

*A Do It Yourself
Guided Study on*

Jesus!

Produced by
The Discipleship Ministry

Jesus!

The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ the Son of God to "Make Disciples of All Nations" by equipping Christians to "Win, Build and Send" people for Christ!

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Guided Studies

on the
Person and Ministry of
Jesus!

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1. Jesus: Reliable and Accurate

Our study of Jesus, by necessity, will take us on a journey through the prose and poetry of the Bible. We must therefore ask ourselves, ***“Are the accounts describing Jesus in Scripture reliable, historical and accurate?”***, for if they are not, our study will have been done in vain. Fortunately, the authors of the texts we will be examining have anticipated this dilemma, and have addressed it *straightaway*. Therefore, let us do likewise and start at this point!

Jesus' Instruction to His Disciples

John 15:26-27

26 ***“But when the Comforter is come,
whom I will send unto you from the Father,
even the Spirit of Truth,
which proceedeth from the Father,
He shall testify of Me:
27 And ye also shall bear witness,
because ye have been with Me from the beginning.”***

The Greek word translated ***“Comforter”*** in v26 describes one who is ***“called alongside”***. Considering that in a few hours, Jesus will be arrested, tried and executed, what is the significance of this?

The words *“testify”* in v 26 and *“bear witness”* in v 27 are both translated from the same Greek word, *martureo*, which transliterates into the English word *“martyr”*. The Greek word means to *“be a witness or to bear testimony”*. Again, in light of the context, why is Jesus' instruction significant?

The Disciples' main qualification was that they had been *with Jesus “from the beginning.”* In the end, He promised to send the *Comforter*, God's Holy Spirit, *to empower them to be His witnesses* even under severe persecution. All of them experienced torture, and all but one was martyred for their testimony. *Not one recanted*, bearing witness to the truth of what they testified. Would we die for the sake of perpetuating a lie? Of course not! And neither would they, adding to the veracity of what they wrote ... ***A “Reliable and Accurate record of the Life, Ministry and Identity of Jesus the Christ!”***

John 15:26-27 (Observations)

V26

Underline Who will come.

Circle from Whom will He come?

Circle who He is.

Circle what He will do.

V27

Circle what Jesus instructs His disciples to do.

Underline why they would “bear witness”.

The **Comforter** is also called the ***“Spirit of Truth”*** by Christ because He will guide the Disciples into *“all Truth”* (John 16:13), which He did when they recorded their testimonies in the Gospel record.

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John's Testimony

In his first Epistle, the Apostle John reveals the extent of their understanding of the **"Word of Life"**.

1 John 1:1, 3

**1 "That which was from the beginning,
which we have heard,
which we have seen with our eyes,
which we have looked upon,
and our hands have handled,
of the Word of Life; ...
3 "That which we have seen and heard
declare we unto you, ... "**

How does John's opening statements in his Epistle affect your trust in the reliability of the Gospels?

Luke's Testimony

Luke, the author of the third Gospel, was not among the Apostles "from the beginning." He accompanied the **Apostle Paul** on his missionary journeys and served as his *Physician*, as well as *Historian*.

Luke 1:1-3

**1 "Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order
a declaration of those things
which are most surely believed among us,
2 "Even as they delivered them unto us,
which from the beginning were eyewitnesses,
and ministers of the word;
3 "It seemed good to me also,
having had perfect understanding of all things
from the very first,
to write unto thee in order,
most excellent Theophilus,"**

Why does Luke begin his Gospel in this way?

1 John 1:1, 3 (Observations)

V 1 & 3

Circle all the pronouns in this passage.

Underline all the ways they gained understanding of the "Word of Life".

Underline what they declared.

Matthew and **John** are the only disciples among the Twelve who penned Gospel accounts. **Mark** used others including the Apostle Peter as his primary source. **Luke** also used several sources for his Gospel, possibly including **Mary**, the mother of Jesus, and **James** His brother.

Luke 1:1-3 (Observations)

V1

Circle how many others had "set forth" to declare what was believed.

V2

Circle the two words Luke uses to describe those people.

Underline how long these were with Jesus.

V3

Circle the word that describes Luke's understanding.

Circle the extent of his understanding.

Underline from when he gained it.

Circle how Luke intended to write these things.

Circle to whom Luke is writing.

"Theophilus" means 'Lover of God'. Unless one has a Love for God, he will not have a Thirst to Know Him!

In light of the previous Bible passages, why can we have *confidence* in the Gospel record?

Bibliographical Test

Having an accurate record of Jesus' Life is just the first step to ensuring the reliability of the Bible record. We must also have an *accurate transmission* of that record to us living today, 2000 years after the original manuscripts were created. *Lacking the original manuscript* and possessing only *copies* of them which have been duplicated and transmitted numerous times through the ages, *how can we be sure that the manuscripts we now have are accurate copies of the original?* Historians have a *method* to determine the accuracy of a manuscript that has survived from antiquity. That method is called the ***Bibliographical Test***.

The ***Test*** examines two criteria to determine accuracy.

- 1. How many copies do we have and how similar are they to each other, and ...**
- 2. How close in time are the earliest copies to the original manuscripts.**

The more copies we possess and the greater their similarity to each other the better. Why is this?

Also, the closer our oldest copies are to the time of the original manuscripts, the better that is as well. Why is that?

So how do the Gospel documents measure up, especially in comparison with other documents of antiquity? The following ***chart***, created by the ***Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry (CARM)***, reveals the answer!

The Christians living in the First Century lacked the technological advancements we in the Twenty First Century take for granted. Today, if you want a copy of a document, you simply duplicate it on a photocopy machine. In their days, it took a lot more effort.

The original manuscripts were written on either leather parchment or papyrus, both of which would eventually deteriorate, necessitating the making of more copies. It was time consuming and tedious work.

Today, we do not possess the original manuscripts, which have all been lost to time and ruin. Barring an amazing archeological discovery that locates the originals, we use the ***Bibliographical Test*** to determine as best as possible, what the original manuscripts said.

Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry (CARM)

Manuscript Evidence for New Testament Reliability

by Matt Slick

<https://carm.org/manuscript-evidence>

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	----
Pliny	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7	----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	----
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	A.D. 1100	800 yrs	8	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	----
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	----
Tacitus	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

The Chart on the left lists many authors of antiquity whose works are classics and rank among the great literary works of the ages. How many do you recognize? No academician would doubt the fact of their authenticity.

Also listed are the time spans between their original manuscripts and the oldest copies. Finally, we are given the number of copies that have survived to the present.

*The final entry gives us the same information pertaining to the **New Testament**. Study the list and compare the New Testament to the other works of antiquity. What do they tell you about the New Testament?*

Many people, including secular academicians, do not accept the New Testament as an accurate account of history. Many even doubt that Jesus even existed. If you shared this Chart with them, do you think their minds would be changed? Why or why not?

The Bible is a Book inspired by God and will not be affirmed nor embraced as Truth without the supernatural transformation and intervention of God's Spirit in a person's life.

For sure people may accept it intellectually as a record of history, but to truly appreciate and benefit from its spiritual value requires a work of God ... and a humble heart!

For more information read: **"Evidence That Demands a Verdict"** by Josh McDowell

A common criticism non-Christians have is that the Bible is filled with *imaginary stories*, and has been *translated and copied so many times*, the translations we have today are not accurate. ***From what you have learned in this chapter, how would you respond to a person who voiced that criticism to you?***

Contrary to people's skepticism, the Gospels are a reliable and accurate record by people who were with Jesus and were eyewitnesses of the events. You ***can*** trust its narrative, for in and through it, God speaks to us and reveals the incredible story of His only begotten Son!

With that, let us begin the exciting journey into the most amazing life ever lived on this Planet! ... The miraculous life of ***Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God!***

*"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on **Me** through their word."*

Jesus

John 17:20

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village
The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village
Where he worked in a carpenter shop
Until he was thirty when public opinion turned against him

He never wrote a book
He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never travelled more than two hundred miles
From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three
His friends ran away
One of them denied him

He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
The only property he had on earth

When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave
Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life

Dr James Allan Francis © 1926.

2. Jesus: His Coming Foretold!

The coming of Jesus into this world was not unexpected, especially for those who studied the *Old Testament*. It has been estimated that there are *more than 300 prophecies* in the Old Testament that refer to **Jesus Christ**, most of which He has fulfilled and many others He has yet to fulfill at a future time.

Dr. Peter Stoner (d. 1980), former Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College, calculated the probability of **Jesus** fulfilling just eight of these prophecies at **1 chance in 10^{28}** . The latter number (10^{28}) is *larger than the number of stars in the entire Universe*. It is also *larger than the estimated total number of grains of sand in all the beaches and deserts of the Earth*. In fact, it is larger than all the grains of sand in ten billion Earths! It is safe to say that probability favors **Jesus** as the **Messiah** prophesied in the Old Testament. Let us look at some of these prophecies.

Jesus' Coming Foretold in the Garden of Eden!

Did you know that the first mention of **Jesus** is in the *Garden of Eden*? Maybe not by name, but certainly by what He accomplished with His life! It is found in **Genesis 3:15**. Here, God is declaring a curse upon the serpent for deceiving Eve in the Garden.

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

The word "enmity" describes a state of hostility that exists between the Devil and Christ. Can you recall what incident involving the Devil occurred shortly after Christ was baptized?

