (**2 Pet 1v4**) "that by these (i.e. the promises) ye might be partakers of the divine nature".

This wonderful hope is expressed in the name of Yahweh, revealed to Moses at the burning bush, which means, "He who will be manifested". By combining this name with other titles (appellatives) that refer to God, He reveals in whom he will be manifest e.g.

Yahweh Elohim	He who will be manifested in Mighty Ones
Adonai Yahweh	He who will be manifested Rulers
Yahweh Tzavaoth	He who will be manifest in Armies
Yahweh Elohim of Israel	He who will be manifest in the Mighty Ones of the Prince of El (Lord Jesus Christ)



His glory is already revealed in the angels, who bear His name because they manifest God's person. There are many examples of this in the Word, for example **Gen. 18v1** "Yahweh appeared to him... and he lifted up his eyes and looked and three men stood by him". That these three men were angels is stated by Paul when he refers to the incident by saying that Abraham entertained angels unawares. Later in **Gen 18** one of them is called Yahweh, and in the beginning of **Gen 19** the other two are referred to as angels. Yahweh also intends to reveal Himself in persons of the adamic race as he does today in the angels. Peter declares "that God is taking out a people for His name". This associates the believer with Him as a member of His family and as a rightful heir, thus a bearer of His name as a true son or daughter bears their father's name. Paul refers to this in **Gal. 4v5** "That we are led by the Spirit (Word) of God" for "we have the spirit of adoption" which will be fully realized when we receive the fullness of that adoption, as expressed in **v 23**, "waiting for the adoption to wit, the redemption of our body".

It is only when that physical change has taken place in us and all things are under divine domination and subjection, that the purpose of the Father will be complete. "God will be all and in all" (**I Cor 15v28** God manifestation), and the glory of Yahweh will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea (**Hab 2v14**). If we desire to be part of this glorious future, we must develop ourselves while it is "called today", that in the day of inspection God may see a reflection of Himself. All others will be rejected and swept away as though they had never been. This reflection can only be developed by understanding God, and His purpose with the earth. In other words, the process commences with a mental-conception upon which the Lord Jesus Christ said eternal life depended (**John 17v3**). But once we have gained this mental understanding there comes the challenge of putting into practice what we know, for those accepted at the judgment will be those "that do the will of my father" (**Matt 7v21**). We must know before we do, but it is always more difficult to put into practice what we know. However those who are changed by the Word, mentally and morally, will eventually be changed physically, and bear the divine glory, becoming part of the Yahweh name.

The Divine Purpose Of The Ages

'AS TRULY AS I LIVE ALL THE EARTH SHALL BE FILLED WITH THE GLORY OF THE LORD' Num. 14v21
'AND THE LORD SHALL BE KING OVER ALL THE EARTH' Zech. 14v9

1. IN THE BEGINNING

- Creation in 6 literal days Gen. 1:5, Ex. 31:17.
- Formation of man - a "living soul" Gen. 2:7.
- Simple law in Eden Gen 2v16,17.
- Serpent the most subtle ANIMAL created Gen 3v1,14; 2 Cor 11v3
- Serpent beguiles with mixture of truth and error - the first lie Gen. 3v4,5.
- 3 lusts excited - inherent in all descendants Gen 3v6; 1 Jn 2v16; Rom 5v12-21
- God enforces the law of sin and death Gen 3v17-19; Rom 5v12,21; 6v23; 8v2
- FIRST GREAT PROMISE OF REDEMPTION** Gen 3v15
- WOMAN'S seed - those who think like the woman, after the Spirit Gen 3v2 esp. Jesus Gal 4v4; Luke 1v35
- SERPENT'S seed - those carnally minded, who think like the serpent Gen 3v4-5 adversaries of Truth Mat 12v34; 23v33
- ENMITY to exist between them, but at the end the woman's seed to conquer Rom 8v5-8; 16v20; 1 Cor 15v24-28,54-57
- Covered with skins- not fig leaves Gen 3v21
- Driven from tree of life Gen 3v22-23
- 2 SEEDS - Cain kills Abel - the enmity Gen 4v8 Seth, the resurrected seed of woman Gen 4v25

