

**BELIEVER'S
TABERNACLE
CHURCH OF
GOD 7TH DAY**

LESSON STUDY

2018

Therefore said he unto them, the
harvest truly is great, but the
labourers are few: pray ye
therefore the Lord of the harvest,
that he would send forth labourers
into his harvest. - Luke 10:2

CHURCH OF GOD 7th DAY

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To Be Used With The Bible

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EYEWITNESSES

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1 | January 6th, **2018**

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:6

1 Corinthians 15:6 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.

Introduction: Why are the 66 books of the Bible called scriptures? Yes, they have proved themselves to be accurate, but they were also written by people who claim to be eyewitnesses. All of the books of the New Testament were written less than seventy years after Jesus was crucified, by men who claimed to have seen Jesus, heard Jesus, spoken to Jesus, and seen his works. The Old Testament books were written by prophets who spoke with angels, or God, or receive dreams directly from God. The Bible is not a book of rumors, tales, fables, or hear-say.

1. What were the apostles witness to? John 1:1-14

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

John 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made 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.

Note: The apostles spent three years with the Messiah. In those three and a half years they learned directly from Jesus. These sermons and parables eventually would become the New Testament.

2. What special characteristic did the eyewitnesses see in Jesus? V15

John 1:15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

3. What was John the Baptist's special mission? V6-7

John 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

4. What did John the Baptist, the eyewitness, proclaim? V29

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

5. Who wrote the book of Luke? Luke 1:1-4

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Luke 1:2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Luke 1:3 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,

Luke 1:4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Note: Even though Luke wrote the book of Luke, he never met Jesus. His book was written based of the testimony of eyewitnesses.

6. How many witnesses were available to Luke while he was writing his gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:6

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7. What event did John the apostle witness? Revelation 1:10, 12-20

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Revelation 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Note John was given a personal tour of a signified vision of the last days and the Kingdom of God.

8. What was John told to do with this vision? V19

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

9. Were there eyewitnesses to the resurrection? Matthew 27:62-66, Matthew 28:1-4

Matthew 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Matthew 27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

10. What did these eyewitnesses do? Who did they do it for? Why did they do it? Matthew 28:11-15

Matthew 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

Matthew 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Matthew 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

Matthew 28:14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

Matthew 28:15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

11. Were there Old Testament witnesses? Ezekiel 1:1

Ezekiel 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

12. Is God reserved when He makes an appearance to the prophets, His special witnesses?
Ezekiel 1:1, 3, 4, (5-28)

Ezekiel 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Ezekiel 1:3 The word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was there upon him.

Ezekiel 1:4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

Ezekiel 1:5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

Ezekiel 1:6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings.

Ezekiel 1:7 And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass.

Ezekiel 1:8 And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

Ezekiel 1:9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

Ezekiel 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel 1:11 Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

Ezekiel 1:12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

Ezekiel 1:13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

Ezekiel 1:14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Ezekiel 1:15 Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

Ezekiel 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

Ezekiel 1:17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

Ezekiel 1:18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

Ezekiel 1:19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.

Ezekiel 1:20 Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

Ezekiel 1:21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

Ezekiel 1:22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

Ezekiel 1:23 And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

Ezekiel 1:24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

Ezekiel 1:25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

Ezekiel 1:26 And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.

Ezekiel 1:27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

Ezekiel 1:28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

13. Does God limit His appearance to the prophets and apostles or does He want all men to know that He exists? Daniel 3:25

Daniel 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Conclusion: God did not create a book of scriptures that could not be trusted. A book of rumors passed from person to person for only a few generations cannot be trusted. The only trustworthy scriptures must be written by the eyewitnesses.

BLASPHEMY DEFINED

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 24 | Saturday, January 13, 2018

Memory Verse: Exodus 20:7

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Introduction: Blasphemy is a word that most people do not use in their every day speech, but it is a word and accusation that the scriptures treats as very serious. This lesson examines key verses that define this potentially mortal sin.

1. What does God command concerning His name? Exodus 20:7

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

2. Moses gives us an excellent example of someone blaspheming the name of God. What happened to this blasphemer? Leviticus 24:10, 11, 23

Leviticus 24:10 And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp;

Leviticus 24:11 And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the Lord, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan:)

Leviticus 24:23 And Moses spake to the children of Israel, that they should bring forth him that had cursed out of the camp, and stone him with stones. And the children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses.

3. How is idolatry associated with blasphemy? Ezekiel 20:27-32

Ezekiel 20:27 Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

Ezekiel 20:28 For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.

Ezekiel 20:29 Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name whereof is called Bamah unto this day.

Ezekiel 20:30 Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?

Ezekiel 20:31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

Ezekiel 20:32 And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

Answer: Verse 28 describes the idolatry of Israel and verse 27 calls this blasphemy. Verse 31 explains how they worshipped there idols, but still inquired of God. Worshipping the true God along with false gods is called blasphemy.

4. The children of Esau (mount Seir) were guilty of another form of this sin. What was it? Ezekiel 35:2, 12, 13

Ezekiel 35:2 Son of man, set thy face against mount Seir, and prophesy against it,

Ezekiel 35:12 And thou shalt know that I am the LORD, and that I have heard all thy blasphemies which thou hast spoken against the mountains of Israel, saying, They are laid desolate, they are given us to consume.

Ezekiel 35:13 Thus with your mouth ye have boasted against me, and have multiplied your words against me: I have heard them.

Answer: The children of Esau dared to boast against the most high God and is accused of blasphemy.

5. We know that Jesus was sent from God and He had the right and power to forgive sins. However, if someone has not been given this power, but claims to have the power to do so, is that blasphemy? Mark 2:5-7

Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Mark 2:6 But there was certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

Mark 2:7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

6. When Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, what did the Jews charge him with? What did they want to do to Him? John 10:32, 33, 36; Matthew 26:63-66

John 10:32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

John 10:36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Matthew 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Matthew 26:65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

Matthew 26:66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

7. Proclaiming the law, the ten commandments, and breaking the same law gives unbelievers what opportunity? Romans 2:22-24

Romans 2:22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

Romans 2:23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?

Romans 2:24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

8. Can blasphemy be committed only against God? Acts 6:11-14

Acts 6:11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

Acts 6:12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

Acts 6:13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

Acts 6:14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

9. What is the ultimate sin? Mark 3:22, 28-30

Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

Mark 3:28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:

Mark 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

Mark 3:30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

Note: Jesus was casting out devils and the scribes accused Him, saying, "He hath Beelzebub." That is, the Saviour was working miracles right in front of their very eyes and they did not believe that He was the Messiah and did not believe that He had the Holy Spirit. This is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Once we understand this ultimate sin, then we know why Achan, Ananias, Sapphira, Gehazi, and others were immediately punished for their actions.

Conclusion: Based on the scriptures above, blasphemy can be defined as, 1) claiming to be God or the Son of God, 2) claiming to have the power of God, 3) boasting against God, or His prophets, or His law, and, 4) dishonoring God through our actions.

TRADITION VERSUS BIBLE

Scripture Reading: Galatians 1 | Saturday, January 20, **2018**

Memory Verse: Matthew 15:9

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Introduction: There are many religions in the world. Many of which are based on traditions handed down for many generations. By the time of Jesus, the religion given to Moses had degenerated into a religion of tradition. Since the time of Jesus, the "Christian" religion has accepted many pagan traditions. Does the Bible teach tradition? Does it teach against tradition?

1. What instruction did the Saviour give the disciples after His resurrection? Matthew 28:18-20

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

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

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. How does the apostle Paul warn against those who teach or add doctrine which is not contained in the Holy Scriptures? Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Galatians 1:8, 9

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

3. What did Paul instruct Timothy to teach? 2 Timothy 4:1-2

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

4. Will the time come when people will turn away from the truth and seek teachings of men? 2 Timothy 4:3, 4

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2 Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5. How did the scriptures come into being? 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16

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

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

6. What is the danger when one takes from or adds to the word of the Lord? Revelation 22:18, 19; Proverbs 30:5, 6

Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

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

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

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

7. When Paul taught contrary to the word, who was he persecuting? Galatians 1:13, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:9

Galatians 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

Galatians 1:14 And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

8. What did the Saviour tell the people about tradition? Mark 7:3-9

Mark 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

Mark 7:4 And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brassen vessels, and of tables.

Mark 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

Mark 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Mark 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

Mark 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

9. Did heretical tradition end when the new dispensation started? Colossians 2:8; Ephesians 4:14, 15

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

10. How deceptive will men become in the last days? 2 Peter 2:1, 2; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

2 Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

11. What does Paul say to Titus about some people who will teach things not in the scriptures, and will pat them on the back so they will pay them their tithes? Titus 1:9-11

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

Titus 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

12. Since Paul admonishes us to pay no heed to those who would teach things which neither the Saviour nor the apostles gave us, what is the final word?

Conclusion: Paul makes it plain that anything that is in addition to the doctrine of our Redeemer as set forth by the apostles is heresy and the tradition of men. There are a good many traditions in the world today that are taught as doctrine. A safeguard against false doctrine is to ask ourselves these three questions. Is it mentioned in the Bible? Is it taught in the Bible? And, do we have Bible authority for it?

WHAT WILL IT MEAN

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21 | Saturday, January 27, 2018

Memory Verse: Revelation 21:27

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Introduction: Have you ever thought about just what the coming of the Saviour will mean? Many people long and pray for that day to come. Others fear and dread it. Still others are entirely unconcerned about it. What will it mean to all?

1. What will it mean to sin? Micah 7:18, 19; Acts 3:19

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Micah 7:19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

2. What will it mean to pain and sickness? Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 33:24

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Isaiah 33:24 And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.

3. What will it mean to poverty? Revelation 7:16, 17; Isaiah 1:19; Isaiah 49:10

Revelation 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Isaiah 1:19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

Isaiah 49:10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

4. What will it mean to the crippled and lame? Isaiah 35:3-10

Isaiah 35:3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Isaiah 35:4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Isaiah 35:6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 35:7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Isaiah 35:9 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

Isaiah 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

5. What will it mean to iniquity and unrighteousness? Revelation 21:27; 2 Peter 2:9-13

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

2 Peter 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

2 Peter 2:11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2 Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

2 Peter 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

6. What will it mean to the sinner? 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Isaiah 13:9

2 Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

2 Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

7. What will it mean to war, the curse of all ages? Psalms 46:9; Psalms 68:30

Psalms 46:9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

Psalms 68:30 Rebuke the company of spearmen, the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, till every one submit himself with pieces of silver: scatter thou the people that delight in war.

8. What will it mean to Satan and his angels? Isaiah 14:12, 15; Ezekiel 28:13-19; Matthew 25:41

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isaiah 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Ezekiel 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel 28:15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Ezekiel 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

9. What will it mean to death? 1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 21:4

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

10. What will it mean to all the curses that now rests on man? Revelation 22:3; Isaiah 55:12, 13

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

11. What will it mean to the righteous dead? Job 14:14, 15; Job 19:23-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Job 14:15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Job 19:23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!

Job 19:24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!

Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

Job 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Job 19:27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

12. What will it mean to the living saints? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:17, 18; John 11:26

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Conclusion: To those who are washed in His blood and clothed in white, it means the restoration of all that is good, true, and beautiful. Eternal life and health and joy and righteousness. In wonderful mercy, our Lord will cause all wickedness to cease forever, and the knowledge of our God will cover the earth.

THE RESURRECTION

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28 | Saturday, February 03, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:6

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Introduction: One of the foundations of our beliefs is the resurrection of the dead. If there is no resurrection, why should we bother worshipping this God? We worship Him because we will be resurrected. In this lesson we will take a look at various scriptures about resurrection. In them, we will find assurance that we are not vainly worshipping a powerless God.

1. What Psalms foretells of this resurrection? Psalms 16:10

Psalms 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

2. In what way was Jonah a type of the Saviour? Matthew 12:40

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

3. In what plain words did the Saviour foretell of His resurrection? Matthew 16:21; Matthew 17:22, 23; Mark 8:31; Mark 9:31, 32; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 9:22; Luke 18:31-34

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 17:22 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:

Matthew 17:23 And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 9:31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

Mark 9:32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Mark 10:32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him,

Mark 10:33 Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

Mark 10:34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Luke 9:22 Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Luke 18:31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

Luke 18:32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:

Luke 18:33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

Luke 18:34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

4. What was the sign given when asked by the Jews? John 2:19; Matthew 12:40

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

5. To what temple did He refer? John 2:20, 21

John 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

John 2:21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

6. After His resurrection, what effect did this prophecy have upon the apostles? John 2:22

John 2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

7. How did the chief priests and scribes try to prevent the resurrection? Matthew 27:62-64

Matthew 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

8. Did Pilate assist in their efforts? Matthew 27:65, 66

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Matthew 27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

9. How futile was all of this? Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-7, 44-46; John 20:1-10

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Mark 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

Mark 16:3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

Mark 16:4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

Mark 16:5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

Mark 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

Mark 16:8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Mark 16:10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

Mark 16:11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

Mark 16:12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

Mark 16:13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

Mark 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Luke 24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

Luke 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

Luke 24:3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 24:4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

Luke 24:5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

Luke 24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

Luke 24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

John 20:1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

John 20:2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

John 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

John 20:4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

John 20:5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

John 20:6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

John 20:7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

John 20:8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

John 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

John 20:10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

10. Was it possible for the Saviour to be held in death? Acts 2:23, 24

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Acts 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

11. How does Paul speak of the resurrection of the Saviour? 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Corinthians 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

12. Who does the apostle say saw Him after he was risen? 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

1 Corinthians 15:5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

1 Corinthians 15:8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

13. What importance is attached to the resurrection? 1 Corinthians 15:13-18

1 Corinthians 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

1 Corinthians 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

1 Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

14. What positive assurance of the resurrection is given? 1 Corinthians 15:20

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

15. What great truth therefore followed? 1 Corinthians 15:22

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

16. What cheering message of the resurrection is sent to us? Revelation 1:18

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

17. What measure of the power of God may we experience? Ephesians 1:18-22

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

18. What ordinance has been given as a memorial to the Saviour's burial and resurrection? Romans 6:3-5

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Conclusion: According to Ephesians 1:18-22, the resurrection is the "hope of his calling," and gives us access to the "riches of the glory of his inheritance." All of this is "wrought in Christ," that is to say, our faith in Christ and in His resurrection will assure us of our resurrection.

LOT'S UNWISE DECISION

Scripture Reading: Genesis 19 | Saturday, February 10, 2018

Memory Verse: Genesis 19:26

Genesis 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Introduction: Every day we are faced with many decisions that have nothing to do with righteousness directly. However, these decisions affect those around us. In this lesson we will examine Lot's decision to move away from Abraham and eventually to Sodom, and how the decision affected his family.

1. What was the result of Abraham and Lot's wealth? Genesis 13:1-7

Genesis 13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

Genesis 13:2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 13:3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

Genesis 13:4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had make there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 13:5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

Genesis 13:6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

Genesis 13:7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

2. What was the solution to their strife? Genesis 13:8-12

Genesis 13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

Genesis 13:9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

Genesis 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

Genesis 13:11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

Genesis 13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

3. What must Lot have known about the inhabitants of Sodom? Genesis 13:13

Genesis 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

4. Why did he make this decision? Genesis 13:10

Genesis 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

5. When he parted with Abraham, where did he go to live? Genesis 13:12

Genesis 13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

Answer: He went to live in the cities of the plain, "toward Sodom".

6. The next reference to Lot says he was living where? Genesis 14:12

Genesis 14:12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

Answer: in Sodom. His decision took him away from Abraham, toward Sodom, and eventually into Sodom.

Note: There is no doubt that Lot was a righteous man. But after leaving his uncle, this righteous man unwisely moves into the city of wickedness.

7. After a few years, what did God decide must be done with this wicked city? Genesis 18:1, 2, 16-23

Genesis 18:1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

Genesis 18:2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Genesis 18:16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

Genesis 18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Genesis 18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Genesis 18:20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

Genesis 18:21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

Genesis 18:22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

Genesis 18:23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

8. What was the first impact that Lot's move to this city have on him and his family? Genesis 19:4-11

Genesis 19:4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

Genesis 19:5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

Genesis 19:6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

Genesis 19:7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

Genesis 19:8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

Genesis 19:9 And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.

Genesis 19:10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

Genesis 19:11 And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

Note: Why Lot made this offer we do not know. But living in this city, right before its destruction, he was faced with a difficult decision to make. Why he thought the angels needed protection and why he thought he could help them we do not know.