Though there is a natural enmity between most people and serpents, Genesis 3:15 singles out one descendant of the woman who would be struck on the heel while He strikes the serpent on the head. In what way does Christ fulfill this prophecy?

FYI
 10^{28}
=10,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000
= Ten Octillion

Genesis 3:15 (Observations)
Circle what God placed between the serpent and the woman.
Circle where the woman's seed will bruise the serpent.
Circle where the serpent will bruise the woman's seed.

The word "**bruise**" means 'to crush' or 'to break'. Of the two instances of this word used in Genesis 3:15, which would be the more decisive blow?

1 John 3:8
"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

Jesus' Manner of Coming Foretold

The following prophecy from Isaiah is one of the most quoted, especially during the Christmas season.

Isaiah 7:14

***"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel."***

The above prophecy was given to a skeptical King Ahaz who did not fully trust God's promise to deliver him from his enemies. So God offered to give him a **"sign"**, or a miraculous display, to prove that He would fulfill His word. Knowing this, how can we be sure the correct interpretation is that a **"virgin"** will **"bear a son"**, and not just any young woman as some believe?

But if anyone doubts that God meant a 'virgin' would conceive and bear a son, we have the testimony of Scripture itself. The passage below provides the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy, and the correct interpretation as God intended.

Luke 1:30-31, 34-35

30 Then the angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 "And behold,

***you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son,
and shall call His name JESUS. ...***

34 Then Mary said to the angel,

"How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her,

***"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;
therefore, also,
that Holy One who is to be born
will be called the Son of God."***

How does the passage in Luke 1:30-31;34-35 fulfill Isaiah 7:14?

Isaiah 7:14 (Observations)

Circle what the "Lord Himself shall give".

Circle who will "conceive".

Underline what she will do.

Circle what she will call Him.

(What does 'Immanuel' mean?)

Some have suggested that the Hebrew word translated "virgin" could also mean any young woman of marrying age, virgin or not, which is true. But in every other case where it is used in the Old Testament, it refers to a young woman who is a virgin.

Luke 1:30-31, 34-35

(Observations)

V30

Circle who was speaking to Mary.

(See Luke 1:26 to confirm his identity.)

V31

Underline what the angel told Mary.

Circle what she was to name her Son.

(Jesus = Heb. Yeshua = Yahweh Saves)

V34

Underline Mary's response.

(What does her response imply?)

V35

Underline how God would effect the miracle of a virgin conceiving and "bringing forth a Son".

Circle how the angel describes the One who will be born.

(What does 'Holy One' imply?)

Underline what He will be called.

(We will address what 'Son of God' means in a later lesson.)

Luke 1:30-31, 34, fulfills the first part of **Isaiah 7:14**, while **Luke 1:35** fulfills the second part.

Jesus' Coming Foretold by Moses

Moses, of course, is one of the greatest figures in the Old Testament 'Hall of Fame'. He was the **Deliverer**, the **Law Giver**, the **Intercessor** who pleaded with God on Israel's behalf, the **Prophet** who spoke to Israel on God's behalf and the **Shepherd** who led them to the **Promised Land**. Now that's a **résumé**! But as impressive as it is, everything related *only to this World*. So near the end of Moses' life, God reveals to him His future plan in the verse below.

Deuteronomy 18:18

***"I (God) will raise up for them a Prophet like you (Moses)
from among their brethren,
and (I) will put My words in His mouth,
and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."***

John 1:45

***"Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
"We have found Him of whom Moses in the law,
and also the prophets, wrote—
Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."***

Jesus is the Prophet God promised to raise up, giving Him a ministry related more toward the Heavenly compared to Moses' which was related more toward the Worldly.

Using Moses' "résumé" listed in the first paragraph, in what ways was Jesus like, and even greater than, Moses?

The first disciples were actually searching for the One spoken of by Moses and the Old Testament prophets. What does this reveal about them?

Next, we will look at another prophecy that the disciples may have been using to predict Messiah's appearing!

Deuteronomy 18:18

(Observations)

Underline who God will raise up.

Circle from among whom the future

Prophet would be raised.

Underline what God will do .

Underline what He will do.

John 1:45 (Observations)

Circle the two men mentioned at the start. (Who are they?)

Underline Whom Philip and the others found.

Underline the name and lineage of Jesus.

(How does Jesus' identification fulfill the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:18?)

Jesus' Coming Foretold by Daniel

We now come to one of the most amazing Old Testament prophecies that establishes *the time frame* in which the true Messiah must appear. **One caution:** There are various ways to interpret the prophecy, which demonstrates the difficulty in using Bible prophecy to **predict** future events. As the saying goes,

*"It is a difficult thing to prophesy,
Especially about the future."*

The best way to utilize Prophecy as **confirmation**, rather than **prediction**, of future events. This is how the Gospel writers most often view the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in **Jesus**.

Daniel's prophecy, which he received from the angel Gabriel, appears to provide the *time* of Messiah's appearance. Let us examine it!

Daniel 9:25

*"Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again,
and the wall, Even in troublesome times."*

The angel **Gabriel** wisely instructs Daniel, and any student attempting to understand this prophecy, to **"Know"** and **"Understand"**.

The **prophecy** announces the appearance of the Messiah *after* a certain **"command"** is issued concerning the *restoration of Jerusalem*. It then cryptically provides the time period in **'weeks'** that would transpire between the issuing of the *'command'* and the Messiah's coming. That time period is revealed in the following formula.

7 weeks (49 years) + 62 weeks (434 years) = 69 weeks or 483 years

What missing information is needed to solve this prophecy?

While reading **Jeremiah's 70 year Prophecy** and its imminent fulfillment, the prophet **Daniel** begins to pray earnestly for Israel's People, the desolated Sanctuary and Jerusalem. God responds by sending His angel, **Gabriel**, to reveal to Daniel the restoration of Jerusalem and the time of **Messiah's** appearing. This prophecy has become the **"Rosetta Stone"** of **Eschatology**, and an enigma for **Theologians**.

Daniel 9:25 (Observations)

Circle the two things we must do first.

(Why does Daniel begin with this?)

Circle what will go forth to mark the starting point.

Underline what the *'command'* includes.

Circle until Who arrives.

Underline how many *'weeks'* will transpire between the *"command"* and the *"Messiah"*.

(See discussion below on **"Weeks"**.)

"Know" and "Understand"

"Know" means to discern or distinguish, emphasizing the analytical skills of our Minds, while **"Understanding"** means wisdom, emphasizing the spiritual wisdom that only comes from our Relationship with God.

"Weeks" = Hebrew "Shabua" = a group of seven, much like the English words **Dozen** means twelve or **Score** means twenty. So **7 'Shabua'** would be **49** and **62 'Shabua'** would be **434**.

The crucial information necessary to solve the prophecy is:

"When was the command to restore Jerusalem issued?"

Solving for Messiah

There were four commands issued allowing the Israelites to return to restore Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Depending on which you choose and how you calculate the years, your ending point may differ by nearly a century ranging from 53 BC to 40 AD.

The most famous solution was presented by Sir Robert Anderson in his 1895 book entitled *"The Coming Prince"* in which he used **483 Prophetic Years**, consisting of 360 days/year, and choosing **445 BC**, the year Nehemiah returned, to arrive at **April 6, 32 AD**, the supposed day of Messiah's Triumphal Entry.

http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Fellowship/Edit_Sir.Robert.Anderson.html

Another solution would be to use **483 solar years** ($\cong 365.25$ days/year), such as what the Julian, Gregorian and Intercalated Calendars do, and **start in 458 BC**, the year Ezra returned. This brings us to **26 AD**, the year Jesus was baptized.

http://theos-sphragis.info/daniel_69_weeks_proof.html

Either way, we arrive at the period of time Jesus walked this Earth. The true Messiah had to have appeared 2000 years ago according to Daniel's prophecy! Could it be the early disciples had solved this prophecy which explains why they were looking for the Messiah?

Conclusion:

We started this study with the probability of someone fulfilling just eight of the more than three hundred Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament at **1 in 10 octillion (10^{28})**. The chance of fulfilling **Isaiah 7:14**, regarding the virgin birth, alone would take a miracle since a male human parent is necessary to provide the Y chromosome allowing Mary to bear a son. (I still remember when my Biology Professor mocked Mary's virgin birth by correctly stating that a virgin birth, if possible, would always result in a daughter since human mothers only carry the X chromosome.)

If Jesus alone fulfills these prophecies, what should we conclude about Him?

How would this Lesson help you to spot False Messiahs?

Commands to Restore Jerusalem

1. **Cyrus in 536 BC**
2. **Darius I in 520 BC**
3. **Artaxerxes I in 458/457 BC**
4. **Artaxerxes I in 445/444 BC**

Cyrus the Mede, who conquered Babylon 70 years after Israel was exiled, is mentioned in **Isaiah 44:28**, two hundred years before he lived.

"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." Isaiah 44:28

Daniel may have shared this prophecy with Cyrus, prompting him, in 536 BC, to permit the Jews, if they wished, to return to Jerusalem to begin the restoration of the City and the Temple as prophesied. About 50,000 Jews accepted the offer and returned at that time, completing the rebuilding of the second Temple by 515 BC.

