

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE

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Lesson One: **ADAM and EVE: THE POWER TO CHOOSE**

Introduction:

Everything that proceeded from the hand of God in His wonderful creation was “very good,” that is, perfect to answer the purpose for which it had been destined. Of all His works God only “created man in His own image.” This expression refers not merely to the intelligence with which God endowed, and the immortality with which He gifted man, but also to the perfect moral and spiritual nature which man at the first possessed. In the beginning man was without sin! With this divine nature it was only reasonable that God gave to man direct free will, volition, the power to choose. It was man’s choice that brought sin into the world, not God’s.

I. THEIR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A. Created in the image of God: Genesis 1.26,27; 2.7

1. In what way is man made in the image of God? _____ Jn 4:24 Josh 24:15
2. What is the difference in the body, spirit, and soul of man? _____ Heb 4:12 1Th 5:23 Ps 146:4

B. Life in the Garden of Eden: Genesis 2.8-17

1. To what degree had God provided for man? _____
2. What was God’s only prohibition of Adam and Eve? _____

C. A marriage made in heaven: Genesis 2.18-25

1. What is God’s cure for loneliness? _____ Heb 13:4
2. Why were they “not ashamed?” (v.25) _____

D “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.” Genesis 3.8

1. What does this suggest about their relationship? _____

II. THEIR TEMPTATION AND FALL

A. Evil in God’s creation: Genesis 3.1

1. How was evil present at this time? _____
2. Where did evil come from? _____

B. Satan and Eve: Genesis 3.1-6

1. What three avenues of temptation did Satan use? (1 John 2.16) _____

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2. Why do you suppose Eve gave the fruit to her husband?

C. Their eyes were opened: Genesis 3.7,8

1. Is sin present in our lives from an early age? _____
Ps 51:5 Ezek 18:1-4 Mt 18:1-10
2. Do we recognize it as sin? _____
3. How does this happen in our lives? _____ Rom 7:9-11

D. Their punishment for disobeying God: Genesis 3.16-19, 22-24

1. What was the two-fold punishment to the woman? _____
2. Relate this to 1 Timothy 2.11-15 _____
3. What was man's punishment? _____
4. Why were they cast out of the Garden of Eden? _____

FINAL THOUGHTS? What valuable lessons can we learn from Adam and Eve?

Lesson Two: **DAVID: A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART**

Introduction:

David is one of the most prominent figures in the history of the world; a mountain peak among Bible characters. He is the most famous ancestor of Christ. Jesus is not called the Son of Abraham, or the Son of Jacob, but the Son of David. Yet, his life was a strange admixture of good and evil, successes and failures. It was filled with noble deeds, fine aspirations and splendid accomplishments; but it was also stained with gross sins. No Bible character more fully illustrates the moral range of human nature. But because of David's honesty and his sincere penitent attitude, the apostle Paul could declare God's sentiment, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will" (Acts 13.22).

I. HIS LIFE

A. David's early years:

1. How was David chosen to be king of Israel? _____ 1 Sam 16.1-13
2. Why was King Saul being removed from the throne? _____ (cf. 1 Sam.13.13,14)
3. What instruments did David play? _____ 1 Sam 16.14-23
4. What caused his great courage? _____ 1 Sam 17.1-54
5. What was the relationship between David and Jonathan? _____ 1 Sam 18.1-4
6. What was the relationship between David and Saul? _____ 1 Sam 18.8-12; 19.1
7. What action did David take to avoid Saul? _____ 1 Sam 19.18-19
8. How did David spare the life of Saul? _____ 1 Sam 24.1-7
9. How did David spare Saul a second time? _____ 1 Sam 26.6-12

B. David as a king:

1. Of what was David first anointed King? _____ 2 Sam 2.1-7
2. When did David become King over all Israel? _____ 2 Sam.5.1-5
3. When did David make Jerusalem the capital? _____ 2Sam 5.6-10
4. What was the covenant God made with David? _____ 2 Sam 7.1-17
5. Who was Bathsheba? _____ 2 Sam 11, 12
6. What sins did David commit in his affair with Bathsheba? _____
6. How did Absalom rebel against his father? _____ 2 Sam 15-18
7. What did David do to build the temple? _____ 1 Chron 22.1-10
8. Who appointed Solomon as David's successor? _____ 1 K 1.11-37
9. How did David die? _____ 1 Chron 29.26-28

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF DAVID

- A. In what way do we most relate to David? _____
- B. Why didn't God remove David's offspring from the throne as He had Saul?
- C. What is the significance of Jesus being called the "Son of David"?
- D. In your view, how was David a man after God's heart?

Lesson Three: **DEBORAH: THE PATRIOTIC JUDGE**

Introduction:

Darker and darker are the clouds which gather around Israel, and stranger and more unexpected is the deliverance provided for them. It had begun with Othniel, truly a “lion of God.” But after the “lion of God” came a left-handed Benjamite, Ehud, to judge Israel. Then mighty Shamgar who killed six hundred Philistines with an ox goad. Though Israel enjoyed over eighty years of rest, once again she does evil and is sold into the hand of a wicked Gentile king. But this time God calls forth a woman to judge and deliver Israel from captivity. Her name is Deborah. Like the rest of the judges she became a leader in times of national distress. Because of her faith in God and genuine sense of patriotism, she would be successful in her ruling over Israel.

I. DEBORAH SERVED AS A JUDGE AND A PROPHETESS

- A. Because of Israel’s wickedness, God sold them into whose hand? _____ Judg 4.1-3
- B. Deborah would sit under a palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim for what purpose? Judges 4.4,5 _____
- C. What other position did Deborah hold? (v.4) _____
- D. Who did Deborah summons as a military leader to deliver Israel from the oppression of Jabin? Judges 4.6,7 _____
- E. Why did she agree to go with Barak? Judges 4.8-10 _____
- F. Whose army did Barak defeat? Judges 4.11-16 _____
- G. Where did Sisera flee from Barak seeking safety? Judges 4.17-22 _____
- H. How was Israel delivered from Jabin? Judges 4.23,24 _____
- I. How long did the land have rest? Judges 5.31 _____

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF DEBORAH

- A. Who should have been providing spiritual and national leadership for the Children of Israel? _____
- B. Why do you suppose God chose a woman for this task? _____
- C. At what point did Deborah manifest her greatest example of courage? _____

- D. What can be said about the deed of Jael? _____

- E. What is the overall purpose of the song of Deborah and Barak? _____

- F. Why do you think only Barak’s faith is mentioned in Hebrews 11.32? _____

FINAL THOUGHTS? What valuable lessons can we learn from the life of Deborah?

Lesson Four: ***ESTHER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS***

Introduction:

The story of Esther takes place during the period the Medo-Persian Empire. This is the second world empire predicted in Daniel 2, 7. King Ahasuerus reigned from India to Ethiopia which included over 127 provinces. [485-465 B.C.] The Children of Israel were among those who were subject to the Medo-Persian Empire.

This account is one of the most beautiful passages in the Scriptures as it illustrates the divine providence of God. God used the beauty and fidelity of a young Jewish woman for the purpose of sparing the Hebrew people! The lineage of Jesus Christ was preserved, and God’s purpose (Eph 3:10) and promise (Gen 12:3) were fulfilled.

I. ESTHER COMES TO THE THRONE OF THE EMPIRE OF THE MEDO-PERSIANS

- A. Why did King Ahasuerus dethrone Queen Vashti? Esther 1.1-22 _____
- B. How did Esther become queen? Esther 2.1-18 _____
- C. Who revealed the plot against the king? Esther 2.19-23 _____
- D. Who was on Haman’s hate list and why? Esther 3.1-15 _____
- E. What did Mordecai do in response to the King’s decree? Esther 4.1-3 _____
- F. How and what did Esther do for Mordecai? Esther 4.3-17 _____
- G. What do we learn of how the Jews count time in Esther’s request? Esther 4.16-5.1 _____
- H. What occurred at Esther’s banquet for the king and Haman? Esther 5.1-8 _____
- I. What did Haman plot against Mordecai? Esther 5.9-14 _____
- J. How did the king come to honor Mordecai? Esther 6.1-14 _____
- K. How was the wickedness of Haman is exposed by Esther? Esther 7.1-10 _____
- L. What was the request Esther made to the King and its result? Esther 8.1-17 _____
- M. What is behind the Feast of Purim? Esther 9.1-32 _____
- L. What happened to Mordecai? Esther 10.1-3 _____

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE STORY OF ESTHER

- A. What was Mordecai’s spiritual foresight? (2.10,11,19-23) _____
- B. What does Mordecai’s faith and courage teach us?. (3.1-5) _____
- C. Who was Mordecai concerned for? (4.1-3) _____
- D. What can we learn about God’s providence and man’s destiny? (4.13-17) _____
- E. What do we learn from Esther’s courage and wisdom? (5.1-8; 7.1-6) _____
- F. How may we complete the question, “Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” _____

FINAL THOUGHTS?

Are there any other valuable lessons we can learn from the story of Esther?

Lesson Five: ***BARNABAS: THE SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT***

Introduction:

In our studies of the beginnings of the New Testament church, we often overlook Barnabas. The life and ministry of Barnabas is a valuable study provided by the Holy Spirit that we might also be encouraged. The scriptures describe Barnabas' positive impact on the growth and development of the early New Testament church.

I. A SYNOPSIS OF HIS LIFE

- A. Where was Barnabas from and what was his tribe? Acts 4.36 _____
- B. Who was Barnabas' cousin? Col.4.10 _____
- C. What was this man's place in the history of the church _____
- D. Where was Barnabas at the founding of the church? Acts 4.37 _____
- E. What gift did he make that caught the churches' attention? _____
- F. Who named him "Barnabas" and what does it mean? Acts 4.36 _____
- G. What did Barnabas for Paul in Jerusalem? Acts 9.26-28 cf. Gal.2.1 _____
- H. Why did Barnabas go to Antioch of Syria? Acts 11.19-26 _____
- I. Who was the leader at the start of the first missionary journey? Acts 12.25-13.3 _____
- J. When did the leadership change? Acts 11.30; 12.25; 13.2,7 _____
- K. What was Barnabas called in Lystra? Acts 14.12-16 _____
- L. How is Barnabas as an "apostle" as was Paul? Acts 14.14 _____
- M. How was he involved with the question about of circumcision: Acts 15.2-29 (note verses 25,26) _____
- N. How was he negatively influenced by Peter? Gal.2.11-13 _____
- O. Why did he and Paul separate? Acts 15.36-41 _____

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF BARNABAS

- A. What can we learn from his benevolence: Acts 4.36,37 _____
- B. What was his special ability? Acts 11.22,23 _____
- C. What was his spiritual character: Acts 11.24 _____
- D. What did others think of him? Acts 11.25,26 _____
- E. How did he handle himself? Acts 14.12-16 _____
- F. How was his ministry supported? 1 Cor 9.6 _____

FINAL THOUGHTS? Are there any other valuable lessons to be learned from Barnabas?

Lesson Six: ***PAUL: THE CHOSEN VESSEL OF GOD***

Introduction:

In every generation there are always those who stand out as leaders. They are people of distinction; those who can and do make a difference. Without doubt, the apostle Paul was one of these individuals. It has been said by many that other than Jesus Christ Himself, no man has had so great influence on the faith of men as has Paul. What a wonderful character and example as we examine his life and his dedication to the message of the cross.

I. THE LIFE OF PAUL BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

A. His early years and family:

1. Where was Paul born? Acts 22.3 _____
2. Where was Paul brought up? _____
3. Who was his instructor? Acts 22.3 _____
4. To which Jewish sect did he belong? Acts 23.6 _____
5. What was Paul's occupation? Acts 18.3 _____
6. What do we know of his relatives? Acts 23.16 _____
7. How did Paul obtain his Roman citizenship? Acts 22.25-28 _____

B. His zeal for Judaism:

1. Where did Paul get his religious instruction? _____ Acts 22:3;
23:6 Date? _____ In what city did this occur? _____
2. What was Paul's standing with the Jews? _____ Gal1.13,14
3. What did he do when Stephen was stoned? Acts 7.58 _____
Date? _____
4. What did Paul do to the church at this time? Acts 8.1-3; 9.1,2; 22.4,5; 26.9-11
_____ Date? _____
5. What was Paul's conviction about the church? Acts 23.1 _____

II. THE CONVERSION AND THE MINISTRY OF PAUL

A. His conversion Date? _____

1. Where was Paul bound and for what purpose? Acts 9.3-9; 22.6-11 _____
2. What did Paul do after being struck blind? _____
3. Who preached to him? _____ Acts 9.10-19; 22.12-16
4. Reconcile the accounts of his cure from his blindness and his conversion.

5. Reconcile the accounts of the voice Paul heard. Acts 9:7; 22:9

B. His early ministry:

1. Why did Jesus speak to Paul on the way to Damascus Acts 9.15,16 _____
2. Where did Paul's teaching begin? Acts 9.20-25 _____
3. Where did Paul's preaching begin? Gal 1:16-17 _____
4. How did he "prove this Jesus was the Christ?" Acts 9:22 _____
5. How did the brethren in Jerusalem receive him? Acts 9.26-30; Gal.2.1,2 _____
6. When was Paul introduced to the apostles? Gal 2:18 Acts9:26-27 _____
7. Who introduced Paul to the apostles? Acts 9:26 _____

8. When was the council in Jerusalem? Gal.2.1 _____
- C. His evangelistic journeys
- The first journey:** Acts 13.5-14.28
1. Who sent Paul on his first journey? _____
 2. Who accompanied Paul on this journey? _____
 3. What cities did they visit? _____
 4. When was Paul's name changed? _____
 5. What important act did they make on the way back? _____
 6. How long did the trip take? _____
 7. What important faced them on their return? _____
 8. How was this question settled? _____
- Second journey** Acts 15.40-18.22
1. Who sent Paul on his second journey? _____
 2. Who accompanied Paul on this journey? _____
 3. What cities did they visit? _____
 4. What couple does Paul meet on this journey? _____
 5. Who does this couple teach? _____
 6. How long does this journey take and why? _____
 7. What are the major points of his sermon in Athens? _____
- Third journey-** Acts 18.23-21.17
1. Who accompanied Paul on this journey? _____
 2. What letters does Paul write on this journey? _____
 3. What does Paul do that ends this journey? _____
 4. How long does this journey take? _____
 5. What cities does Paul visit on this journey? _____
 6. How long did Paul stay at Ephesus? _____
 7. Why did Paul leave Ephesus? _____
 8. What important lessons are learned from Paul's address to the Ephesian elders? _____
- D. His first imprisonment:
1. Summarize the discussion between Paul and James. Acts 21.19-24

 2. What decision do the elders make that gets Paul thrown in prison? Acts 21.23-30

 3. Summarize Paul's defense to the people. Acts 22.1-30 _____
 4. Why does Paul leave Jerusalem? Acts 23 _____
 4. Why is Paul tried before Felix, Festus & Agrippa- Acts 24.10-26.32

 5. Why is Paul sent to Rome? _____
 6. Describe the shipwreck on this voyage. Acts 27
 7. How long does this imprisonment last? _____
- E. His final imprisonment and last words: 2 Timothy 4.6-16
1. How do we know Paul is imprisoned twice? _____

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FINAL THOUGHTS? What do you think is the most outstanding point of Paul's life and why?

Lesson Seven: **TIMOTHY: THE VALUE OF EARLY TRAINING**

Introduction:

Timothy was one of the best known of Paul's companions and fellow-laborers. He may have been one of Paul's own converts, as Paul describes him as a "true son in the faith" (1 Tim 1.2 & 1 Cor 4.17). But much of Timothy's success as a Christian is due to his spiritual upbringing as a young person. His life is a beautiful illustration to all parents today, that we may truly appreciate the value of early training.