9. How did his sons-in-law (who were most likely Canaanites) react to his plea for them to leave the city? And what of his married daughters? Genesis 19:12-14

Genesis 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

Genesis 19:13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

Genesis 19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

10. How did Sodom affect his wife? Why did she look back? Genesis 19:26

Genesis 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Conclusion: Lot, a righteous man, was not affected by life in Sodom. Because of his righteousness he was delivered by two angels. But his choice to live there did affect his wife, married daughters, sons-in-law, and almost his two virgin daughters. Our personal choices can have a great impact on our families, friends, and acquaintances. Although everyone is responsible for their own salvation, we can and should make certain that we do our part to point them in the right direction.

THE SABBATH CHAPTER

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4 | Saturday, February 17, 2018

Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:9

Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Introduction: Is the Sabbath Day an Old Testament concept? Where can we find the Sabbath being taught in the New Testament? The Answer Hebrews 4. The interpretation of this chapter has been mangled by many. Hopefully, this lesson will make it clear that this chapter is the New Testament Sabbath chapter.

1. A promise has been left us that we will come into that (eternal) rest. However, if we do not fear (have respect for and keep) the following verses, will we enter that rest? Hebrews 4:1

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2. What does it mean to have a gospel that is mixed with faith and that does not profit? Hebrews 4:2; Hebrews 3:17-19

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Hebrews 3:17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

Hebrews 3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

3. Verse 1 speaks of a future rest. Verse 3 speaks of a present rest. Therefore, those who believe the gospel will do what? Hebrews 4:3

Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4. If it is not yet clear what the author is speaking of, what does he say? Hebrews 4:4

Hebrews 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5. What does he link this present rest to? Hebrews 4:5

Hebrews 4:5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6. When the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament were abolished, were the Ten Commandments (including the Sabbath) abolished? Hebrews 4:6, 9

Hebrews 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

7. Can the Sabbath be moved to another day, such as Sunday, or any day that is convenient for us? Hebrews 4:7

Hebrews 4:7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8. Many Bible scholars interpret "Jesus" in verse 8 as Joshua of the Old Testament. However this name is interpreted, did Jesus, Joshua, any prophet, or any apostle ever speak of another day? Hebrews 4:8

Hebrews 4:8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9. This rest is specifically for who? Hebrews 4:9

Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10. When we keep this rest who do we follow? Hebrews 4:10

Hebrews 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11. If we do not make an effort to keep the Sabbath, what is that called? Hebrews 4:11

Hebrews 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Conclusion: This is truly a powerful Sabbath chapter. Consider the following statement: "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise" (v 4), "he limiteth a certain day" (v 7), "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (v 9), and "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest." If the Sabbath Day is hidden or if it is a mystery, it is only a mystery to those who chose not know the truth. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy and remember Hebrews chapter, the Sabbath chapter, that reminds us that the Sabbath Day is still taught in the New Testament.

TO PROVE A PROPHET IS A PROPHET

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 18 | Saturday, February 24, 2018

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 13:7

Ezekiel 13:7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken?

Introduction: Jesus spoke of many false prophets in the last days. Some preach false doctrine and some have gone so far as to prophecy of future events. However, the scriptures that we are about to study require that a prophet's words be accurate and reflect the will of God.

1. How reliable is the word of God and how reliable should a prophet's words be? 2 Peter 1:19

2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2. How should a prophet's words relate to the Bible and the Ten Commandments? Isaiah 8:20

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

3. What daring prophecy was made by the Saviour? Mark 8:31

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

4. Were His words accurate? Mark 14:55

Mark 14:55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none.

5. What prophecy proves that Jesus is a prophet and the Messiah? Matthew 12:40

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

6. What can a prophet or any saint expect from those that hear his words? Ezekiel 33:30-32

Ezekiel 33:30 Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

Ezekiel 33:31 And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

Ezekiel 33:32 And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.

7. Did God reassure Ezekiel of the words that He put in his mouth? Ezekiel 33:33

Ezekiel 33:33 And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

8. What amazing prophecy given by Ezekiel and fulfilled in 1948 proves that his words are from the Almighty God? Ezekiel 36:24

Ezekiel 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

9. What prophecy was given by Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah concerning Ahab the king of Israel? 2 Chronicles 18:9, 10

2 Chronicles 18:9 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in their robes, and they sat in a void place at the entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

2 Chronicles 18:10 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith the LORD, With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed.

10. Were his words proven? What did God have planned for Ahab? 2 Chronicles 18:33, 34

2 Chronicles 18:33 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

2 Chronicles 18:34 And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died.

Note: Zedekiah spoke pleasing words for the benefit of the king ears. His false prophecy did not change God's plan for Ahab.

11. If a miracle worker or world renown preacher teaches doctrine not found and proven in the scriptures, what should be our attitude toward that person? Deuteronomy 13:1-3

Deuteronomy 13:1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

Deuteronomy 13:2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

Deuteronomy 13:3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

12. What should be taught by the man of God? Deuteronomy 13:4

Deuteronomy 13:4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

13. Under the law of Moses, what did the Lord want the children of Israel to do with this dreamer? Deuteronomy 13:5

Deuteronomy 13:5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

14. Do Ezekiel's words apply to ancient false prophets, modern day false prophets, or both? Ezekiel 13:1-9

Ezekiel 13:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 13:2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD;

Ezekiel 13:3 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

Ezekiel 13:4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.

Ezekiel 13:5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.

Ezekiel 13:6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.

Ezekiel 13:7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken?

Ezekiel 13:8 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 13:9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

Conclusion: Just as Zedekiah's prophecy was proven false, today's prophets will be proven false at the second coming of the Saviour.

JONAH'S PASSOVER SACRIFICE

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1 | Saturday, March 03, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 12:39-40

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Introduction: According to the above memory verse, the story of Jonah is a type of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Let us review the story and see just how well it typifies Jesus, His resurrection, and the saints who worship Him.

1. What predicament did certain mariners find themselves in? Jonah 1:4

Jonah 1:4 But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

2. Who did these men pray to for deliverance? Jonah 1:5

Jonah 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

3. How did they determine why they were in this tempest? Jonah 1:7

Jonah 1:7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

4. What was the answer? Jonah 1:7-10

Jonah 1:7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Jonah 1:8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

Jonah 1:9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

Jonah 1:10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Note: We know that it was God who had a purpose to fulfill Who determined the outcome of the cast lots, and not their prayers to their pagan god.

5. Since Jonah's God had caused this tempest, what did they ask of Jonah? Jonah 1:11

Jonah 1:11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

6. What was Jonah's answer? Jonah 1:12

Jonah 1:12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Note: Jonah was willing to sacrifice himself to save the lives of the mariners.

7. Did they want to sacrifice Jonah? Jonah 1:13

Jonah 1:13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

8. Who are they praying to now? Jonah 1:14

Jonah 1:14 Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

Note: They prayed that God would forgive them for this sacrifice of Jonah.

9. What happened after they sacrificed him? Jonah 1:15

Jonah 1:15 So they look up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

10. What was the personal result of their sacrifice? Jonah 1:16

Jonah 1:16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

11. What can these mariners expect for this sacrifice? Jonah 1:17; Jonah 2:10

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

12. If Jonah is a type of Jesus, Matthew 12:39, 40, the mariners are a type of who?

Answer: Just as the mariners sacrificed Jonah, we must accept Jesus as our sacrifice. Just as Jonah was expelled by the fish, and Jesus was resurrected, we will be resurrected.

Conclusion: This incident in the life of Jonah is a prophecy. Jesus uses it to prophesy of His death, burial, and resurrection. Since Jesus was resurrected, we know that His prophecy is true. When Jesus, the Prophet, says that He will be resurrected, and He was, and then says that we can be resurrected, we know that that prophecy is also true. And finally, Because we know that He was in the earth for three days and three nights, we also understand that the Easter story is flawed.

EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

Scripture Reading: Jude 1 | Saturday, March 10, 2018

Memory Verse: Jude 3

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Introduction: The need to "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," is more pertinent today than ever before, because many new pseudo-biblical doctrines have dominated today's religious world. How often have you heard someone say, "that's my doctrine," or "my church teaches", or "I belong to that church," etc. However, regardless of what any organization teaches, the Bible says "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good" and "search the scripture for in them ye think ye have eternal life."

1. How many "faiths" do the Scriptures say there are? Ephesians 4:5

Ephesians 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

2. To whom was this faith delivered? Jude 3; Psalms 147:19, 20

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Psalms 147:19 He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel.

Psalms 147:20 He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.

3. Who are the Saints? Revelation 14:12; Psalms 50:5

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Psalms 50:5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

4. Do these Saints include those who served God in the Old Testament? Psalms 106:16, 148:14

Psalms 106:16 They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD.

5. In the time of Jude, when many new doctrines had been introduced, what advice did he give to the believers? Psalms 106:3

Psalms 106:3 Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.

6. Why are we instructed to earnestly contend for the faith? Jude 4; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2 Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

7. Who are these men said to be? Jude 4

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

8. What do these ungodly men do with the grace of God? Jude 4; Romans 3:8

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:8 And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

Note: Turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, or license for immorality, is to make void the law through faith. Ephesians 4:19. And this, people claim, is the teaching of Paul, which he disagreed with. Romans 3:8, 31, Romans 6:1, 2. The law of God teaches morality. When it is removed immorality abounds.

9. In the true sense of the word, what does the grace of God teach men to do? Titus 2:11, 12

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

10. Did the apostle Paul, a staunch preacher of grace, make void the law through faith? Romans 3:31

Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

11. What did he and the rest do with the Law? Romans 3:31

Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

12. When one turns the grace of God into lasciviousness, what does he do with the Lord who bought him? Jude 4

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

13. What reminder is given to those now called, sanctified, and preserved in Jesus Christ? Jude 4-5

Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

14. Is it well with those who follow the way of Cain, Balaam, and Korah? Jude 11

Jude 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

15. What do those who follow the way of Korah do in the Church? Jude 19; Numbers 16:1-3

Jude 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Numbers 16:1 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

Numbers 16:2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

Numbers 16:3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

16. By so doing, do they have the spirit? Jude 19

Jude 19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

17. What is the faith we are told to "earnestly contend for," said to be? Jude 20

Jude 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

18. What is the final end of our faith? Jude 21

Jude 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Conclusion: Leading our lives according to the Bible in today's world appears primitive before modern churches on whom the prophecy of Ezekiel 22:26 is fulfilled. **The Church of God**, which is the pillar and ground of truth must always "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

SIMPLE COMMANDMENTS

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5 | Saturday, March 17, 2018

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 5:22

Deuteronomy 5:22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

Introduction: Many countries have thousands of laws. There must be millions of laws throughout the world. It takes six years of college to become a lawyer to have an understanding of the legal system in one state (or province). The creator wants everyone to have an opportunity at salvation and has given us simple commandments as the key to that salvation.

1. How many commandments are there in God's law? Exodus 34:28

Exodus 34:28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

2. How many words are there in this commandment? Exodus 20:13

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

3. How broad can one simple commandment be? Matthew 5:21, 22

Matthew 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

4. What else is needed? Deuteronomy 5:22

Deuteronomy 5:22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

5. Are these commandments so complicated that we have to write them down and carry them with us? Psalms 103:17, 18

Psalms 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Psalms 103:18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

6. Simple commandments makes what easy? Psalms 119:15

Psalms 119:15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

7. Is there an even simpler law? Mark 12:29-31

Mark 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Mark 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

8. These few words are more than what? Mark 12:33, 34

Mark 12:33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Mark 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Conclusion: It is not God's desire that we all become lawyers. It is His desire that we all enter his kingdom. These simple commandments are our salvation.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12 | Saturday, March 24, 2018

Memory Verse: John 1:29

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Introduction: Jesus was slain for our sins as the Passover Lamb. Unfortunately, today He is recognized as a Good Friday sacrifice and an Easter resurrection. However, it is the blood of the Passover Lamb that saves us. Can we separate the Passover Lamb from the Passover? Can we keep a "communion" or "Lord's supper" once a month, once a quarter, or any time that is convenient?

1. What was the character of the Passover lamb? Exodus 12:5

Exodus 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

2. What did Israel do with the lamb? Exodus 12:6

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

3. What day did they kill it? Exodus 12:2, 6

Exodus 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Note: That day was called the Passover. Every year that day is called the Passover.

4. What did they do with the lamb's blood? Exodus 12:7

Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

5. What did they do with the lamb's flesh? Exodus 12:7

Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

6. What did they eat with the flesh? Exodus 12:8

Exodus 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

7. What was the lamb called? Exodus 12:11,21

Exodus 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.

Exodus 12:21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.

Note: That lamb was called the Passover. Just as a birthday cake is given on someone's birthday, the Passover lamb was killed on the Passover. You can bake a cake any day of the year, but only on someone's birthday is it called a birthday cake.

8. What did the lamb's blood do for the Israelites? Exodus 12:13

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

9. Who is the fulfillment of that type? John 1:29

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

10. What day was the Lamb destined to be killed? Matthew 26:18

Matthew 26:18 And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples.

Note: When Jesus says "My time is at hand," He means that the day that he was destined to be crucified, the Passover, had arrived.

11. On what day was the Lamb killed? John 19:14-18, 30, 31

John 19:14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

John 19:16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

John 19:17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

John 19:18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Note: Just as the Old Testament lamb was killed on the Passover, the New Testament Lamb was killed on the Passover.

12. How do we commemorate that Passover? 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

1 Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

1 Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

13. What day do we commemorate that Passover? 1 Corinthians 11:23

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

Note: The Passover should be kept the same night that Jesus and His disciples kept it. A birthday cake on any other day is not a birthday cake. A lamb on any other day is not a Passover lamb.

14. What does the Lamb's blood do for us? 1 John 1:7; Revelation 7:14

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

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15. Where is the Lamb today? Revelation 4:1, 2; Revelation 5:6

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

16. What type of records are kept by the Lamb? Revelation 13:8

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

Conclusion: The Passover is the day. The **Passover** is the **lamb**. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that Passover lamb.

SYNCRETISM

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32 | Saturday, March 31, 2018

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:20-21

1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

1 Corinthians 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Introduction: Syncretism is a fancy word for "mingled religion." Some new beliefs and some old beliefs. Some true doctrine and some false doctrine. Half biblical teaching and half pagan rituals. The following scriptures are not ambiguous. The Bible teaches that we are to worship God alone without influence from outside of the Bible.

1. In our respect of God, what is one characteristic that we should keep in mind? Exodus 34:14

Exodus 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

2. What does this jealous God think of the worship we give to Him? Isaiah 42:8

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Note: Any husband or wife knows the meaning of the word jealousy. What husband or wife would share their spouse. Even so, the Almighty God does not share His glory.

3. What is the fate of those who swear by the Lord and by other gods? Zephaniah 1:2-8

Zephaniah 1:2 I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the LORD.

Zephaniah 1:3 I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked: and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

Zephaniah 1:4 I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests;

Zephaniah 1:5 And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;

Zephaniah 1:6 And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

Zephaniah 1:7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

Zephaniah 1:8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.

4. The Israelites wanted Aaron to "make us gods," so he made a "molten calf," and called it "a feast to the Lord." What did Moses and the Lord God of Israel think of this mingled worship? Exodus 32:4, 5, 24-27

Exodus 32:4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 32:5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.

Exodus 32:24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

Exodus 32:25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

Exodus 32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

Exodus 32:27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

5. What was Jeroboam's great sin? 1 Kings 12:25-33

1 Kings 12:25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel.

1 Kings 12:26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:

1 Kings 12:27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

1 Kings 12:28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

1 Kings 12:29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

1 Kings 12:30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.

1 Kings 12:31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

1 Kings 12:32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

1 Kings 12:33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

6. Jeroboam and all the kings of Israel would have known the scriptures, and should have known what? Deuteronomy 12:32

Deuteronomy 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

7. The Samaritan people were not of Israel? How were they established? 2 Kings 17:23, 24, 41

2 Kings 17:23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.

2 Kings 17:24 And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof.

2 Kings 17:41 So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

8. How was the Samaritan religion established? 2 Kings 17:25-33

2 Kings 17:25 And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them.

2 Kings 17:26 Wherefore they spake to the king of Assyria, saying, The nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the land.