3. Jesus: His Words

In this lesson and the next, we will be studying *the Words* and *the Works of Jesus*, for these two aspects are really inseparable, as we shall see. But we will *not* be looking so much at the content of His teachings, which would take volumes, but rather the *nature* and the *impact* of His Words. *Jesus* came to **reveal God His Father** and reach out to a *rebellious and sinful World*; to warn us of *impending Judgment and Punishment*, and to announce the *good news of His Father's invitation into the Kingdom of Heaven*. In fact, it was **the Father** Himself *speaking through His Son*, calling sinners to turn to Him from their sins in order to receive the free gift of forgiveness and newness of life in Jesus.

Deuteronomy 18:18

18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you
from among their brethren,
'and will put My words in His mouth,
'and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.'

John 12:44-50

44 Then Jesus cried out and said,
"He who believes in Me,
believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.
45 "And he who sees Me
sees Him who sent Me.
46 "I have come as a light into the world,
that whoever believes in Me
should not abide in darkness.
47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe,
I do not judge him;
for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.
48 "He who rejects Me,
and does not receive My words,
has that which judges him—
the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
49 "For I have not spoken on My own authority;
but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command,
what I should say and what I should speak.
50 "And I know that His command is everlasting life.
Therefore, whatever I speak,
just as the Father has told Me,
so I speak."

What is the primary message from Deuteronomy 18:18 and John 12:44-50?

In the last lesson, we looked at Deuteronomy 18:18 and learned that God would raise up a Prophet like Moses, which turned out to be His Son, Jesus. Let us look at it again to see how He would be a Prophet like Moses.

Deuteronomy 18:18 (Observations)

Circle what the Father will put in His Son's mouth.

Underline what the Son will speak to them.

John 12:44-50 (Observations)

V44 Underline who Jesus said a person believes in if they believe in Him.

V45 Underline who a person sees when they see Jesus.

V46 Underline what Jesus comes as. Circle where those who believe in Jesus will not abide,

V47 Circle what Jesus will not do to those who do not believe. Underline why.

V48 Underline what will judge those who reject Jesus.

Circle when they will be judged.

V49 Underline how Jesus has not spoken.

Circle who gave Him command to speak.

Underline what the Father commanded Him to speak.

V50 Circle what is the Father's command.

Underline what therefore Jesus speaks.

Jesus' Words Are From God

The only story (*in the Gospels*) of **Jesus' youth** apart from when He was an infant, is the one about a pilgrimage his family made to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast when He was yet twelve years old. You know the story. **Jesus** was left behind in the City, until **Mary** and **Joseph** finally found Him in the Temple.

Luke 2:46-47

46 *"Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.*
47 *And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."*

The story is all the more amazing when you realize that the teachers in the Temple would have had years upon years of training and education in the 'Tanahk' or Old Testament.

How would you explain Jesus' incredible insights in the Scriptures?

Years later at the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus would again amaze the Temple learned men.

John 7:14-16

14 *Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught.*
15 *And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"*
16 *Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.*

So from where did Jesus, the son of a carpenter, gain such *knowledge* without the training given to the rabbis and scribes? He would have had to acquire it during his *marathon times of prayer and fellowship with His Father God*, which became a habit even as an adult. In **Luke 6:40**, Jesus explained that a student/disciple was limited by his/her teacher.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

If God the Father was Jesus' teacher, what does that say about Him?

Luke 2:46-47 (Observations)

V46 **Circle** where they found Jesus.

Underline where He was sitting.

Underline what He was doing.

V47 **Circle** the reaction of those who heard him.

Underline what astonished them.

The Rest of the Story (vs 48-50)

When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, they were amazed, too, but in a different manner. They were amazed that Jesus wasn't as frantic as they were, but was calm, collected, and enjoying a deep theological discussion with the most brilliant teachers in Israel. In fact, Mary was perturbed (read her response to her Son in v48) and a bit upset that Jesus was so nonchalant about the situation, evidenced by His response to her (v49). But His response (vs 51 & 52) must have been a consolation to them both.

John 7:14-16 (Observations)

V14 **Underline** what Jesus did.

V15 **Circle** the word describing the Jews' reaction to Jesus.

Underline what they said.

V16 **Underline** Jesus' response.

Luke 6:12

"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."

Jesus' Words Are Life

We have seen that Jesus was *not* an ordinary man, but the only begotten of God Himself for the purpose of manifesting His will to restore a sinful race to Himself. The Words Jesus spoke were not coming from worldly wisdom, but were from God in the highest Heaven. Observe Jesus' words below.

John 6:63

*"It is the Spirit who gives life;
the flesh profits nothing.
The words that I speak to you are spirit,
and they are life.*

What do you think Jesus meant when He said 'the Spirit ... gives life' while "the flesh profits nothing"?

How are the words Jesus speaks spirit and life to us?

John 7:37-38

*37 On the last day, that great day of the feast,
Jesus stood and cried out, saying,
"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
38 "He who believes in Me,
as the Scripture has said,
out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

What does Jesus mean when He says, "If anyone thirsts"?

How is believing in Jesus related to coming to Him and drinking?

What does 'rivers of living water' mean? _____

John 6:63 (Observations)

Circle what the Spirit gives.

Circle what the 'flesh' profits.

Underline what Jesus says are 'spirit'.

Circle what else they are.

The Health movement involves many who wish to live healthier and longer by exercising and eating the right foods. But in the end, there is nothing we can do that will prevent death. It is our spirit that lives on ... our spirit where life really abides, and our spirit that hungers and thirsts for "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and gentleness", yet how many of us truly seek to nourish it to achieve those ends? The Words of the Heavenly Father, spoken through His Son, fills our spirit with His fruit by which we experience His Eternal Life!

John 7:37-38 (Observations)

V37 **Circle** who may 'thirst'.

Underline what Jesus says they should do.

V38 **Underline** who Jesus is addressing.

Circle what Jesus says will flow 'out of his heart'.

Three chapters earlier, Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well in Sychar, and told her a similar thing. She came to the well to quench her physical thirst, but Jesus discerned she had a spiritual thirst for she had had five husbands and was now living with a man she was not even married to. More than being physically thirsty, she was spiritually thirsty for love and kindness, things that could be found through faith in Him. We will never quench the thirst that is in our hearts until we admit our emptiness and humbly come to Jesus who loves us supremely and cares for us deeply. Then our hearts will overflow with 'rivers of living water' that has its source in God's Love for us!

Jesus' Words Manifest the Father

You've heard the challenge many times I'm sure.

"You Can Talk the Talk, But Can You Walk the Walk!"

Jesus not only claimed to be the Son of God, but *One* with **God the Father** as well. He certainly talked the talk, but He also walked the walk! He was, and is, the **Son of God Almighty!** Just hours before He would go to the Cross, He found Himself having to encourage His Disciples and reminding them that *their faith in Him was not in vain!!*

John 14:7-11

- 7 ***"If you had known Me,
you would have known My Father also;
and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."***
- 8 ***Philip said to Him,
"Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."***
- 9 ***Jesus said to him,
"Have I been with you so long,
and yet you have not known Me, Philip?
He who has seen Me has seen the Father;
so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"***
- 10 ***"Do you not believe that I am in the Father,
and the Father in Me?
The words that I speak to you
I do not speak on My own authority;
but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."***
- 11 ***"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me,
or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."***

What does Jesus mean in verses 7 and 9?

In what way(s) can we know and see God the Father in Jesus?

Why does Jesus emphasize His union with the Father so emphatically?

John 14:7-11 (Observations)

- V7 ***Circle*** whom we know if we know Christ.
Underline whom we know and have seen from now on.
- V8 ***Circle*** who Philip wanted to see.
- V9 ***Circle*** who Jesus said had been with Philip and whom he still had not come to know.
Circle who Jesus says Philip has seen if he saw Jesus.
Underline what Jesus finally asked Philip
- V10 ***Underline*** two things Jesus asked Philip if he believed.
Underline the first evidence Jesus points to to support His claims.
Circle who does the work.
- V11 ***Underline*** what Jesus asks Philip to believe about Him.
Underline on what other basis we can trust Jesus.

Union of God the Father and God the Son

When the Son of God left eternity and entered the space-time continuum where we live, He laid aside His Godhood and became fully human, with all its weaknesses and limitations. But within that humanity dwelt His Father in all His glory, shielded from all mankind by that humanity. If God had come down in all His glory and holiness, every sinner would have been instantly annihilated, which would not have been His will. Through Jesus, the Holy God is able to reach out to sinners and draw them to Himself. In the Old Testament, God would appear as a "theophany" (in visible form) even as Jesus is God incarnate in a physical form.

4. Jesus: His Works!

Just as Jesus' Words *manifested God* to all who **heard** them, in the same way, **Jesus' Works** *manifested God* to all who **saw** them. From the very start of His ministry, Jesus made it clear that it was God who compelled Him and thrust Him forward to fulfill His divine calling, as He Himself proclaimed when He stood in the synagogue and read from the scroll of Isaiah.

Luke 4

- 18 *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me
to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*
- 19

What do the things God sent Jesus to accomplish tell us about Him?

Matthew 11:2-6

- 2 *And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ,
he sent two of his disciples*
- 3 *and said to Him (Jesus),
"Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"*
- 4 *Jesus answered and said to them,
"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:*
- 5 *"The blind see and the lame walk;
the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear;
the dead are raised up and
the poor have the gospel preached to them.*
- 6 *"And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

What do you think caused John (the Baptist) to doubt Jesus?