4. THE CALL OF ABRAM

- Gen 12v1; Acts 7v1-8
- God made promises to him following his faith and obedience.
- SECOND GREAT PROMISE OF LAND INHERITANCE** Gen 12v2-3; 13v14; 15v18; 22v16-18
- Promise repeated to Isaac Gen 28v3-4 and Jacob Gen 28v3-4, 13-14.
- ELEMENTS OF THE PROMISE**
- 1. Abraham to become a great nation.
- 2. Those who bless him, to be blessed and vice versa
- 3. Abraham and his seed to inherit Palestine forever
- 4. In his seed all nations to be blessed
- 5. His seed to vanquish his enemies
- Promise not fulfilled yet Acts 7v5; Heb 11v13,39
- Jesus Christ - Abraham's seed through Whom the promise fulfilled Mat 1v1; Gal 3v16
- Those baptised into Christ become heirs Gal 3v26-29
- The blessing involves:
 1. Justification from sins Gal 3v8; Acts 3v25-26
 2. Inheritance of land Rom 4v3; Mat 5v5
- Jacob's name changed to Israel = Prince with God Gen 32v28.
- His 12 sons and family go to Egypt.

7. PROMISE TO DAVID 2 Sam 7v9-16

- THIRD GREAT PROMISE OF ETERNAL THRONE & KINGDOM**
- Elements of the Promise -
 1. Israel to be afflicted and move no more
 2. Jesus Son of David & Son of God
 3. To build house for God's name
 4. God's mercy to remain with the seed of David
 5. David's throne eternal
- Promise NOT fulfilled Jer 33v14-15, 20-21; Lk 1v32-33; Acts 2v30; Amos 9v11
- Resurrection - the basic teaching of the Promise Acts 2v28-32; Rom 1v3-4

9. CAPTIVITY

- 10 Tribes - Israel taken into Assyria 721BC
- 2 Tribes - Judah taken into Babylon 586BC
- Zedekiah- last king on David's throne. God decrees no more Davidic kings UNTIL Messiah - "whoso right it is" Ezek 21v25-27; John 18v26-37

11. BIRTH & MISSION OF JESUS

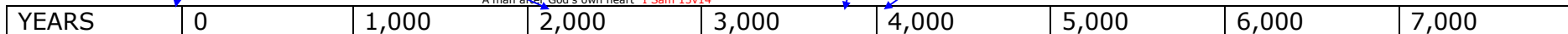
- He is the seed of the woman, Son of David, Son of Abraham, Son of God Mat 1v1; Luke 1v31-35, 68-73; Ga 3v8,16,26-29; Rom 15v8; Acts 2v28-30; Gal 4v4
- Coming of John Baptist, his forerunner Lk 3v4
- Born of Virgin by the Holy Spirit = the power of God Luke 1v35; Mat 1v18-23
- Lived sinless life though tried like men 2 Cor 5v21; Heb 2v17-18; 4:15; 1 Pet 2v22-24
- Died to destroy sin and open the way of life Rom 8v3-4; Heb 2v14
- Raised by God; sin has no more dominion over him Acts 2v24; Rom 6v9-10
- Commands belief of gospel (involves the great covenants of promise Gal 3v8; Eph 2v12 and baptism into His Name for salvation Mk 16v15-16; Rom 5v12-21; 6v3-4
- Ascended to God and is now High Priest and Mediator Psalms 110v1-4; Acts 1v11; 1 Tim 2v5; Heb 2v17-18
- In heaven UNTIL Gentile times fulfilled Acts 3v19-21; Lk 21v24

15. EVENTS AT END OF 1000 YEARS Rev 20v7-15

- Immortal rulers withdraw to Jerusalem
- Sin, inherent in flesh, asserts itself in nation - rebellion (Isa 26v9-10 the same principle applies)
- Jerusalem besieged
- Rebels destroyed by God
- Final resurrection of those Who die during 1000 years
- Judgment: righteous given life and wicked destroyed
- No more sin, death, suffering or mortality Rev 20v7-15; 21v1-7
- "GOD ALL AND IN ALL" I Cor 15v28; Num 14v21; Zech 14v9

6. 400 YEARS UNDER JUDGES

Pattern of the times - Sin, Suffering, Saviour, Salvation.
Samuel, the last judge, anoints Saul, the first king, then David I Sam 16
"A man after God's own heart" I Sam 13v14