2 Kings 17:27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land.

2 Kings 17:28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

2 Kings 17:29 Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt.

2 Kings 17:30 And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima,

2 Kings 17:31 And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

2 Kings 17:32 So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.

2 Kings 17:33 They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.

9. In the gospel of John, Jesus says, "ye worship ye know not what." What does that mean? John 4:22

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

10. He also says, "salvation is of the Jews." What does that mean? John 4:22

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

11. Should we mingle our worship of God today? 1 Corinthians 10:20, 21

1 Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

1 Corinthians 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Conclusion: Based on what we have learned about the Samaritans, syncretism is not new. Through Jesus's conversation with the Samaritan woman we know that there is no salvation in syncretism. The same truth applies to today's "modern Samaritans."

THE DECEPTION OF PROSPERITY

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 44 | Saturday, April 07, 2018

Memory Verse: Luke 12:15

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Introduction: Money is a deceiver. Prosperity is a deceiver. Many religious folks see their prosperity and the prosperity of their churches and think that they are being blessed by the Almighty. Are they? Whether rich or poor, above all, we must interpret the scriptures correctly to determine if we are doing the will of God.

1. Where were the Jews of Jerusalem and Judah at the time of these events? Jeremiah 44:1

Jeremiah 44:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,

2. How and why did they end up in Egypt? Jeremiah 44:2-6

Jeremiah 44:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein,

Jeremiah 44:3 Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, and to serve other gods, whom they knew not, neither they, ye, nor your fathers.

Jeremiah 44:4 Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.

Jeremiah 44:5 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods.

Jeremiah 44:6 Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as at this day.

3. Besides committing evil against God, who were they sinning against? Jeremiah 44:7, 8

Jeremiah 44:7 Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Wherefore commit ye this great evil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain;

Jeremiah 44:8 In that ye provoke me unto wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense unto other gods in the land of Egypt, whither ye be gone to dwell, that ye might cut yourselves off, and that ye might be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?

4. How bold were they in their worship of their idol gods? Jeremiah 44:6, 9

Jeremiah 44:6 Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as at this day.

Jeremiah 44:9 Have ye forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem?

5. After they were expelled from Jerusalem, did they change their ways? Jeremiah 44:10

Jeremiah 44:10 They are not humbled even unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers.

6. What did Jeremiah say was their sentence for their lack of repentance? Jeremiah 44:12-14

Jeremiah 44:12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.

Jeremiah 44:13 For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence:

Jeremiah 44:14 So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.

7. Their answer to Jeremiah was what? v 15, 16. Why were they so quick to reject the word of God from the mouth of Jeremiah? Jeremiah 44:17

Jeremiah 44:17 But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

Answer: Prosperity.

8. In addition to being prosperous when they worshiped the queen of heaven, when they stopped worshipping her, what happened? Jeremiah 44:18

Jeremiah 44:18 But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.

9. After Judah rejected God's plea, what was his answer to them? Jeremiah 44:20, 27, 30

Jeremiah 44:20 Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him that answer, saying,

Jeremiah 44:27 Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them.

Jeremiah 44:30 Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give Pharaohhophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life.

Conclusion: Many Sunday-worshipping churches are prosperous. Many non-Bible based churches are prosperous. Many atheists are prosperous. Prosperity is not an indicator of God's favor. Prosperity is not even an indicator that someone has chosen the true God.

INFLUENCE

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5 | Saturday, April 14, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:14

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Introduction: Words and actions influence those around us. We should always be aware of the people who have influence on our lives, and we should also be aware of the people whose lives we influence.

1. What affect did Jezebel have on king Ahab? 1 Kings 21:25

1 Kings 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

2. After Ahab had sold himself to wickedness, who learned from his actions? 1 Kings 22:51-53

1 Kings 22:51 Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.

1 Kings 22:52 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin:

1 Kings 22:53 For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

3. Ahab's influence reached how far? 2 Kings 8:16-18, 25-27

2 Kings 8:16 And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign.

2 Kings 8:17 Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

2 Kings 8:18 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

2 Kings 8:25 In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign.

2 Kings 8:26 Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

2 Kings 8:27 And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the LORD, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son in law of the house of Ahab.

4. Every king has a relationship with his followers. Describe the relationship between Manasseh and the children of Israel. II Kings 21:9.

5. Paul's letter to the Galatians reprimanded them because they had drifted from the truth given by the apostles. What was the cause of their error? Galatians 3:1; Galatians 5:7, 8; Galatians 1:6

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Galatians 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Galatians 5:8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

6. How should we use our influence? Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:15

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

7. Were the Thessalonians examples after the words of the Saviour? 1 Thessalonians 1:7, 8

1 Thessalonians 1:7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

1 Thessalonians 1:8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

8. Ahab and Jezebel had an overwhelming negative influence on their children, relatives, and the nation of Israel. What influence should parents have on their children? 2 Kings 15:1-3, 32-34

2 Kings 15:1 In the twenty and seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel began Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah to reign.

2 Kings 15:2 Sixteen years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned two and fifty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

2 Kings 15:3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;

2 Kings 15:32 In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah king of Israel began Jotham the son of Uzziah king of Judah to reign.

2 Kings 15:33 Five and twenty years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerusha, the daughter of Zadok.

2 Kings 15:34 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD: he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

9. How is this influence achieved? Ephesians 6:4

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Conclusion: Various religious groups through the centuries and even today have used violence, coercion, and politics to spread their beliefs. The only tool that the scriptures provide for the church is influence. Whether through preaching, teaching, or our behaviour, we influence everyone we come in contact with.

MY TIME IS COME

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:1-18 | Saturday, April 21, 2018

Memory Verse: Exodus 12:13

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Introduction: The Passover is not the day Jesus happened to be taken and executed by the authorities. It is the day ordained by God, alluded to throughout Genesis, made manifest in Exodus, and fulfilled in the four gospels. This day was ordained for Jesus's death. The Lamb had to be sacrificed on that day or He would not be the Lamb.

1. Of all the months of the year, and of all the days of the year, what month and day was the lamb to be killed? Exodus 12:2, 6

Exodus 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

2. This day and the lamb were both called what? Exodus 12:11

Exodus 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover.

3. The blood of this particular lamb, killed on this particular day, did what for the Israelites? Exodus 12:13

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Note: Salvation came to Israel because they killed the Passover lamb as commanded on the Passover. Not another animal. Not another day.

4. The Jews were trying to do what to Jesus the Lamb? John 7:1

John 7:1 After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

5. Which feast day was approaching? John 7:2

John 7:2 Now the Jew's feast of tabernacles was at hand.

6. Why didn't Jesus give them the opportunity? John 7:8

John 7:8 Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast: for my time is not yet full come.

Note: Jesus was not ordained to be a feast of tabernacles sacrifice.

7. Even when they had an opportunity, what happened? John 7:30; John 8:20

John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

John 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

8. What did Jesus tell his disciples right before the Passover? Was He aware that His time was near? Matthew 26:1, 2

Matthew 26:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,

Matthew 26:2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

9. How did chief priest's mistake help the Lamb's mission? Matthew 26:5

Matthew 26:5 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.

Note: The feast day that this verse refers to is the first day of unleavened bread, the fifteenth day of the first month, a high Sabbath day, which was the day after the Passover. The Jews did not see the significance of the fourteenth day. They were interested in the high Sabbath day. Thus, unwittingly they crucified Jesus on the Passover.

10. Jesus would not give His life on any other day. What did He say on this day? Matthew 26:52

Matthew 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

11. Could the Father had easily prevented His death? Matthew 26:53

Matthew 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

12. Did the chief priests who were arresting Jesus know the importance of the time and why they could not apprehend Him on another day? What did Jesus remind them of? Matthew 26:55

Matthew 26:55 In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

13. According to the scriptures (Exodus 12), the lamb was killed on a certain day. Why was this happening to Jesus on this day? Matthew 26:54, 56

Matthew 26:54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Matthew 26:56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

14. What was Jesus's final, willing, and intentional act? Luke 23:46

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Conclusion: Jesus was the Passover Lamb. He did not give His life until that Passover.

GREAT LEADERS

Scripture Reading: Daniel 2 | Saturday, April 28, 2018

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:21

Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Introduction: We as men admire leaders who concur, overthrow, establish, and expand. These leaders are certainly due a measure of admiration. For our eternal security, who should we admire above all?

1. Pharaohs ruled Egypt for centuries. However, what power did God have over one particular Pharaoh? Exodus 9:16

Exodus 9:16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

2. Throughout history, a few kings and emperors have earned the title of "great." How does the Almighty God refer to Nebuchadnezzar the great? Jeremiah 25:9; Jeremiah 27:6

Jeremiah 25:9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Jeremiah 27:6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

3. When the Creator was finished with Nebuchadnezzar, his son, and his grandson, what did He do with them? Daniel 5:25-30

Daniel 5:25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

Daniel 5:26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

Daniel 5:27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 5:29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Daniel 5:30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

4. From Nebuchadnezzar to Darius and Cyrus. What is the will of these kings? Isaiah 44:28

Isaiah 44:28 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.

5. What subtle challenge did Jesus Christ's presence on earth pose to Caesar (and to Herod and the high priest)? John 18:33, 36, 37; John 19:12

John 18:33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

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

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

John 19:12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

6. Earthly kings must always keep in mind what? Acts 12:20-23

Acts 12:20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

Acts 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

Acts 12:22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

Acts 12:23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

7. Kings, emperors, presidents, and prime ministers are determined by whom? Daniel 2:21

Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

8. From heaven, how does the creator view his creation and their kings? Isaiah 40:15-17, 22, 23

Isaiah 40:15 Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

Isaiah 40:16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.

Isaiah 40:17 All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

Isaiah 40:22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

Isaiah 40:23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

9. All these great leaders performed great accomplishments in the eyes of men. And all their accomplishments can be found in the ruins of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and countless others. Their kingdoms did not last. What act of the Almighty will surpass them all? Daniel 2:44; Daniel 7:27

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Conclusion: Kingdoms are temporary. Most successful kingdoms last a few hundred years. Great leaders last a few decades. Our citizenship is in heaven. Our kingdom is still to come. A King and a kingdom that will last forever.

IS THERE VALUE IN SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 14:1-33 | Saturday, May 05, 2018

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 14:32

1 Corinthians 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

Introduction: Speaking in tongues is spoken of in the scriptures. It is desirable and, if given by the spirit, can be a powerful tool. However, speaking in tongues has been misinterpreted and mis-used for over a hundred years. What does Paul say of speaking in tongues?

1. What should we desire rather than spiritual gifts? 1 Corinthians 14:1

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

Note: The word prophesy in this chapter means teaching.

2. What value is speaking in tongues to the church? 1 Corinthians 14:2-4

1 Corinthians 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

3. If someone did speak in tongues, shouldn't they also interpret? 1 Corinthians 14:5, 6, 12, 13

1 Corinthians 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

1 Corinthians 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

1 Corinthians 14:13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

4. What is the purpose of an "uncertain sound?" What is the purpose of having a conversation with a barbarian? 1 Corinthians 14:7-11

1 Corinthians 14:7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

1 Corinthians 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

1 Corinthians 14:9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

1 Corinthians 14:10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

1 Corinthians 14:11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

5. How does Paul reinforce the need to understand? 1 Corinthians 14:14-17

1 Corinthians 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

1 Corinthians 14:16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

1 Corinthians 14:17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

6. What comparison does Paul use to place a value on speaking in tongues? 1 Corinthians 14:18, 19

1 Corinthians 14:18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

1 Corinthians 14:19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

7. Again, what is the value of understanding? 1 Corinthians 14:20

1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

8. Speaking in tongues is a sign to who? 1 Corinthians 14:21, 23

1 Corinthians 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

1 Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

Note: Isaiah prophesied that God would speak to Israel with another tongue and that they would not hear!

9. And what is the life altering power of understanding? 1 Corinthians 14:24, 25

1 Corinthians 14:24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

1 Corinthians 14:25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

10. On Pentecost, how was speaking in tongues (speaking in a foreign language) used? Acts 2:1-11

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

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

Acts 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

Acts 2:7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

Acts 2:8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

Acts 2:9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

Acts 2:10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Acts 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

11. Is there a place in the church for speaking in an unknown tongue? 1 Corinthians 14:26-28

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

1 Corinthians 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

1 Corinthians 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

12. Should we seek spiritual gifts? 1 Corinthians 14:1

1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

13. Should all seek the same spiritual gifts? 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

1 Corinthians 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

1 Corinthians 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

14. What is Paul's conclusion about speaking in tongues? 1 Corinthians 14:33, 39, 40

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Conclusion: Many in the **Church of God** are here because of the understanding of the truth that sanctifies the saints. Understanding what the Saviour desires of his servants is what converts the unbeliever.

WHY IS THE MESSIAH NAMED JESUS?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1 | Saturday, May 12, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Introduction: What's in a name? Most parents name their children at birth giving them a name that sounds good. And then we try to mold them into honorable adults. God the father gave His Son a mission before He was born and He named Him for His mission.

1. There are various people in the Bible whose names are a reflection of their character. Abraham means "father of a multitude," and so he was. Jacob means "supplanter," and so he was. What is the name of God the Father? What does His name mean? Psalms 83:18; Exodus 3:14

Psalms 83:18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Exodus 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Answer: Jehovah means "I AM" or "I Exist." "I AM THAT I AM," implies that God exists of Himself. God's name is a reflection of who He is. Through this name God is also comparing Himself to other gods that do not exist. They are idol gods.

2. What is another characteristic of God? Jeremiah 14:22

Jeremiah 14:22 Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

3. So it is with the name of God the Father. What about God the Son? Was Joseph and Mary allowed to choose any name for the Son of God? Matthew 1:19-21

Matthew 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Matthew 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

4. What name was given to them and why? Matthew 1:21

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

5. How important is this name? Acts 4:12

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

6. What other characteristics and titles does Jesus have? Hebrews 3:1

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Note: As the Apostle, Jesus came to earth teaching the way of salvation. As High Priest, He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our salvation.

7. Why do we need a Saviour? Romans 7:8-11, 24

Romans 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Romans 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

8. What will the Saviour save us from? Revelation 20:15

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

9. What will the Saviour do for us? Revelation 7:14; Revelation 20:4

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Conclusion: Jesus's mission on earth was to die for our sins. He died in our place. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour we are exchanging His eternal life, death, and resurrection for our sinful life, corruptible bodies, and eternal death. The name Jesus proclaims His mission to mankind.

HOW DO WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14 | Saturday, May 19, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 14:33

Matthew 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Introduction: Anyone can claim to be divine. Anyone can claim to be a messiah. Other religions have divinities, prophets, and messiahs. We have one chance in this life to choose the correct Saviour. How do we know for certain that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

1. What did Satan want Jesus to prove? Matthew 4:1-7

Matthew 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Matthew 4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

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

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

2. The high priest needed to know if this man was the Son of God. How passionate was he to know the answer to this question? Matthew 26:62, 63

Matthew 26:62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Note: The high priest "arose" and said, "I adjure thee... tell us." Adjure means to beg or command.

3. Earthquakes don't happen every day. Who was convinced by an earthquake at His death? Matthew 27:54

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

4. If someone was not convinced by the first earthquake, should they be convinced by the second? Who was not convinced by an earthquake at His resurrection? Matthew 28:2, 4, 11-15

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

Matthew 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Matthew 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

Matthew 28:14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

Matthew 28:15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

5. How did Jesus prove to one man that He was? John 9:1, 6,7,35-37

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

John 9:6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

John 9:36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

John 9:37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

6. Did this man accept Jesus by this miraculous deed? John 9:38

John 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

7. What very unusual event happened early one morning? Matthew 14:24, 25

Matthew 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Matthew 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

8. The twelve disciples had never seen such a thing before. What did they think? Matthew 14:26

Matthew 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

9. Did they have anything to fear? Matthew 14:27

Matthew 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

10. Was this a stunt for any mortal man? Matthew 14:28-31

Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

Matthew 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

11. Walking on water is but one miracle. What else happened? Matthew 14:32

Matthew 14:32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

12. After seeing Jesus walk on water and calm the wind, what did the other eleven (including Judas Iscariot) proclaim? Matthew 14:33

Matthew 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

13. How do we know for certain that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Romans 1:4

Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Conclusion: Jesus did many miracles that are listed in the gospels. He did many more that are not listed in the gospels. All of the miracles performed by Jesus prove that He was the Son of God. Of course the most important of all is that he was publicly crucified, was certainly dead, and was resurrected.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS BEFORE MOUNT SINAI

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:6-21 | Saturday, May 26, **2018**

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:25

Deuteronomy 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

Introduction: God is an eternal God with eternal laws. His laws and commandments do not change. One reason that we keep the commandments today, is because we know they were being enforced before they were given at Sinai, during God's nation's reign of earth, and after Jesus was crucified. This lesson examines why we know that these laws were being enforced before mount Sinai.