What is the significance of what Jesus tells them to relay to John?

Luke 4:18-19 (Observations)

Underline Who is upon Jesus.

Underline what Jesus is appointed to do.

Circle all the verbs describing what Jesus was sent to do.

Underline all the objects of those verbs.

(**Review** the various people Jesus was anointed to minister to. How can God use us in these same people's lives?)

Matthew 11:2-6 (Observations)

V2 **Circle** where John was.

Underline what John heard.

Underline what John did.

V3 **Underline** what John asked of Jesus.

v4 **Circle** the two things Jesus told John's disciples to tell him.

v5 **Circle** each thing Jesus lists.

v6 **Circle** what Jesus said those who are not offended because of Him are.

All of us at times may doubt God and His Word. But when those moments descend on us, the best deterrent is to set our eyes upon Jesus and remember all He has said and done in order to remind ourselves that He is God's only Way, Truth and Life. Jesus has demonstrated without any doubt that God is real and His Word is true! Not to believe Him would be the height of foolishness, and would result in missing out on all the blessings that faith in Jesus brings!

Jesus' Works Over Disease and Sin

Jesus used miracles to confirm who He was. Sometimes hearing His Words was not enough to convince people. They needed to see His Works!

Mark 2:1-12

- 1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.
- 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.
- 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.
- 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.
- 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."
- 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,
- 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"
- 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?"
- 10 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"-- He said to the paralytic,
- 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."
- 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Was what Jesus said in v5 blasphemous? Why or why not? _____

What do you learn about Jesus' character from this story?

What do you learn about Jesus' Identity from this story?

Mark 2:1-2 (Observations)

- v1 **Circle** where Jesus entered. (Locate it on a map)
- v2 **Circle** how quickly many gathered. **Underline** the space available. **Underline** what Jesus did.
- v3 **Circle** what four men brought to Jesus.
- v4 **Circle** how they got him there.
- v5 **Circle** what Jesus saw. **Underline** what He said.
- v6 **Circle** who was also there. **Underline** what they were doing.
- v7 **Circle** what they thought Jesus was speaking. **Underline** what they questioned.
- v8 **Underline** what Jesus perceived. **Underline** what Jesus asked them.
- v9 **Circle** the two choices Jesus presented for comparison. **Circle** the basis for the comparison.
- v10 **Underline** what Jesus wanted them to know.
- v11 **Underline** what Jesus said to the paralytic.
- v12 **Circle** each of the three things the paralytic 'immediately' did. **Circle** the two ways how people responded. **Underline** what they said.

Sins and Disease

There is a close relationship between Sins and Disease in Scripture, both in the Old and New Testaments. This explains Jesus' initial response to pronounce forgiveness for the paralytic's sins, prompting the scribes' disapprovingly reasoning within themselves. Can you imagine their shock when Jesus calls them out? But their thinking was actually correct as far as who could forgive sins. Their error was in their ignorance of who Jesus was, in which He did not hesitate to educate them. Jesus was not afraid to confront His detractors in order to make His point for others to hear and see!

Jesus' Works Over Demons

In Bible days, people believed that *disease* and *demon possession* resulted from the *sin* of the sufferer. That is why the conditions were widespread in the world but completely absent in Heaven. So what happens when God's Son leaves Heaven and enters the world? *Disease* and *Demon possession* are absent in His wake!

Mark 1:23-27, 34

23 Now there was a man in their synagogue
with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,
24 saying, "Let us alone!
What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?
Did You come to destroy us?
I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"
25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying,
"Be quiet, and come out of him!"
26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him
and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him.
27 Then they were all amazed,
so that they questioned among themselves, saying,
"What is this? What new doctrine is this?
For with authority
He commands even the unclean spirits,
and they obey Him."
34 Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases,
and cast out many demons;
and He did not allow the demons to speak,
because they knew Him.

What can we learn about 'unclean spirits' from v 24?

What is significant about how Jesus cast out demons?

Why did the demons know Jesus while the people did not?

Why do you think Jesus did not want the demons to identify Him?

Mark 1:23-27, 34 (Observations)

v23 Circle where the man was.
Circle what the man had.
v24 Underline what the man said.
Underline what the man asked.
(Observe the pronouns.)
Circle who he knew Jesus was.
v25 Circle what Jesus did to him.
Underline what Jesus said to him.
v26 Circle three things the 'unclean spirit' did.
v27 Circle the word that describes the people's reaction.
Underline their questions.
Circle how they said Jesus commands 'unclean spirits'.
Circle the spirits' response.
v34 Underline what two things Jesus did for the 'many'.
Circle what Jesus did not allow the 'demons' to do.
Underline why.

Demons

The word '*demon*', in the New Testament, is used interchangeably with '*unclean spirits*' and '*devils*'. But what are demons? In short, they are disembodied spirits who prefer to live within the bodies of living creatures, including swine, as evidenced by Jesus' encounter with the Gerasene demoniac in Mark 5. Even today, the subject of many movies and novels deal with demonic possession. Jesus Himself frequently cast out demons from demonized people He met.

Because of their nature and character, demons do not make the best source for a reference, which may be why Jesus did not wish to be identified by them. Even then, Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the authority of Belzebul, the 'prince of demons'!

Jesus' Works Over Death

Sin's worst consequence is *Death*. It is the curse of humanity and the evidence of our spiritual condition apart from God. It is the final struggle of all men and women, and the ultimate challenge for **Jesus**.

When He heard that His friend, *Lazarus*, was very ill, He delayed his coming until His friend's death. At His arrival, He was met by Martha and Mary, both of whom were stricken with grief for their deceased brother. But Jesus knew that Lazarus' death was not the end, but for God's glory, and to reveal that Jesus has overcome even Death!

John 11

39 **Jesus said, "Take away the stone."**

*Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him,
"Lord, by this time there is a stench,
for he has been dead four days."*

40 **Jesus said to her,**

*"Did I not say to you that if you would believe
you would see the glory of God?"*

41 **Then they took away the stone**

from the place where the dead man was lying.

And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said,

"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

42 **"And I know that You always hear Me,**

*but because of the people who are standing by I said this,
that they may believe that You sent Me."*

43 **Now when He had said these things,**

He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

44 **And he who had died came out**

*bound hand and foot with graveclothes,
and his face was wrapped with a cloth.*

Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Contrast the faith of Jesus and Martha in v39.

What do you think Jesus meant by Martha seeing the glory of God?

Did Jesus plan all of this? Why or why not?

John 11:39-44 (Observations)

v39 **Underline** what Jesus said.

Circle what Martha said there would be by that time.

Circle how long Lazarus had been dead.

v40 **Underline** what Jesus reminded Martha she would see if she believed.

v41 **Circle** what Jesus thanked His Father for.

v42 **Circle** how often Jesus said His Father hears Him.

Underline for whom Jesus said this.

Underline why Jesus said this.

v43 **Circle** how Jesus cried out.
Underline what Jesus yelled.

v44 **Circle** who came out.
Observe how he was bound.
Underline what Jesus told them to do.

The Glory of God

We often hear this phrase, but how many of us have really think about what it means? The Shorter Westminster Catechism states that, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." This means that our primary purpose in life is to manifest God in and through our lives, and to take Joy in the process of knowing and loving Him, forever. **The Glory of God** is the manifestation of **His Person and Nature**. "The heavens declare the Glory of God." (Ps 19:1) The resurrection of Lazarus displays God's glory by revealing God's power over death, and His desire for all people to believe in His Son and gain Everlasting Life.

Jesus' Works Possess Purpose

Can you imagine if you had the opportunity to be transported 2000 years into the past in order to walk with the Disciples, and to listen to *Jesus' Words* and see *His Works* in person? Would you take that opportunity? Then you would have access to *more* of Jesus' teachings and see *all* of His miracles. Unfortunately, we can't, but we do have the Gospel record that includes many of Jesus' teachings and miraculous works. The Apostle John explains why more weren't included and why those that were ... were!

John 21:25

25 *And there are also many other things that Jesus did,
which if they were written one by one,
I suppose that even the world itself could not contain
the books that would be written.
Amen.*

What may have been some of the factors the Gospel writers used to determine which miracles to record?

John 20:30-31

30 *And truly Jesus did many other signs
in the presence of His disciples,
which are not written in this book;*
31 *but these are written
that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that believing
you may have life in His Name.*

How would you describe the purpose of Jesus' miraculous works?

Would the inclusion of more miracles make a difference in encouraging you to believe more? Why or why not?

John 21:25 (Observations)

Circle what John says there are.

Underline what John supposes.

First Century Limitations

Earlier, we mentioned the limitations regarding the writing technology of the First Century period. They couldn't just go to the Office Supply Store and pick up a ream of paper and write as much as they wanted. They were limited by the availability of writing material and so had to limit the amount they could write.

John 20:30-31 (Observations)

v30 ***Circle*** what Jesus did .

Underline where He did them.

Circle where they are.

v31 ***Circle*** why 'these are written.'

Underline what we may believe.

Circle what we may have.

