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Is The Bible True?



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that every verse in the Bible is directly from God, inspired by Him.
- To explain that there are no doctrinal errors in the Bible.
- To provide answers to some serious criticisms that are made against the Bible.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 5:17-18; John 14:26; 1 Timothy 5:18; 2 Peter 3:16 (The Bible is Inspired and Inerrant).



MEMORY VERSE

2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that people are without excuse.



INTRODUCTION

In the following weeks we'll study some important Bible Doctrines:

- Doctrine of the Bible
- Doctrine of Sin
- Doctrine of Salvation
- Doctrine of Last Things

'Doctrine' is a set of beliefs. Over the next two weeks, we'll be looking at what we Christians believe about the Bible.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

Christians strongly believe that the Bible which we use is definitely from God.

- How can we be so sure that the Bible is true?

We believe the Bible to be true because:

- Because approximately 2000 of the prophecies mentioned in it have already come true...with no errors.
- Because archaeological discoveries prove that the places and events mentioned in the Bible are real. 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 islands mentioned in the Bible (totalling 95 different references) truly existed in ancient times.

Because there's historical proof of 24,000 very ancient copies of the New Testament in existence today, showing

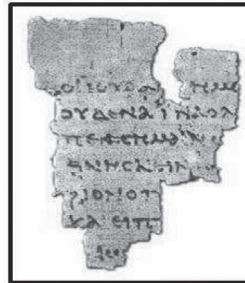
Is The Bible True?

that the Bible was not simply invented by somebody in the recent past.

PROOF FOR THE BIBLE



1



2



3

THE BIBLE is GOD-BREATHED

2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

What do you think 'God-breathed' means?

Are both OLD and NEW TESTAMENTS directly from GOD?

- In Matthew 5:17-18, Christ affirmed that not the smallest letter or punctuation-mark would pass from the law until it would be fulfilled. In this rather strong statement, Jesus affirmed the accuracy of the entire Old Testament and thereby affirmed the inspiration of the entire Old Testament.
- In John 14:26 Jesus indicated that the Holy Spirit would remind the apostles of all that He had taught, as they wrote the words of Scripture, thus guaranteeing their corrections.
- In 1 Timothy 5:18, Paul started his remarks with “the Scripture says.” Then he quoted from Deuteronomy 25:4 and Luke 10:7, thereby giving the status of Scripture to both the Old and New Testaments. Paul was saying that the New Testament is as much the inspired Word of God as the Old Testament.
- In 2 Peter 3:16 Peter refers to Paul’s writings and indicates that the false teachers twist Paul’s writings as they do the rest of the Scriptures. In this rather unique statement Peter places Paul’s writings on a par with the Old Testament Scriptures.

THE BIBLE is INERRANT

- 2 Timothy 3:16 says that every word in the Bible is directly from God.
- Titus 1:2 says that God does not lie.

Combined together, these verses declare that there are absolutely no mistakes in the Bible because all the words are from God, and God is always truthful.

Important Facts You should Know:

Criticism 1:

First, critics say that Bible writers contradict each other in their writings. For example they say that the four synoptic gospels(Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) give differing accounts of the resurrection.

Criticism 2:

Second, critics say that the New Testament e.g., Paul’s quotations of Prophet Isaiah in Romans 15:12.

Criticism 3:

Third, critics say that there are many mistakes regarding numbers, names of people, etc., in the Bible.

[There are valid explanations for all three criticisms (As explained in the class). If you want a copy of the details, request your teacher for a photo copy of the information].



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What if the Bible was not God-breathed? What difference would that make in our lives, our faith, our difficulties, hope, etc?

**How can we trust a Bible which contains copyist errors?
What if the copyist made serious mistakes while copying
from the original document?**

**Some people criticize that the Bible is filled with scientific
errors. For example, in Genesis 3:14 God says that the
snake will eat dust. Yet this is scientifically wrong. How can
we explain things like this?**

Jeremiah 10:12: With your wisdom and power you created
the earth and spread out the heavens.