1. What unpopular law was one of the first to be referred to in the scriptures? Genesis 8:20

Genesis 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

2. Immediately after the flood, which commandment did God proclaim to Noah and his sons? Genesis 9:6

Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

3. How can Jacob perform this act of putting away their strange gods without knowing God's commandment? Genesis 35:2-4

Genesis 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

Genesis 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

Genesis 35:4 And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

4. What did Joseph proclaim to be a sin more than two hundred years before God spoke on Mount Sinai? Genesis 39:7-9

Genesis 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

Genesis 39:8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

Genesis 39:9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

5. How can Abraham keep God's laws without knowing God's commandments? Genesis 26:5

Genesis 26:5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

6. The previous verse speaks of commandments, statutes, and laws. What would the commandments, statutes, and laws include? Genesis 14:17-20

Genesis 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Genesis 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

Genesis 14:20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

7. Can we be sure that the commandments were past from one generation to another? Genesis 18:19

Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

8. Do we have evidence in the scriptures that they were past to another generation? Genesis 28:22

Genesis 28:22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

9. Two chapters before the ten commandments are given on mount Sinai, what was Moses' duty as the judge of Israel? Exodus 18:16

Exodus 18:16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.

10. What is the definition of righteousness? Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Deuteronomy 6:25; Psalms 119:172

Deuteronomy 5:6 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Deuteronomy 5:7 Thou shalt have none other gods before me.

Deuteronomy 5:8 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:

Deuteronomy 5:9 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,

Deuteronomy 5:10 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Deuteronomy 5:11 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Deuteronomy 5:12 Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.

Deuteronomy 5:13 Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work:

Deuteronomy 5:14 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy

maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

Deuteronomy 5:15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

Deuteronomy 5:16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deuteronomy 5:17 Thou shalt not kill.

Deuteronomy 5:18 Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

Deuteronomy 5:19 Neither shalt thou steal.

Deuteronomy 5:20 Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Deuteronomy 5:21 Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Deuteronomy 6:25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

Psalms 119:172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.

11. Abel is said to be a righteous man. If the definition of righteousness is to keep the commandments, what must Abel have known? Matthew 23:35; Hebrews 11:4

Matthew 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

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

Conclusion: God's moral laws are eternal laws, good laws, and laws to live by. How can such laws be given and taken away, or given to some and not to others. The ten commandments (and other laws) are for all men for all time.

THE LURE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 13 | Saturday, June 02, 2018

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 13:3

Ezekiel 13:3 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

Introduction: To catch a fish, you need a lure with enticing bait. What is the lure of the false prophet?

1. What is an excellent definition of a false prophet? Ezekiel 13:3

Ezekiel 13:3 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

2. How do these false prophets use others? Ezekiel 13:6

Ezekiel 13:6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.

3. Everyone wants victory for their country in war. Everyone wants victory for their football team. What did one clever false prophet say to please the king of Israel? 1 Kings 22:10, 11

1 Kings 22:10 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

1 Kings 22:11 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.

4. How did other false prophets work with him? 1 Kings 22:12

1 Kings 22:12 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the king's hand.

5. If you want to be a false prophet, what must you be willing to do? Micah 2:11

Micah 2:11 If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

Note: You don't want to be a false prophet!

6. What tool did one false prophet and traitor use to lure Israel? Numbers 25:1-3; Numbers 31:16; Revelation 2:14

Numbers 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

Numbers 25:2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

Numbers 25:3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

Numbers 31:16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

7. Does the lure have to be so obviously wicked? Ezekiel 13:10

Ezekiel 13:10 Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

8. What is the lure of the wicked? Ezekiel 13:22

Ezekiel 13:22 Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:

9. How strong can the lure of false prophets and false religion be? Revelation 9:20, 21

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Revelation 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

10. Does the spiritually weak really need a false prophet to lead them? Jeremiah 44:17

Jeremiah 44:17 But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

Conclusion: Some of these lures are popular today and others are not. Some have evolved into other forms. One of the lures of today's false religions are seasonal celebrations.

THE PROVERBS

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 1 | Saturday, June 09, 2018

Memory Verse: Proverbs 1:10

Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Introduction: Wisdom is not taught in a school or a university. It cannot be found in a text book. Wisdom is taught by parents and a wise God who wants the best for his creatures. The book of Proverbs teaches God's wisdom and can transform a simple youngster into a wise adult.

1. Who wrote most of the proverbs? Proverbs 1:1

Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

2. Why did Solomon write these proverbs? Proverbs 1:2-4

Proverbs 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

Proverbs 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

Proverbs 1:4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

3. How will a wise man approach these proverbs? Proverbs 1:5, 6

Proverbs 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Proverbs 1:6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

4. What will be a foolish man's attitude toward these proverbs? Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

5. What did Jesus say to us about wisdom? Matthew 10:16

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Note: If Jesus counsels us to be wise, we must spend time reading and studying the book of wisdom.

6. Does a wise young man or young lady respect their parents? Proverbs 1:8,9

Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Proverbs 1:9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Note: It is the parents duty to nurture the child. It is the child's duty to respect the parents. Through a child's character the world can spot a child raised by caring parents. The world can also spot a child raised by negligent parents.

7. If sinners attempt to entice you, what should be your response? Proverbs 1:10-19

Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Proverbs 1:11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Proverbs 1:12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

Proverbs 1:13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

Proverbs 1:14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

Proverbs 1:15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

Proverbs 1:16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

Proverbs 1:17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

Proverbs 1:18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

Proverbs 1:19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

8. What is the fate of those who are seduced? Proverbs 1:18, 19

Proverbs 1:18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

Proverbs 1:19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

9. What does wisdom say to the simple? Proverbs 1:20-23

Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

Proverbs 1:21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Proverbs 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

10. What has wisdom said to the simple who rejects her council? Proverbs 1:24-32

Proverbs 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

Proverbs 1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Proverbs 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

Proverbs 1:27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

Proverbs 1:28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Proverbs 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Proverbs 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

Proverbs 1:32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

11. Whose wisdom and whose knowledge is the preacher referring to? Proverbs 1:29

Proverbs 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

12. What can wisdom do for the simple? Proverbs 1:33

Proverbs 1:33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Conclusion: This first chapter of Proverbs lays the foundation for the entire book. It is a book about wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Wisdom that leads to a long and honorable life in this world and salvation and eternal life in the next world.

HOW HAVE FALSE PROPHETS SABOTAGED GOD'S WORD?

Scripture Reading: Revelation 17 | Saturday, June 16, **2018**

Memory Verse: Daniel 7:25

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Introduction: There are more than a billion "Christians" who are very religious. They do believe in what their church elders preach, but they ignorantly or willfully ignore the words of God and do the opposite of what the Lord wants.

1. From where came the great false Christianity? Daniel 7:25

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

2. How can we know this religious organization? Daniel 7:8, 20, 21

Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Daniel 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

3. Where is this power based? Daniel 7:19; Revelation 17:9

Daniel 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

Revelation 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

4. They changed God's law and say that they worship the Lord on the day of His resurrection. When did He rise? Matthew 28:1-7

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

5. How many "persons" are there in the God head? Isaiah 43:11; Isaiah 44:6, 8

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

6. Did the Saviour say that He was going to His Father and the Holy Spirit? John 10:30; John 14:12, 28; John 16:17

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

John 16:17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father?

7. Must we confess our sins to a priest? Psalms 32:5; Romans 14:11, 12; James 5:16

Psalms 32:5 I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

8. Are we to worship the queen of heaven? Jeremiah 7:17-20; Jeremiah 44:15-26

Jeremiah 7:17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Jeremiah 7:18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

Jeremiah 7:19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

Jeremiah 7:20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

Jeremiah 44:15 Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying,

Jeremiah 44:16 As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee.

Jeremiah 44:17 But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.

Jeremiah 44:18 But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.

Jeremiah 44:19 And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?

Jeremiah 44:20 Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him that answer, saying,

Jeremiah 44:21 The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and came it not into his mind?

Jeremiah 44:22 So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.

Jeremiah 44:23 Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day.

Jeremiah 44:24 Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah that are in the land of Egypt:

Jeremiah 44:25 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows.

Jeremiah 44:26 Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth.

9. Do we please the Lord by celebrating Christmas? Ecclesiastes 7:1; Jeremiah 10:1-7

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

Jeremiah 10:1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Jeremiah 10:3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

Jeremiah 10:4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

Jeremiah 10:5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

Jeremiah 10:6 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

Jeremiah 10:7 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.

10. Are the dead in purgatory, in limbo, in heaven, or in the grave? John 3:13; John 7:34

John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

John 7:34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

11. May we eat abominable meats? Acts 10:9-17, 27, 28

Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

Acts 10:10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

Acts 10:11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Acts 10:12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

Acts 10:13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

Acts 10:14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

Acts 10:15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

Acts 10:16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

Acts 10:17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

Acts 10:27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

12. Can we be sprinkled in baptism? John 1:29; John 3:23

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

John 3:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

Definition: The word baptism means immersion, that is, to submerge. And since baptism is a type of a death, burial, and resurrection, we must be "buried" in the water.

13. To which God belongs the fish-emblem? Judges 16:23; 1 Samuel 5:2-7

Judges 16:23 Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.

1 Samuel 5:2 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon.

1 Samuel 5:3 And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again.

1 Samuel 5:4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.

1 Samuel 5:5 Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.

1 Samuel 5:6 But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof.

1 Samuel 5:7 And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.

Note: Dagon was an idle God made of the head and upper body of a man, and the hips and lower body of a fish. Early apostate "Christians" vainly worshipped Jesus as Ichthyus or Dagon, the fish god, and used the emblem of a fish to symbolize their god.

Conclusion: All of the doctrines above are false doctrines. When we study our Bibles and only accept doctrine that can be found in the Bible, we cannot be deceived.

BY BOOKS

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 22 | Saturday, June 23, 2018

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:13

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Introduction: Writing is how words are faithfully transmitted over many centuries. Reading is a very important skill in the twenty-first century that allows us to read scriptures that were written by the prophets and apostles. What does the Bible say about reading and what is written?

Definition: Parchment was an ancient type of paper. In Paul's letter to Timothy, he is referring to scriptures written on parchment.

1. How do we know what to observe? Deuteronomy 28:58

Deuteronomy 28:58 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

2. What promises were made to Israel before they entered the promised land? These promises were based on what? Deuteronomy 30:1-9, 10

Deuteronomy 30:1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

Deuteronomy 30:2 And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

Deuteronomy 30:3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

Deuteronomy 30:4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:

Deuteronomy 30:5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.

Deuteronomy 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

Deuteronomy 30:7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.

Deuteronomy 30:8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day.

Deuteronomy 30:9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

Deuteronomy 30:10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

3. Was the king above the word that was written? Deuteronomy 17:15, 18

Deuteronomy 17:15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

Deuteronomy 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

4. How did the written word affect king Joash? 2 Kings 14:1-6

2 Kings 14:1 In the second year of Joash son of Jehoahaz king of Israel reigned Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah.

2 Kings 14:2 He was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

2 Kings 14:3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like David his father: he did according to all things as Joash his father did.

2 Kings 14:4 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: as yet the people did sacrifice and burnt incense on the high places.

2 Kings 14:5 And it came to pass, as soon as the kingdom was confirmed in his hand, that he slew his servants which had slain the king his father.

2 Kings 14:6 But the children of the murderers he slew not: according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

5. How did a certain dusty book affect king Josiah? 2 Kings 22:8, 11

2 Kings 22:8 And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

2 Kings 22:11 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

6. Did he keep these written words to himself? 2 Kings 23:2, 3

2 Kings 23:2 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 23:3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

7. Which long lost observance was restored because these words had been written down? 2 Kings 23:21-23

2 Kings 23:21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

2 Kings 23:22 Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

2 Kings 23:23 But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

8. How serious were these written words to the king? 2 Kings 23:24

2 Kings 23:24 Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

9. What did Paul consider as a necessity to do the job of an apostle? 2 Timothy 4:13

2 Timothy 4:13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

10. Daniel was an outstanding prophet. What tools did Daniel have access to that allowed him to see into the future? Do we have access to these same tools today? Daniel 9:2

Daniel 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

11. And finally, what words does Paul use to inspire Timothy? 1 Timothy 4:13

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Conclusion: These scriptures clearly teach that the written word should be used by every saint. These words can only be used when we open our Bibles and read them for ourselves.

GOD'S UNCHANGEABLE CHARACTER

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 4 | Saturday, June 30, 2018

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 1:24

1 Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Introduction: We lead our lives based on the promises of God. These promises are based on God's ability to keep those promises. Can we trust God to keep his word?

1. A man can learn and change or be reprimanded and change. What does God say about himself? Malachi 3:6

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

2. Does God need to be reprimanded? Does he need to change? Numbers 23:19

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

3. Should we worry about a changeable God? Deuteronomy 7:9

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

4. Should we worry about a God that can be changed? Job 23:13

Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.

5. How is God affected by the changing times, changing cultures, changing empires, and changing technology? Psalms 33:11; Psalms 89:34; Psalms 90:1, 2

Psalms 33:11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Psalms 89:34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Psalms 90:1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

6. When God grows old and his glory fades, what can we expect? Psalms 102:27; Psalms 104:31

Psalms 102:27 But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

Psalms 104:31 The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works.

7. Though man can try, can he change the creation of the Almighty? Proverbs 19:21; Ecclesiastes 3:14

Proverbs 19:21 There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

8. If we worship a changeable God, our salvation is doubtful. What assurance do we have? Isaiah 51:6; Isaiah 40:8

Isaiah 51:6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

9. God is unchangeable. What does his Son say about the father's words? Matthew 5:17-19; Matthew 24:35

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

10. What can we expect from the Father's Son? Hebrews 1:12; Hebrews 13:8

Hebrews 1:12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

11. The truth has been altered by many churches. Will this stop the unaltered truth? 1 Peter 1:24, 25

1 Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Conclusion: Today we can have a job. Tomorrow we can be unemployed. Today we can have friends. Tomorrow our friends have left us. Men change and their decisions affect our mortal lives. God's unchangeable character means that we can rest assured that our eternal life is guaranteed.

IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD?

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 15 | Saturday, July 07, 2018

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 32:17

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 13:11

Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

Introduction: The cosmos is greater than any man can imagine. Scientists can only speculate and theorize about the expanse of the universe. But it was all created by God. As you answer the questions in this lesson, keep in mind that in order for God to create all things, He has to live outside of time and space. He had to create everything.

1. Light is used by scientist to measure the universe and to determine how old the universe is. And some scientists use their knowledge of light to attempt to disprove God. Who created light? Genesis 1:1-3

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

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

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

2. Archaeologists use layers of earth to determine how old the earth is. By their estimates, life on the earth is many millions of year old and rocks are billions of years old. Who created time? Genesis 1:14-18, 14

Genesis 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Genesis 1:15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

Genesis 1:17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

Genesis 1:18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

3. Space appears to be endless. We will never be able to travel from this solar system to our nearest neighbor solar system. Who created space? Isaiah 42:5; Isaiah 45:12; Isaiah 51:13

Isaiah 42:5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Isaiah 45:12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

Isaiah 51:13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the

fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

Question: Is there any other god that can make such declarations?

4. Man can create a house from wood and steel. Wood and steel are made of atoms. But who created the atoms? Who created matter? Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11; Revelation 10:5, 6

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 10:5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

Revelation 10:6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

5. Who can control light? Exodus 10:21-23

Exodus 10:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.

Exodus 10:22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:

Exodus 10:23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

6. Who can control time? Joshua 10:1-14

Joshua 10:1 Now it came to pass, when Adonizedec king of Jerusalem had heard how Joshua had taken Ai, and had utterly destroyed it; as he had done to Jericho and her king, so he had done to Ai and her king; and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel, and were among them;

Joshua 10:2 That they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, as one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all the men thereof were mighty.

Joshua 10:3 Wherefore Adonizedec king of Jerusalem, sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying,

Joshua 10:4 Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.

Joshua 10:5 Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it.

Joshua 10:6 And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.

Joshua 10:7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour.

Joshua 10:8 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.

Joshua 10:9 Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.