Gospels with a Purpose

When I attended our State University, I took an Old Testament class as an elective, not because I was a Christian, which I wasn't at the time, but simply because I could fit it into my class schedule and needed the credits. As it turned out, I got a B, but did not emerge a Believer. I succeeded in getting my credits but failed to fulfill the real intent of the Scriptures, which is to instill Faith in God and His Word. The same goes for the records of Jesus' Life. If it does not instill greater Faith in us, we have read them in vain. And for the record, after I received Christ into my life two years later, I did return to my non believing OT Professor and shared Christ with him!

5. Jesus: His Death

Like most people, you probably do not think too much about your death, and certainly not the manner in which you will die. But Jesus was not like most people. He was well aware that the time of His death was fast approaching. Unlike the rest of us, Jesus was truly the *only* man born to die. He knew it and let His disciples know it, too!

Matthew 20:28

*"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve,
and to give His life a ransom for many."*

What do you learn about Jesus from this verse? _____

The Greek word translated "ransom" was used in antiquity to describe the *payment* one made for a *slave* in order to *set them free*.
How is this relevant in this verse?

Can you imagine what it would be like to know that the purpose of your life, and the reason you were even born, was *not* to experience life in all its fullness, but to die in order that others might? Jesus carried this burden, and it had a profound affect on His life described in **Isaiah 53:2-3**.

- 2 *For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance
that we should be attracted to Him.*
- 3 *"He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
"And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."*

What does this description of Jesus say about our culture today?

Matthew 20:28 (Observations)

Circle what Jesus did not come for.

Circle what Jesus did come for.

Underline what He gave His life for.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why am I here?" When I attended college years ago, there was a movement among young adults to "find themselves" and to search for the answers to the eternal questions of life. It seemed Jesus was not burdened so much with the search as with ensuring He fulfilled His God given Calling, and the Purpose He was sent from Heaven.

Considering the importance of His life for all humanity, it is surprising that Scripture is devoid of descriptions of what He looked like, or even was like, except for a single passage in Isaiah. It describes a man who carried a secret burden, but who did not waver from fulfilling it no matter the cost ... no matter the pain, as we will see.

Isaiah 53:2-3 (Observations)

v2

Underline the two descriptions on how Jesus grew up.

Circle what 3 things He did not have.

Underline 2 consequences.

v3

Circle how Jesus was treated by men.

Underline what kind of 'man' He was.

(See **Isaiah 53:4**)

Circle what men hid from Him.

Circle what we did not do.

Suffice it to say, Jesus would not have made it on the celebrity circuit, or become a media star. He lacked the qualities that we normally apply to those who become prominent. In fact, He actually was the opposite. But the quality He did possess, and which qualified Him to be the 'Lamb of God', is holiness of His Father, obedience to His father and love for His Father.

Jesus' Death Foretold

We already saw in the last section that **Jesus** knew His fate and His end. And He shared it with His disciples to prepare them and instill within them a sense of urgency, for His time was short. His Words would be confirmed by an angel, and would lead to the greatest miracle which we will look at in the next lesson.

Mark 8

31 And He began to teach them

***that the Son of Man must suffer many things,
and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes,
and be killed,
and after three days rise again.***

32 He spoke this word openly.

And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

**33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples,
He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan!
For you are not mindful of the things of God,
but the things of men."**

Why was Jesus so specific? _____

What is significant about Jesus' rebuke? _____

Three days after His death and burial, the women returned to the tomb only to find it empty. An angel spoke to them.

Luke 24

6 "He is not here, but is risen!"

Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee,

**7 "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered
into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified,
and the third day rise again.'"**

8 And they remembered His words.

What does this teach us about Jesus' words vs reality? _____

What is significant about Jesus appearing first to the women? _____

Mark 8:31-33 (Observations)

v31

Circle what Jesus will suffer.

Circle who will reject Him.

Circle what will finally be done to Him.

Circle what He will do in three days.

v32

Underline what Peter did.

v33

Circle what Jesus did to Peter.

Underline what He said to Peter.

Circle what He said Peter was not mindful
of and of what he was.

Luke 24:6-8 (Observations)

v6 *Circle* what the angel declared.

Underline what he tells them to
remember.

v7 *Compare* this verse with the verse 31
above.

v8 *Circle* what they remembered.

Jesus' Death ~ Its Significance

John 19

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine,
He said, "It is finished!"
And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Jesus completed the task God sent Him to do. What task has He
sent you to do? _____

Colossians 2 (NASV)

13 When you were dead in your transgressions
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
He made you alive together with Him,
having forgiven us all our transgressions,
14 having canceled out the certificate of debt
consisting of decrees against us,
which was hostile to us;
and He has taken it out of the way,
having nailed it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14 expresses the utter hopeless condition we all were in before being reborn in newness of life in Jesus! The Apostle Paul writes that we were "dead in (our) transgressions" or sins. The Greek word used here for 'dead' is defined in *James 2:26* as the condition of *the body without the spirit*. With all due respect to *zombies*, bodies absent the spirit or soul are incapable of doing anything associated with the things living bodies can do. *The dead are dead!* And no matter how much you exhort them or plead with them, apart from a miracle, *dead bodies cannot and will not respond*.

It took Jesus' **death** and **resurrection** to enable us to live again through faith in the *Atonement (Ransom)* He made on our behalf for our sins. In that moment of Faith, God makes us alive with Jesus, *forgiving all our transgressions* by cancelling out our '**Certificate of Debt**' (See sidebar) containing the list of our sins committed against a Holy God. This was made possible because Jesus died for us on the cross!

Knowing this, describe the uniqueness of the Christian Faith

compared to all the others. _____

John 19:30 (Observations)

Underline what Jesus said.

Circle what He gave up.

The phrase, 'It is finished!' is translated from the single Greek word, '*Tetelestai*', which here refers to the debt of Sin and means '*Paid in Full*'! It is in the Perfect tense which describes an action that is completed, once and for all. There is therefore no need for further sacrifices for the atonement of sin.

Colossians 2:13-14 (Observations)

v13

Circle what you were in your transgressions

Circle He made you with Him.

Circle what He did with our transgressions.

v14

Underline what He cancelled out.

Underline what it consisted of.

Circle what it was to us.

Underline where He has taken it.

Circle where He nailed it.

The '**Certificate of Debt**' was a handwritten, legal document listing the charges against a convicted criminal and the debt that was owed. It was cancelled when, and only when, the guilty person had completely paid the debt owed, or was able to get a free and innocent person to pay for it on his behalf!

(Continued)

Isaiah was God's chosen Prophet for many prophecies regarding the *birth*, the *identity* and the *death* of the **Messiah**, some of which we have already looked at and others still to be studied in future lessons. The passage below is only a section of one of the most incredible Old Testament chapters describing the significance of Jesus' death. What makes it more amazing is that it was written *700 years* before He was even born! Knowing this ...

What does this tell us about the God of the Bible? _____

What does this tell us about the events of Jesus' life? _____

Do you think God has pre-ordained your life? Why or why not?

Isaiah 53

- 4 **Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.**
- 5 **But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.**
- 6 **All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him.**

In your own words, explain what the above passage means.

Rabbis through the ages have taught that the above passage refers to Israel and her suffering. What would you say to them?

Isaiah 53:4-6 (Observations)

v4

Circle what He bore.

Circle what He carried.

Underline three things we esteemed Him.

v5

Underline what He was pierced through for.

Underline what He was "crushed" for.

Underline what 'fell upon Him.'

Circle what we are by His 'scourging.'

v6

Circle who are like sheep gone astray.

Circle who has turned to his own way.

Underline what the LORD has caused.

The Doctrine of Vicarious Atonement teaches that Jesus was our **Substitute** when He died on the cross, **taking our place** and **our sins** upon Himself, and **suffering the debt we owed** to God, **even the wrath of God**, and thus **propitiating** or **satisfying the Righteous demands of the Holy God**. Isaiah 53 describes this perfectly, 700 years before its fulfillment! However, the actualization of our Salvation is dependent on our **Faith**, which becomes a **conduit** through which **God pours** upon us His **Mercy, Grace, Forgiveness & a multitude of Blessings!**

6. Jesus: His Resurrection

What sets Jesus apart from other religious leaders is His Resurrection. **His tomb is empty!** And that was necessary to prove His message of eternal life to all who believed in Him. But first, we need to establish that He was actually dead when they buried Him.

John 19

- 31 *Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day,
that the bodies should not remain on the cross
on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day),
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken,
and that they might be taken away.*
- 32 *Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first
and of the other who was crucified with Him.*
- 33 *But when they came to Jesus
and saw that He was already dead,
they did not break His legs.*
- 34 *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear,
and immediately blood and water came out.*
- 35 *And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true;
and he knows that he is telling the truth,
so that you may believe.*
- 36 *For these things were done
that the Scripture should be fulfilled,
“Not one of His bones shall be broken.”*
- 37 *And again another Scripture says,
“They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”*
- 38 *After this, Joseph of Arimathea,
being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus;
and Pilate gave him permission.
So he came and took the body of Jesus.*
- 39 *And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came,
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes,
about a hundred pounds.*
- 40 *Then they took the body of Jesus,
and bound it in strips of linen with the spices,
as the custom of the Jews is to bury.*
- 41 *Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden,
and in the garden a new tomb
in which no one had yet been laid.*
- 42 *So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews’ Preparation Day,
for the tomb was nearby.*

What elements in this eyewitness account proves Jesus died?