I. HIS LIFE

- A. What nationality was his mother (Acts 16.1). _____
- B. What nationality was Timothy's father? (Acts 16.1,3) _____
- C. From whom did Timothy receive his initial religious instruction? (2 Tim 1.5; 3.14,15)

- D. Where and when is it likely that Eunice became a believer? (Acts 14.6; 16.1)

- E. Do you think it likely that Timothy was already beginning to preach? (Acts 16.2)

- F. Though Timothy's mother was a Jew, evidently his father prevented him from being circumcised as a an infant. Why was Timothy circumcised? (Acts 16.3; 21; 21.20-21, 24) _____
- G. Why was Titus not circumcised? (Gal 2.3-5; Acts 21:25) _____
- H. What cities did Timothy on this journey? (Acts 16-17) _____
- I. Where did Timothy stay while Paul was in Athens? Acts 17:13-14 _____
- J. Where did Timothy rejoin Paul (Acts 18.1-5) _____
- K. Where was Timothy with Paul on the third journey? (Acts 19.22; 20.4; 21.8)

- L. When was Timothy urged to work with the brethren in Ephesus. (1 Tim 1.3; 3.14,15)
_____ (No place in Luke's account allows for this unless there is a second imprisonment. Paul's first visit (Acts 18.19-21) and his second 3 year stay (Acts 19), along with his continued accompaniment on the trip to Jerusalem (Acts 20.4; 1Cor 1.1)
- M. What are the dates of the writing of 1 & 2 Timothy? _____
- N. Where does Paul ask Timothy to meet him and what route will he take? (2 Tim 4.9-11)

FINAL THOUGHTS: What important principles can we learn from the Timothy's life?

Lesson Eight: ***DORCAS: THE CHARITABLE DISCIPLE***

The Hebrew writer said of Abel: “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and through it he being dead still speaks” (Hebrews 11.4).

Fortunately, the same wonderful commendation can be made for many faithful children of God. There are those among us who live such godly lives in the presence of others, that even though they die, their good example and positive influence allows them to continue to speak to us. This was true of Dorcas. Considering the brevity of the Scriptures, it is no accident that inspiration has preserved this account of a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ to remind us of what our lives should also encompass.

I. THE CHARITABLE DISCIPLE OF JOPPA: Acts 9.36-43

- A. What was Dorcas’ also called and from what language did it derive? _____
- B. What distinguished Dorcas? _____ (v.36)
- C. What burial customs were observed? _____
- D. Where was Peter and how far was this? _____ (v.38)
- E. What did the widows show Peter? _____ (v.39)
- F. Could (did) any of the disciples perform Peter’s miracle? _____
(vs.41,42)
- G. What did this miracle allow Peter to do? (v.42) _____

II. SOME SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS OF THE LIFE OF DORCAS

- A. What kind of “good works and charitable deeds” could Dorcas possibly have done?

- B. Do you think she was a prominent disciple in the city of Joppa? _____
- C. How do we know her benevolent behavior did not go unnoticed by her brethren, nor by God? _____
- D. Relate the character of Dorcas with such passages as Romans 16.1,2; Titus 2.3-5; 1. Peter 3.1-4

FINAL THOUGHTS: Are there any other valuable lessons we can learn from the life of Dorcas?

Lesson Nine: ***NOAH: THE PRESERVATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS***

Introduction:

The times in which Noah was born were extremely degenerate, and this finds sympathetic expression in Lamech's statement at the birth of Noah, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed" (Genesis 5.29). For this reason Lamech named his son, Noah, meaning "rest." In that time wickedness permeated the entire population of the earth, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6.8). In the midst of unparalleled wickedness, Noah was able to preserve righteousness. He did so "by faith!" (Hebrews 11.7)

I. A SYNOPSIS OF HIS LIFE

- A. How far removed was Noah from Adam? Genesis 5.3-29 _____
- B. How old was Noah when his sons were born and what were their names? Gen 5.32 _____
- C. What significant event took place at this time? _____ Gen 6.1
- D. Why did the Lord decide to destroy all life on earth? _____ Gen 6.5
- E. What was different about Noah and his family? _____ Gen 6.8
- F. How was the ark to be prepared? _____ Gen 6.14-22
 - 1) What specific instructions were given? _____
 - 2) How closely did Noah follow God's instructions? _____ Gen 6.22
- G. The Flood & Noah's deliverance- Genesis 7.1 8.19
 - 1) How were the animals paired? _____
 - 2) What caused the flooding? _____
 - 3) How long did they remain in the ark? _____
- H. What universal covenants did God make with Noah & mankind- Gen 8.22 - 9.17
- I. What happened to Noah and his sons? Gen 9.18-27 _____
- J. How old was Noah when he died? Gen 9.28,29 _____

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF NOAH

- A. Through which son of Noah did Jesus come? (Lk 3.36) _____
- B. In Hebrews 11.7, what is the meaning of the statement: "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen ..." _____
- C. How did Noah's actions condemn the world? (Heb 11.7) _____
- D. What is Peter's analogy of the flood in 1 Peter 3.18-22? _____
 - 1) When were these "spirits" preached to? (cf. 2 Pet 2.5 Eph 2:17) _____
 - 2) How was Noah's family "saved by water?" (1 Pet 3.20) _____
- E. How is mankind today basically like the people of the world during the time of Noah? 2Peter 3.1-9. _____

FINAL THOUGHTS: What further analogies can we draw between the days and acts of Noah and us in the church today?

Lesson Ten: **JOSEPH: LIVING OVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES**

Introduction:

The detailed history of Joseph begins when he was seventeen years old. (Gen 37.2). It is perhaps one of the greatest accounts demonstrating the providence of God. Joseph was one of those rare individuals of the Bible that seemingly possessed very few character flaws. Though his life was plagued by unfortunate circumstances, he had the faith and determination to live over them rather than give up those principles he knew to be right!

I. A SYNOPSIS OF HIS LIFE

- A. What caused the initial enmity between Joseph's and his brothers? _____ Gen 37.1,2
- B. What did Isaac do because of his love for Joseph? _____ Gen 37.3,4
- C. What dreams of greatness did Joseph have? _____ Gen 37.5-11
- D. Why was Joseph sold by his brothers? _____ Gen 37.12-28
- E. How did his brothers deceive Jacob? _____ Gen 37.29-35

II. JOSEPH'S LIFE IN EGYPT

- A. To whom was Joseph sold in Egypt? _____ Gen 37.36
- B. Why did Joseph prosper in Potiphar's house? _____ Gen 39.1-6
- C. How does Potiphar's wife entrap Joseph? _____ Gen 39.7-18
- D. How did Potiphar punish Joseph? _____ Gen 39.19,20
- E. What was Joseph's position in the Egyptian prison? _____ Gen 39.21-23
- F. What dreams did Joseph interpret in prison? _____ Gen 40.1-23
- G. What was Pharaoh's dream? _____ Gen 41.1-27
- H. What did Joseph reveal that God wanted Pharaoh to do? _____ Gen 41.28-36

III. JOSEPH'S RISE TO POWER IN EGYPT

- A. Why was Pharaoh impressed with Joseph? _____ Gen 41.37-45
- B. How did Pharaoh reward Joseph? _____ Gen 41.43-46
- C. How did Joseph manage the work in Egypt? _____ Gen 41.46-57
- D. Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt? _____ Gen 42.1-5
- E. How did Joseph treat his brothers? _____ Gen 42.6-28
- F. Why did Joseph's brothers return to Egypt? _____ Gen 44.29-34
- G. How did Joseph reveal himself to his brothers? _____ Gen 45.1-14
- H. Describe Joseph and Jacob's reunion. _____ Gen 46.1-47.12
- I. What prophecy is given of Jesus? _____ Gen 45.9
- J. What happened at Jacob's death? _____ Gen 50.15-21
- K. What happened at Joseph's death? _____ Gen 50.22-26

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

- A. What can we learn from the favoritism Jacob showed toward Joseph? _____
- B. Did Joseph possess any arrogance regarding his dreams? _____
- C. Discuss the spiritual character of Joseph concerning his relationship with Potiphar's wife.

- D. Read Gen 50.20. what are some applications of this principle as seen in Joseph's life?

- E. What about applications for us today? _____

Lesson Eleven: ***SOLOMON: THE MAN OF WISDOM & FOLLY***

Introduction:

It could be said that Solomon was both one of the best and one of the worst kings Israel ever had. Although blessed with great wisdom, he had major character flaws. Yet, there is so much to be learned by what he said and how he lived life. His life's story has been preserved in Scripture for our consideration, and his writings for our instruction. The spiritual applications are amazing in their scope.

I. A SYNOPSIS OF HIS LIFE

- A. Who were Solomon's parents? 2 Sam 12.24 _____
- B. How did he begin his reign over Israel? 1 Kings 1.11-53 _____
- C. What did he ask for as a young king? 1K 3.1-15 2Chr 1:7-12 _____
- D. The man of wisdom:
 - 1. What illustrated his judicial insight- 1 Kings 3.16-28 _____
 - 2. What act illustrated his wisdom? 1 Kings 4.29-31 _____
 - 3. What writings illustrated his wisdom? 1K 4.32-34 _____
 - 4. How did Solomon build the temple? 1K 5 & 6 _____
 - 5. What spiritual thoughts are in his prayer of dedication of the temple? 1 Kings 8.22-53 _____
- E. The man of folly:
 - 1. What was Solomon's lifestyle? Ecc 2.1-10 _____
 - 2. What was Solomon's marital lifestyle? 1 K 11.1-3 _____
 - 3. What did Solomon do about taxes? 1 Kings 12.4 _____
 - 4. Why did he sanction idolatry? 1 Kings 11.4-7 _____
- F. How long did Solomon reign? 1 Kings 11.41-43 _____

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

- A. Is a Solomon a man to which we can easily relate? _____
- B. What similarities are there in the life of Solomon and a Christian? _____
- C. What dissimilarities are there in the life of Solomon and a Christian? _____
- D. What was the spiritual quality Solomon possessed when he was acting as a righteous man of God? (Be prepared to explain your answer.) _____
- E. What place does "influence" play in Solomon's life? _____
What does this suggest to the Christian? _____ 1Co 15:33
- F. Read the book of Ecclesiastes.
Reflecting on this book, why do you think Solomon wrote it? _____
Did he die an idolater? _____

Lesson Twelve: **RACHEL & LEAH: SISTERS IN CONFLICT**

Introduction:

We are uncertain of the relationship that existed between Rachel and Leah before they were married to Jacob. There is a possibility it was normal and perhaps they were close as sisters. It is also possible that the difference in their appearance caused problems between them (Gen 29:17). The Scripture does not indicate any problem between the two sisters until after their marriage to Jacob. This was caused, primarily, by two factors:

- 1) Jacob loved Rachael more than Leah. (Gen 29.30)
- 2) Rachel envied her sister because she bore Jacob no children. (Gen 30.1)

I. A SYNOPSIS OF THEIR LIVES

- A. What is the relationship between Jacob and Laban? Gen 29.1-14 _____
- B. What are Laban's daughters names and their relation to Jacob? Gen 29.16,17 _____
- C. What agreement does Jacob make with Laban if he can take Rachel to be his wife?
Gen 29.15,18-20 _____
- D. How does Laban break the agreement? Gen 29.21-27 _____
- E. What does Jacob agrees to do to get Rachel as his wife? Gen 29.28 _____
- F. What does Laban throw into the bargain? Gen 29.24,29 _____
- G. Where do problems arise in this relationship? Gen 29.30 _____
- H. What does God do to soften the problem? Gen 29.31-35 _____
- I. What is Rachel's response? Gen 30.1-8 _____
- J. To whom does Rachel attribute the children? Gen 30.6-8 _____
- K. What is Leah's response? Gen 30.9-13 _____
- L. How does obtain more children? Gen 30.14-21 _____
- M. What did God do for Rachel? Gen 30.22-24 _____
- N. Why does Jacob leave Laban? Gen 31.1-3 _____
- O. What do Rachel and Leah think of the departure? Gen 31:7-18 _____
- P. What does Rachel steal from her father. Gen 31:19 _____
- Q. What does Laban do about his daughters leaving? Gen 31:22-31 _____
- R. How does Rachel die? Gen 35.16-20 _____
- S. Where is Leah buried? Gen 49.30,31 _____

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THIS LESSON

- A. What cultural considerations should be understood to better appreciate the actions of Rachel and Leah? _____
- B. Which sister is in the lineage of Christ? _____
- C. Identify the acts of **deceit** in this account. _____

Lesson Thirteen: **JOHN THE BAPTIST: NONE GREATER BORN OF WOMEN**

Introduction:

There is something grand, even peculiar, in the almost absolute silence which lies upon the thirty years between the birth and the first Messianic manifestation of Jesus. But at last that solemn silence is broken by an appearance, a proclamation and a ministry as startling as that of Elijah.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness – the remarkable and energetic preaching of John the Baptist. John came suddenly out of the desert of Judea as Elijah from the wilds of Gilead. John bore the same strange ascetic appearance as his predecessor. (Just picture John in his clothing of camel hair, a leather belt around his middle, chewing on a grasshopper! cf. Matt 3.4)

What a marvelous character. What tremendous lessons can be learned from his life.

I. A SYNOPSIS OF JOHN'S LIFE

A. A life dedicated to the service of God.

1. What prophecies were made concerning him?

a) Isaiah 40.3-5 Luke 3.4-6 _____

b) Malachi 4.5,6 Matt 17.10-13 _____

2. Who announced John's birth to Zacharias? Luke 1.5-25 _____

3. What was the relationship between John and Jesus? Luke 1.36 _____

4. To what was John's life dedicated? Luke 1.13-15; 7.33,34 _____

5. What happened at John and Jesus' first meeting? Luke 1.39-45 _____

6. What was John's purpose? John 1.29-36 _____

7. Did John establish a new covenant? Mt 21:25 Acts 19:1-5 _____

B. A life of humility, yet boldness and conviction.

1. Who did John elevate? Mark 1.4-8; Luke 3.15,16 _____

2. How did he compare himself to Jesus? John 3.22-36 _____

3. What was his personal demeanor? Luke 7.24-27 _____

C. A life of steadfastness.

1. What did he preach? Matt 3:1-3 _____

2. For what did John baptize? Matt 3. 2-6 Acts 19:1-5 _____

3. What confession was made at their baptism? Mt 3:6 _____

4. What was his attitude toward the Pharisees & Sadducees? Matt 3.7-12 _____

5. Who did he teach? Luke 3.12-14 _____

6. What did he teach soldiers? Lk 3:14 _____

7. Why did he confront Herod? Mark 6.14-29 _____

8. Why was Herod's marriage unlawful? Lev 18:16; 20:21 _____

D. What did Jesus think of John the Baptist? Matt 11.11 _____

II. SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

A. Was John a "misfit" in his society? [Think about other great preachers: Noah, Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus!] _____

B. Discuss the various ways in which John was a man of dedication. _____

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

C. In what way is “he who is least in the kingdom of heaven greater than John?” _____

Lesson Fourteen: ELIJAH: A PROPHET IN TIME OF CRISIS

Introduction:

Religious life and spirituality in Israel had reached an all-time low in King Ahab's 22-year reign. He and his thoroughly evil wife, Jezebel of Tyre, introduced the corrupt worship of the Phoenician god Melqart (more commonly identified in the Bible as "Baal"). Into this crisis situation God sent Elijah, perhaps the greatest of all the Old Testament prophets. [See Matt 17.3, 10-13] Yet, as has been true with many great people of God, Elijah also possessed a few inconsistencies in his faith. But his character stands out in that he accepted the guidance of God during the challenging times of his life.

I. A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

- A. Where was Elijah from? 1 Kings 17.1 _____
- B. The work of Elijah, the prophet of Israel:
 - 1. What was his first prophecy? 1 Kings 17.2-7 [This is important because Baal was worshiped as a weather-god.] _____
 - 2. Elijah and the widow of Zarephath 1 Kings 17.8-24
 - a) What did Elijah request? (v 10-16) _____
 - b) What did Elijah do for the widow? (v 17-24) _____
 - 3. What was Elijah's message to Ahab? 1 Kings 18.1-19 _____
 - a) Why was Obadiah afraid to confront Ahab? _____
 - b) What did Ahab say to Elijah when they met? _____
 - 4. The great debate on Mount Carmel 1 Kings 18.20-40
 - a) How did Elijah mock the prophets of Baal? _____
 - b) What happened to the prophets of Baal? _____
 - 5. How did the drought end? 1 Kings 18.41-46 _____
 - 6. Why did Elijah flee from Jezebel 1 Kings 19.1-18 _____
 - a) What vow did Jezebel make? _____
 - b) What incorrect assumption had Elijah made? _____
 - c) How did God reveal His power to Elijah? _____
 - 7. How is Elisha called? 1 Kings 19.19-21 _____
 - 8. Elijah and Ahaziah, the son of Ahab 2 Kings 1. 1-18
 - a) What happened to Ahaziah, and what did he request? _____
 - b) What did Elijah tell the king? _____
 - 9. How did Elijah depart? 2 Kings 2.1 _____

II. SOME SPECIAL LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

- A. Compare Elijah with John the Baptist. (2 Kings 1.8) _____
- B. What was the purpose of the miracles done by Elijah? _____
- C. Why did Elijah accuse Ahab of being the real troublemaker? _____
- D. 1 Kings 18.21: "How long will you falter between two opinions?" What applications can be made of this question? _____

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

E. What is your favorite account in the life of Elijah? _____

Lesson Fifteen: PETER: THE TRANSPARENT ROCK

Introduction:

The character of Peter is transparent and easily analyzed. He is one to whom we can so easily relate. He was hopeful, bold, confident, courageous, frank, impulsive, energetic, vigorous, strong, loving and faithful to his Master. Yet he experienced periods of doubt, despair, discouragement and even defection prior to the crucifixion of Christ. – But he always came back!