Joshua 10:10 And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

Joshua 10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Joshua 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

Joshua 10:13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Joshua 10:14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

7. Who can control space? Acts 8:(26-40), 39, 40. Who can control matter? Exodus 14:21, 22

Exodus 14:21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Exodus 14:22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

8. Who can control gravity? Matthew 14:25; Acts 1:9-11

Matthew 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Acts 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

9. The universe is His creation. The laws of cosmology are His building blocks. Is anything too hard for God? Jeremiah 32:17

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:

10. Our bodies degrade while we are alive. An old man and an old woman no longer have the vitality of youth. Can an old woman bare a child? Is anything too hard for God? Genesis 18:9-14

Genesis 18:9 And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

Genesis 18:10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

Genesis 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Genesis 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

Genesis 18:13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

11. God has created the universe. He has given a child to an elderly woman. Can He send His son into the world by way of the Holy Spirit? Virgin birth? Is anything too hard for God? Matthew 1:18-23

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Matthew 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

12. Who created life and DNA? Genesis 2:7

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

13. Some of us will expire before the return of the Saviour. Their bodies will decay. What great task is ahead for the Creator? Is resurrection too hard for Him? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Conclusion: He is called the Creator because He created everything; even time, space, light, gravity, DNA, and life. Since He created all these things, is it too hard for Him to raise the dead and restore them to life? Will we walk again? God has the power to raise His saints.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A PROPHET?

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 38 | Saturday, July 14, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 21:35

Matthew 21:35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

Introduction: There are a few evangelists today that call themselves prophets and some that call themselves apostles. And there are others that use other titles. Do they really want to be prophets and apostles? What must a prophet endure? What are the life experiences of an apostle?

1. Why was the apostle John in prison on the isle of Patmos? Revelation 1:9

Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

2. Did he just happen to be there or was he chosen to be there? John 21:20-23

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

John 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

3. What was to be the chosen fate of his fellow apostle Simon Peter? John 21:18, 19

John 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

John 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

4. Why was the apostle Peter chosen for this mission? John 21:19

John 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

5. How did Peter use this prophecy for the benefit of the kingdom? 2 Peter 1:12-15

2 Peter 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

2 Peter 1:13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

2 Peter 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

2 Peter 1:15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

6. A prophet doesn't only bring good news. Often he has to bring bad news. What happened to the prophet Jeremiah after preaching bad news? Jeremiah 38:1-6

Jeremiah 38:1 Then Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying,

Jeremiah 38:2 Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live.

Jeremiah 38:3 Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it.

Jeremiah 38:4 Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt.

Jeremiah 38:5 Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you.

Jeremiah 38:6 Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

Question: Consider the number of prophecies in the scriptures that speak of judgment. What does this mean to the prophet that can only bring good news?

7. The lives of many throughout the scriptures are used as signs and prophecies. How did God use Ezekiel's wife? Ezekiel 24:16, 18

Ezekiel 24:16 Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

Ezekiel 24:18 So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

8. How was Ezekiel commanded to accept this sign? Ezekiel 24:15-18

Ezekiel 24:15 Also the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 24:16 Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

Ezekiel 24:17 Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.

Ezekiel 24:18 So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

9. How did God use the life of Ezekiel's wife to make a point? Ezekiel 24:19-24

Ezekiel 24:19 And the people said unto me, Wilt thou not tell us what these things are to us, that thou doest so?

Ezekiel 24:20 Then I answered them, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Ezekiel 24:21 Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that

which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.

Ezekiel 24:22 And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.

Ezekiel 24:23 And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

Ezekiel 24:24 Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

10. How was the prophet Isaiah used? Isaiah 20:1-4

Isaiah 20:1 In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;

Isaiah 20:2 At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.

Isaiah 20:3 And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;

Isaiah 20:4 So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

11. How long did he walk naked and barefoot? Isaiah 20:3

Isaiah 20:3 And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;

12. Who dare place themselves in the shoes of the apostle Paul? 2 Corinthians 11:23-33

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

2 Corinthians 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

2 Corinthians 11:25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

2 Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

2 Corinthians 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

2 Corinthians 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

2 Corinthians 11:30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

2 Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

2 Corinthians 11:32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

2 Corinthians 11:33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

Conclusion: Anyone can call themselves a prophet, an apostle, or a bishop. These are all used as titles to bestow prestige on the man. Today's popular evangelists don't have to live the lives of biblical saints that truly gave their lives at God's command. What can a true prophet expect? Instead of tailored clothes, nakedness. Instead of a mansion, prison. Instead of joy, grief. Instead of prestige, death.

NUMBERS

Scripture Reading: Numbers 14 | Saturday, July 21, 2018

Memory Verse: Revelation 7:9

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Introduction: Numbers are very important to us. With our limited power and limited skills we use numbers to size up our surroundings. We think big numbers are good and small numbers are bad. We think big numbers are powerful and small numbers show weakness, So what does a mighty God think of numbers?

1. How many men left Egypt and started the journey toward the promised land? How many women and children would you estimate were with these men? How big was the mixed multitude? Exodus 12:37, 38

Exodus 12:37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

Exodus 12:38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.

2. Of the great multitude that came out of Egypt, how many of those adults would enter the land of Canaan? Numbers 14:22-24, 29-32

Numbers 14:22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

Numbers 14:23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Numbers 14:24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Numbers 14:29 Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.

Numbers 14:30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Numbers 14:31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

Numbers 14:32 But as for you, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness.

3. In the parable of the sower, how is the New Testament church similar to this Old Testament event? Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

Matthew 13:4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

Matthew 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

Matthew 13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Matthew 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

Matthew 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Matthew 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Matthew 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

Matthew 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Matthew 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

4. Who are these few? Matthew 7:14

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

5. Who are these many? Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

6. What does God think of many mortal humans? Judges 7:2

Judges 7:2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

7. How many soldiers did Gideon (and God) need to deliver a whole nation? Judges 7:1-8

Judges 7:1 Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

Judges 7:2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

Judges 7:3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

Judges 7:4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

Judges 7:5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water with his tongue, as a dog lapped, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

Judges 7:6 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

Judges 7:7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

Judges 7:8 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

8. Concerning numbers, what serious mistake did David make? 2 Samuel 24:1-4

2 Samuel 24:1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 24:2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.

2 Samuel 24:3 And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?

2 Samuel 24:4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel.

9. God thought what about his numbers? 2 Samuel 24:9-15

2 Samuel 24:9 And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

2 Samuel 24:10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

2 Samuel 24:11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

2 Samuel 24:12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

2 Samuel 24:13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies,

while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

2 Samuel 24:14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

2 Samuel 24:15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

10. What does a small number mean to the Almighty? 2 Kings 19:30; Luke 12:32

2 Kings 19:30 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

11. Throughout the centuries the Church of God has never been a large church. But after adding up all the saints down through the centuries, how many saints will there be in the eternal kingdom? Revelation 7:9

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Conclusion: Numbers are insignificant to the Creator. A large church doesn't please Him. He is pleased by righteous saints. Human conquests don't amaze Him. He seeks those who put their trust in Him.

FEET WASHING IS FIRST

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18 | Saturday, July 28, 2018

Memory Verse: Genesis 19:2-3

Genesis 19:2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

Genesis 19:3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

Introduction: There are types throughout the scriptures. The old testament lamb was a type of Jesus Christ. That is, a foreshadow. Types can answer questions that we have about other scriptures. When we see these types we know that the scriptures are verifying scriptures. Jonah was a type of the Messiah. This is one reason why we know that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, because he fulfilled the type. At the Passover, how do we know that we should wash our feet before we take of the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine?

1. Who came to Abraham on their way to Sodom? How many men appeared to him? Genesis 18:1, 2

Genesis 18:1 And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

Genesis 18:2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

2. With what title did Abraham address one of these men? So who was this Man? With what word did Abraham humble himself? Genesis 18:3

Genesis 18:3 And said, My LORD, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

3. What does Abraham offer them to do first? Genesis 18:4

Genesis 18:4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

4. After the men washed their feet, what did Abraham do? Genesis 18:5, 6

Genesis 18:5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

Genesis 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.

5. If Sarah made this bread quickly. was the bread leavened? Genesis 18:6

Genesis 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.

6. How many angels came to Lot at evening? Genesis 19:1

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

7. With what title did Lot address these two angels? Genesis 19:2

Genesis 19:2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

8. Who was that missing third Man? Genesis 19:1

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

Answer: In Genesis 18:3 you will notice that LORD is spelled in capital letters. In Genesis 19:1 you will notice that lords is spelled in lowercase letters. Jesus Christ met Abraham and told him his plans for Sodom, but He did not continue on to Sodom. He only sent His angels to do the work.

9. What did Lot offer them to do/list? Genesis 19:2

Genesis 19:2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

10. What did they eat afterwards? What type of bread? Genesis 19:3

Genesis 19:3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

11. What mission did Abraham send his servant on? Genesis 24:2-4

Genesis 24:2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

Genesis 24:3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

Genesis 24:4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

12. Whom did his servant find? Genesis 24:10-15

Genesis 24:10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

Genesis 24:11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.

Genesis 24:12 And he said O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

Genesis 24:13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

Genesis 24:14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

Genesis 24:15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

13. How did Rebekah's family accept Abraham's servant? Genesis 24:29-31

Genesis 24:29 And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.

Genesis 24:30 And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.

Genesis 24:31 And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

14. When these men came into Bethuel's house, what was one of the first things they did? Genesis 24:32

Genesis 24:32 And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him.

15. What did they do after they washed their feet? Genesis 24:33, 54

Genesis 24:33 And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on.

Genesis 24:54 And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master.

Conclusion: In these three types, feet washing is first. Eating is afterwards. There is enough evidence in the New Testament to determine that we should wash our feet before the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. However, these types verify the order of these ordinances.

WHY WORSHIP THE SUN?

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1 | Saturday, August 04, 2018

Memory Verse: Revelation 21:23

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Introduction: For thousands of years people worshipped the sun. They worshipped the thing that gave heat and light. In the light of the scriptures and the wonders shown to Israel, who should we worship?

1. Before the seventy years of captivity, how bad had the religion of Israel become? What were they worshipping? Ezekiel 8:16

Ezekiel 8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

2. Through Josiah, what did the great God do for those that worshipped the sun? 2 Kings 23:5, 6, 11

2 Kings 23:5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

2 Kings 23:6 And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.

2 Kings 23:11 And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathanmelech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

3. Whose sun is it? Matthew 5:45

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

4. Why is it His sun? What is the origin of the sun? Genesis 1:14-19

Genesis 1:14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

Genesis 1:15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

Genesis 1:17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

Genesis 1:18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

5. The Creator created the sun. Did He create the dwelling place of the sun? Psalms 19:1-6

Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Psalms 19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Psalms 19:3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Psalms 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Psalms 19:5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

Psalms 19:6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

6. The sun serves and praises who? Psalms 148:3-5; Job 9:7

Psalms 148:3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.

Psalms 148:4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

Psalms 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

Job 9:7 Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.

7. Do we have a historic example of God commanding his servant? Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

Joshua 10:13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

Joshua 10:14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

8. How does Paul show disrespect for the glorious sun? Acts 26:13

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

9. At the second coming of the Messiah, what will be obvious to those that worship the sun? Matthew 24:29

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

10. At that time, what human characteristic will the sun display? Isaiah 13:10; Isaiah 24:23

Isaiah 13:10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Isaiah 24:23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

11. What position does the sun hold in the eternal kingdom? Revelation 21:23; Revelation 22:5

Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Conclusion: Today there probably isn't anyone who worships the sun directly. We know there are many who worship it indirectly. But, why worship the sun? The sun is God's creation, His tool. and His servant. Worship the Almighty God who created the sun.

MY WORKFELLOW

Scripture Reading: Romans 16 | Saturday, August 11, **2018**

Memory Verse: Romans 16:21

Romans 16:21 Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

Introduction: We are servants of the Lord. Servants work. Servants exercise the qualities listed in this chapter. Don't just read this chapter, contemplate the words used to describe Paul's companions.

Definition: To succour is to help. A succourer is someone who provides help, especially in a time of great difficulty.

1. What was so commendable about Phebe? Romans 16:1

Romans 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

2. Phebe labored. Should she labor alone? Where should her assistance come from? Romans 16:2

Romans 16:2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

3. Paul labored for many years, in many cities, and many countries. Did he do all the work himself? Romans 16:3, 4

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

Romans 16:4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

4. Priscilla and Aquila were Paul's "helpers." What was one of their most important tools? Romans 16:5

Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

Answer: Their house, which they used as a church.

5. We know that women are not ministers in the Church of God. Does that mean that they should only hear the scriptures? Romans 16:1-6

Romans 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

Romans 16:2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

Romans 16:4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

Romans 16:6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.

6. Was Paul always a solitary soul in prison, in a dark damp cell, abandoned by the brethren? Romans 16:7

Romans 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

7. How dare Paul leave such a wonderful saint's name out of this list of laborers? Who is this unnamed mother?" Romans 16:13

Romans 16:13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

8. What do you think the word workfellow means? Romans 16:21

Romans 16:21 Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

9. Do you think Tertius was Paul's scribe and secretary? Romans 16:22

Romans 16:22 I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.

10. Gaius performed what gracious act for Paul and others? Romans 16:23

Romans 16:23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

Conclusion: Paul was surrounded by many servants, helpers, laborers, and workfellows. The church is made up of saints that contribute their time and effort. The church should never lack for workers.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT AND THE LAST DAYS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7 | Saturday, August 18, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 7:13-14

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Introduction: Some of the most popular and most important chapters in the Bible is the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7. These chapters speak to us in these last days. What is it saying to us? What should we keep in mind?

1. What everlasting law are we reminded of in these last days? How many governments keep this law? How many churches keep it? Matthew 5:17-19

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

2. Customs can change from generation to generation and from country to country. Just in the last generation or two, social customs have become weak. What custom (and law) does the Messiah enforce for all who would enter His kingdom? Matthew 5:27, 28

Matthew 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

3. How strictly will this law be enforced? Matthew 5:31, 32

Matthew 5:31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

Matthew 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

4. How does the Father show love to the wicked? Matthew 5:45

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

5. Should we do the same? Matthew 5:43-48

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

Matthew 5:47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Matthew 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

6. Prosperity as religion has become popular in this generation. What does the Preacher say about prosperity? Matthew 6:19-24, 33, 34

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Matthew 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

7. If our sustenance does not come from mammon, where does it come from? Who is the provider? Matthew 6:25-32

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

8. There are more than a thousand Christian denominations to choose from; their doors are open wide; all are welcome. Which door will you choose? Matthew 7:13, 14. A wolf in sheep's clothing is a ridiculous disguise; the wolf is obvious. Who are these wolves? How many are deceived today? Matthew 7:15; Matthew 24:4, 5

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Matthew 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

9. If you are fooled by the clothing, what else is an obvious sign that someone is a false prophet? Matthew 7:16-20

Matthew 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Matthew 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

10. What is the fate of the false prophets and their followers? Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

11. The close of the age is near. What important event is in the near future? Matthew 7:24-27

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

Matthew 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

12. What is the result of that event? Matthew 5:5; Matthew 6:10

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Conclusion: Laws and customs, greed and deception. If someone studied the sermon on the mount for twenty years, you would think that they should not be deceived. But of course, most do not study these chapters. These chapters are specifically about the last days. The Preacher does not want us to be deceived. He has given us all we need to be prepared for these last days and the division ahead; that division of the saints from the sinners. Matthew 25:31-46.

THE MIGHTY LAMB

Scripture Reading: Revelation 5 | Saturday, August 25, 2018

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:7

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Introduction: What are the traits of a lamb? A lamb is meek and must be cared for, simple and must be feed. He has no malice, he cannot defend himself so he must avoid predators. But there is another Lamb: a mighty Lamb.