John 19:31-42 (Observations)

v31

Circle what Day it was.

Circle what should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath.

Underline what the Jews asked Pilate.

v32

Underline whose legs the soldiers broke. (*see below)

v33

Circle what they found about Jesus.

Circle what they did not do.

v34

Circle what one soldier did.

Circle what immediately came out.

v35

Circle whose testimony is true.

v36

Underline why these things were done.

Circle how many bones would be broken.

v37

Underline what another Scripture said.

v38

Circle who was a disciple of Jesus.

Underline why he kept it secret.

Circle whom he asked for Jesus' body.

Circle what Pilate gave him.

Circle what he came and took.

v39

Circle who came to Jesus by night.

Underline what he brought.

v40

Underline what they did to Jesus' body.

Circle why they did that.

v41

Underline where the garden was.

Circle what was in the garden.

Underline how the tomb is described.

v42

Underline why they lay Jesus' body there in the nearby tomb.

* **The cause of death** in Crucifixion is not the pain or loss of blood, but suffocation. After several days hanging on a cross, victims become unable to lift themselves up to take in a breath and so suffocate to death. Soldiers would break the legs to hasten death by preventing the victim from pushing up to breathe.

He is Risen!

John 20:

- 1 Now on the first day of the week
Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early,
while it was still dark,
and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.
- 2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple,
whom Jesus loved,
and said to them,
"They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid Him."
- 3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple,
and were going to the tomb.
- 4 So they both ran together,
and the other disciple outran Peter
and came to the tomb first.
- 5 And he, stooping down and looking in,
saw the linen cloths lying there;
yet he did not go in.
- 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb;
and he saw the linen cloths lying there,
7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head,
not lying with the linen cloths,
but folded together in a place by itself.
- 8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also;
and he saw and believed.
- 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture,
that He must rise again from the dead.

What causes you to believe this testimony? _____

John 14:19

A little while longer and the world will see Me no more,
but you will see Me.
Because I live, you will live also.

Explain the first part of this verse. _____

How does this verse express the importance of Jesus' Resurrection?

John 20:1-9 (Observations)

v1

Underline when this takes place.

Circle who went to the tomb early.

Circle what it was still.

Underline what she saw.

v2

Circle who she ran to.

Underline how the other disciple is described.

Underline what she initially said about the Lord.

Circle what they did not know.

v3

Underline what Peter and the other disciple did.

v4

Circle what they did together.

Underline what the other disciple did.

v5

Underline what he saw.

Circle what he did not do.

v6-7

Circle what Peter did.

Circle each thing Peter saw.

v8

Circle the three things the other disciple did.

v9

Circle what they did not know.

Underline what they did not know.

John 14:19 (Observations)

Underline what Jesus said will happen in a little while.

Circle what the disciples will see.

Circle what Jesus says will guarantee His disciples will live.

If you suffer from premature baldness, would you buy a lotion being sold on late night TV called "Bald No More" if it was sold by a similarly bald guy like yourself? Of course not! You would yell at the TV screen, "You grow hair on your head first, buddy!" As they say, "The proof is in the pudding." Jesus claimed to be the "Resurrection and the Life". Why would we believe Him if He was still in the tomb?

(continued)

John 20

- 19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week,
when the doors were shut
where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them,
"Peace be with you."
- 20 When He had said this,
He showed them His hands and His side.
Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.
- 24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
- 25 The other disciples therefore said to him,
"We have seen the Lord."
So he said to them,
"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails,
and put my finger into the print of the nails,
and put my hand into His side,
I will not believe."
- 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside,
and Thomas with them.
Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said,
"Peace to you!"
- 27 Then He said to Thomas,
"Reach your finger here, and look at My hands;
and reach your hand here,
and put it into My side.
Do not be unbelieving, but believing."
- 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him,
"My Lord and my God!"
- 29 Jesus said to him,
"Thomas, because you have seen Me,
you have believed.
Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed."

All of the disciples, except for John, were killed proclaiming that Jesus rose from the dead. How does this prove the above passage is true?

Why are those who believe without seeing "blessed"? _____

John 20:19-29 (Observations)

v19

Underline what day it was.

Circle why the doors were shut.

Circle who came into their midst.

Underline what He said. (Why?)

v20

Circle what He showed them.

Underline why the disciples were glad.

v24

Underline who was not there.

v25

Circle what the disciples said to him.

Circle each condition Thomas made.

Underline Thomas' resolve.

v26

Underline where the disciples were eight days later.

Circle who was with them this time.

Circle who came despite the shut doors.

v27

Circle to whom Jesus speaks.

Circle each thing Jesus asks of him.

(Compare to Thomas' conditions **v25**)

Underline Jesus' exhortation.

v28

Circle the two things Thomas said to Jesus.

v29

Underline why Thomas believed.

Circle what Jesus calls those who believe without seeing.

(continued)

1 Corinthians 15:

- 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
4 and that He was buried,
and that He rose again the third day
according to the Scriptures,
5 and that He was seen by Peter,
then by the twelve.
6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren
at once,
of whom the greater part remain to the present,
but some have fallen asleep.
7 After that He was seen by James,
then by all the apostles.
8 Then last of all He was seen by me also,
as by one born out of due time.

From this list, approximately how many people saw Jesus alive?

The Bible's standard for a trustworthy testimony is that it have the support of "two or three witnesses". What does this say about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ?

How does verse 6 argue against the risen Jesus being an hallucination as some have suggested? _____

How would a person disprove the Resurrection of Jesus?

How do you know Jesus rose from the dead? _____

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (Observations)

v3-4

Circle what Paul delivered 'first of all.'

Circle all the things that happened 'according to the Scriptures.' (Why does Paul use this phrase?)

v5-7

Circle each of the people mentioned who saw Jesus after He rose.

Underline Paul's commentary on the five hundred brethren.

v8

Circle who saw Him last.

Underline Paul's comment about himself. (Why does he say that?)

While visiting villages in Papua New Guinea, I would sometimes be told by the local people that I had just missed seeing Jesus Who had visited them the week before. Spirits and angels were also a common sight for them, although not for me for some reason. It would certainly be an experience to actually see the risen Lord, but so far, God has not allowed me that blessing. But I still believe Jesus rose, based on the testimony of hundreds of others in the Bible who saw Him alive, and who touched Him and spoke with Him. Many of them were tortured and even killed for their testimony. How shall I then disavow their witness? God forbid!
I believe Jesus Christ is alive because of it!

While visiting Jerusalem on my own, I made it a point to visit the two traditional sites of Jesus' Tomb. One located in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the other in the tranquil Garden Tomb just north of the Damascus Gate outside the Northern Wall of the Old City. In fact I visited the Garden Tomb every morning to pray and meditate. The graves and the locations of the remains of the Founders of the Great Religions are accounted for, except for one, for His Tomb is empty! **Jesus is not there for He has risen!**

7. Jesus: His Return

Before Jesus went to the cross, He promised His disciples that He would return.

John 14

- 1 "Let not your heart be troubled;
you believe in God,
believe also in Me.
- 2 "In My Father's house are many mansions;
if it were not so,
I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.
- 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and receive you to Myself;
that where I am,
there you may be also.

According to the passage, why should we believe Jesus is returning?

1 Thessalonians 4

- 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning those who have fallen asleep,
lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.
- 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so God will bring with Him
those who sleep in Jesus.
- 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive and remain
until the coming of the Lord
will by no means precede those who are asleep.
- 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of an archangel,
and with the trumpet of God.
And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive and remain
shall be caught up together with them in the clouds
to meet the Lord in the air.
And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Based on this passage, what issues were troubling the Thessalonian Christians? _____

John 14:1-3 (Observations)

v1

Circle what we should not be.

Circle whom we should believe in.

Circle Whom Jesus says to believe in.

v2

Underline where the mansions are.

Circle what Jesus would have done if it wasn't true.

Underline where Jesus went.

v3

Underline what Jesus will do if he goes and prepares a place for us.

Circle why.

Jesus starts this incredible chapter with a bold request. To believe in Him even as we believe in God Himself! He then makes an amazing promise. He will return to take us to be with Him in His Father's house! The question is, can we trust Him? Absolutely!

Thessalonians 4:13-17

(Observations)

v13

Underline who we should not be ignorant about.

('Sleep' is a euphemism for death.)

Underline why we should not be.

v14

Underline what we believe.

(Note Jesus' Resurrection is our hope.)

Circle who God will bring with Jesus.

v15

Circle on what basis Paul speaks.

Underline who he is speaking about.

Circle who the living will not precede.

v16

Circle Who will descend with a shout.

Circle with whose voice it will be.

Underline with what He will descend.

Circle who will rise first.

v17

Underline what the living will be.

Circle why they will be caught up.

Circle how long we will be with the Lord.

The Testimony of Angels and Prophets

Acts 1:9-11

- 9 Now when He (Jesus) had spoken these things,
while they watched,
He was taken up,
and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven
as He went up,
behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,
11 who also said,
"Men of Galilee,
why do you stand gazing up into heaven?
This same Jesus,
who was taken up from you into heaven,
will so come in like manner
as you saw Him go into heaven."