He was as complex as human nature itself. We all possess characteristics which are a contradictory blend of strengths and weaknesses. In the final analysis it comes down to allegiance. Peter's allegiance ultimately rested in Christ.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF PETER

A. From his call to the ascension of Christ:

1. How was he called? Mt 4.18-22; Mk 1.16-20; Luke 5.1-11 _____
2. How do we know he was married? Mt 8.14,15 _____
3. What did Jesus send his disciples to do? Mt 10.1-4; Mk 3.13-19 _____
Was this a training lesson? _____
4. His attachment to Jesus was seen many times:
 - a) Why did he try to walk on the water? Mt 14.22-33 _____
 - b) Who did he think Jesus was? Mt 16.13-18 _____
 - c) When others left what did Peter do? Jn 6.60-71 _____
 - d) What mistake did Peter make on the mount of transfiguration Mt 17.1-13 _____
 - e) Whom did Jesus take with him to Jairus' house? Mark 5.35-43 _____
 - f) How did Jesus learn of Peter's discussion on the temple tax? Mt 17.24-27 _____
5. Peter's actions during the passion week of Christ:
 - a) How did Peter react to Jesus wish to wash his feet? Jn 13.1-10 _____
 - b) Was Peter really ready to go with Jesus? Lk 22.31-34 _____
 - c) Did Peter have problems in the face of trial? Mt 26.36-46 _____
 - d) Did Peter understand the nature of the crucifixion? Jn 18.1-11 _____
 - e) Who saw Peter's denial? Mt 26.69-75; Mk 14.66-72; Lk 22.54-62; Jn 18.15-27 _____
6. Who was faster, Peter or John? Jn 20.1-10 _____
7. When did Jesus appear to Peter Lk 24.34; 1 Cor. 15.5 _____
8. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? Jn 21.15-19 _____

B. From the ascension to his probable martyrdom:

1. Where was Peter when Jesus ascended Acts 1.1-11 _____
2. What did Peter say Judas had left? Acts 1.15-26 _____
 - a. On what basis did Peter choose another disciple? _____
3. What prophecy does Peter on Pentecost? Mt 16.19 _____
4. What are the main points of the first full gospel sermon? Acts 2.14-39 _____
Why is this styled the "first full gospel sermon"? _____
Gal 3:8 Mt 4:23 1Co 15:1-4 Gal 1:6-9 Mt 26:13

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

5. How do we know the man Peter healed was lame ? Acts 3.1-26 _____
What did Peter do after this miracle? _____
6. Why was Peter arrested? Acts 4.1-22; 5.17-32 _____
7. Why did Peter preach to Cornelius Acts 10.1-48; 11.1-18 _____
What was the message preached? _____
8. Why did Herod want to kill Peter? Acts 12.1-19 _____
9. Whose side was Peter on at the Jerusalem meeting Acts 15.1-29 _____
10. Why did Paul rebuked Peter in Antioch? Gal 2.11-21 _____
11. Why was Peter an elder and Paul wasn't? 1Pet 5:1 1Tim 3:2-7 _____
12. When did Peter write his epistles? _____
13. To whom did Peter write his epistles? _____
14. Do we have any Scriptural record of Peter being in Rome? 1Pet 5.13 _____

Traditional history claims Peter died as a martyr at Rome in 67 AD. Traditionalists say he would have been about 75 years old. Do you think this is correct? _____
There is no biblical record of his final years.

Lesson Sixteen: ***RUTH: LOYALTY THAT LED TO ROYALTY***

Introduction:

The book of Ruth is a quiet tale of an ordinary life in strong contrast to the war and strife which surrounded the Israelites during the period of the Judges. The most striking feature of this simple and beautiful story is the sense of God's intimate concern in humble affairs. He is the One who orders all the circumstances of daily life, even for the most unimportant people. And so the new-found faith of a Moabite girl, and her sacrificial love for her mother-in-law are woven into the great tapestry of God's plan of salvation. For descended from Ruth is king David, and from the line of David comes the Messiah Himself!

I. A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF RUTH

- A. Why did Elimelech move his family to Moab? Ruth 1.1,2 _____

1. Who was Elimelech's wife Ruth 1.3,4 _____

2. What were their son's names? Ruth 1.3,4 _____

3. What were their son's wives' names? Ruth 1.3,4 _____

4. What precipitates the crisis in Ruth's life? Ruth 1.5 _____

- B. Where did the widowed Naomi go with her daughters-in-law: Ruth 1.6-22 _____

1. Where did Naomi think her daughters-in-law should go? _____

2. Where did her daughters-in-law want to go? _____

3. Why does Orpah return to her people and gods? _____

4. Why does Ruth stay with Naomi? _____

5. What kind of welcome do Naomi and Ruth receive in Bethlehem? _____

- C. What is Ruth allowed to and by whom? _____ Ruth 2.1-3

1. What does the law say about this? _____ Lev 19.9,10

2. What is Boaz' attitude towards Ruth? _____ Ruth 2.4-16

3. What does Ruth tell Naomi about Boaz? _____ Ruth 2.17-23

- D. What is Naomi's plan? _____ Ruth 3.1-5

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

1. What does Ruth do? _____ Ruth 3.6,7

2. What appeal does Ruth make? _____ Ruth 3.8,9

3. What does Boaz promises Ruth? _____ Ruth 3.10-18

- E. What is Boaz' wise plan to redeem Ruth? _____ Ruth 4.1-12

- F. What is the happy ending? _____ Ruth 4.13-17

1. Who are Ruth's most famous descendants? _____ Ruth 4:18-22 Mt 1:3, 16

II. SOME SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF RUTH

- A. What would Ruth's religious background being from Moab? _____
2K 3:26-27 Num 25:1-2

- B. How strong was Ruth's commitment to Naomi? _____

- C. How did Naomi exercise insight and wisdom in this account? _____

- D. What are some of the strengths of Boaz' character? _____

Lesson Seventeen: **ABRAHAM: THE SPIRITUAL PILGRIM**

Introduction:

Without doubt, Abraham is considered to be one of the most faithful men of the Bible. While he is certainly one of the outstanding characters of the Genesis account, Abraham is frequently referred to in the New Testament as well. James wrote: “And the Scripture was fulfilled that says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God’s friend.’” (Ja 2.23) Indeed, Abraham traveled to the promised land, but he was “looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” (Heb 11.10)

I. A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

- A. Who were Abram’s ancestors? _____ Gen 11.27-32

- B. Who was Abram’s wife? _____ Gen 11.29,30

- C. What did God promise Abram when He called him? Gen 12.1-9
1. _____
2. _____
- D. Where does Abram travel to first? _____ Gen 12.10-20

- E. Who is Lot? _____ Gen 13:9

1. What problem occurs between Lot and Abram? _____ Gen 13.1-18

2. What choice does Lot make? _____ Gen 14:10-11

3. Who captures Lot? _____ Gen 14.1-16

4. Why does Abram plead for Sodom? _____ Gen 18.16 - 19.38

5. What does God do to Sodom; for what reason and; what results for Lot? _____

- F. What brings Abram and Melchizedek together and what results? _____ Gen 14.17-24

1. How is this relationship used in the NT? _____ Heb 7:1-15

- G. What covenant does God make with Abram? _____ Gen 15.1-21

- H. Who is Hagar and what occurs as a result of unbelief? _____ Gen 16.1-15

1. What important NT concept occurs as a result of this unbelief? _____ Gal 3:16-18

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

- I. What is the sign of the covenant God makes with Abram? _____ Gen 17.1-27

1. Why and to what is Abram's name changed? _____ Gen 17.3-8)

2. Why and to what is Sarai's name changed? _____ Gen 17.15,16

- J. What kind of hospitality does Abraham show? _____ Gen 18.1-15

1. What do we find like this in the NT? _____ Jn 13:5-10

2. What is taught in these passages? _____ Lk 7:37-39 Jn 12:3

- K. How did Abraham deceive Abimelech? _____ Gen 20.1-18

- L. When was Isaac born? _____ Gen 21.1-7

- M. What happened to Hagar and Ishmael when Isaac was weaned? _____ Gen 21 .8-21

- N. What treaty did Abraham make with Abimelech? _____ Gen 21.22-34

- O. How was Isaac offered? _____ Gen 22.1-19

- P. The death of Sarah- Gen 23.1-20
1. How old was Sarah when she died?

2. Where was she buried?

3. How did Abraham arrange for her burial there?

- Q. Abraham's new wife: Keturah- Gen 25.1-4
1. Who were her sons?

2. Where did these people settle?

- R. The death of Abraham- Gen 25.5-10
1. How old was Abraham when he died?

2. Where was he buried?

3. What did he give to his sons?

II. SOME SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

A. Discuss the significance of Abraham's place in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 1.1,2; Luke 3.34)

B. During the personal ministry of Jesus, what did the Jews think of Abraham? (John 8.37-59)

C. Discuss Abraham's justification as addressed by the apostle Paul in Romans 4.1-25 and Galatians 3.1-14:

1. Abraham was justified by _____
2. What was the purpose of circumcision?

3. Reconcile Paul's teaching with James 2.14-26:

D. How can we become heirs of the promise originally given to Abraham? (Galatians 3.15-29)

E. What spiritual lessons can we learn from Abraham's dealings with Melchizedek? (Hebrews 7.1-10)

F. Examine Hebrews 11.8-19

1. What city did Abraham seek? (cf. Hebrews 12.22; 13.14)

Lesson Eighteen: **DANIEL: A PROPHET IN A FOREIGN LAND**

Introduction:

Daniel’s life and prophetic work bridge the entire seventy-year period of Babylonian captivity. Daniel was probably about sixteen years old when he was deported to Babylon. Though he was hand-picked by the king’s master eunuch for government service, it was God who would use Daniel at a very critical time in the history of the Jews. The name “Daniel” means “God is my judge,” and his prophetic work would prove that point!

I. A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF DANIEL

A. What is known of his young life? (recorded in the book of Daniel)?

1. Who were his friends? _____ Dan 1.7
2. What was Daniel’s spiritual character? _____ Dan 1.8-10
3. What was the ten-day test? _____ Dan 1.11-21

B. Daniel, the dream-interpreter:

1. What problem did Nebuchadnezzar have with his first dream? _____ Dan 2.4-5
2. What was the dream and its interpretation? _____ Dan 2.31-45
3. What happened as a result of Daniel’s interpretation? _____ Dan 2.46-49
4. What was Nebuchadnezzar’s second dream? _____ Dan 4.10-18
5. What was the second dream’s interpretation? _____ Dan 4.23-27

C. What happened at Belshazzar’s feast? _____ Dan 5.1 - 31

D. The plot against Daniel:

1. How did Darius reorganize the government? _____ Dan 6.1,2
2. What was Daniel’s place in this government? _____ Dan 6.3
3. Who plotted against Daniel and why? _____ Dan 6.4-9
4. What happened to Daniel as a result of the plot? _____ Dan 6.10-23
5. Why was Daniel elevated once again? _____ Dan 6.24-28

E. Daniel’s visions:

1. What was the vision of the four beasts? _____ Dan 7.1-8

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

2. What was the vision of the Ancient of Days? _____ Dan 7.9-14
3. What was the interpretation of the visions? _____ Dan 7.15-28
4. What was the vision of the Ram & Goat? _____ Dan 8.1-14
5. What was the interpretation this vision? _____ Dan 8.20-27
6. What was Daniel’s vision of a Man? _____ Dan 10.5-9
7. What was the interpretation this vision? _____ Dan 11.3-4
- F. Daniel’s prayer
1. What was Daniel’s prayer for? _____ Dan 9.4-19
2. What was Gabriel’s answer to the prayer? _____ Dan 9.20-27
- G. Of what kingdoms does Daniel’s prophesy in the first year of Darius? _____ Dan 11.2 -4
- H. What is the promise of deliverance? _____ Dan 12.3, 10,13

II. SOME SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF DANIEL

- A. What comparisons do you see in the lives of Daniel and Joseph?
- _____
- _____
- B. How did Daniel (and his three friends) show that Jehovah could be worshiped even in a foreign land?
- _____
- _____
- C. What is the historical significance Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the large multi-metal statue?
- _____
- _____
- D. At the banquet of Belshazzar, what was the meaning of the “writing on the wall”?
- _____
- _____
- E. Overall, what kind of relationship did Daniel have with the kings who ruled while he was in Babylon? Does this have any particular importance?
- _____
- _____
- F. What was the purpose of Daniel’s prayer in chapter 9? _____
- _____

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

G. What is your understanding of the “Seventy Weeks”? _____

H. What kind of deliverance is promised in chapter 12? _____

I. What promise is specifically made to Daniel in 12:13? _____

Lesson Nineteen: **JOB: DEALING WITH ADVERSITY**

Introduction:

Job may be the earliest book of the Bible. It is set in the period of the patriarchs (e.g. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph). The Hebrew title for this book, Job, has two possible meanings. It could come from the Hebrew word for persecution, “thus meaning persecuted one,” but more likely it comes from an Arabic word meaning “to come back” or “repent.”

The book begins with an interesting discussion between God and Satan and certain challenges that will alter the course of Job’s life, then moves through three cycles of debate between Job and his friends, and concludes with a divine diagnosis of Job’s problem. In the end, Job acknowledges the sovereignty of God in his life and receives back more than he had before his trials.