1. What caused John to weep? Why? Revelation 5:1-4

Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

Revelation 5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

Revelation 5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

2. Who (what mighty animal) was able to open the book? Revelation 5:5

Revelation 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

3. John looked and did not see a Lion. What animal did he see? Revelation 5:6

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Note: Jesus is the Lion and the Lamb. He is the Lamb with the traits of a Lion. We are about to examine this dual character of the Lamb. 4. A lamb normally has neither malice nor anger. Does our Lamb? Revelation 6:16

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

5. Lambs will follow other sheep, goats. or a shepherd; they are followers. What of this Lamb? Who follows such a meek and defenseless creature? Revelation 14:4

Revelation 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

6. Predators abound. Defenseless prey must keep out of sight. How does the Lamb hide? Does He hide in the valley? Does He hide at all? Revelation 14:1

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Note: No! He does not hide. He is on the mount for all to see. 7. Poor little lamb. Cannot provide for himself. He must be fed by others. But, what do I see; the mighty Lamb provides for himself and who else? Revelation 7:17

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

8. Little lambs are the perfect sacrifices because they are defenseless. They are easy to overcome. Is our Lamb overcome by His enemies? Our Lamb does what with His enemies? Revelation 17:14

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

9. The Passover lambs were roasted with fire in the presence of those that sacrificed them. How does our Lamb deal with those who worship the beast? Revelation 14:9, 10

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

10. The Passover lambs were sacrificed in the court of the temple. Thee Lamb was sacrificed and will not be sacrificed again. Herod's temple was destroyed. And the new Temple? Revelation 21:10, 22

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

11. Soil from the road stains our clothing. Food stains our clothing. The worst, human blood leaves permanent stains; stains that cannot be removed. And the blood of the Lamb? Revelation 7:13, 14

Revelation 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Conclusion: The questions and answers above reveal strong contradictions. How can a meek Lamb have such mighty traits? Because this pattern of contradictions is God's plan. Part of this plan is life. The Lamb is our sacrifice and was slain that we might live. John 1:29, 36, I Peter 1:18, 19.

THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 7 | Saturday, September 01, 2018

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 7:18

Jeremiah 7:18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

Introduction: Here in the twenty-first century there are millions that daily to this idolatrous queen. They are slaves to her traditions. Only the Lord and the scriptures can open their eyes.

Definition: The Queen of Heaven is an idolatrous image that has existed for millennia. She has taken on many names: Astaroth, Ishtar, Diana, and today... Mary the mother of Jesus.

1. God speaks to Jeremiah. Who does He say that Judah is worshipping? Jeremiah 7:18

Jeremiah 7:18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

2. Was the idol worship of Judah hidden? What did God say to Jeremiah concerning his prayers? Jeremiah 7:17, 16

Jeremiah 7:16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 7:17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

3. Were they worshipping only the queen? Were they worshipping others? Jeremiah 7:9

Jeremiah 7:9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

4. Was the Lord pleased with this worship? Jeremiah 7:20

Jeremiah 7:20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

5. The whole family participated in honoring her. How severe was their punishment for worshipping the queen? Jeremiah 7:16-19, 15

Jeremiah 7:15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

Jeremiah 7:16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 7:17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Jeremiah 7:18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

Jeremiah 7:19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

6. How did Jesus speak to Mary, his earthly mother? John 2:1-4; John 19:26

John 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

John 2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

John 2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Note: Jesus spoke to Mary as a woman. He did not give her honor as a mother. This is because He is the Son of God. Mary was only the earthly conduit by which He came into the world.

Note: Jesus's statements is not a license for children to speak to their parents in the same way. Earthly children, honor your earthly parents!

7. Was Mary free from sin? Does she qualify to be a god or the queen of heaven? Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:22

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

8. Is she still a virgin? Matthew 1:23-25

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matthew 1:24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

Matthew 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

9. Whom must we worship? Revelation 4:10-11; Psalms 96:9

Revelation 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Psalms 96:9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Conclusion: Judah worshipped the queen of heaven; they were exiled from their promised land. Many Christians worship the queen of heaven; what will be their fate? See "Self-deception and Mingled Religion,"

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-26 | Saturday, September 08, 2018

Memory Verse: Proverbs 19:16

Proverbs 19:16 He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

Introduction: When we think of the Ark of the Covenant, we think of miraculous works performed through the golden vessel. But the truth that the scriptures tell about the ark is contained in its name, the Ark of the Covenant. The single most important fact to remember is that it contains the Ten Commandments.

1. God commanded Moses to come up into the mountain. What did he want to give him? What was written on it? Exodus 24:12

Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

2. Where were the two tables of stone bearing Ten Commandments to be kept? Deuteronomy 10:4, 5; Exodus 25:10-16

Deuteronomy 10:4 And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me.

Deuteronomy 10:5 And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the LORD commanded me.

Exodus 25:10 And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

Exodus 25:11 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about.

Exodus 25:12 And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it.

Exodus 25:13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

Exodus 25:14 And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them.

Exodus 25:15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it.

Exodus 25:16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.

Note: The ark was made of wood, covered in gold, and decorated by craftsmen; appearing attractive and valuable to anyone who saw it. However, the true treasure was on the inside of the ark.

3. Who lived above the ark, between the cherubim? II Samuel 6:2

Question: What is the relationship between the ark, the covenant, the Ten Commandments, and He that lived between the cherubim?

4. What could the ark do for them? What gave Joshua the victory over Jericho? Was it the ark or the contents of the ark? Joshua 6:1-4, 8, 20

Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

Joshua 6:2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

Joshua 6:3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

Joshua 6:4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

Joshua 6:8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

5. What happened when Israel disobeyed God and transgressed the commandments of God: the contents of the ark? Which commandment was broken? Joshua 7:1-6, 21, 22; Exodus 20:17

Joshua 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

Joshua 7:2 And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.

Joshua 7:3 And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.

Joshua 7:4 So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.

Joshua 7:5 And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

Joshua 7:6 And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.

Joshua 7:21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Joshua 7:22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

6. On another occasion, what did Israel remember when they were defeated? How did their enemies respond to the ark? 1 Samuel 4:1-11

1 Samuel 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek.

1 Samuel 4:2 And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Philistines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

1 Samuel 4:3 And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

1 Samuel 4:4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

1 Samuel 4:5 And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

1 Samuel 4:6 And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.

1 Samuel 4:7 And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

1 Samuel 4:8 Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

1 Samuel 4:9 Be strong and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

1 Samuel 4:10 And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.

1 Samuel 4:11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

Answer: They remembered that the ark of God helped Joshua win the battle of Jericho (Joshua 6), and that it could help them win this battle. The Philistines also remembered that the ark could be used in battle.

7. Why were they defeated even when they had the ark? 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25; 1 Samuel 4:4

1 Samuel 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:13 And the priest's custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;

1 Samuel 2:14 And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

1 Samuel 2:15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

1 Samuel 2:16 And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force.

1 Samuel 2:17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

1 Samuel 2:23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

1 Samuel 2:24 Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress.

1 Samuel 2:25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

1 Samuel 4:4 So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

Answer: Hophni and Phinehas were wicked men in the face of God, that's why they were defeated. What does this have to do with the contents of the ark?

8. Where is this ark of God today? Hebrews 9:2-5

Hebrews 9:2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

Hebrews 9:3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

Hebrews 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Hebrews 9:5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

Note: While reading through the Old Testament, the ark disappears. What happened to it, no one knows. The physical box is not important.

9. Where are the Ten Commandments today? Hebrews 8:10

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Conclusion: The miracles found in the Old Testament are fascinating to read: rivers divided and cities destroyed. But we cannot overlook the relationship between the ark, what was in the ark, He who lived above the ark, and their relationship to what is written in our hearts: the Ten Commandments.

THAT YE MIGHT BELIEVE

Scripture Reading: Daniel 7 | Saturday, September 15, 2018

Memory Verse: John 14:29

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

Introduction: Should we believe in nothing? Of course not! Prophecy is given that we might believe. What great prophecy is worth believing?

1. We need to know who the prophets are. We have to distinguish the true from the false. How is a prophet proven? Ezekiel 33:33

Ezekiel 33:33 And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

2. What is the purpose of future prophecies? John 14:29

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

3. Why does John tell us that the prophecy of David is fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion? Psalms 34:20; John 19:35, 36

Psalms 34:20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

John 19:35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

John 19:36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

4. What great prophecy was given by Daniel? Daniel 7:1-3

Daniel 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Daniel 7:2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

Daniel 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

5. This first beast represents what man? What kingdom? Was this prophecy ever fulfilled? Daniel 7:4

Daniel 7:4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

6. The second beast represents what man? What kingdoms? Was this prophecy fulfilled in order, after the first prophecy? Daniel 7:5

Daniel 7:5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

7. The third beast represents what man? What kingdom? What is unusual about this kingdom?

Hint: The four heads. Daniel 7:6

Daniel 7:6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

8. The fourth beast (and the little horn) represents what man? What kingdom? What "great things" are spoken by him? Daniel 7:7, 8

Daniel 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

9. John should have known who these four beasts were. What did he write during the time of the fourth beast? Revelation 13:1-10

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Revelation 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

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

Revelation 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Revelation 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

10. Should we believe Daniel and John? What is the reward for our belief? Revelation 1:1-3

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Conclusion: This prophecy is available to all. It is not hidden in a closet. The fulfillment is written in many history books.

THE GLORIFIED SAVIOUR

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1 | Saturday, September 22, 2018

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:18

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 24:3

Proverbs 24:3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

Introduction: Our hope is not in a long life, or resurrection to live another twenty years, or even eternal life in these fleshy bodies. In this lesson, Jesus, our example, physically shows us our future.

1. Jesus came into the world and took the body of a man. What did Jesus prophecy would happen to his mortal body? Mark 8:31

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

2. In the end of the Sabbath, the women came to the tomb to anoint the body of their crucified Messiah. What do they find? Matthew 28:1-6

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

3. Jesus was crucified in 30 AD. John had kept the faith from his youth until his death as an old man. Where was John in 96 AD? Why was he there? Revelation 1:9

Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Note: Was John in prison for preaching the word, or to preach the word, or to receive the word? Was he there for all three? John would have been thrown in prison for preaching the word. While he was there he would have preached to others, and while he was there he received the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

4. What day did the glorified Saviour choose to appear to John and deliver the final book of the New Testament? Revelation 1:10

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

5. What did John hear? Did he hear the voice of a mortal man? What was so unusual about the voice? Revelation 1:10

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

6. Who was this man with the voice of a trumpet? What did He say of His glorious life? Revelation 1:11

Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

7. John turns around. Whom does he see? How is this person dressed? Revelation 1:12, 13

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

8. Is this the description of a glorified Jew. Caucasian. Asian, African, or any other mortal race? Revelation 1:14, 15

Revelation 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Revelation 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Note: There is a commandment to not make any graven images. Any earthly image of Jesus would not truly depict this glorified vision.

9. We know that the sun sustains life on earth. Its beauty is its light. During midday we cannot look directly at the sun, but we all admire it every morning and every evening. What spectacular face did John have the opportunity to see? Revelation 1:16

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

10. What effect did this glorious appearance and presence have on the mortal and elderly apostle? Revelation 1:17

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

11. How does the risen Saviour describe His glorified life after being crucified, buried, and resurrected? Revelation 1:17, 18

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Conclusion: We look forward to a body that shows no age and shows no weakness. This is the future body of the saints. This body is given to those that keep the commandments of God.

PASSOVER CONFESSIONS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27 | Saturday, September 29, **2018**

Memory Verse: Matthew 27:25

Matthew 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 28:27

Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Introduction: Was Jesus an innocent man? We need to question the eyewitnesses to his crucifixion. What do his accusers say?

1. Most people want justice and are willing to call the police on a violent criminal. Was Jesus a violent criminal? Judas, who sold Him to the priests, called Him what? Matthew 27:3, 4

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Matthew 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

2. When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind. Why didn't the priests let Jesus go after Judas called Him innocent? Did they disagree with Judas? Were they looking for justice? Matthew 27:4

Matthew 27:4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

3. Jesus was a very popular miracle worker. All of Jerusalem and Judea would have known his works. If He had committed any sin, they would have known that too. What does Pilate's wife call Him? Matthew 27:19

Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

4. Pilate had examined Jesus and witnessed the behavior of the priests and the crowd. He knew they did not have a legitimate legal reason to crucify Him. What title did this government official give Him? Matthew 27:22, 23, 37; John 19:19

Matthew 27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

Matthew 27:23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

Matthew 27:37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

John 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

5. The Pharisees, Sadducees, and chief priests followed Jesus for years. They would have seen His righteous deeds. While He is being crucified, do they testify of His saving power? Matthew 27:41, 42

Matthew 27:41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

Matthew 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

6. They would have heard His teachings and understood his doctrine. They had previously accused Him of being in league with Beelzebub. Did they really believe that? Where did they say His trust was? Matthew 27:43

Matthew 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

7. The power of God was displayed in Jesus's life, and many were convinced that He was the Messiah. The power of God did not leave Him on the cross. His death was so spectacular that one witness proclaims what? Matthew 27:50-54

Matthew 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Matthew 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Matthew 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

8. A guilty man is responsible for his actions and for his own execution. The death of an innocent man is the responsibility of he who kills him. How does Pilate testify that Jesus is innocent and that he is not responsible for the death of a righteous man? Matthew 27:24

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

9. Since everyone knows Jesus is innocent, accepts responsibility for shedding His innocent blood? Matthew 27:25

Matthew 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

10. After Jesus died and was buried, the priests admit to an error. What error? They don't explain exactly. If they had executed a guilty man, why would they admit to any error? Matthew 27:64

Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Conclusion: A trial needs witnesses, lawyers, and a judge. The people of Judah, scribes and Pharisees, and priests were the witnesses. The Pharisees were the lawyers. Pilate was the judge. The testimony of them all proves that Jesus Christ was a righteous man.

WHAT DO PROPHETS DO?

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 12:1-14 | Saturday, October 06, **2018**

Memory Verse: Daniel 9:2

Daniel 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 7:2

Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

Introduction: What do prophets do? They make their prophecies, which are the words of God, known to everyone. To do this, they call attention to themselves and they speak the word to all. Some prophecies are for the near future, proving they are God's agents. Other prophecies are for the far future, messages for the end times.

1. A prophet tells you that he has healed a blind man. If you have never seen that man before, how do you know he was blind? How did these people know this man was lame? Acts 3:1, 2, 6-10, 2

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Acts 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

2. Any man can claim to be a prophet. This man makes a bold statement, the words of a prophet. How does he prove that he was sent by God and that he is speaking for God? 1 Kings 13:1-5

1 Kings 13:1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

1 Kings 13:2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

1 Kings 13:3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.

1 Kings 13:4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

1 Kings 13:5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

3. Any man can whisper words in his own house. Whispered words recalled after the so-called fulfillment are worth what? How does this man proclaim his prophecy? Does he whisper? In whose name did he say he was speaking? How specific were his words? 1 Kings 13:2

1 Kings 13:2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

4. What value is a prophecy for the distant future? I need to know that this man is a prophet and I need to know now. What does a prophet do for those listening to him today? How long did Jeroboam have to wait before he knew that this man was a true prophet? 1 Kings 13:4-6

1 Kings 13:4 And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.

1 Kings 13:5 The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

1 Kings 13:6 And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

5. No doubt that this man's words were written down and studied by the elders of Israel for many years. Eventually his words were forgotten. For the nation of Israel and for us today, was this man a prophet? 2 Kings 21:23, 24; 2 Kings 22:1, 2; 2 Kings 23:14-18

2 Kings 21:23 And the servants of Amon conspired against him, and slew the king in his own house.

2 Kings 21:24 And the people of the land slew all them that had conspired against king Amon; and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his stead.

2 Kings 22:1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

2 Kings 22:2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

2 Kings 23:14 And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

2 Kings 23:15 Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.

2 Kings 23:16 And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchres that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

2 Kings 23:17 Then he said, What title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Bethel.

2 Kings 23:18 And he said, Let him alone; let no man move his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

6. Daniel was a great prophet. What was his proof for those in his time that he was sent by God? Daniel 6:7, 11-13, 16, 19-24

Daniel 6:7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Daniel 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Daniel 6:12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Daniel 6:13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Daniel 6:16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Daniel 6:19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

Daniel 6:20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Daniel 6:21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

Daniel 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Daniel 6:23 Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 6:24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

7. What was his prophecy for the future? Daniel 2:1; Daniel 7:1

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Daniel 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

8. Before Daniel, who published his words? How did those words benefit Daniel? How do Daniel's words benefit us today? Daniel 9:2

Daniel 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

9. Speaking of tomorrow's weather is a prediction, not a prophecy. What we see today can be used to predict tomorrow's weather. What was unseen by Nathan? 2 Samuel 11:1-5

2 Samuel 11:1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

2 Samuel 11:3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

2 Samuel 11:4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

2 Samuel 11:5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

10. He did not see David's sin. Based on unseen events, what unseen future did he prophecy for David? 2 Samuel 12:1-12

2 Samuel 12:1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 Samuel 12:2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

2 Samuel 12:3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

2 Samuel 12:4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

2 Samuel 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

2 Samuel 12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

2 Samuel 12:8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

2 Samuel 12:9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

2 Samuel 12:10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

2 Samuel 12:11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

2 Samuel 12:12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

11. Pleasant words tickle our ears. Does John tickle our ears or is he writing the evil future as he sees it? Revelation 16:1

Revelation 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

Conclusion: A prophet has signs now and words for the future. If you are a prophet, heal the sick, raise the dead, shout your prophecy, speak of the unseen and of the future, speak of peace and evil, and publish it.