How does this passage help us identify the true Messiah? _____

Zechariah 14:1-4

- 1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;
The city shall be taken,
The houses rifled,
And the women ravished.
Half of the city shall go into captivity,
But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.
3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations,
As He fights in the day of battle.
4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,
Which faces Jerusalem on the east.
And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,
From east to west,
Making a very large valley;
Half of the mountain shall move toward the north
And half of it toward the south.

Has this prophecy been fulfilled already? Why or why not? _____

Look at a map of Jerusalem. When the above prophecy is

fulfilled, what will happen to Jerusalem? _____

Acts 1:9-11 (Observations)

v9

Circle what happened to Jesus while
His disciples watched.

Circle what hid Him from their sight.

v10

Underline what they did as Jesus
ascended.

Underline who appeared by them.

v11

Underline what they asked the
disciples.

Circle how they described who was
taken into heaven.

Underline how Jesus will return.

The angels said 'this same Jesus' who
was taken up will return 'in like
manner.' This pretty much explains
how to detect the true Messiah. Can
you imagine the expressions on the
faces of His Jewish brethren who will
finally shout, "Blessed is He who
comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Zechariah 14:1-4 (Observations)

v1

Underline what is coming.

Circle what will be divided.

v2

Circle who God will gather to 'battle
against Jerusalem.'

Circle what will happen to Jerusalem.

Circle what will happen to the houses
and women.

Circle who will go into captivity.

Underline what will happen to the
remnant of the people.

v3

Underline what the LORD will do.

v4

Underline what His feet will do.

(Remember Acts 1:11)

Circle where the Mt of Olives faces.

Circle what will happen to the Mtn.

Underline how.

Circle what it will make.

Underline what will happen to each
half of the Mount of Olives.

Geologists have detected a fault line
that extends from the River Jordan
westward under the Mt. of Olives. A
major earthquake could trigger an
event described in Zechariah 14:4.
Both Zechariah and Ezekiel prophesy
that living waters will gush forth to fill
the valley, heal the Dead Sea and all
that come in contact with the waters.

(continued)

The prophet Daniel saw in a vision, and confirmed by other prophets, what will happen after Jesus returns.

Daniel 7

- 13** *"I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.*
- 14** *Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*
- 27** *Then the kingdom and dominion,
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,
Shall be given to the people,
the saints of the Most High.
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'*

Reconcile the truths that the kingdom will be given to the saints on the one hand yet the dominions will 'serve and obey' Jesus on the other?

Describe the authority structure of Jesus' kingdom. _____

Revelation 22

- 12** *"And behold, I (Jesus) am coming quickly,
and My reward is with Me,
to give to every one according to his work.*
- 20** *He (Jesus) who testifies to these things says,
"Surely I am coming quickly." Amen.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

The Book of Revelation was written 2000 years ago. How can we reconcile this with Jesus' words that He is 'coming quickly'?

Daniel 7:13-14, 27

(Observations)

v13

Circle what Daniel was watching.

Circle who he saw.

Underline how the Son of Man came.

Circle who He came to.

v14

Underline what He was given.

Circle who should serve Him.

Circle what kind of dominion He has.

Underline how his kingdom is described.

v27

Underline what shall be given to the people.

Circle who the people are.

Circle what kind of kingdom it is.

Underline what 'all dominions' shall do.

The visions of Daniel are filled with references to Kingdoms in the form of horrifying beasts that battle for supremacy or a stratified giant statue. But this Vision reveals the most eminent King and His Kingdom which will be everlasting and demand the obedience of all other kingdoms. God Himself will give authority to His Son, Jesus, the Son of Man, who will reign as the King of kings with His saints forever!

Revelation 22:12, 20

(Observations)

v12

Circle what Jesus is doing.

Circle what He brings with Him.

Underline what He will do with it.

v20

Underline what Jesus testifies.

Circle the prophet's request.

Though 2000 years seems like a long time for us, in God's eyes, it is not.

Psalms 90:4 says, **"For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past".**

Jesus even tells a parable in His Olivet Discourse to warn us what will happen when He returns. It is imperative that we learn its lessons and live by them.

Matthew 25:14-30

- 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country,
who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.
- 15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one,
to each according to his own ability;
and immediately he went on a journey.
- 16 "Then he who had received the five talents
went and traded with them, and made another five talents.
- 17 "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.
- 18 "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground,
and hid his lord's money.
- 19 "After a long time
the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.
- 20 "So he who had received five talents came
and brought five other talents, saying,
'Lord, you delivered to me five talents;
look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'
- 21 "His lord said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful servant;
you were faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your lord.'
- 22 "He also who had received two talents came and said,
'Lord, you delivered to me two talents;
look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'
- 23 "His lord said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful servant;
you have been faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.
Enter into the joy of your lord.'
- 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said,
'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man,
reaping where you have not sown,
and gathering where you have not scattered seed.
- 25 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground.
Look, there you have what is yours.'
- 26 "But his lord answered and said to him,
'You wicked and lazy servant,
you knew that I reap where I have not sown,
and gather where I have not scattered seed.
- 27 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers,
and at my coming
I would have received back my own with interest.
- 28 "Therefore take the talent from him,
and give it to him who has ten talents.
- 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given,
and he will have abundance;
but from him who does not have,
even what he has will be taken away.
- 30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness.
There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

(Continued on Next Page)

Matthew 25:14-30 (Observations)

v14

Circle the subject of this parable.

Underline what Jesus likens it to.

Observe what this man did.

v15

Underline what he did.

(One Talent = 33kg of gold/silver!)

Circle on what basis he did it.

v16

Underline what the 1st servant did.

v17

Underline what the 2nd servant did.

v18

Underline what the 3rd servant did.

v19

Underline what happened after a long time.

v20

Underline what the 1st servant reported.

v21

Circle what the Lord's commendation.

Underline what he will make him.

Circle into what the servant will enter.

v22

Underline what the 2nd servant reported.

v23

Circle what the Lord's commendation.

Underline what he will make him.

Circle into what the servant will enter.

v24

Circle each of the descriptions the 3rd servant had of his Lord.

v25

Circle what the 3rd servant felt.

Underline what the 3rd servant did.

Circle what the 3rd servant said.

v26

Circle the Lord's description of that servant.

Underline what the Lord said to him.

v27

Underline what the Lord said he should have done.

v28

Circle and observe what the Lord said to do to him.

v29

Circle what will happen to everyone who has.

Circle what will happen to him who does not have.

v30

Underline what the Lord said to do with the 3rd servant.

Circle what will be there.

From Matthew 6:9-10, describe the "Kingdom of Heaven" on Earth.

How is the man in the parable like Jesus? _____

How are Christians like the man's servants? _____

The Biblical 'talent' is a unit of weights. However, because of this parable, the word came to represent the abilities people have. How

is this relevant to us? _____

How can we multiply the talent God has given to us?

According to Jesus' parable, when He returns, He will ask us to give an account of how we used our talent. What will you tell Him?

What do the rewards given to faithful servants represent? _____

Who does the 'wicked and lazy servant' represent? _____

Why are his talents taken away and given to another with more?

What does his fate mean? _____

Called to Account

It is an important and sobering truth that one day Jesus will call us to account for the things we have done in this life, both good and bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). His assessment of our goodness and faithfulness will determine our place in His Kingdom, which will be a time when the authority of God will reign supreme on this Earth. Dominions, people and kingdoms will bow before the King of kings, and we will rule with Him and judge the nations. This life is but a preparation for the one to come when our true identity as children of the Creator and Ruler of this Universe will be revealed in all our royal splendor. Then we will take our places and execute the Almighty's Plan to have the whole Earth at Peace, and free of the lawlessness and wickedness that is pandemic in the world today.

We must rid ourselves of the manmade notion that are those who are called to full time Christian service and those who are not. It is a deception for the truth is that we are all called to serve our God fulltime, and it has nothing to do with a salary. Many who are being paid do little for God's Kingdom and many who never receive a wage do much. God will sort it out in due time, and there will be much regret even as there will be gratitude and praise.

There is a dilemma in this parable and you have probably discerned it by now. Who is the 3rd servant? Is he a sinful Christian or a religious non-Christian? His fate seems to support the latter. So what does this mean? Only that the sole external proof Jesus established for a true Christian is the fruit they bear. It is possible to look like a Christian, but if there is no fruit in your life, you may only be fooling yourself. Beware!

The Day of Reckoning for Believers is coming, and soon. But if you are reading this Studybook, there is still time to order your life and ensure that you will hear God say, "Well done good and faithful servant." Submit yourself to God in every way, and do not allow sin in any way. **Seek to know God, to Love God and to Serve God with your whole heart! That you might enter His Joy!**

8. Jesus: The Son of God

The two most common titles used to refer to **Jesus** is the *Christ* and the *Son of God*. In this lesson, we will study the significance of these titles which make **Jesus** the most amazing Person to have ever lived.

John 5

**18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him (Jesus),
because He not only broke the Sabbath,
but also said that God was His Father,
making Himself equal with God.**

What does this verse teach us about the phrase "Son of God"?

Matthew 16:

**15 He (Jesus) said to them,
"But who do you (the disciples) say that I am?"**
**16 Simon Peter answered and said,
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**
**17 Jesus answered and said to him,
"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah,
for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but My Father who is in heaven.**

What is the significance of Jesus' response to Peter's confession?