I. A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF JOB

A. What was Job’s spiritual character? _____ 1.1-5

B. Discussion between God and Satan:

1. What did Satan do in his first challenge? 1.6-22 _____

2. What did Satan do in his second challenge? 2.1-8 _____

C. Reaction of those people closest to Job:

1. What was Job’s wife reaction to his trials? 2.9,10 _____

2. Who were Job’s three friends- 2.11-13 _____

3. What was Job’s initial reaction to his troubles? 3.1-26 _____

D. The first analysis of Job’s three friends:

1. What did Eliphaz think the problem was? (chapters 4:7-8; 5:17-18) _____

2. What summarizes Job’s response? (6:14-15 ; 7:17-21) _____

3. What did Bildad think the problem was? (8:1-6) _____

4. What was Job’s response? (9:16-17, 32-33; 10:14-15) _____

5. What did Zophar think the problem was? (11:4-6, 20) _____

6. What was Job’s response? (12:4-6; 13:3-4, 23-24; 14:14-15) _____

E. The second analysis of Job’s three friends:

1. What did Eliphaz think the problem was? (15:6-7, 25) _____

2. What was Job’s response? (16:2, 11; 17:1-3,) _____

GREAT CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE – Willey/Calton

3. What did Bildad think the problem was? (18:2-4, 21) _____

4. What was Job's response? (19:2-6, 22, 26-29) _____

5. What did Zophar think the problem was? (20:3-5; 12-13, 29) _____

6. What was Job's response? (21:8-10,30, 34) _____

F. The third analysis of Job's friends:

1. What did Eliphaz think the problem was? (22:4-5, 18-19, 23, 29) _____

2. What was Job's response? (23:3-4; 24:2-4, 12) _____

3. What did Bildad think the problem was? (25:4-6) _____

4. Job's lengthy response:

a) Summarize chapter 26 _____ (26:3, 13-14)

b) Summarize chapter 27 _____ (27:5-6, 13-14)

c) Summarize chapter 28 _____ (28:1, 12, 26-28)

d) What is Job's defense? chapters 29-31

_____ 29:3-4, 12-14; 30:9-11, 16; 31:1-6, 16, 24, 33, 35)

G. Elihu: The Voice of Reason

1. What is Elihu's response to Job and the three friends? 32.1-3 _____

2. Who and for what does Elihu rebuke? 32.9-10, 12 _____

3. Why and for what does Elihu rebuke Job? 33.8-12, 33; 34:5, 35-37; 35.16 _____

4. What does Elihu say about God? (34. 10-11, 21,37; 36.5-10, 15, 22, 26; 37.5-12, 23-24)

H. God Speaks to Job!

1. What kind of questions does God ask Job? (38.2,-4, 8, 12, 18, 31, 34; 39.26; 40.1-2; 41.1)

2. What is Job's response to God? 40.3-5, 42.1-6

3. What does God think of Eliphaz, Bildad & Zophar? 42.7-9

4. What does God do for Job? 42.10-17 _____

II. SOME SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOB

A. Is Satan active today in the lives of people on earth? _____
_____ (2 Cor 2.11; 1 Pet 5.8)

B. How should have Job’s wife and three friends been a positive support to Job? _____
_____ (Proverbs 18.24)

C. Discuss Job’s frustration in light of the following paraphrased sentiments:

1. “I wish I had never been born.” _____ (3.1-3; 11, 26)

2. “What have I done wrong?” (6.1-4; 7.20) _____

3. “I have the right to complain!” (7.11) _____

4. “My friends are no help!” (12.1-4; 16.1-5; 21.34) _____

S. “I used to be somebody!” (29.1-6; 7-17) _____

6. “People are mocking me!” (30.1) _____

7. “God doesn’t seem to be listening to me!” (30.20,21) _____

D. What is your impression of Elihu?

E. What valuable lessons can we learn about pain, suffering and patience because of the life of Job? (James 5.7-11)

Lesson Twenty: *ABEL: Though Dead, He Still Speaks*

Introduction:

The first two brothers known in history, Cain and Abel, represent the two and enduring divisions of mankind, and bear witness to the eternal enmity between good and evil. Valuable lessons can be learned from both men: Abel serves as an example in “doing well;” while Cain’s life helps us to better understand the consequences of “not doing well.”

However, it is the faith and obedience of Abel that makes him stand out as one of the great people of God. He is the first personal illustration of faithful individuals in the impressive list of noble characters found in the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews. How significant was his life? “And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead” (Hebrews 11.4).

I. THE BIBLICAL RECORD OF THE LIFE OF ABEL

A. His name: Habel – the etymology is uncertain, though the Hebrew can be translated “a breath,” “vapor,” or “transitoriness,” which are suggestive of his brief existence and tragic end. Others suggest that Abel’s name is a variant of Jabal, “shepherd” or “herdsman,” as found in Gen 4.20. [I.S.B.E. Volume I, p. 5]

B. His occupation: Abel was a “keeper of sheep.” Nowhere does the account intimate that Abel’s occupation was more noble than Cain’s, who was a “tiller of the ground.” Both were already performed by Adam, their father. In Gen 2.15 he was given the responsibility to “tend and keep” the garden; while in Gen 3.21 Adam and Eve used animal skins to make clothing.

C. What did he sacrifice: Gen 4.3,4 _____

1. What was God’s reaction to Abel’s sacrifice? _____

2. On what basis was Able’s sacrifice offered? Heb 11:4 _____

a. How do we obtain faith? Rom 10.17. Heb 11.6 _____

D. What was God’s reaction to Cain’s sacrifice Gen 4.5-7 _____

E. How did Abel die? Gen 4.8 _____

1. Who cried out for Abel? Gen.4.10 _____

II. SOME SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS FROM THE LIFE OF ABEL

A. What can we learn from the example of Abel regarding our worship and service to God?

B. Hebrews 11.4 refers to Abel as being “righteous.” How is righteousness attained?

C. Did God afford Cain another opportunity to give an acceptable sacrifice?

D. What was Cain’s problem?

E. Compare Gen 4.10 with Matthew 23.35 and Hebrews 12.24. What contrast do you see between the blood of Abel and the blood of Christ?

Lesson Twenty-One: **BAAL: the God with No Power**

Introduction:

As far as great characters of the Bible are concerned, Baal would not be considered “great” by virtue of goodness. In fact, Baal cannot be considered as a real entity in that Baal is nothing more than a false representation of deity in the minds of idolatrous people. However, a study of Baal is warranted because of the incredible influence this imaginary god had on the lives of not only countless Gentiles, but even the children of Israel!

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF BAAL

A. Name and character of Baal:

1. Baal was the principle male deity of the Canaanites and Phoenicians. In Babylonia the title was applied to Merodach of Babylon, the “Sun-god.” This was similar to the Canaanite Baal whose full name was Baal-Shemaim, “the lord of heaven.”

2. The Phoenicians believed Baal-samen, “lord of heaven” was the sole lord of heaven. Early Phoenician writers claim that the children of the first generation of mankind “in time of drought stretched forth their hands to heaven toward the sun.” [Philo Byblius, Framenta II]

A temple at Umm el-Awamid, between Acre and Tyre in Phoenicia has been discovered with Baal’s name found in inscriptions from the colonies of Sardinia & Carthage.

3. The Babylonian names “Belu” or “Bel” means “Lord.” In Hebrew, Baal can mean “possessor” (as a possessor of land).

4. Biblically, the earliest reference to the worship of Baal was by the Moabites. (Numbers 22.41)

B. Idolatrous aspects of Baal worship:

1. As the Sun-god, Baal was worshiped under two aspects, beneficent and destructive. It was believed that he gave light and warmth to his worshipers; and on the other hand, the fierce heats of summer destroyed the vegetation he had brought into being. Hence human sacrifices were offered to appease his anger in time of plague or trouble, the victims usually being the first-born of the sacrificer and being burnt alive. The worship of Baal was usually attended by lascivious ceremonies.

2. The forms under which Baal was worshipped were as numerous as the communities and nations which worshiped him. (e.g., Baal-Zur, “Baal of Tyre”; Baal-hermon, “Baal of Hermon” [Judges 3.3]; Baal-Tarz, “Baal of Tarsus.”)

3. At other times the title was attached to the name of an individual god: Bel-Merodach; Baal-Melkarth at Tyre (Joshua 11.17) in the north of Palestine; Baal-Zebub (2 Kings 1.2) “Lord of flies,” certainly evolved into “Beelzebub,” which to the Jews was the prince of evil spirits. (cf. Matthew 10.25; 12.24; Mark 3.22; Luke 11.15-19). At Carthage the female consort of Baal was termed Pene-Baal, “the face” or “reflection of Baal.”

C. The influence of Baal worship on the Hebrews:

1. In the earlier days of Hebrew history the title Baal, or “Lord,” was applied to the national God of Israel. Hence, both Jonathan and David had sons called MeribBaal, (1 Chronicles 8.34; 9.40) and Beeliada (1 Chronicles 14.7).

2. What happened when Joshua’s died? (Judges 2.13; 6.25-32) _____

3. Who did Ahab marry? 1 Kings 16.29-33 _____

a) What was her heritage? _____

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- b) What did Ahab establish in Israel. _____
- c) Who did she entertain? 1K 18:19 _____
- d) What was Elijah’s challenge to the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel? 1 K 18.17-40

4. Who did the sons of Ahab, Ahaziah and Jehoram, follow? (1 K 22.51-53; 2 K 3.1-3)

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- 5. What happened to the 70 sons of Ahab? (2 Kings 10.1-10) _____
 - 6. Who was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel? 2 K 8.18, 25-27 _____
 - 7. Whom did she marry? 2 Ch 21.5-6 _____
 - 8. In whose steps did she follow? 2 K 11.1-21; 2 Ch 23.1-21 _____
 - 9. Jeremiah repeatedly denounced the evil influence of Baal worship by Israel. (Jeremiah 2.8; 7.9; 11.13,17; 12.16; 19.5; 23.13,27; 32.29,35)
 - 8. Other prophets. (Hosea 2.8; Zephaniah 1.4)

II. SOME SPIRITUAL LESSONS FROM THE STUDY OF BAAL

A. What is the biggest folly in the worship of idols? (See 1 Kings 18.25 -29; Psalm 115.3-8; Isaiah 37.18,19; 44.9,10; Jeremiah 10.1-5; Romans 1.18-25)

B. How could Baal worship be appealing to the Hebrews, the people of God?

C. To what extent did kings like Hezekiah (2 Chron 29.2, 10, 18) and Josiah (2 Chron 34.1-7, 21, 33) attempt to rid Judah of idolatrous worship?

Lesson Twenty-Two: ***HEZEKIAH: THE KING OF REVIVAL***

Introduction:

The special distinction given to Hezekiah beyond all other Judean kings, was that “he trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; he did not depart from following Him” (2 Kings 18.5-7).

The historical accounts of the life of Hezekiah are found in 2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 29-32 and Isaiah 36-39. We would do well to thoroughly read these chapters in preparation of this study.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF KING HEZEKIAH

A. Who was Hezekiah’s father and what was he like? 2 Kings 18.1 _____

B. How old was Hezekiah when he began his reign and how long did it last? 2 Kings 18.2 _____

C. Where did Hezekiah’s problems arise? 2 Chronicles 28.19, 22-25 _____

D. The Initial Religious Reforms of King Hezekiah:

1. What did Hezekiah remove from worship? 2 Kings 18.4 _____

2. What did Hezekiah do to the temple? 2 Chron 29.3, 11, 15-19 _____

3. What did Hezekiah restore? 2 Chron 29.20-36, esp. 31 _____

4. What did Hezekiah re-institute? 2 Chron 30.12-17 _____

5. What did Hezekiah reform? 2 Chron 31.1-6 _____

6. What did Hezekiah command? 2 Chron 31.11-19 _____

7. What did Hezekiah achieve? 2 Chron 31 .20,21 _____

E. What was Sennacherib’s threat against Judah- 2 Chron 32.1; Isaiah 36.4-7, 19-20 _____

1. How did Isaiah assure Hezekiah? Isaiah 37.1-7 _____

2. For what did Hezekiah’s pray? 2 Kings 19.14-19; Isaiah 37.15-20 _____

3. What was Isaiah’s response? 2 Kings 19.20-34; Isaiah 37.21-35 _____

4. How did it show courage? - 2 Chron 32.1-7 _____

5. What happened to Sennacherib? Isaiah 37.36-38 _____

F. What happened when Hezekiah became ill? 2 Kings 20.1-5

G. What sign did God give Hezekiah? Isa 38.8

H. What occurred because of Hezekiah's pride? 2 Kings 20.12-18; 2 Chron 32.25-31

I. What was Hezekiah's punishment? 2 Kings 20.16-21; 2 Chron 32.32, 33

II. SOME SPIRITUAL LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF HEZEKIAH

A. How was it that Hezekiah was not destined to follow the steps of his wicked father, Ahaz?

B. Who had a great influence on Hezekiah early in his reign? Why and how is this an important spiritual lesson? _____

C. How was Hezekiah able to accomplish such sweeping reforms in Judah? What was it he had to do to make these reforms succeed? _____

D. Do a little research on the Assyrian Empire. Just how large and how strong was this wicked empire? _____

E. How could Hezekiah develop such courage to face so a powerful kingdom? (cf. 2 Chron 32.2-8) _____

F. Why did Hezekiah want his life extended after hearing of his impending death? Was this selfish on his part? Why, or why not? _____

G. What is the significance of the shadow going back ten degrees instead of going forward ten degrees? _____

H. How did Hezekiah "lift his heart up" before the Lord? What he do that prevented God's wrath towards Judah? _____

Lesson Twenty-Three: **PHILEMON & ONESIMUS: FELLOW SLAVES FOR THE MASTER**

Introduction:

Slavery was very common in the Roman empire, and evidently many Christians were slaves. (cf. Eph 6.5-9; Col 3.22; 1 Tim 6.1,2; Tit 2.9; 1 Pet 2.18-21). In the Old Testament, God allowed and regulated slavery (Lev 25.39-46), especially for foreigners and captives in war. It is interesting to note that the New Testament does not specifically condemn slavery, but it does give instruction on the relationship which is to exist between masters and slaves.

The book of Philemon is indeed a masterpiece depicting the apostle Paul's fervent appeal to Philemon, a prominent member of the Colossian church, to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and accept him back as a brother in Christ. This much neglected book is filled with important spiritual lessons which should help us break down the barriers that exist because of racial, cultural, social and economic differences!

I. AN OUTLINE OF THE EPISTLE TO PHILEMON

- A. What did Paul think of Philemon? 1.1-3 _____
- B. Paul's thanksgiving and love for Philemon:
 - 1. How often did Paul pray for Philemon? 1.4 _____
 - 2. What did Paul hear of Philemon? 1.5-7 _____
- C. Paul's plea for Onesimus:
 - 1. Is Paul's appeal personal or a command? 1.8, 9 _____
 - 2. Who is Onesimus and where had Paul met him? 1.10 _____
 - 3. What law did God give in the OT about slavery? _____
Lev 25.39-46 _____
 - 4. What command did God give in the NT about slavery? _____
_____ 1Co 7.21-23
 - 5. What had Onesimus done? 1.11,12 ; 3.22-25 _____
 - 6. What other letter did Onesimus deliver? _____ Col 4.8-9
 - 7. What did Paul do for Onesimus ? 1.12-13 _____
 - 8. What did Paul ask Philemon to do for Onesimus? 1.18 _____
 - 9. On what would this depend? 1.14 _____
 - 10. How was Onesimus to be received? 1.15-21 _____
- D. Paul's farewell:
 - 1. What does Paul request from Philemon? 1.22-25 _____

II. SOME QUESTIONS & SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS

- A. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter, and was the approximate date?

- B. To whom was it written? _____
- C. What do we know about Philemon's background? _____

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D. What was the primary purpose of the letter? _____

E. What social and cultural barriers existed during the New Testament days that would make Christianity challenging?

E. What do we know about Philemon's spiritual and moral character?

F. How could Paul identify with Onesimus, a runaway slave?

G. How do the following themes apply to this wonderful epistle?

1. Forgiveness: _____

2. Repentance: _____

3. Respect: _____

4. Social/cultural Barriers: _____

5. Brotherly Intercession: _____

Lesson Twenty-Four: MOSES: THE CHOSEN LEADER & LIBERATOR

Introduction:

Undoubtedly Moses stands as not only one of the greatest characters of the Bible, but of history itself. Moses was a leader, so inspired by God, that he was able to build a nation from a race of oppressed and weary slaves, the Hebrews. So it was he, who God chose to serve as a prophet and deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and who was their leader and lawgiver during their years of wandering in the wilderness.

The account of his life is found in the Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Interestingly, Moses lived 120 years and his life can be divided into three major periods of 40 years each.