JESUS IS CHRIST(According to the Scriptures)

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:1-15 | Saturday, October 13, 2018

Memory Verse: Acts 17:2-3

Acts 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 17:3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 3:35

Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Introduction: Jesus is Christ according to the scriptures. They speak of His healing, crucifixion, and other signs. They speak of His preexistence, His life on earth, and His future kingship. For this lesson, we will only examine His resurrection as proof that He is Christ.

1. Jesus wants us to know that He is the Messiah. What did He prophesy before He was crucified? Matthew 16:21

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

2. Immediately after that glorious event, the women came to the tomb. What did the angel remind them of? Did they remember? Luke 24:1-8

Luke 24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.

Luke 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

Luke 24:3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

Luke 24:4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

Luke 24:5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

Luke 24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

Luke 24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:8 And they remembered his words,

3. The event was completely new to everyone. The prophecy was no longer future; it was now a historical fact. What did the apostles immediately start to preach? Acts 2:29-33

Acts 2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

Acts 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

4. Did they just preach Jesus? What did they preach through Jesus? What was so controversial to the priests? Acts 4:1-11

Acts 4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Acts 4:5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

Acts 4:6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

Acts 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

5. The priests have heard the preaching of Jesus's resurrection. They also see the lame man walking. Were they - speechless? Acts 4:14

Acts 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

6. They saw the lame man with their eyes. How was he proof of the resurrection? The answer might take some contemplation. Acts 4:14

Acts 4:14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

7. Paul taught weekly, in the synagogues, out of the scriptures. What did he teach from the (Old Testament) scriptures? Acts 17:1-3

Acts 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

Acts 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 17:3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

8. What effect, good or bad, did news of the resurrection have on the hearers? Acts 17:4-9

Acts 17:4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

Acts 17:5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Acts 17:6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Acts 17:7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

Acts 17:8 And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

Acts 17:9 And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

9. The book of Acts does not say exactly which scriptures Paul preached to prove that Jesus must be raised from the dead. Is this one that he could have used? Who did use it? Psalms 16:10; Acts 2:31, 32

Psalms 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

10. What does this mean if there is no resurrection? Psalms 16:9

Psalms 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

11. We know what hell is: it is the grave. We know what corruption is: it is decay. Does this verse shout resurrection? Psalms 16:10; Acts 13:32-35

Psalms 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 13:32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

Acts 13:33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

Acts 13:34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

Acts 13:35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

12. Life, "joy," "pleasures," "evermore." These words shout what type of resurrection? Psalms 16:11

Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

13. Is this the glorious Messiah that the Jews were looking for? Was this their king and deliverer? Or is this a dead man? Isaiah 53:1-9

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

Isaiah 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

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

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Isaiah 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

14. This man is dead. How can the scriptures speak of a dead man using these words? Is he really dead? How can you explain these wonderful words describing a dead man? Isaiah 53:10-12

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Conclusion: These scriptures may have been controversial before Jesus was resurrected; afterward, only to those who will not believe.

APOSTLESHIP(An Exclusive Group Of Men)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10 | Saturday, October 20, 2018

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:2

2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Weekly Proverb: Ecclesiastes 8:2

Ecclesiastes 8:2 I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God.

Introduction: Jesus chose twelve apostles. No more. Many have tried to put themselves in this group. This exclusive group is closed.

1. Jesus had many followers and disciples, but few in His inner circle. Those that were especially chosen were called what? Matthew 10:1-4

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Matthew 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Matthew 10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Matthew 10:4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

2. How did they receive the office of an apostle? Luke 6:13

Luke 6:13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

3. After Judas, who was chosen? Acts 1:23-26

Acts 1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

Acts 1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Acts 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Note: Matthias was chosen by lot. Was he the twelfth? Or was Paul the twelfth, who was chosen by Jesus Christ himself? Paul plays a significant role in the church, while Matthias is never heard from again.

4. What qualification was required of the replacement? How many qualify? Does anyone then or today qualify to be an apostle? Acts 1:21, 22

Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Acts 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

5. How else did Jesus set these twelve apart from all others? Could He have invited more than twelve disciples? Luke 22:7, 8, 14

Luke 22:7 Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed.

Luke 22:8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.

Luke 22:14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

6. Jesus met Paul on his way to Damascus and gave him instructions. What does it mean to be "called to be an apostle?" "Separated?" "By whom we have received apostleship?" Do these statements make it clear that apostleship is by Jesus Christ? Romans 1: 1, 5

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Romans 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

7. It is clear that apostleship is by Jesus Christ. Apostleship is not of whom and not by whom? Galatians 1:1

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

8. How authoritative are the words "by the commandment of," "ordained," and "appointed?" Has Paul (and the twelve) been officially ordained? 1 Timothy 1:1; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

1 Timothy 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

2 Timothy 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

9. Jesus taught the original twelve personally. Who instructed the apostle Paul? Galatians 1:11, 12

Galatians 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

10. Today, there are many who call themselves apostles. Why would someone today want to use that title? What does the apostle call these modern day apostles? Revelation 2:2; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

11. The foundation of a house is laid first. It supports the building. How can today's "leaders" be a part of the foundation? Ephesians 2:20

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

12. The Messiah was identified by being resurrected after three days and three nights. How are apostles identified? 2 Corinthians 12:12

2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

13. What is so desirable about the office? 1 Corinthians 4:9-13

1 Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

1 Corinthians 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

1 Corinthians 4:11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

1 Corinthians 4:12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

1 Corinthians 4:13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

14. Jesus returns, the holy city is on earth, the kingdom is come, all is said and done. How many apostles are there? Revelation 21:14

Revelation 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Conclusion: Twelve and only twelve. These twelve were chosen personally by Jesus, they were taught personally by Jesus, they were sent personally by Jesus. They are an exclusive group of men.

THE MINISTRATION OF DEATH THE MINISTRATION OF THE SPIRIT

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 3 | Saturday, October 27, 2018

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

2 Corinthians 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

2 Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 11:25

Proverbs 11:25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Introduction: This chapter has been used to claim that Christ abolished the Ten Commandments. Did He do away with them or are they written in a different place?

1. What was written and engraved on tables of stone? Exodus 24:12; Exodus 31:18; Exodus 32:15, 16; 2 Corinthians 3:7

Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

Exodus 32:15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

Exodus 32:16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.

2 Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

2. How is Moses's face connected to the Ten Commandments? Exodus 34:28-35; 2 Corinthians 3:7

Exodus 34:28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Exodus 34:29 And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

Exodus 34:30 And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

Exodus 34:31 And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

Exodus 34:32 And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

Exodus 34:33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

Exodus 34:34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded.

Exodus 34:35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

2 Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

3. Why does Paul call the Ten Commandments the ministration of death? Numbers 15:32-36; 2 Corinthians 3:7

Numbers 15:32 And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

Numbers 15:33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

Numbers 15:34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

Numbers 15:35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

Numbers 15:36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

2 Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

4. Was the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments, the ministration of death considered to be glorious? Is the New Testament, the Ten Commandments, the ministration of the spirit glorious? Are both glorious? 2 Corinthians 3:7, 8

2 Corinthians 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

2 Corinthians 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

5. Which is more glorious? Which excels in glory? 2 Corinthians 3:9-11

2 Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

2 Corinthians 3:10 For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

2 Corinthians 3:11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

6. How do we know that the Ten Commandments are with us today? What is the significance of the word "remaineth?" 2 Corinthians 3:11

2 Corinthians 3:11 For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

7. How do we know that Paul is speaking of the same law, two applications of the same law? 2 Corinthians 3:6

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

8. We read about the literal veil on the face of Moses. What is this figurative veil on the hearts of the Jewish nation? 2 Corinthians 3:12-16

2 Corinthians 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

2 Corinthians 3:13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

2 Corinthians 3:16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

9. How does their veil manifest itself? John 8:1-11; John 9:1-7, 13-16

John 8:1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

John 8:2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

John 8:4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

John 8:5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

John 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

John 8:8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

John 8:9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

John 8:10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

John 8:11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

John 9:6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

John 9:13 They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

John 9:14 And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

John 9:15 Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

John 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

10. What power does the veil have on the mind? 2 Corinthians 3:14

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

11. What can those in bondage to the laws and practices of the Pharisees experience in Christ? 2 Corinthians 3:16, 17

2 Corinthians 3:16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

12. The Old Testament law was written in tables of stone. Where is the New Testament law written? 2 Corinthians 3:3

2 Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Special Note: In the last verse of this chapter, verse 18, the phrase "glory to glory" refers to the saints being freed from the glory of the Old Testament and joined with Christ in the glory of the New Testament, from the glory of the letter of the law, to the exceeding glory of the New Testament.

Conclusion: Did you find any verse in this chapter that abolishes the Ten Commandments? No. Paul refers to the spirit of the law, the spirit of the Ten Commandments. He calls it the ministration of righteousness, and states that it exceeds in glory. Paul is teaching the Ten Commandments.

THE SALUTATIONS OF PAUL

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-12 | Saturday, November 03, **2018**

Memory Verse: Colossians 4:18

Colossians 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 12:11

Proverbs 12:11 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

Introduction: What can we learn from Paul's salutations? His salutations were more than a hello, good morning, or good evening.

Definition: A salutation is a word, phrase, sentence, or paragraph of greeting at the beginning of a letter, conversation, or speech.

Definition: A saint is someone who is sanctified, set apart to worship the living God.

1. More often than not, Paul is writing to a church. He does not address his letters to a synagogue. In three of his letters, what is the name of the group of believers that he writes to? 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:4

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

2 Thessalonians 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

2. Today, the most common word used to describe those who are members of most Bible-based churches is Christian. But, what does Paul call the members of the Church of God? Romans 1:7; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1

Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

3. If saints are sanctified, who does the sanctifying? Romans 1:6; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:3-10

Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Ephesians 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

4. What word does Paul use to describe the close relationship of the members of the church? 2 Corinthians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; Philemon

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Colossians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,

Philemon 1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

Philemon 2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

Philemon 3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

Philemon 5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

Philemon 6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

Philemon 8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

Philemon 9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Philemon 10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

Philemon 11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

Philemon 12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

Philemon 13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

Philemon 14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

Philemon 15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

Philemon 16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

Philemon 17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.

Philemon 18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

Philemon 19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

Philemon 20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

Philemon 21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

Philemon 22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.

Philemon 23 There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

Philemon 24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

Philemon 25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

5. He had an even closer relationship with some saints. What did he call those that he had brought into the church? 1 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4

1 Timothy 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Titus 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

6. Why do we read Paul's letters today? Whose authority is he writing in? His own? Galatians 1:1; II Timothy 1:1; Romans 1:1-6

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

2 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Romans 1:2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Romans 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

7. Being submissive to this authority, what kind of relationship did he admit to? Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

8. Every organization, family, and fraternity has some common history or belief that binds them together. What is the common bond of this church? Philippians 1:5

Philippians 1:5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

9. Thankfulness is reserved for those that have helped and supported someone's endeavors. Paul's salutations offer the greatest thanks to whom? 1 Corinthians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 2 Timothy 1:3

1 Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

Conclusion: In his salutations, Paul tells us who and what the church is: It is the Church of God, Jesus Christ and His Father being the authority of the church. They sanctify the members of the church, all who are bound by the fellowship of the gospel. The members of the church have a family relationship with each other: that of brothers and sisters, and sons and daughters. We are all thankful to the Father and His Son for the grace and salvation granted to us. Amen.

COMMANDMENTS AND MUCH MORE

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20 | Saturday, November 10, **2018**

Memory Verse: Hebrews 9:15

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 5:22

Proverbs 5:22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

Introduction: Throughout the Bible the Ten Commandments are described using different words. Four of these descriptive words give us much insight into just how important the Ten Commandments are.

1. A covenant is an agreement. It can be a treaty. It doesn't have to be, but it is often related to real estate. What real estate is God's covenant related to? Exodus 6:2-5

Exodus 6:2 And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:

Exodus 6:3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Exodus 6:4 And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

Exodus 6:5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

2. What are the words of the covenant? Exodus 34:28

Exodus 34:28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

3. What is the relationship between the real estate, the Promised land, and the covenant, the Ten Commandments? Leviticus 26:40-46, 40, 42

Leviticus 26:40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;

Leviticus 26:41 And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

Leviticus 26:42 Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.

Leviticus 26:43 The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes.

Leviticus 26:44 And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God.

Leviticus 26:45 But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 26:46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

4. A testament is different from a covenant. It is a document written on behalf of one's heirs. What has to happen for the testament to be enforced? What is the relationship between the deceased, the relatives, the inheritance, and the testament? Hebrews 9:15-17

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 9:16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

Hebrews 9:17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

5. Again, what is the relationship between the inheritance and the testament, the Ten Commandments? Luke 18: 18-20

Luke 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luke 18:19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

Luke 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

6. Whose testament is it? Whose death and whose blood is it? Who receives the inheritance? Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

Matthew 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

7. What is the testament? Are the testament, the covenant, and the Ten Commandments the same? Hebrews 9:18-20; Exodus 24:7, 8, 12; Revelation 11:19

Hebrews 9:18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

Hebrews 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Hebrews 9:20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

Exodus 24:7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

Exodus 24:8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

8. A testimony is different from a testament. A testimony is something spoken or written: a declaration, most often under an oath. What testimony did God give to His people? Exodus 20:1, 2, 22

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,

Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 20:22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

9. What is the testimony written on tables of stone? Exodus 31:18; Exodus 25:16, 21, 22

Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

Exodus 25:16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.

Exodus 25:21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

Exodus 25:22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

10. A law is completely different from a covenant, testament, or testimony. A law is something that you must do, something that will be enforced. If you don't keep the law, you are a criminal. Is the law the same as the Ten Commandments? Exodus 24:12; Deuteronomy 31:9

Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Deuteronomy 31:9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

11. What happens to all who break the law? Revelation 22:14, 15

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Conclusion: How important are the Ten Commandments? They are the covenant: it is our agreement with God, and will allow us to occupy the land of Israel. They are a testament:

the document that determines our eternal inheritance. They are God's testimony: He spoke it to all Israel on Mount Sinai. Finally, the Ten Commandments are the law: If we don't keep it, we will be judged as sinners, not worthy of salvation. Powerful words!

CENTURION WITNESSES(Rome Witnesses Jesus the Messiah)

Scripture Reading: John 19 | Saturday, November 17, 2018

Memory Verse: Mark 15:39

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 13:6

Proverbs 13:6 Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

Introduction: The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus did not happen in a dark corner of the Roman Empire. It was witnessed by the Empire. Through the eyes of the Roman centurions and soldiers, the Roman Empire had enough information to know that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament and was the Jewish Messiah.

1. Jesus grew in popularity as He taught and worked miracles. He would have been known by many in Judea. Who was one of those people? What did he want? What did he witness? Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,

Matthew 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

Matthew 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

Matthew 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

Matthew 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

2. The Jews and the high priests made the request, Pilate gave the order, but who did the work of crucifying the Anointed? How personal was their knowledge of His crucifixion? Matthew 27:26-31

Matthew 27:26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Matthew 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

Matthew 27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

Matthew 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Matthew 27:30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

Matthew 27:31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

3. A good witness testifies. He has something important to say. He makes a statement based on his experience. What did one centurion say after he witnessed the death of Jesus? Matthew 27:50-54

Matthew 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Matthew 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Matthew 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

4. Who delivered the final blow that killed Jesus? John 19:32-34

John 19:32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

John 19:33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

5. Was there any doubt that Jesus was dead? Who was the witness to His death? Whom did he report the death to? Mark 15:42-47

Mark 15:42 And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

Mark 15:44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

Mark 15:45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

Mark 15:46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

Mark 15:47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus beheld where he was laid.