Mark 14:

**61 But He (Jesus) kept silent and answered nothing.
Again the high priest (Caiaphas) asked Him, saying to Him,
"Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"**
**62 Jesus said, "I am.
And you will see the Son of Man
sitting at the right hand of the Power,
and coming with the clouds of heaven."**
**63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said,
"What further need do we have of witnesses?"**
**64 "You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?"
And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.**

Why was Caiaphas' reaction incorrect? _____

John 5:18

Circle what the Jews sought.
Circle who Jesus said God was.
Circle what that made Him.

In the Bible the phrase "son of..." is more than a reference to familial relationships. It implies the possession of the essence or quality of the parent. The Jews knew what Jesus was implying when He called God His Father, and their reaction shows it.

Matthew 16:15-17 (Observations)

v15

Underline what Jesus asked.

v16

Circle who Peter said Jesus was.

v17

Circle what Jesus called Peter.

Circle who did not reveal this to Peter.

Underline who revealed it to him.

*Jesus explicitly claimed, in various Scripture, to be the **Christ** (Messiah), the **Son of the Living God**.*

Mark 14:61-64 (Observations)

v61

Circle who kept silent.

Circle who addressed Jesus.

Circle who he asked Jesus He was.

v62

Circle Jesus' two word answer.

Underline what Jesus told Caiaphas he would see.

*(Compare with Daniel 7:13-14)**

v63

Circle what Caiaphas did.

Underline what he said.

v64

Circle what Caiaphas said they heard.

(Blasphemy = dishonoring the name of God. see Leviticus 24:16)

Underline what they did.

*(*Jesus identifying Himself as the 'Son of Man' from Daniel 7: was tantamount to a person claiming to be God, as evidenced by Caiaphas' reaction.)*

In his Gospel's introduction, Mark connects two Old Testament Messianic Prophecies to Jesus, and in so doing, clarifies who the Scriptures identify Jesus as. They confirm what Jesus has already claimed for Himself.

Mark 1:

- 1 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.*
- 2 *As it is written in the Prophets:
"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You."*
- 3 *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'"*

Who are two men in the Bible that could be the "messenger" mentioned in this verse? _____

Why do you think Mark opened his Gospel by citing these verses? _____

Malachi 3:

- 1 *"Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.
And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,"
Says the LORD (Yahweh) of hosts.*

Isaiah 40:

- 3 *The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the LORD (Yahweh);
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

How do these passages reveal Jesus' true identity? _____

The Jewish leaders were unable and unwilling to accept Jesus as the Christ, but even more, that He was the **LORD (Yahweh)** of the *Tanakh* or *Old Testament*. To be fair, people who claim to be God today are usually escorted to an asylum. But Jesus told us to judge Him by His Words and His Works, and on that basis, He will judge us by our acceptance or rejection of Him as **LORD!**

Mark 1:1-3 (Observations)

v1

Circle how Mark describes Jesus Christ.

v2

Underline where the quote is written.

(x reference **Malachi 3:1**)

Circle who will be sent.

Circle whose way will be prepared.

v3

Circle where the voice is crying.

Circle whose way is prepared.

Circle what is made straight.

(x reference **Isaiah 40:3**)

Jesus was preceded by His cousin, John, who came preaching repentance from sin for the **Kingdom of God** was at hand. The context of this passage would seem to identify John the Baptist as the "messenger" cited in Malachi 3:1. But **Malachi** stated that the prophet Elijah would precede the coming **Messiah** (Malachi 4:5). This explains why some questioned whether **Elijah** had to come first to which Jesus clarified that **Elijah** did come referring to John. (Matthew 17:10-13)

Malachi 3:1 (Observations)

Circle who will be sent.

Underline what he will do.

Circle whose way will be prepared.

Circle where the Lord will come.

Circle who is speaking.

(note: **LORD = Yahweh**)

Isaiah 40:3 (Observations)

Circle where the voice is crying.

Circle whose way is prepared.

(note: **LORD = Yahweh**)

Circle what is made straight.

We have seen that *Jesus* did not hesitate to admit He was the *Christ*, the *Son of God*. The Old Testament prophets proclaimed that the *Christ* was none other than *Yahweh Himself*, the *God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*. Observe how *Jesus*, as *Yahweh*, is described in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 44:24

*Thus says the LORD (Yahweh/Jesus), your Redeemer,
And He who formed you from the womb:
"I am the LORD (Yahweh/Jesus), who makes all things,
Who stretches out the heavens all alone,
Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;*

Isaiah 45:18

*For thus says the LORD (Yahweh/Jesus),
Who created the heavens,
Who is God,
Who formed the earth and made it,
Who has established it,
Who did not create it in vain,
Who formed it to be inhabited:
"I am the LORD (Yahweh/Jesus), and there is no other.*

Zechariah 12:1

*The burden of the word of the LORD (Yahweh/Jesus) against Israel.
Thus says the LORD (Yahweh/Jesus),
who stretches out the heavens,
lays the foundation of the earth,
and forms the spirit of man within him:*

Nehemiah 9:6

*You alone are the LORD (Yahweh/Jesus);
You have made heaven,
The heaven of heavens, with all their host,
The earth and everything on it,
The seas and all that is in them,
And You preserve them all.
The host of heaven worships You.*

From the above passages, what do we learn about Jesus?

Isaiah 44:24 (Observations)

Circle who the speaker is.
Underline how He is described.
Underline what He did.
Circle what the LORD makes.
Circle how He made the heavens and the earth.

Isaiah 45:18 (Observations)

Circle who the speaker is.
Circle who He is and all He did.
Circle who there is besides Him.

Zechariah 12:1 (Observations)

Circle who the speaker is.
Underline the three things He does.

Nehemiah 9:6 (Observations)

Circle Who He is alone.
Circle what He made.
Underline the four things He made.
Circle what He does.
Circle who worships Him.

"⁵ Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.⁶ Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God.⁷ He made himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.⁸ And in human form He obediently humbled Himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross."

Philippians 2:5-8
(New Living Translation)

Though He was God, *Jesus* never demanded to be recognized as such in His earthly ministry. But *His Apostles* have *corrected* the record!

John 1:

- 1 In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made through Him,
and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- 4 In Him was life,
and the life was the light of men.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Colossians 1:

- 16 For by Him (Jesus)
all things were created that are in heaven
and that are on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.
All things were created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 2:

- 9 For in Him (Jesus)
all the fullness of Deity dwells
in bodily form,

Why do you think the deity of Christ is more defined after His

ascension than before? _____

What impact do you think the truth of Christ's deity had on the

Apostles and other disciples? _____

What impact does it or will it have on your life? _____

John 1:1-4, 14 (Observations)

v1 (*The Word* = *Jesus*)

Underline what was in the
beginning.

Circle who he was with.

Circle who He was.

v2

Circle when He was with God.

v3

Circle what was made through him.

Circle what was not made by Him.

v4

Circle what was in Him.

Circle what the life was.

v14

Circle what it became.

Underline what it did.

Circle what we beheld.

Underline whose glory it was.

Circle what it was full of.

Colossians 1:16 (Observations)

Circle what was created by Him.

Underline the scope of these things.

(All forms of authority made by Jesus)

Circle how and why all things were
created.

Colossians 2:9 (Observations)

Underline what dwells in Jesus.

In 1741, **George Frideric Handel** used this magnificent passage as the lyrics for his oratorio masterpiece, "**Messiah**". It brings us full circle, from the *birth of a Child* to the *everlasting reign of the King of kings*. It also unapologetically defines and names the Truth about **Jesus**!

Isaiah 9:

6 *For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder.
And His name shall be called*

*Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The Mighty God,
The Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

7 *Of the increase of His government and peace
There shall be no end,
Upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom,
To order it and to establish it
with judgment and with justice
From henceforth,
even for ever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

*Meditate on the Truths of this passage,
especially as they apply to **Jesus**.*

Next ... Ask yourself, "What does Jesus Desire of My Life?"

*Then ... **Do It!***

Isaiah 9:6-7 (Observations)

v6

Circle Who is born.

Circle Who is given.

Circle what will be on His shoulder.

Observe and Contemplate each of His Names.

v7

Underline what will have no end.

Underline from where He will govern.

Underline His Kingdom goals.

Circle its timeframe.

Underline what will perform this.

*Perhaps when you were a child, you enjoyed those mystery pictures that revealed themselves only after connecting a series of dots. And perhaps you've already deduced that we have been doing a similar activity in this Studybook. We have been connecting the dots of Jesus' Life and have finally beheld the complete picture of who He truly is! **Jesus** is the embodiment of **God Almighty, Creator and Sustainer of the Universe**, who loves us so much that He was willing to be **crucified** on **our** behalf, in order that **we** might **enjoy His Love and Fellowship ... Forever!***

*If you are not a Believer but have completed this Study, **Jesus** is reaching out to you right now and wants you to receive Him by faith. **Trust Him today** and **believe that He died for your sins, was buried and raised to life on the third day!** Then allow **His Holy Spirit** to live through you!*

*And if you are a Believer, **Jesus** has a **purpose** for you! **To grow** in your **Knowledge** of Him, in your **Love** for Him, in your **Service** to Him; and in **Holiness** with Him! Share Him with all He brings into your life, and help them to Know, Love and Serve Him as well! Amen? ... **Amen!***