I. A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF MOSES

A. The forty Years in Egypt:

1. How long had the Hebrew people had been in slavery in Egypt ? _____

Gen 15. 13

2. How long were they in Egypt? _____ Ex 12.40

3. What order had Pharaoh given concerning male Hebrew children? Ex 1.15-22

4. Who were Moses parents? (Ex 6.20; Num 26.58,59)

5. How was Moses saved? _____ Ex 2.1-4

6. Who found Moses and raised him? _____ Ex 2.5,6; Acts 7.22

7. Who taught Moses in his earliest years? _____ Ex 2.7-10

8. At what age and why did Moses leave Egypt? _____

Ex 2.11-15; Acts 7.23-29)

B. The Forty Years in the Land of Midian:

1. How long was Moses' exile in Midian? _____ Ex 7.7 Acts 7.29

2. What did Moses do in Midian? _____ Ex 3.1-5

3. Whom did Moses marry? _____ Ex 2.16-25

4. What brought Moses' sojourn in Midian to an end? _____ Ex 3.1 -12

5. How did God reveal His intentions of delivering the Israelites from the Egyptians?

_____ Ex 3.19-22

6. Why was Aaron appointed to be Moses' spokesman? _____ Ex 4.10

7. What message do Moses and Aaron give to Pharaoh? _____ Ex 5.1

8. What is Pharaoh's reply? _____ Ex 5.2-9

9. What happened when Moses warned Pharaoh about his rejection? _____

_____ Ex 7.1-3

10. What were the ten plagues? _____ Ex 7.20-25 _____ Ex 8.1-7

_____ Ex 8.16-19 _____ Ex 8.20-22 _____ Ex 9.3-7

_____ Ex 9.8-12 _____ Ex 9.18-21 _____ Ex 10.4-7

_____ Ex 10.21-25 _____ Ex 11.4-7

11. What preparations did Israel make for the tenth plague? _____

_____ Ex 12.1-20

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12. How did the Israelites exit Egypt? _____
Ex 12.1, 31-36
13. How did the Israelites cross the Red Sea? _____
Ex 14.21-22
14. What was Miram's reply to the Song of Moses? _____ Ex 15.21
- C. The Forty Years in the Wilderness:**
1. Who complained to Moses ? _____ Ex 15.22 - 26
_____ Ex 16.1-3 _____ Ex 17.2
2. Who was Jethro and what was his advice to Moses regarding leadership?
_____ Ex 18.1, 14-23
3. Where was the camp at which God called to Moses from the mountain? _____ Ex 19.3
4. Who was allowed on the mountain? _____ Ex 19.23-24
(Exodus 19.1 - 20.17)
5. What did God tell Moses on the Mount? _____ Ex 20.1-17; 21.1
6. How long was Moses gone? _____ Ex 32.1
7. What did the people ask Aaron to do? _____ Ex 32.1-6
8. Who made the second set of tablets? _____ Ex 34.1
9. Where did the Israelites go after Sinai? _____ Num 13.26
10. What did the spies find? _____ Num 13.25-29
11. What did God do to punish them for their lack of faith? _____
_____ Num 14.26-38
12. How was Moses tested by the murmuring Israelites? _____ Num 16.3
13. What did God do to Korah and his companions? _____ Num 16.31-35
14. How did Moses sin against God and what resulted ? _____
_____ Num 20.8-12 Ps 106.33
15. How does Moses die? _____ Deu 34.1-8

II. SOME QUESTIONS & SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS

- A. What is the meaning of the name Moses? _____ Ex 2.10
- B. A high regard for Moses is seen throughout Israelite history. Discuss the following:
1. Joshua _____ Josh 1.1-18)
 2. Samuel _____ 1 Sam 12.6-8
 3. The writer of 1 Kings _____ 1 Kings 2.3
 4. The Psalmist _____ Ps 77.20; 99.6; 103.7; 106.16,32
 5. How many of the Psalms did Moses author? _____ Ps 90.1
 6. The Prophets _____
(Isaiah 63.12; Jeremiah 15.1; Micah 6.4; Malachi 4.4)
- C. Moses in the New Testament:
1. When did Jesus say the "law of Moses" would end? _____ Matt 5.17-19
Lk 24.44-45 Heb 9.21-24
 2. Who appeared at the transfiguration of Jesus? _____ Matt 17.1-4
 3. Discuss Stephen's defense and Moses _____ Acts 7.20-44
 4. How did the Hebrews writer portray Moses? _____ Heb 11.24-29

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D. What did Moses promise that Jesus fulfilled? _____
Deut. 18.15-19; Jn 1.17 Acts 3.22-23

Lesson Twenty-Five: JOSHUA: THE CONQUEST INTO THE PROMISED LAND

Introduction:

The account of Joshua is really the account of the history of Israel from the death of Moses to the conquest of Canaan. Once again God has chosen a man with highest devotion and honor to lead His people to the promised land.

Joshua was born in Egypt. He became Moses' right-hand man during the exodus and desert wanderings. He served as a military commander against Amalek (Exodus 17.8-13). In the law-giving at Sinai he was Moses' companion (Exodus 24.13). Joshua was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to survey the land. He and Caleb alone had the faith and courage to recommend taking the land (Numbers 14.6-10), and in consequence, they were the only ones to survive the forty years of wandering. Truly, they possessed a "different spirit" (Numbers 14.24). When Moses died, Joshua was an obvious choice to succeed him in leading the children of Israel (Deuteronomy 34.9).

I. A SYNOPSIS OF JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP IN THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

- A. What did God promise Joshua? _____ Josh 1.5
1. How close was Joshua to God? _____ Josh 1.9
3. Joshua's first instructions to Israel. (Josh 1.10-18)
- B. Joshua sends two spies into the city of Jericho.
1. What did Rahab do for the spies? _____ Josh 2.4-11
-
2. What oath did the spies make to Rahab? Josh 2.12-14 _____
-
- C. Joshua leads the Israelites across the Jordan River.
1. How did they cross the Jordan River? _____ 3.14-17
-
2. What did they set up as a memorial? _____ 4.1-7
-
3. Why was it necessary to circumcise Israel? _____ 5.1-8
-
4. Who was the Commander (captain) of the army? _____ 5.13-15
-
- D. How did the Israelites take Jericho? _____ 6.1-5, 15-21
-
- E. What was the sin of Achan? _____ 7.10-15, 20-21
-
- F. What resulted from Achan's sin? _____ 7.4-5, 25-26
-

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G. Joshua's dealings with the people of Gibeon.

1. How did Gibeon deceive Israel? _____ 9.1-15

2. What did Joshua do for Gibeon? _____ 10.6-11

H. How did Joshua conquer Canaan? _____ 10.40-43, 11.1-9, 16-23

I. What territories did the Lord give the Israelites? _____ 14.1-15

J. What warning did Joshua give in his farewell address. _____ 23.14-16

K. What choice did Joshua give the people in the covenant at Shechem. 24.14-15, 27

L. How old was Joshua at his death? _____ 24.29-31

Questions:

A. From which tribe did Joshua come? (provide scripture) _____

B. What is the meaning of *Joshua* and what New Testament name is a derivative of it?

C. What can be said the relationship that existed between Joshua and Moses? _____

D. What promises were given to Joshua by God?

E. Are there any negative qualities alluded to Joshua in any biblical account?

F. How many times is Joshua referred to in the New Testament? What is the context of each occurrence?

G. What compelled Joshua to make such a stirring farewell address to the people of Israel, and then renew the covenant at Shechem?

Lesson Twenty-Six: JOHN: THE DISCIPLE WHOM CHRIST LOVED

Introduction;

More than any other individual in the New Testament, a character study of the apostle John is a study that spans the first forty-sixty years of Christianity; in reality, a consideration of the history of Christ and His church in the First Century era. John was unique in that he was afforded the opportunity to be an eye witness of Jesus and His ministry, the establishment of the church and its initial growth; but also to personally witness the persecution inflicted upon Christians (including the martyrdom of his own brother, James) and watch eventual apostasy find its way into the Lord's body. Most scholars agree that John's letters were written either at 70 AD or near the end of the first century. His inspired perspective of the condition of the church then and his warnings regarding the future of the church are extremely important to us today.

I. SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF JOHN

A. What event occurred to make John heed His call to discipleship? _____
Mt 4.18-22; Mk 1.16-20; Lk 5.1-11

B. Who were the original apostles of Christ? _____
Mt 10.1-4

C. John is present when Jesus performs the following miracles:

1. What did Jesus do for Peter's mother-in-law? _____
Mk 1.29-34

2. What did Jesus do for Jairus' daughter? _____
Mk 5.21-24, 35-43

3. How did Jesus tell John to fish? _____ Lk 5.1-11; Jn 21.1-14

At what point in Jesus' ministry do these two catches occur? _____

4. Who was at the transfiguration of Jesus? _____
Mt 17.1-13

5. What did John say about the miracles of Jesus? Jn 20.30,31; 21.24,25

D. Was John tolerant of opposition? _____ Mk 9.38-41; Lk 9.51-56

E. What request did John's mother make and what was Jesus' answer? Mt 20.20-28

F. Who was sent to prepare the Passover meal for Jesus? _____ Luke 22.8-13

G. What disciples were near to Jesus in Gethsemane. _____ Mt 26.36-45

H. Where was John during the trial of Jesus? _____ Jn 18.15-18

I. Where was John at the crucifixion of Jesus? _____ Jn 19.25-27

J. What task did Jesus entrust to John? _____ Jn 19.25-27

Why? _____ Jn 7.5 Mt 13.55

K. How did John come to the empty tomb? _____ Jn 20.1-10

L. Who was present when Jesus revealed Himself at the Sea of Tiberias? Jn 21.1-14

M. Who witnessed the ascension of Christ? _____ Acts 1.1-14

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N. Who was present at the establishment of the church? _____
Acts 1.26 - 2.14, 41, 47

O. Who was present at the first recorded miracle by the apostles? _____ Acts 3.1-10

P. Who was arrested for preaching Jesus _____ Acts 4.1-4

Q. Who was sent to Samaria to give the disciples the Holy Spirit? _____ Acts 8.14-17

R. Who were the pillars of the church in Jerusalem? Gal 2.9 _____

S. How long would John live? _____ Jn 21.20-23

T. Where was John when he wrote the Revelation? _____ 1.9

U. What Books did John write? _____

II. SOME QUESTIONS & SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS

A. In your study of the background of John, what type of personality do you suppose he possessed? (Please cite references to support your answer.) _____

B. What name did Jesus give to John, and his brother James? Mk 3.17 Would the account in Luke 9.51-56 be a good example of this?

C. List the accounts where John and Peter are together. What do you think this suggests about their relationship?

D. Why was John suspect of the man casting out demons in Christ's name in Mark 9.38? What lessons can we learn from this today?

E. Though Jesus found it necessary to rebuke John on a few occasions because of his tendency toward intolerance, what kind of relationship existed between Jesus and John? (Please give examples.)

F. What does Jesus entrusting John with the care of His mother, Mary, suggest about their relationship? John 19.25-27 _____

H. What makes John's gospel account different from Matthew, Mark and Luke?

I. What is the primary concern of John's 3 short epistles? (see 1 John 2.1&23; 1 John 4,1-3; 2 John 7-11) Who espoused this heresy?

J. Why was John on the island of Patmos, and what did he receive there

Lesson Twenty-Seven: THE HERODIAN FAMILY

Introduction:

The name “Herod” is associated with several Roman rulers in the region of Palestine in the periods shortly before the birth of Jesus and throughout the First Century AD. The Herodians were not of Jewish ancestry, but were actually the descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob, who were known as the Edomites. The Edomites had settled to the south of the Dead Sea in the region of Mt. Seir. In about 300 BC they were driven out of this territory by the Nabataeans. They then migrated to the west and settled in the southern part of Palestine, which came to be known as Idumaea. [The people were known as Idumaeans, a Greek form for the Edomites.]

The first ancestor of the Herodian line that was of any importance was an Idumaeans named Antipas (d. 78 BC). Hasmonean king, Alexander Jannaeus, appointed Antipas to be the governor of Idumaea. Antipas was succeeded by his son, Antipater, the father of Herod the Great. Antipater was a man of great ambition and saw an opportunity to gain power in the declining Hasmonean house. In 69 BC, when John Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II were both seeking to gain the throne, Antipater sided with Hyrcanus and persuaded him to seek the aid of the Romans. When Pompey came against Jerusalem in 63 BC, Hyrcanus aided the Romans. Consequently, Hyrcanus was made ruler of Judea and Antipater became governor of Idumaea. Interestingly, after Pompey’s defeat by Julius Caesar, Caesar gave Antipater more power than Hyrcanus by making Antipater procurator of all Judea. This marks the beginning of Herodian Family influence in the land of Palestine. Of Antipater’s four sons, it was Herod the Great who became famous in biblical history because he was the ruler in Judea when Jesus was born. All the descendants of Herod the Great down to the fourth generation, who were identified with the government of Palestine and are mentioned in the New Testament, are known in history by the surname Herod:

Herod Archelaus, Herod Antipas, Herod Philip II, Herod Agrippa I, and Herod Agrippa II.

I. SYNOPSIS OF THE HERODIAN FAMILY

A. Herod the Great [37-4 BC]

1. His “greatness” refers not so much to his character, but that he was the eldest son of Antipater. He did show some unusual abilities: a ruthless fighter, a cunning negotiator, a subtle diplomat, and architectural taste and ability.
2. After raising tribute money for Rome, he was soon made ruler of Judea in 41 BC.
3. In 40 BC, his rule temporarily interrupted when a son of Aristobulus (a Hasmonean) named Antigonus overran Judea and Herod had to evacuate Palestine. He went to Rome and won the favor of Antony and Augustus and obtained the crown in 37 BC, then went back into Judea and took Jerusalem by storm driving out all of the Hasmoneans.
4. Intensely fearful of the Hasmoneans, he executed his brother-in-law, Aristobulus, whom he had earlier appointed as high priest; his wife Mariamne and her mother. Shortly before his own

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death he had his own sons by Mariamne (Aristobulus and Alexander) strangled to death. Of Herod it was said, “It is better to be Herod’s hog than to be his son.” (Ant. 15.7.1-7; Wars 2.11.6)

5. Herod the Great went through ten marriages and had fifteen children. This would only aggravate the struggle for the succession of the throne after his death!

6. His architectural success: rebuilt the city of Samaria, including his own temple within Samaria; Herod’s Palace in Jerusalem; the temple in Jerusalem which the main part was begun in 19 BC and completed in 18 months, but the final touches were still being added in the days of Christ’s ministry.

How long did the Jews say the temple was in construction? _____ John 2.20

7. His most infamous act was recorded. What was it? _____ Mt 2.16-18)

8. Herod the Great died in 4 BC. One of Herod’s most infamous crimes occurred when he was on his deathbed. He ordered “*that all the principal men of the entire Jewish nation*” be shut up in the hippodrome and surrounded by soldiers. He ordered that immediately after his own death that they should all be killed, that it might seemingly, at least, afford “*the honor of a memorable mourning at his funeral.*” (Ant. 17.6.5; Wars 1.33.6)

What significant Biblical event was marked by his death? _____ Mt 2.13-15

B. The Sons of Herod the Great:

1. Herod Archelaus (4 BC - 6 AD), the eldest of the three sons who succeeded Herod the Great in the government of Palestine. Augustus refused him royalty and instead appointed him ethnarch over one-half of his father’s kingdom, including Samaria, Judea and Idumaea, promising him full kingship if law and order prevailed. It would not happen.

a) History records the atrocities during his rule. During one Passover he killed 3000 Jews “*till the temple was full of dead bodies: and all this was done, not by alien, but by one who pretended to the lawful title of king.*” (Ant. 17.9.5)

b) Archelaus was deposed in the tenth year of his government and banished to Vienna in Gaul (France), where he died.

c) What Biblical action was associated with him? _____ Mt 2.22

2. Herod Antipas (6-39 AD), began ruling over Galilee and the transjordan area of Perea after the death of his father, Herod the Great.

a) He was first married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian king of Petrae. But he became infatuated with Herodias, who was the granddaughter of Herod the Great (Lev 18.11), sister of Herod Agrippa I, and the wife (Lev 20.17) and niece of his half-brother, Herod Philip I. Notwithstanding, they still eloped!

What did John the Baptist have to say about this incest? Mt 14.6-12; Mark 6.21-29; Luke 3.19,20

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b) Jesus and Antipas:

- 1) What did Jesus think of Herod's influence? _____ Mark 8.15
- 2) What did Herod want to do to Jesus? _____ Luke 13.3 1-33
- 3) What resulted in the friendship of Herod and Pilate _____ Lk 23.6-12

c) When Caius Caligula became emperor of Rome he was biased toward Herod Agrippa I (Antipas' nephew). Antipas and Agrippa had been bitter enemies for years. In 37 AD, the emperor made Agrippa king and so Herodias prevailed upon Antipas to travel to Rome to demand similar favor. By Agrippa's cunningness Antipas was accused of high treason and banished to Lyons in Gaul, where he died in great misery.

3. **Herod Philip** (d. 34 AD), was the son of Herod the Great and Cleopatra of Jerusalem. Named only once in the Bible (Luke 3.1), he is referred to as a Tetrarch. He was probably the best of the surviving sons of Herod the Great. During his long and peaceful rule, he was responsible for a number of building projects, including the city of Caesarea Philippi.