6. After Jesus's death, there was concern about a possible plot. What precautions were taken? Who made the request? Who gave the command? But who carried out the task? Matthew 27:62-66

Matthew 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Matthew 27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

7. After three days, what happened at the tomb? Would the watch have witnessed this event? How much did they see? Matthew 28:1-6

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

8. To witness a resurrection must have been a life changing experience. For most people, we would expect it to be so. Why wasn't it for these soldiers? Why was their testimony changed? Matthew 28:11-15

Matthew 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

Matthew 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Matthew 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

Matthew 28:14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

Matthew 28:15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

9. Jesus is the Passover Lamb who died that we might live. When we keep the commandments and the testimony of Jesus, we have eternal life. Who experienced the saving power of the crucified Jesus? Acts 10:1-6, 24-28, 34-48

Acts 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

Acts 10:3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

Acts 10:6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Acts 10:24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and he had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

Acts 10:25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

Acts 10:26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

Acts 10:27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Acts 10:36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

Acts 10:37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

Acts 10:41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Acts 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

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

Conclusion: Soldiers report to centurions, who report to their superiors, who report to generals, who report to emperors. Through the knowledge of the centurions, the Roman Empire would have known that the Messiah had been resurrected. This was an event that cannot be refuted. But the Roman Empire persecuted and killed those who carried that knowledge. Today, a remnant church survives.

REVELATION: THE SALUTATION

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1 | Saturday, November 24, 2018

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:1

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 1:10

Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Introduction: The book of Revelation is addressed to a specific group of people. This group was given the prophecies of the last days. It is a message informing them of the calamities, wars, plagues, disasters that have happened and will continue in the coming years. Who are they?

1. Jesus Christ has a message for the world, the entire world. A message for the unsaved people of the earth. Who are the messengers? What is the message? Matthew 28:19, 20

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

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. Jesus Christ has a message for His church. for His saints, for those who are saved. This message is not intended for everyone. Where did Jesus get the message from? Whom did He pass the message to? His apostle was supposed to pass it to whom? Revelation 1:1

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

3. Did the apostle and scribe perform his duties? Revelation 1:2

Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

4. This letter is to the servants of Jesus. What benefit is received by His servants? Is this a physical benefit or a spiritual benefit? Revelation 1:3

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

5. How do we extract this benefit, this blessing, from the text? Can we extract it by letting the text gather dust or by studying it? Revelation 1:3

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

6. Is reading, hearing, and keeping these words a Sabbath afternoon's activity? Or is it a life-long relationship with the message? Revelation 1:3

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

7. Jesus has broken the seven seals. Who can shut the book? These prophecies will be fulfilled. Why are we supposed to read, hear, and keep these words? Revelation 1:3; Revelation 22:10

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 22:10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

8. Once John's message was on paper, who did he send it to? Is it addressed to the world? Is it addressed to the Roman empire? (Why wouldn't it be addressed to the Roman empire? Revelation 1:4

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

9. This letter is signified, expressed in symbols. Seven churches will receive this signified letter. How is the relationship between the Speaker and His saints signified in John's salutation? Is this close relationship the reason He is writing to them? Revelation 1:1, 12, 13, 19, 20

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

10. From the time that these prophecies were given in AD 96, how long did it take for them to start being fulfilled? How long have they been taking place? Are they still being fulfilled? Revelation 22:6, 7

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

11. Many know of the book of Revelation and there are many interpretations and misinterpretation. What happens to the unrighteous, or to those who will not read, or those who misinterpret? Revelation 22:11

Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

12. What happens to Jesus's servants who read and understand? Revelation 22:14

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Conclusion: The Revelation was written to the **church of God**, to the saints, to God's servants. We are God's servants because we keep His commandments and interpret His words as they were intended.

WITNESSING: ACTIONS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5 | Saturday, December 01, 2018

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:16

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Weekly Proverb: Ecclesiastes 6:7

Ecclesiastes 6:7 All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

Introduction: We are expected to witness through our words. That is what most people think of when they think of witnessing. However, all the words that we speak can be destroyed by our actions. The actions and character of a saint can destroy an opportunity to speak.

1. The grain is maturing, it is nearly ripe. What is needed for the last days? What should we be praying for and is it possible to answer our own prayers? How can we answer our prayers? Matthew 9:37, 38

Matthew 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Answer: We can pray for laborers to be sent. But who are the laborers? We are. When we go, we have answered our prayers.

2. The commandments are taught by the Church of God. They are also lived by the saints. When we keep the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus Christ, what are we doing? Matthew 5:16

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

3. Our actions are an open book to all. We are actively and passively watched every day. What are "fault-finders" looking for? Since we witness to all through our actions, what is obvious? Ephesians 5:1-4

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Ephesians 5:4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

4. Fathers, and wives, and children! We live with our families throughout the day. Some may not be members of the church. Do we have to preach to them daily? What can they see daily? Ephesians 5:15

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

5. The carcass has to be removed and the surroundings must be cleaned. Still, a bad odor can linger for days. The tainted actions of a saint can linger for days, and longer. How can

we give a sweet smelling "savour of his knowledge by us in every place?" 2 Corinthians 2:14, 17

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

6. We tend to think of witnessing as preaching by declaring facts from scripture, and so it is. Does it have to be? What does every saint do every Sabbath that witnesses to the hearers? Psalms 40:3

Psalms 40:3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

7. What Sabbath morning action is performed by every minister? What action does every saint that participates in the Sabbath lesson perform? Whom are they witnessing to? Who takes notice? Psalms 40:9, 10

Psalms 40:9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

Psalms 40:10 I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

8. Many people in the world are pre-judged. We have preconceived ideas about many people we have never met. Some can have preconceived ideas about the saints they have never met. But when we meet them, what is the remedy for pre-judging a saint? 1 Peter 2:12

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Conclusion: Once our actions are manifest to our friends and neighbors, we have laid the foundation for words. We have shown ourselves to be credible. We have shown that the scriptures have had an impact on our lives. When our character cannot be impeached, we can share the doctrine of the Ten Commandments.

CANONIZED SCRIPTURE

Scripture Reading: Matthew 12 | Saturday, December 08, **2018**

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Weekly Proverb: 1 Corinthians 15:33

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Introduction: The scriptures have been canonized! That is, they have been chosen by men. But who is the final authority? Do we need men to determine what is scripture and what is not? Through the scriptures themselves we will see how they are chosen by God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

1. Let's start from the beginning. Someone has to ordain the speaker, He who dictates scriptures to His scribes. Who ordained Jesus Christ? Who expects us to take His words as scripture? Matthew 17:1-5

Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

Matthew 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Matthew 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Matthew 17:4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

2. Five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses. How did Jesus canonize the words of Moses? Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 12:18-27

Matthew 8:1 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

Matthew 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Matthew 8:3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Matthew 8:4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Mark 12:18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,

Mark 12:19 Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

Mark 12:20 Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed.

Mark 12:21 And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise.

Mark 12:22 And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also.

Mark 12:23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Mark 12:25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

Mark 12:26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

Mark 12:27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.

3. Much is written about David and much is written by David. How does Christ canonize what is written about David and what was written by David? Matthew 12:1-4; Matthew 22:41-46

Matthew 12:1 At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn and to eat.

Matthew 12:2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

Matthew 12:3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

Matthew 12:4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

Matthew 22:41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

Matthew 22:42 Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David.

Matthew 22:43 He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying,

Matthew 22:44 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Matthew 22:45 If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

Matthew 22:46 And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

4. Peter was called and taught by Jesus. Paul was called and taught by Jesus. What does Peter say of Paul's writings? What is the significance of the phrase "other scriptures"? 2 Peter 3:15, 16

2 Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

5. Jesus's words were written down by four men; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In their record of His words, whose writings does He proclaim to be prophecy and therefore scripture? Matthew 12:38-40

Matthew 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

Matthew 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

6. Many Old Testament writings prophesy of the Messiah. When they were written, their purpose was unknown, vaguely speaking of a future king, servant, and martyr. How did the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus verify that the prophets of old were inspired by the Holy Spirit? Does their fulfillment canonize them? Acts 18:24-28

Acts 18:24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

Acts 18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

Acts 18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

Acts 18:27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

Acts 18:28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

7. The Jews already had a canonized set of scriptures. Did Jesus use them? Did He confirm them? After this incident, would Cleopas be in doubt of which writings were scriptures, which were canonized, and who canonized them? Luke 24:27, 32, 44, 45

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

8. The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is a very unusual book. It isn't like any other book in the Bible. It is so unusual, that some have tried to remove it from the canon. Except! Who canonized this book? How do Jesus's statements to Peter and John canonize the book of Revelation? John 21:20-23; Revelation 1:9-16

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

John 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Revelation 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Conclusion: We don't need a church or any other organization to select the scriptures for us. The scriptures canonize themselves. The Old speaks of the New and the New fulfills the Old, and the entire Bible is a prophetic book that confirms its accuracy every day.

FEET OF CLAY

Scripture Reading: Daniel 2 | Saturday, December 15, 2018

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:41

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 8:33

Proverbs 8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Introduction: Many sermons, lessons, and articles have been written about Daniel chapter 2. Most of them concentrate on the significance of the gold, silver, brass, and iron. This lesson will concentrate on the feet of clay. We are living during the days of these feet of clay.

1. In the second year of king Nebuchadnezzar, what happened on a certain night? How important was it to him? Daniel 2:1, 5, 6

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Daniel 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Daniel 2:6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.

2. Who was not able to interpret the king's dream? What would be their fate if they failed? Daniel 2:10-13

Daniel 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

Daniel 2:11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

Daniel 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

3. Who heard of the king's decree? Why and by whose knowledge was he able to interpret the king's dream? Daniel 2:13, 14, 17-19

Daniel 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Daniel 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah, his companions:

Daniel 2:18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

4. What did Daniel say that the king saw in his dream? Daniel 2:31

Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

5. What was the image made of from his head to his thighs? Daniel 2:32

Daniel 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

6. What were the image's legs made of? Daniel 2:33

Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

7. What kingdom's are represented by these metals? Daniel 2:31-33

Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

Daniel 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Answer: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.

8. What were the image's feet made of? Can such an image possibly stand? Would such an image be easily destroyed? Daniel 2:33

Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

9. Since the Roman Catholic church is the modern day Roman Empire, is it the embodiment of the iron in the feet? Can their monolithic organization represent the strength of the iron? Daniel 2:41

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

10. Since the many Christian churches of the world are an extension of the Roman Empire, are they the embodiment of the clay in the feet? Can their broken and splintered organizations be represented by the weakness of the clay? Daniel 2:41

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

11. In today's Roman Empire, do the iron and the clay cling one to the other? How much doctrine do they share? How much doctrine do they disagree on? Can they ever be a solid pair of feet? Daniel 2:41

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

12. The two iron legs of this image represent the division in the Roman empire, Rome to the west and Constantinople to the east. What is the significance of the feet and toes, the iron and clay? How divided can the present day empire be? Daniel 2:41-43

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Daniel 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

13. Since we are in the days of the feet and toes, and the iron and clay, what can we expect very soon? Daniel 2:44, 45

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

14. The stone will destroy all these metals. Can the weakness in the iron and clay of the feet resist the stone? Can the strength in the iron of the legs resist the stone? What can resist? Anything? Daniel 2:44, 45

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Conclusion: The symbolism does not stop with the legs of iron. The symbolism continues into the feet. We are living in the last days of the Roman Empire. We are waiting for the stone to be cut out of the mountain and for these kingdoms to be destroyed.

GREEN TREES

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 17:1-23 | Saturday, December 22, 2018

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 10:2

Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Introduction: Worshipping with green trees is an ancient practice. About 900BC the Israelites were using green trees to worship. Before them the Canaanites used green trees. The Canaanites were destroyed for their idolatry which included the use of green trees. And Israel was expelled from the land and sent into captivity for the same practices.

1. Before the children of Israel entered the promised land, what were they commanded to destroy? Deuteronomy 12:1, 2

Deuteronomy 12:1 These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.

Deuteronomy 12:2 Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:

2. David followed the God of Israel with his whole heart. Solomon took the first step from the path. After Solomon what did his son do? 1 Kings 14:21-23

1 Kings 14:21 And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess.

1 Kings 14:22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

1 Kings 14:23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

3. What type of trees were involved in this worship in the high places? 2 Kings 16:4

2 Kings 16:4 And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

4. During the reign of Hosea king of Israel, what did God do to the wicked kingdom? 2 Kings 17:1-6

2 Kings 17:1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years.

2 Kings 17:2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.

2 Kings 17:3 Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria; and Hoshea became his servant, and gave him presents.

2 Kings 17:4 And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

2 Kings 17:5 Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

2 Kings 17:6 In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

5. Why were they taken into captivity? 2 Kings 17:7, 10

2 Kings 17:7 For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,

2 Kings 17:10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

6. How severe was their idolatry? 2 Kings 17:17

2 Kings 17:17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

7. The Lord was so angry with their wickedness, how complete was the captivity of the northern kingdom? 2 Kings 17:18

2 Kings 17:18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

8. Even though Judah remained, were they innocent? 2 Kings 17:19

2 Kings 17:19 Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

9. Who was most responsible for their worship in the high places? 2 Kings 17:20-22

2 Kings 17:20 And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

2 Kings 17:21 For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin.

2 Kings 17:22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them;

10. How low could they possibly get in Judah? 2 Chronicles 28:1-4

2 Chronicles 28:1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father:

2 Chronicles 28:2 For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Baalim.

2 Chronicles 28:3 Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

2 Chronicles 28:4 He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

11. Again, what type of trees were used in the high places? 2 Chronicles 28:4

2 Chronicles 28:4 He sacrificed also and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.

12. King Ahaz was over come with idols. Describe the confused state of the king? 2 Chronicles 28:16-27

2 Chronicles 28:16 At that time did king Ahaz send unto the kings of Assyria to help him.

2 Chronicles 28:17 For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives.

2 Chronicles 28:18 The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederoth, and Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there.

2 Chronicles 28:19 For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel; for he made Judah naked, and transgressed sore against the LORD.

2 Chronicles 28:20 And Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not.

2 Chronicles 28:21 For Ahaz took away a portion out of the house of the LORD, and out of the house of the king, and of the princes, and gave it unto the king of Assyria: but he helped him not.

2 Chronicles 28:22 And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD: this is that king Ahaz.

2 Chronicles 28:23 For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel.

2 Chronicles 28:24 And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 28:25 And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.

2 Chronicles 28:26 Now the rest of his acts and of all his ways, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

2 Chronicles 28:27 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.

Conclusion: Who uses green trees in their worship today? Hint: They also use the Bible. Many ancient idolatrous practices remain today. If the nation of Israel and the Canaanites suffered for the use of green trees, will those who use the same trees today enter that eternal kingdom? No, they will not. They are trapped in the confusion of Ahaz.

KINGDOM ON EARTH(According to the book of Revelation)

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21 | Saturday, December 29, **2018**

Memory Verse: Revelation 2:26-27

Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Revelation 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 3:27

Proverbs 3:27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

Introduction: To any serious Bible student, it is clear that the kingdom of God will be on earth. It is clear that the new Jerusalem will be on earth. This is Church of God doctrine. This lesson will use the book of Revelation as its source to show that the future kingdom is on earth.

1. Jesus has not been crowned king yet and His servants have not been crowned. How do we know that He will be given a kingdom? Define the word "dominion" Revelation 1:6

2. Some subjects and some doctrines in the scriptures are difficult to understand. Some are written clearly and are easy to understand. So, where does the book of Revelation clearly state that the servants of the King of Kings will be reigning? Revelation 5:10

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

3. Will the saints go to heaven? Will the wicked go to heaven? Can the saints rule over the wicked in heaven or will both have to be on earth? Revelation 15:4; Revelation 5:10

Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

4. When a king reigns over his dominion, he enforces the law on his subjects. If there was no law and no king, there would be anarchy. Why must Jesus and His servants reign over the wicked? What happens when enforcement is removed? Revelation 20:4, 6, 8, 9

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

5. At the end of the one thousand years, who will attempt to usurp authority from the kings and from the King of Kings? Revelation 20:7, 8

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

6. The King has all power. When someone rebels, the rebellion must be put down. What will be the result of this rebellion? Where will the rebellion take place? Revelation 20:7-10

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

7. Every king needs a home, a castle, a city, and country. What building will the saints be living in? Who prepared the building? Where will that building come from? Revelation 21:2, 10

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

8. Will the men of earth be with the building or will the building of heaven be with men? What is the difference between the two? Revelation 21:3

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

9. We will inherit the earth. If we are taken from the earth, how can we inherit it? If we are to live in heaven, what does that do to the words of Jesus? Matthew 5:5; Revelation 21:7; Psalms 2:7-9

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Psalms 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Psalms 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Conclusion: This topic is important because it is an excellent example of pagan beliefs interfering with the truth. Ancient pagan religions have a common theme of an "after life" or a "heaven" or another "realm" where the dead will live. When we examine the Bible, we find that the future kingdom, our inheritance, is on earth. The book of Revelation is our guide to the kingdom on earth.