2. ANTAGONISM BETWEEN 2 CLASSES

- Descendants of Cain and Seth Gen 4v7-26
- Enoch condemns ungodly but evil prevails Gen 5v24; Jude 14; Gen 6v4-5,12-13
- God sends the flood Gen 6v17
- Noah, 3 sons and their wives saved by water I Pet 3v20-21
- A new beginning Gen 9v1
- Shem continues the lineage of the woman's seed Gen 9v26-27; 11v10-32

3. TOWER OF BABEL

- Symbol of organised rebellion Gen 11v2-9 • Tongues confused and men scattered abroad

5. 400 YRS. AFFLICTION

- REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT**
- Israel afflicted in Egypt Gen 15v14; Ex 2v23-24
- God purposes to deliver them by Moses Ex 3v4-10
- God punishes Egypt with 10 plagues Ex 7v12
- Salvation by the Passover lamb and Red Sea crossing Ex 12-15
- 40 yrs. wandering in wilderness - Numbers
- Mosaic Law, Tabernacle Worship given by God at Mt. Sinai Ex 19-34; Lev; Deut
- Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land and the Canaanites are subdued - Josh

8. THE KINGDOM DIVIDED

- I Kings 12
- 2 Tribes in South ruled by David's seed called Judah. There were good and bad kings.
- 10 Tribes in North. Jeroboam, the first king established idolatry and all Israel's kings followed

10. 600 YRS OF DOMINATION

- 4 Great World Empires- Dan 2v37-40**
- By Babylon ► 536 BC
- By Persia ► 323 BC
- in reign of Cyrus, restoration by Joshua & Zerubbabel and later by Ezra & Nehemiah
- By Greece ► 165 BC
- Reign of Macaabees ► 63 BC
- Rome in Israel at Christ's birth Dan 2v8,11

12. THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

- God is taking out of nations a people for His name Acts 15v14
- Perversion of the Gospel foretold and the Rise of Apostasy headed by Roman Catholicism 2 Thess 2v1-12; 2 Tim 4v3-4; Acts 20v28-39; Rev 17; Dan 7,8,11
- Revival of Truth prior to the Second Coming Dan 12v4; 1 Cor 15v51-52

13. SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING

- Regathering of Israel Jer 30-33
- Russia-confederating power in north with designs on the Middle East Ezek 38
- Worldwide political chaos Dan 12v1; Rev 11v15; Luke 21v25
- Proliferation of arms & preparations for war Joel 3v9-11
- Unparalleled immorality "as in the days of Noah" 2 Tim 3v1-13; Mat 24v37-39
- "watch ye therefore" Mk 13v35-37; Rev 16v15; 22v12

14. EVENTS FOLLOWING CHRIST'S RETURN

- Literal, visible bodily return of Christ Acts 1v11 Rev 1v7
- Resurrection and regathering of those responsible to him by knowledge of the Gospel Jn 3v19; 15v22-24; I Thess 4v14-17; 2 Tim 4v1; Rev 11v15-18;
- Judgment of the responsible into 2 classes; & the "sheep" given immortality and the "goats" die the second death Matt 25v31-33; Dan 12v2; John 5v28-29; Luke 13v24-30
- Christ intervenes at Jerusalem where all nations are gathered Zech 12v3; 14v1; Ezek 38v18-19; Joel 3v12; Rev 16v16
- Israel is converted by Christ and becomes preeminent nation Rom 11v26-27; Zech 12v10-11; Mic 4v7-8
- Christ's ultimatum calls nations to submit Psalms 2v10-11; Rev 14v6
- Western allies submit Isa 60v9; Psalms 72v10
- Catholic Europe and Russia subdued by force Isa 60v11; Rev 17v13-14; 19v10-21; Dan 7v22-27
- Power and Kingdom of Christ extended to all the earth Dan 2v44; Rev 11v15; Dan 7v27
- Jerusalem - world capital - centre of worship Jer 3v17; Mat 5v35; Isa 2v2-4; Zech 14v16
- Righteous laws from King Jesus bring unprecedented blessings of peace, joy, fruitfulness, long life, etc. Psalms 72; Amos 9v13-15; Isa 65v17-25; 30v18-26
- Sin reduced Isa 26v9-10

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