4. Herod **Agrippa I** (37-44 AD), was the son of Bernice and Aristobulus, a son of Herod the Great. Remember, Herod the Great killed his sons in his fear of the Hasmonean line. Yet, through the Agrippas the Hasmoneans came to great glory again!

a) Born in 10 BC, he was the child of two first cousins and was himself married to another first cousin, who again was married to an uncle!

b) The Jewish historian, Josephus, refers to him as "Agrippa the Great." (Ant. 17.2.2; 18.5.4).

c) What was he called in the New Testament? _____ Acts 12.1
_____ Acts 12.6,11,19-23

d) Educated in Rome with Claudius, Agrippa I showed great shrewdness and tact.

e) After his uncle, Herod Antipas, had been banished in 39 AD, he was given the territories of Galilee and Perea to rule. The following year he received Judea and Samaria as well.

f) He mixed evil with generosity and was very tactful to the Jews, taking sides against the Christians.
What did he do to the apostle James? _____ Acts 12.1-3
What did he do to Peter? _____ Acts 12.3-19

g) How did he die ? _____ Acts 12.20-24

5. **Herod Agrippa II (44-100 AD), the son of Agrippa I**, was only seventeen years old when his father died. Claudius considered him too young to rule and placed the country under the care of a Roman procurator, Cuspius Fadus. Later, Agrippa II was given certain territories, including a considerable area east of the Sea of Galilee.

a) He received a royal education in the palace of the emperor himself (Claudius)

b) Claudius extended to him all the territories of Philip and Lysanias. Later (52 AD), Nero added some Galilean and Perea cities to his domain. He was probably known as king to more

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people in the greater Palestine area than any other Herodian!

c) Agrippa II emerged in the New Testament in connection with the apostle Paul.

How did this occur? _____ Acts 25.13

In what did Paul say he was an expert? _____ Acts 26.1-32

d) His relationship to his sister Bernice was a scandal among the Jews and Gentiles alike! There is reason to believe they lived in an incestuous relationship (Lev 18.9).

e) With the fall of the Jewish nation in 70 AD, Agrippa's authority in Palestine (and all other areas) was over. He had warned the Jews against their planned rebellion against Rome, but to no avail. However, Rome remembered his loyalty and allowed he and Bernice to live in Rome. Agrippa II died in 100 AD, at the age of seventy, in the beginning of Trajan's reign.

11. **SOME QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

A. Technically speaking, was there any Jewish blood in the Herodian family?

B. What unfortunate characteristic precipitated Herod's massacre of the infant boys?

C. What moral flaws were prevalent in all of the Herodians?

A Summary of the Herodians

Herod the Great, ruled 40-4 BC (had 7 wives but only following 5 were noteworthy)

Mt 2:1-22 (rebuilt temple and executed infants in Bethlehem)

1. Doris

Antipater (executed 10 days prior to father's death)

2. Mariamne I (Executed by Herod, 28 BC)

Aristobulis executed at father's command, 7 BC

Herod Agrippa I, ruled 41-44 AD

killed James, imprisoned Peter Acts 12:1-6, 19-23

King Agrippa II Acts 25:13-27 Acts 26:1-32

Bernice Acts 25:13-23 Acts 26:30

Drusilla (Felix' wife) Acts 24:24

Herodias

married Herod Philip, her half-uncle Mt 14:3, 6

married Herod Antipas, her half-uncle Mk 6:17-28 Lk 3:19

Alexander executed at father's command, 7 BC

5. Mariamne II

Herod Philip (married Herodias and divorced by her)

Mt 14:3 Mk 6:17 Lk 3:19

6. Malthace (a Samaritan)

Archelaus (Ethnarch of Judea 4BC-6AD, then banished to Gaul) Mt 2:22

Herod Antipas (Tetrarch of Galilee 4 BC-39 AD)

Beheaded John the Baptist Mt 14:1-11 Mk 6:14-28 Lk 3:1, 19 Mk 8:15 Lk 9:7; 13:31-32; 23:7-12 Acts 4:27

7. Cleopatra (not **THE** Cleopatra of Egyptian fame)

Philip (Tetrarch of Iturea 4 BC-34 AD) Wife Salome Lk 3:1

Lesson Twenty-Eight: AARON: “THE SAINT OF THE LORD”

Introduction:

Aaron, the brother of Moses, occupies an interesting position in the history of the Hebrew nation. We first read of Aaron when God enlisted him to accompany Moses to Egypt. (Ex 4.14, 27) Clearly, Aaron was an important leader of Israel as he worked by the side of his brother; God ordained him as the first High Priest for Israel with his descendants succeeding him. He was referred to as “*the saint of the Lord*” (Psalm 106.16) because of his priestly duties. Sadly, however, Aaron possessed some character weaknesses (as all of the great characters of God but one), and at one point even succumbed to the will of the people and became involved in idolatry. Later, he sinned with his brother and was not allowed to enter the promised land.

I. SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF AARON

A. Family Background:

1. Aaron's name means *enlightened* or bright
2. Who were his parents? _____ Ex 6.16-27
3. What was his sister's name? _____ Ex 15.7
4. What were his son's names? _____ Ex 6.23
5. How much older was Aaron than Moses? _____ Ex 7.7

B. Aaron's Leadership Role:

1. What and who made Aaron Moses' mouthpiece (prophet). _____
_____ Ex 4.1-16; 7.1,2
2. What was Aaron's role while Moses was receiving the law on Mt. Sinai?
_____ Ex 24.14
3. What was Aaron's role in the priesthood and the tabernacle? _____
_____ Ex 28.1-3; 29.42-44; 30.19-21 ; Num 18.1-7; 1Chron
6.49)
4. What was Aaron's role in the wilderness? _____ Num 15.33

C. Aaron and the Golden Calf (Ps 106.19-21):

1. What was Aaron's role in making the calf and the feast? _____ Ex 32.1-5
2. Who does Aaron blame for the sin? _____ Ex 32.7-28
3. Who interceded for the people and for Aaron? _____ Ex 32.30-34; Deut 9.20

D. Aaron spoke against Moses (Numbers 12):

1. Why did Aaron and Miriam speak against Moses? _____ Num 12.1
2. What did they question ? _____ Num 12.2
3. Who intervened on Moses' behalf? _____ Num 12.3-9
4. What happened to Miriam and Aaron? _____ Num 12.11,12
5. What do Moses do about this? _____ Num 12.13-15

E. Aaron and the water of Meribah (Numbers 20):

1. Why did the Israelites murmur at Meribah? _____ Num 20.1-4
2. What did the Lord command Moses and Aaron? _____ Num 20.8
3. What happened to Aaron because of his sin? _____ Num 20.11-24

F. What happened at Aaron's death? _____

- _____ Num 20.22-29; 33.38,39; Deut 10.6; 32.50

II. SOME QUESTIONS & SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS

A. Why was Aaron selected to go with Moses to Egypt? What did God mean when He told Moses that Aaron would be his "prophet?" _____

B. What duties did Aaron have as High Priest? Who is our High Priest today? (please supply Scriptures) _____

C. How is the priesthood today superior to the priesthood of the law of Moses? (see Hebrews 7)

D. What kind of leadership did Aaron display while Moses was on Mt. Sinai?

E. How can idolatry be a problem for Christians? How can we avoid idolatry?

F. Why did Aaron & Miriam find fault with Moses?

G. Why was Aaron not allowed to enter the promised land?

H. Why do you suppose Aaron was punished with Moses in Numbers 20?

I. Are leaders of God's people even more accountable to God's law? Why, or why not?

J. How old was Aaron when he died?

Lesson Twenty-Nine: *JUDAS ISCARIOT: THE KISS THAT BLISTERED*

Introduction:

Without doubt, the individual whose name shall live in infamy more than any other Biblical character is Judas Iscariot. His name is synonymous with “traitor.” When he is listed with the other apostles, he is usually identified as the one who betrayed Jesus. His personality was obviously flawed (though his reputation was concealed by the Lord), and his life ended tragically. But, Judas Iscariot had as much opportunity to be a faithful and loyal disciple of Christ as any of the other apostles. He made his choices, and God used those choices to fulfill His will!

I. SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

A. Name and Early History:

1. Judas Iscariot: “Judas man of Kerioth.”
 - a. Judas in Hebrew means praise.
 - b. Kerioth is a town believed to have been located in south Judea. Jer 48.40
2. Who was Judas’ father? _____ John 6.71; 13.2,26
3. To what office was he appointed? _____ Matt. 10.1-4; Mk 3. 14-19; Lk 6.13-16

B. His Character:

1. How early did Jesus know Judas’ real character? _____ Jn 6.66-71
2. What events marked his character as greedy? _____ Jn 12.1-8
3. Who influenced him? _____ Mark 14.10; John 13.2; cf. 1 Cor. 10.13
4. From what office did he fall? _____ Acts 1.25

C. The Betrayal:

1. Who put it in Judas’ heart to betray the Lord? _____ John 13.2
2. At the last supper, how was Judas’ betrayal displayed _____
_____ John 13.10-11,18,26; Matt. 26.21-25
3. What did Judas get for the betrayal? _____
Matt. 26.14-16; Mk 14.10-11; Lk 22.1-6
4. Who led the multitude to arrest Jesus? _____
Matt. 26.47-50; Mark 14.43-45; Luke 22.47-48; John 18.2-5)
 - a) What was the sign of the betrayal ? _____ Matt. 26.48-49
 - b) What did Jesus ask about this sign? _____ Luke 22.48
 - c) Was the betrayal necessary? _____ Jn 18.4,5 Acts 1.16
 - d) What did the betrayal fulfill? _____ Psalm 41.9; Zech. 11.12,13

D. The Death of Judas

1. How did Judas die? _____ Matt. 27.3-5
How can we reconcile that with Luke’s account _____ Acts 1.18
2. Why couldn’t the chief priests put the silver into the treasury? _____ Mt. 27.6
3. What was the money used for? _____
Acts 1.18-19 Matt. 27.6,7; Zech. 11.12,13)
4. How does Peter refer to him? _____ Acts 1.16
5. Who replaced him? _____ Ps 109.8; Acts 1.20-26

II. SOME QUESTIONS & SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS

A. What seems to have been the central character flaw in Judas? Cite passages.

B. Do you believe that Judas truly possessed the power of choice, or was it his sealed fate that he would betray Jesus? What does it mean when it says that the Devil put it in his heart to betray Jesus?

C. Why do you suppose Jesus did not expose Judas for what he really was?

D. After betraying Jesus, Judas seemed remorseful. What kind of repentance did he display? See Matt. 27.3-5 & 2 Cor. 7.9-11)

E. Did Jesus resist when the soldiers came to arrest Him? Why, or why not?

F. What can be concluded about Judas' suicide?

G. Discuss the following principles:

1. We like Judas have been called to serve the Lord.
2. Many try to hide their dishonesty under a cloak of religion.
3. We cannot deceive the Lord by hypocrisy.
4. People will deny the Lord for insignificant gain.
5. Those who would cause us to deny our Lord have little concern for us.

Lesson Thirty: *ELISHA: A DOUBLE PORTION OF POWER*

Introduction:

Perhaps one of the favorite prophets to study is Elisha because of the incredible miracles God performed through him. Elisha ministered for about 50 years in the northern kingdom of Israel, serving God during the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Joash. [c. 850-800 BC] Elisha's work consisted of presenting the word of God through prophecy, advising kings, anointing kings, helping the needy, and performing several miracles.

Elisha was the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah, a town between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea on the western side of the Jordan rivers. Elijah found Elisha plowing with a team of oxen. As Elijah walked past Elisha, he threw his mantle over the younger man's shoulders. Elisha immediately recognized this as a call to ministry and left his family to follow Elijah. He was given a double portion of Elijah's spirit, making him a mighty worker of miracles.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE LIFE OF ELISHA THE PROPHET

A. The beginning of Elisha's ministry:

1. What was God's instruction to Elijah? 1K 19.11-21 _____
2. What did the sons of the prophets know about Elijah's ministry? 2K 2.1-8 _____

3. What did Elisha ask Elijah for? 2K 2.9,10 _____
4. How did Elisha know if he had a "double portion" of Elijah's spirit? 2K 2.11-18

 - a. How did Elisha cross over the Jordan? 2Kings 2.12-14 _____
 - b. What did the sons of the prophets do when they recognized Elisha's power? 2K 2. 15

5. How did Elisha confirm his prophetic office? _____
 - a. What miracle did Elijah perform at Jericho? 2K 2.14 _____
 - b. What mistake did the youths make at Bethel? 2K 2.23-25 _____
 - c. Were Elijah and Elisha known at Bethel? _____

B. Moab rebels against the king of Israel, Jehoram.

1. From whom does Jehoram seek assistance? 2K 3.6-10

2. What troubles do they encounter? 2K3.6-12

3. What is Elisha's initial response? 2K3.13-14 _____
4. What is Elisha's plan and its result? 2K3.15-27 _____

C. Miracles and works performed by the power of God through Elisha:

1. What did Elisha do for the son of the prophet's widow? 2K 4.1-7 _____

2. Elisha and the Shunammite woman 2K 4.8-37

-
- a. What had she done for Elisha on his frequent trips by Shunem. 2K 3.8,9

- b. What did Elisha tell her her reward would be? 2K 3.12-17

- c. What led her to travel to Mt. Carmel? 2K 3.18-37

3. What did Elisha do when there was famine? 2K 4.38-41 _____

4. What did Elisha do for the men from Baal Shalishah? 2K 4.42-44

5. Naaman the leper.
a. How was Naaman healed? 2K 5.1-14 _____
b. How did Naaman show his appreciation? 2K 5.15-19 _____
c. 2K 5.18-19 pose an ethical problem. How do you explain this? _____

- d. What did Gehazi want and what was the result? 2K 5.20-27

6. How did the sons of the prophets retrieve their ax? 2K 6.1-7 _____
7. How did the king of Israel learn Aram's plans? 2K 6.8-12 _____
8. What happened when Aram came to Dothan? 2K 6.13-20 _____

- a. What was Elisha's counsel? 2K 6.16 _____
9. The terrible famine in Samaria.
a. What were the conditions in Samaria? 2K 6.24-29 _____

- b. What did the king want to do to Elisha, and what was Elisha's response? 2K 6.30-7.2

- c. What did the four lepers find and what did they do? 2K 7.3-20 _____

10. Of what did Elisha warn the Shunammite woman? 2K 8.1-6 _____
11. How did Hazael become king? 2K 6.8-15 _____
a. Why did Elisha weep? _____
b. Who did Hazael kill? _____
12. How was Jehu anointed as king of Israel? 2K 9.1-13 _____
13. Who reigned between Jehu and Jehoash 2K 10.35 _____
14. What kind of king was Jehoash? 2K 13.10-11 _____
- D. Elisha's death
1. Why did Jehoash weep over Elisha. 2K 13.14 _____
2. Why was Elisha upset at the number of times Joash struck the ground? _____
2K 3.19 _____

3. What did Elisha's bones do? 2K 13. 20,21 _____

II. SOME QUESTIONS & SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS

A. What do we know about the physical characteristics of Elisha?

B. What do you think of Elisha's request of Elijah? Why do you suppose he made such a request?

C. What can be concluded about mocking a true prophet of God?

D. What made Jehoshaphat more righteous than Jehoram?

E. Which account of Elisha is your favorite, and why?

F. What was the purpose of Elisha's miracles? For whose benefit were they done?

G. What can be said about the overall spiritual condition of Israel at this time? Please discuss the near-future problems Israel was going to face.

Lesson Thirty-One: THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL

Introduction:

The period of time in which Joshua led the children of Israel as they conquered the land of Canaan is an illustration of confidence towards God and submissive obedience of His will. Sadly, in utter contrast to this was what occurred soon after the death of Joshua. The book of Judges shows how Israel had set aside God’s law and in its place every man substituted “*what was right in his own eyes*” Judges 17.6; 21.25.

In the nearly 400 years represented in this book, Israel finds itself repeating distinct cycles of sin prompted by their own idolatry, and then deliverance given to them by God as He would raise up military champions to throw off the yoke of bondage and oppression they experienced as the result of their spiritual infidelity. Even though the nation would be restored to pure worship, all too soon the “sin cycle” would begin again as the nation would turn to the worthless idols of the surrounding nations.

The 12 judges considered in the book of Judges are: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon and Samson.

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

I. Historical Background

A. In the previous years under the direction of Joshua, Israel had experienced great success as the obedient people of God. However, Joshua was well aware of their weaknesses and warned them of the danger of idolatry.

1. What did Joshua warn in his farewell address? Josh 23.14-16 _____

2. What choice did Joshua offer at the meeting at Shechem? Joshua 24.15 _____

3. How old was Joshua when he made this statement? Josh 24.29 _____

B. The continuing conquest of Canaan:

1. Why did Judah capture Jerusalem? Judges 1.1-8 _____

2. How would Jerusalem become important to Israel? _____ Zech 8.3

3. What did the tribe of Benjamin fail to do that would create later problems of Israel? 1.21 _____

C. The death of Joshua.

1. What happened immediately after the death of Joshua? _____ 2.10-11

2. What did God do for Israel when calamity befell them? _____ 2.14-19

II. The Judges of Israel

A. OTHNIEL 3.7-11

1. To whom did Israel become captive during this period? _____

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2. Who was Othniel's older brother? _____
3. How long did Israel enjoy rest? _____
- B. EHUD
1. Who did the Lord strengthen to defeat Israel? _____ 3.12-14
2. Why did Ehud go to Eglon?
_____ 3.17-18
3. How did Ehud assassinate king Eglon and defeat the Moabites?
_____ 3.16-29
4. How many years did Israel enjoy rest? _____ 3.30
- C. SHAMGAR 3.31
1. What is the only action recorded about Shamgar?

- D. DEBORAH
1. Who was oppressing Israel during this period of time, and for how long?
_____ 4.2-3
2. What was Deborah besides a judge? _____ 4.4
3. Who was Barak, and what arrangement did he make with Deborah?
_____ 4.4-10
4. Who was the commander of Jabin's army? _____ 4.7
5. Who was Jael, and what role did she serve in bringing about the fall of the Canaanites?
_____ 4.17-22
6. How long did Israel enjoy rest? _____ 5.31
- E. GIDEON 6.1 - 8.35
1. Who was oppressing Israel at this time, and for how long? _____ 6.1
2. Who was Gideon and what was he doing when called? _____ 6.11
3. What sign did God give Gideon?
_____ 6.17-24

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5. What had Gideon done to create such an uproar of the men in the city?
_____ 6.28-32
4. What did Gideon request of God that he might know that the Lord was truly with him?
_____ 6.36-38
5. What was the second sign Gideon requested of the Lord?
_____ 6.39-40
6. How were the 300 valiant men selected by Gideon? _____
_____ 7.2-8
7. How were the Midianites defeated? _____
_____ 7.9-23
8. What confrontation did Gideon the men of Succoth and Penuel?
_____ 8.4-17
9. What confrontation did Gideon have with Zebah and Zalmunna?
_____ 8.18-21
10. What had become a snare to the house Gideon? _____
_____ 8.27
11. What wicked thing did Abimelech, the son of Gideon, do? 9.1-57
_____ 8.35-9.6
11. How did God repay the wickedness of Abimelech?
_____ 9.50-57

F. TOLA

1. What do we know about Tola?
_____ 10.1,2

H. JEPHTHAH

1. What trouble was there in Jephthah's family background?
_____ 11.1-3
2. Who made war against Israel at this time? _____ 11.4
3. What vow did he make if God would give Israel victory? _____
_____ 11.30-31

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4. How could Jephthah honor this vow without violating an obvious command of God?
cf., Lev. 18.21; Deut. 18.10

_____ 11.34-40

5. What problem did Jephthah have with the tribe of Ephraim?

_____ 12.1-6

I. IBZAN, ELON, & ABDON

1. What do we know about Ibzon? _____ 12.8-10

2. What do we know about Elon? _____ 12.11-12

3. What do we know about Abdon? _____ 12.13-15

J. SAMSON

1. What Gentile nation rose up against Israel at the time of Samson's birth?

_____ 13.1

2. What do we know about Samson's family? _____

_____ 13.2

3. What was involved in the Nazarite vow?

_____ Num 6.1-21

4. For what did Manoah ask? How did God answer him? _____ 13.8-14

5. Discuss Samson's relationship with his wife and her Gentile family... How was this a problem?

_____ 14.3, 19- 5.2

6. Discuss Samson's relationship with Delilah... How was this a problem?

_____ 16.4-21

7. How did Samson die? _____

_____ 16.22-30

Lesson Thirty-Two: ABIGAIL: Beauty doesn't always marry brains.

Picking a mate is always fraught with problems. Picking a good looking mate who is mean or evil can have devastating problems, even if he is rich. At the time of this story, parents sought out men for their daughters and both parents probably thought they had done well. The beautiful, bright girl marries the rich son and then what happens?

Rom 15:4 *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

I. The Story of Abigail

What lessons can we learn from this delightful story?

1. Choose your mate carefully.

What kind of man did Abigail marry? 1Sam 25.3 _____

What kind of woman was Abigail? 1Sam 25.3 _____

2. We need to remember to be kind to those who have helped us, even if we have not asked them to do so.

A. What had David done for Nabal? 1Sam 25.14-16 _____

B. What did David request? 1Sam 25.5-8 _____

3. We need to listen carefully when someone asks us for something.

A. What was Nabal's reply? 1Sam 25.11 _____

4. Sometimes you have gotten a good deal and don't realize it.

A. What was Abigail going offer to save her husband's life? 1Sam 25.18

A. What had David protected for Nabal? 1Sam 25.2

5. Both men and the Lord appreciate initiative to prevent evil.

A. What was the opinion of Nabal's employees about him? 1Sam 25.17

6. There is no harm in doing good to prevent evil from befalling someone else.

Did Abigail ask Nabal what she should do 1Sam 25.19 _____

7. Sometimes humility will prevent another from taking action against you.

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A. What tactic did Abigail use to calm David's anger? 1Sam 25.23-28

B. What was David's response to Abigail's entreaty? 1Sam 25.32

8. Terror or anger can have serious consequences.

A. Which provoked this paralytic stroke? _____ 1Sam 25.36-38

9. Good first impressions are important.

What resulted from the good impression Abigail had on David 1Sam 25.32-35, 39-42

10. When your family serves the Lord, He will preserve you.

What valuable lesson can we learn from what Abigail said about David? 1Sam 25.28

Num 6:24-26 2Co 13:14

Lesson Thirty-Two: ***THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD***

Introduction:

None of us chose to be born. We were not afforded the opportunity to control the appearance we would assume, nor were we able to choose into what kind of family we would be born and raised. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, chose to leave the glories of heaven and come to this world of sin in human form that He might redeem mankind from the dilemma of sin.

Long before this universe came into existence, before Adam and Eve ever strolled the Garden of Eden, God had been thinking about us; a silent thought in the mind of God, eternity planned before one day of human history was ever recorded: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will*” (Eph 1.3-5).

We have studied many interesting characters of the Bible in this class: some who were spiritual champions, others who failed to walk after God, but all of them have allowed us to look at ourselves a little closer and realize the importance of lovingly and faithfully serving God. So now we come to Jesus Christ, the fulcrum of our existence and the only hope of eternal salvation! After examining His life and influence on others, we will come to the inescapable conclusion that the Roman centurion reached: *“Truly this was the Son of God!”* (Matt 27.54).

I. FROM HEAVEN TO BETHLEHEM

A. But, oh, how He came, not as an archangel, not as a king, not as a military leader, nor as a wealthy person; but as a baby born in a barn to a simple Jewish family. As an infant he was susceptible to sickness, harm and a godless king who wanted Him dead.

1. His birth and surrounding events fulfilled specific prophecy:

a) Jesus was to be of what lineage? (Gen., 3.15 Gal. 4.4,5; Rev. 12.5) _____

b) What differences do you see in Jesus’ genealogy? Matt. 1.1-17; Luke 3.23-38;

c) How was Jesus’ birth miraculous? (Isa. 7.14; Micah 5.3 Matt. 1.23; Luke 1.26-35) _____

d) Where was Jesus’ birthplace? (Micah 5.2 Matt. 2.1-6; Luke 2.4; John 7.42)

e) Who died as a result of Jesus’ birth? (Jer. 31.15 Matt. 2.17,18) _____

f) Where did Jesus’ family flee? (Hosea 11.1 Matt. 2.15) _____

2. Thought for discussion: Think about the above people involved in this plan and the various events which occurred. How hard did Satan try to prevent the first coming of Jesus Christ?

B. Leaving the glories of heaven, He demonstrated great humility:

1. What can be said about Christ’s spiritual nature, especially before He came to this earth? Had He been limited by time, people and circumstances? Phil 2.5-8

2. What can we conclude about His nature after reading John 1.1-3, 14; 8.4-5,9; Heb,

1.1-9? (see Col. 2.9,10)

-
3. Why did Jesus come to earth? (Matt. 1.21; 9.12,13)
 - a) Which of the “Great Characters” of the Bible deserved Jesus’ death? _____
 - b) Did Jesus know what was needed to save people from sin? (Isa. 53.1-12; Matt. 16.21; John 3.9-21) _____
 4. In humility He showed us what is important!
 - a) What is the importance of material things? Matt. 6.19-21 _____
 - b) Did Jesus do His own will? (Matt. 1.22,23; 5.17) _____
 - c) What did Jesus emphasize for us? Phil. 2.5-11 _____
 - c) How can we fulfill Scripture in our lives? _____

II. A CHILD DESTINED FOR THE FALL AND RISE OF MANY

A. We know very little about the events of the life of Jesus during His youth. What we do know is mainly recorded in Matthew 2 & Luke 2. Yet, what is recorded gives us tremendous insight to the significant purpose of His life. When Simeon blessed Mary and Jesus, he said, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel and for a sign which will be spoken against” (Luke 2.34).

B. A brief chronology of the young life of Jesus:

1. Where was He born? (Luke 2.1-7) _____
 2. Who was told of His birth? (Luke 2.8-20) _____
 3. When was Jesus circumcised? (Luke 2.21) _____
 4. What happened when He was presented at the temple? (Luke 2.22-38) _____
 5. How many searched for Him? (Matt. 2.1-6) _____
 6. What did Herod tell the magi? (Matt. 2.7-12) _____
 7. Where did Jesus’ parents take Him? (Matt. 2.13-15) _____
 8. What did Herod do to the children in Bethlehem? (Matt. 2.16-18) _____
 9. Where did Jesus return to and grow up? (Matt. 2.19-23; Luke 2.39) _____
 10. What happened when Jesus was 12? (Luke 2.41-50) _____
 11. If Jesus was God, how did He grow in wisdom and stature. (Luke 2.51,52) _____
-

III. A PRELUDE TO JESUS’ MINISTRY: HIS BAPTISM & TEMPTATION

A. The baptism of Jesus - - Matt. 4.13-17

1. Why was it important for Jesus to be baptized? _____
2. What announcement was made, and who made it? _____

B. The wilderness of temptation - - Luke 4.1-13 [Matt. 4.1-11]

1. What was Jesus’ 1st temptation?: _____
2. What was Jesus’ answer? Deut. 8.3 _____
3. What was Jesus’ 2nd temptation? _____
4. What was Jesus’ answer- Deut. 6.13 _____
5. What was Jesus’ 3rd temptation? _____
6. What was Jesus’ answer- Deut. 6.16 _____

- C. Some facts about Satan's use of temptation:
1. What happened just previous to Jesus' temptation? (Mark 1.9-13) _____
 2. Does Satan wait for only a weak time to tempt? (Luke 4.2) _____
 3. What does Satan use to tempt? (2 Cor. 2.11; 1 John 2.15-17) _____
 4. To what will Satan appeal? (2 Cor. 11.14,15) _____
 5. If we resist, will Satan return? (Luke 4.13). _____

IV. TWELVE MEN CALLED TO BE APOSTLES

A, Certainly a study of each of the apostles could be a series of character studies in and of itself, though we have very little information on most of the men.

1. Read Luke 5.1-11,27-32; 6.12-16
2. Jesus hand-picked 12 men with diverse backgrounds to be personal witnesses of the Son of God and to proclaim the most important message in the world. (Human reasoning would think this disastrous!)
 - a) What were Peter, Andrew, James & John? _____
 - b) What was Matthew? _____
 - c) What was Simon? _____
 - d) What was Judas Iscariot? (John 12.4-6) _____

C. What example have they left for us?

1. What did they give up to follow Jesus? (Luke 5.10,11; Luke 9.23) _____
2. What did they suffer: (Mark 10.38,39; cf. 2 Tim. 3.12) _____
3. How were they taught to lead? (Mark 10.42-45; John 13.1-17) _____
4. What lesson can we learn from Judas Iscariot? (2 Cor. 7.10) _____
5. They gave their lives for the cause of Christ! [The following information is recorded in Fox's Book of Martyrs. Though this is considered as traditional history, and not inspired, it is probably fairly accurate.]
 - a) James the son of Zebedee: first apostle to suffer a martyr's death, c. 44 AD. (Acts 12.1,2)
 - b) Philip suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified, c. 54 AD.
 - c) Matthew had preached in Parthia and Ethiopia, in which later country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a halberd in the city of Nadabah, c. 60AD.
 - d) Andrew labored in many Asiatic nations; but on his arrival at Edessa in Mesopotamia he was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends were fixed transversely in the ground.
 - e) Peter, according to Jerome, was crucified with his head being down and his feet upward, at his own request, saying he was unworthy to be crucified after the same manner as the Lord. (see John 21.15-19)
 - f) Thaddeus was crucified at Edessa, as was Andrew.
 - g) Bartholomew, who had translated the gospel of Matthew into the language of India, was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by impatient idolaters.
 - h) Thomas spread the gospel in Parthia and India, where exciting the rage of the pagan priests was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.

i) Simon preached in North Africa and even Britain, in which latter country he was crucified.

j) John was the only apostle to escape a violent death, but think how he must have felt, being the last apostle to live. (see John 2 1.20-23)

V. THE MIRACLES OF JESUS: CONFIRMATION OF HIS DEITY!

A. The miraculous powers of Christ might seem unbelievable to those who cannot accept His divine power from before the beginning. Everything we can study about Jesus and the claims He made hinges on His divinity. Christianity stands or falls in the veracity of His claims!

1. Who created all things? (John 1.1-3; Heb. 1.1,2) _____

2. How was He conceived? (John 1.14; 1 John 1.1-4) _____

B. His miracles prove that He is the Son of God! All of Christ's miracles are spectacular, instantaneous, visible thrills to those who witnessed them, and a demonstration of His power over the universe. A brief view:

1. What power did He have over nature? (John 2.1-12; Matt. 8.23-27; 14.22-33)

2. What power did He have over diseases? (Matt. 4.23-25; 9.35; Mark 5.24-34)

3. What power did He have over unclean spirits? (Mark 1.21-28; 5.1-20)

4. What power did He have over death?(Mark 5.21-43; John 11.38-44)

C. His miracles

1. Of what were they evidence? (John 3.1,2) _____

2. Did all believe the evidence? (John 10.31-39) _____

3. Why were they recorded? (John 20.30,31; cf. John 21.24,25) _____

D. Point for discussion: What was the purpose of the miracles performed by the apostles, and of the New Testament Christians on whom the apostles had laid their hands? (Mark 16.15-20; Acts 14.3; Acts 2.1-13; 3.1-10; 8.4-13; Heb. 2.1-4)

VI. WHO IS THIS PREACHER?

A. At the start of His ministry, Jesus preached the famous "Sermon on the Mount" as recorded in Matthew 5-7.

1. How did Jesus preach in contrast to the Scribes and Pharisees? (Matt. 7.28,29)

2. Contrast Christ's authority with the authority of Moses, the prophets and the scribes. (Deut. 18.15-22; cf. Acts 3.18-26; Matt. 5.17-20; 9.1-8) _____

a) Who is our Savior? (Matt. 18.10-14) _____

b) Who will be our Judge? (John 5.24-30; cf. 2 Cor. 5.9-11) _____

B. Hard sayings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount:

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1. How does persecution produces “blessedness.” (Matt. 5.10-12; cf. 2 Tim. 3.12; James 1.2,3; 1 Pet. 3.13-17; 4. 12-16) _____
2. How do we repair damaged relationships with brethren. (Matt. 5.21-24; cf. Matt. 18.15-17; Rom. 13.8-10; Eph. 4.25-27) _____
3. To what lengths must we go? (Matt. 5.27-30; cf. Rom. 6.12, 13; Col. 3.1-11) _____
4. How much must we give? (Matt. 5.38-42; cf. Rom. 12.9-2 1; Phil. 2.3,4) _____
5. How can we love our enemies? (Matt. 5.43-48; cf. Rom. 13.8-10; Acts 7.60) _____
6. Who is to praise us? (Matt. 6.1-7, 16-18; cf. 1 Pet. 5.5) _____
7. Why must we forgive others? (Matt. 6.14,15; cf. Luke 17.3-5; Eph. 4.32; Col. 3.12-15) _____
8. What should we worry about? (Matt. 6.25-34; cf. Phil. 4.11-13; 1 Tim. 6.6-10) _____
9. What must we do before judging others? (Matt. 7.1-5; cf. Rom. 14.10; 2 Cor. 10.12) _____
10. What is the difficult way? (Matt. 7.13,14; cf. Prov. 16.25; Luke 9.23; Rom. 12.1-3) _____
11. Where must we abide? (Matt. 7.21-23; cf. 1 Thess. 5.21,22; 1 Tim. 3.16,17; Col. 3.17; 1 Pet. 4.11) _____
12. What is the advice to those who listen? (Matt. 7.24-27; Luke 6.46-49 cf. James 1.21-27) _____
13. What was the state of the teaching that the multitudes had been offered when Jesus preached this sermon? (Matt 4.17; Mt 23.1-2) _____

VII. JESUS AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS DURING HIS MINISTRY

A. The ministry of Jesus was anything but subtle. He healed the sick, changed the weather, fed the hungry, and raised the dead! Jesus dealt with people, but quite differently than the religious leaders of His day. Those who the religionist condemned and ignored, Jesus offered forgiveness and hope. Those who were in the chief seats of piety, Jesus rebuked and exposed their hypocrisy. He openly met and routed the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees in rapid succession. Many of His parables were aimed directly at these religious leaders.

1. Are we to do everything that Jesus said? Mt 23.1-2 _____
2. Are we to do everything that Jesus did? Lk 4.16 _____
3. What religious practices of the Jews did Jesus condemn in Matthew 23? _____

4. What was Jesus attitude toward the religious leaders? (Mt 23.37-39)

B. Consider the relationship between Jesus and these religious leaders.

1. Please define the religious leader's attitude/charges towards Jesus in the following passages:

- a) (Mark 11.27-33) _____
- b) (Luke 6.7-11) _____
- c) (Matt. 9.1-8) _____
- d) (Matt. 15.1-3) _____
- e) (Mark 2.16,17) _____
- f) (Matt. 21.14-16) _____
- g) (Mark 3.22-27) _____
- h) (Matt. 26.3,4; cf. 1 Cor. 2.6-9) _____
- i) (Mark 15.31,32) _____
- j) What caused them to possess such resentful attitudes?
 - 1) (Acts 3.14-17) _____
 - 2) (John 7.1-9) _____
 - 3) (Matt. 27.15-20) _____

2. Jesus exposed them for what they really were! What did He call them in the following verses?

- a) (Matt. 12.38-42) _____
- b) (Matt. 15.1-9) _____
- c) (Luke 16.14,15) _____
- d) (Luke 18.9-14) _____
- e) (Matt. 22.23-33) _____
- f) (Matt. 23.1-12) _____
- g) (Matt. 23.3, 13-36) _____
- h) (John 12.42,43) _____

VIII. THE PRAYING SAVIOR

A. The success of Jesus was the result of His constant communication with the Father in heaven. He turned to the Father in prayer at all of the great events of His life!

1. Why was it important for Jesus, the Son of God, to pray?

- a) How often did Jesus pray? (Luke 5.16) _____
- b) Why did Jesus pray while on earth? (Heb. 2.14,17; Luke 22.39-46)

c) What do we learn from His model prayer? (Luke 11.1-4)

2. When did Jesus pray?

- a) At the great events of His life: baptism (Luke 3.21,22); choosing the 12 (Luke 6.12-16); Peter's confession (Luke 9.18-20); transfiguration (Luke 9.27-36); Gethsemane (Luke 22.39-46); crucifixion (Luke 23.33,34)
- b) At His miracles: feeding the 5000 (Matt. 14.13-21); healing the deaf mute (Mark 7.31-37); raising Lazarus (John 11.38-44)

- c) Before He went out to preach. (Mark 1.35-39)
 - d) In times of agony and sorrow. (Heb. 5.7)
 - e) At times, all night! (Luke 6.12)
- B. Jesus' teaching on prayer:
- 1. He gave His disciples a model or teaching prayer. (Matt. 6.9-13; Luke 11.1-4) What elements are we to incorporate in our prayer? _____
 - 2. Jesus emphasized that prayer should be characterized by:
 - a) Importunity [urgent pleading] (Luke 11.5-13)
 - b) Persistency (Luke 18.1-8)
 - c) Humility (Luke 18.9-14; cf. James 4.6)
 - d) Charity (Mark 11.25,26; cf. Matt. 18.21-35)
 - e) Simplicity (Matt. 6.5-7; 23.14)
 - f) Intensity (Mark 13.33; 14.38; cf. Luke 22.44)
 - g) Expectancy (Mark 11.20-24; cf. James 1.6-8)

IX. THE PARABLES OF JESUS

- A. What was the purpose of teaching in parables? (Matt. 13.10-17)
- 1. To whom would this form of teaching remain concealed?

 - 2. Why did Jesus need to explain some of His first parables to His disciples?

 - 3. What is the difference between a parable and a fairy-tale?

 - 4. With what subject did the majority of Jesus' parables concern themselves?

- B. Jesus' parables: [Summarize the point of the parable]
- 1. The Galilean Ministry:
 - a) The new and the old material and wine skins. (Luke 5.36-39)

 - b) The two debtors. (Luke 7.41-50)

 - c) The sower. (Matt. 13.1-9, 18-23; Mark 4.1-20; Luke 8.4-15)

 - d) The seed. (Mark 4.26-29)

 - e) The tares. (Matt. 13.24-30, 36-43)

 - f) The mustard seed. (Matt. 13.31,32; Mark 4.30-32)

 - g) The leaven. (Matt. 13.33)

 - h) The hidden treasure. (Matt. 13.44)

 - i) The costly pearl. (Matt. 13.45,46)

-
- j) The dragnet. (Matt. 13.47-50)
-
- k) The wicked servant. (Matt. 18.2 1-35)
-
2. The Perean Ministry:
- a) The good Samaritan. (Luke 10.25-37)
-
- b) The rich fool. (Luke 12.16-21)
-
- c) The barren fig tree. (Luke 13.6-9)
-
- d) The wedding guest. (Luke 14.7-11)
-
- e) The great supper. (Luke 14.15-24)
-
- f) Counting the cost. (Luke 14.25-35)
-
- g) The lost sheep. (Luke 15.1-7)
-
- h) The lost coin. (Luke 15.8-10)
-
- i) The prodigal son. (Luke 15.11-32)
-
- j) The unjust steward. (Luke 16. 1-13)
-
- k) The rich man & Lazarus. (Luke 16.19-31)
-
- l) The unprofitable servant. (Luke 17.1-10)
-
- m) The unjust judge. (Luke 18.1-8)
-
- n) The Pharisee & the publican. (Luke 18.9-14)
-
- o) The laborers in the vineyard. (Matt. 20.1-16)
-
- p) The pounds [minas]. (Luke 19.11-28)
-
3. The Final Week in Jerusalem before His Crucifixion:
- a) The two sons. (Matt. 2 1.28-32)
-
- b) The vineyard. (Matt. 21.33-46; Mark
-
- c) The wedding feast. (Matt. 22.1-14)
-

d) The ten virgins. (Matt. 25.1-13)

e) The talents. (Matt. 25.14-30) 12.1-12; Luke 20.9-19)

X. THE DEFINITIVE CLAIMS OF CHRIST AS FOUND IN JOHN

A. *I am the bread of life* (John 6.35,48). What was His concern?(cf. Matt. 4.4; 5.6)

B. *I am the light of the world* (John 8.12) (John 1.4,5,9; 12.46) What does He provide?

C. *I am the door of the sheep* (John 10.7,9). To what is He is our only access?(John 14.1-6)

D. *I am the good shepherd* (John 10.11). What does He provide? (vs. 11-14; cf. Psalm 23)

E. *I am the resurrection and the life* (John 11.25). In what do we hope? (cf. John 5.24-30; 1 Cor. 15.20-26)

F. *I am the true vine*” (John 15.1). What does He give? (vs. 2-8)

G. *I AM* (John 8.58). What does this mean? (John 1.1-3)

THERE IS NO ATTRIBUTE OF GOD THAT CANNOT BE SUMMED UP IN HIM!

XI. THE FINAL DAYS OF JESUS’ EARTHLY MINISTRY

A. How did Jesus enter Jerusalem? (Matt. 2 1.1-11; Mk 11.1-11; Lk 19.28-40; Jn 12.12-19)

1. What had Jesus attitude been earlier? (John 6.15 Matt. 16.20)

2. What was His attitude now? (Luke 19.37-40; Matt. 21.5)

3. How did Jesus feel about Jerusalem? (Luke 19.41-44)

4. How did Jesus feel about the temple? (Matt. 21,12,13)

B. Jesus institutes His own memorial supper.

1. With whom does He eat the Passover? (Matt. 26.17-30; Mark 14.12-26; Luke 22.7-23)

2. What did Jesus blood do? (cf. Heb. 9.16-22; 10.14 1 Cor. 5.7)

3. Is the Lord’s Supper a binding covenant to be kept by Christians?

4. Read 1 Cor. 11.23-30- This supper looks in four directions:

a) Backward in commemoration. (vs. 24.25)

- b) Outward in declaration. (v. 26)
- c) Forward in anticipation. (v. 26)
- d) Inward in reflection. (vs. 27-30)

C. Jesus offers further Instructions in the upper room

1. Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet. (John 13.1-17)

2. How did Jesus identify His betrayer? (John 13.18-30)

3. What did Jesus command His disciples? (John 13.31-35)

4. What did Jesus prophesy about Peter? (John 13.36-38)

5. Whom did Jesus promise? (John 14.16-18. 25-31; 15.26,27; 16.5-15; cf. Luke 24.49; Acts 1.8)

6. For what did Jesus pray for His disciples. (John 17.1-26)

D. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane - It was a garden of victory! What did Jesus perceive in the garden? He looked to the past and to all the sins that had ever been committed; He looked to the future, to every sin that would be committed until the crack of doom. He willingly was arrested in the garden that He might begin the sacrifice that He left heaven to perform

1. Had Jesus been there before? (John 18.2; Luke 21.37) _____

2. Why did Jesus go there? (Mark 14.32-40) _____

3. Why did Judas go there? (Mark 14.43-50) _____

E. Jesus on Trial

1. Why was Jesus on trial? What had He done? (Lk 22.70; Mk 15.14; Lk 23.4)

2. Jesus on trial before wicked men:

a) Before the Sanhedrin. Who were Annas and Caiaphas? (Lk 3.2; Jn 18.13-14)

b) Before Pilate the first time. (John 18.28-32) What did Pilate ask Jesus?

c) Before Herod. (Luke 23.5-7) Was Herod glad to see Jesus?

d) Before Pilate the second time. (Luke 23.13-25)

e) Why didn't Pilate set Jesus free?

F. They crucified Him! (Matt. 27.26-56; Mark 15.15-41; Luke 23.26-49; John 19.16-37)

1. Seven declarations from the cross of Calvary:

a) *'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do* (Luke 23.34)

Who else prayed for those who would not repent? (Act 7.60) _____

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- b) *Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise* (Luke 23.43)
Can we be saved like this man? (Heb 9.15-17) _____
- c) *“Woman, behold your Son! ..Behold your mother!* (John 19.26,27)
What did John do for Mary? _____
- d) *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?* (Matt. 27.46 Ps 22)
How many prophecies of Ps 22 are fulfilled in Jesus’ crucifixion? _____
- e) *I thirst* (John 19.28)
What prophecy did this fulfill? (Ps 22.15; 69.21) _____
- f) *It is finished* (John 19.30)
What was finished? _____
- g) *Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit* (Luke 23.46)
What would the Father do? (Acts 2.27) _____
3. Important lessons from the Cross of Christ:
- a) Man’s guilt of sin! (Rom. 3.23; Isa. 53.6; Heb. 6.4-6)
 - b) God’s cleansing power! (Zech. 13.1; Eph. 1.7; Col. 1.14)
 - c) The value of the soul of man! (1 Pet. 1.18,19; Isa. 52.3)
- G. The Case of the Empty tomb, *“He is risen!”* - (Matt. 27.57 - 28.15; Mark 15.42 - 16.13; Luke 23.50 - 24.43; John 19.38 - 20.31)
- 1. Where was Jesus buried? (Matt. 27.57-66) _____
 - 2. What was placed before His tomb? _____
 - 3. Who went to the tomb? (Matt. 28.1-10; Mark 16.1-11; Luke 24.1-12; John 20.1-18)
-
3. Who discussed His death on the road to Emmaus? (Luke 24.13-27)
-
4. What proofs did Jesus give when He appeared to the apostles? (John 20.19-29; 21.1-13)
-
5. Who is our only hope? (1 Cor. 15.1-20) _____

XII. FROM BETHANY TO HEAVEN (Matt. 28.16-20; Mark 16.14-20; Luke 24.44-53; Acts 1 & 2)

- A. The Divine Mandate: The Complete Authority of Jesus Christ --(Matt. 28.18)
- 1. Where does Jesus have authority? (cf. John 12.44-50) _____
 - 2. What constitutes the Divine revelation of Christ? (Jn 17.20; 20.3-32; 2Tim 3.16; Jude 3; 2Pet 1.3; Heb 1.1-2) _____
- B. The Scriptures Opened: The Fulfillment of Prophecy
- 1. Did the apostles understand what Jesus was doing while He was on earth? (Luke 24.44,45)
-
- 2. Jesus did *not come to destroy but to fulfill.*” (Matt. 5.17)
 - 3. How many prophecies of the OT are left unfulfilled? (Rom 10.4; Lk 24.44-45; Acts 3.18-24) _____
- C. The Great Commission: Preaching Repentance & Remissions of Sins in the Name of Jesus Christ --(Luke 24.46,47)

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1. To whom is the commission given? (Matt. 28.19,20; Mark 16.15,16) _____
 2. What must be included in preaching Jesus? (Act 8.35-38) _____
 3. What brings about the remission of sins! (Acts 2.38; 22.16; 1 Pet. 3.20,21) _____
-
- D. The Ascension: His Return to Heaven --(Luke 24.50-53;
1. How long did Jesus remain on the earth after his resurrection? (1 Cor. 15.3-8) _____
 2. To whom did He appear? _____
 3. What did Jesus do during this time? (Acts 1.4-8). _____
 4. From what point did he depart the earth? (Acts 1.9-11) _____
 5. What did His ascension do?
 - a) _____ (Dan. 7.13, 14)
 - b) _____ (Acts 1.10,11)
- E. The Church: Christ Takes on a New Body - (Acts 2.1-47)
1. What did Jesus promise? (Matt. 16.18). _____
 2. Where and for what were the apostles to wait? (Luke 24.45-49; Acts 1.4-8) _____
-
3. Why was it necessary to replace Judas? (Acts 1.15-26) _____
 4. What were the qualifications of Judas' replacement? _____
 5. Acts 2: The Establishment of the Lord's Church.....
 - a) Who were filled with the Holy Spirit. (vs. 1-4) _____
 - b) Why were the Jews amazed by occurrence? (vs. 5-13) _____
 - c) To what position was Jesus elevated? (vs. 14-36) _____
 - d) What was the reaction to Peter's accusation? (vs. 37-40) _____
 - e) How was it possible to baptize so many in one day? (v. 41). _____
 - f) To what were the baptized added? (v. 47) _____
 6. Can one be saved outside the church? (Gal 3.27; Rom 6.3-4) _____
 7. How long did the Passover, betrayal, trials, crucifixion, resurrection, the Great Commission, ascension, and the establishment of the church take? _____

Conclusion: But, this is not the end of His story, rather it is the beginning in many ways! No individual has affected the attention of the masses in the annals of human history as has Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **JESUS IS THE WORLD'S SAVIOR!!**