Simple Explanations for some Scientific Anomalies in the Bible:

1. For instance, God cursed the serpent saying that it would crawl and eat dust, and would bruise the heel of the woman's Seed." As we know, the only 'serpent' that bruised the woman's Seed was satan (satan bruised Jesus on the Cross; but Jesus crushed satan's head).
 - So this statement by God was not really a scientific declaration; it was more of a curse on satan's status. We see this same wording in God's curse upon the pagan nations in Micah 7:16-17: "Nations will see and be ashamed ... They will lick dust like a snake, like creatures that crawl on the ground ... "
 - In Micah, God is not making a scientific declaration that the nations will lick dust literally and crawl on the ground. Rather He's talking about the lowering of their position.
2. In the same way, critics protest that Isaiah described the earth as a 'circle' (Isaiah 22:18) when it's actually spherical.
 - However, the truth is that Isaiah used the Hebrew word 'chug' to describe the earth in this verse. This word has been used 6 times in the Bible, to describe something encompassing, surrounding or three-dimensional. So the word does NOT describe a flat circle (similar to a chapathi). In other words, Isaiah does not describe the earth as a flat circle.
3. Similarly, critics condemn David for writing that snails melt away (Psalms 58:8).

- However, David is using poetic language here, as this psalm is a poetic piece. Snails crawl along, leaving a noticeable slimy track behind them. If they don't get hydrated regularly, the body dehydrates and the snail dies. David must have seen many snails lying shriveled up among the rocks in the long heat of the summer, and he describes this natural occurrence in a poetic manner. It's similar to Isaiah describing trees as clapping their hands (Isaiah 55:12).



APPLICATION

If the Bible is truly 'God-breathed,' then we must boldly claim the promises God has made to us and enjoy them in our lives. Pick out some specific Bible promises that you'd like to claim for your own life this week.

Bible Promises I believe are true and wish to claim for myself:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Similarly, if the Bible is truly 'God-breathed,' then we must take each commandment of God literally.

- For example, Ephesians 4:26 commands, "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." So this

Is The Bible True?

means that I can't hold a grudge against another person, and keep on brooding over what they have done for a few weeks. God expects me to forgive and forget that day itself!

Pick out some specific Bible Commandments which you sense God wants you to obey in the coming days.

Commandments that God is specifically asking me to obey:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Bible— The Inspired Word of God

(Taken from Kids Sunday School Place.)

The words in bold letters in the paragraph below are hidden in the puzzle. Words can be across, down or diagonal. Can you find them all?

The **Bible** is truly a **miracle**. There are a total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New **Testament**. The Bible was written by over 36 different people, and over a period of about 1,500 **years**. The authors came from many different backgrounds and professions. There were **fishermen, farmers, politicians, teachers, doctors,**

tent makers and even **kings**. It would be mathematically impossible for so many different people over so many years to write with such **harmony** and accuracy, if it were not for the **Holy Spirit**. God told these people what to write. The Bible is the **Word of God**.

B	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	Q	T
P	N	K	O	O	H	A	R	M	O	N	Y	E
T	T	O	B	C	A	P	Y	I	C	K	O	A
V	E	I	F	I	S	H	E	R	M	E	N	C
O	N	S	E	K	B	Y	E	A	R	S	U	H
X	T	C	T	W	I	L	D	C	A	H	Q	E
B	M	B	O	A	E	N	E	L	R	F	O	R
D	A	O	U	I	M	G	G	E	O	Y	A	S
N	K	F	A	R	M	E	R	S	X	O	P	O
J	E	T	R	G	X	O	N	S	E	I	K	Q
V	R	W	L	W	D	O	C	T	O	R	S	B
C	S	W	O	R	D	O	F	G	O	D	T	Z



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





Canonicity of The Bible



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain how the people decided which books should be included in the Bible.
- To provide sufficient proof that exactly the right books were included in the Bible.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18 (The Bible is Canon).



MEMORY VERSE

2 Peter 1:21: For prophecy never had it's origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



INTRODUCTION

If the Scriptures are indeed inspired, by God then an important question arises: Which books are inspired? Historically, it was important for the people of God to determine which books God had inspired and which ones were recognized as authoritative.

The word *canon* is used to describe the inspired books and we will be discussing this in greater detail today.

THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED

We studied last week that the Bible is directly inspired by God.

- 2 Timothy 3:16: Everything in the Scriptures is God’s Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live.
- 2 Peter 1:20-21: But you need to realize that no one alone can understand any of the prophecies in the Scriptures. The prophets did not think these things up on their own, but they were guided by the Spirit of God.

HOW the BIBLE was ORGANIZED

WHO

Jewish leaders who were in charge of gathering holy writings, organized the books of the Old Testament. Later, Christians gathered books of the New Testament.

WHEN

The Old Testament was put together by second century BC. These psalms and prophetic writings were widely used by Jesus' time, and Jesus himself quoted from the Psalms and other prophetic writings.

Later in 90 AD, a group of religious leaders got together during the Council of Jamnia and officially declared which books should be made part of the Old Testament.

- They included only those Old Testament books that were being commonly used by the Apostles and the Early Church.

The New Testament: The Early Church began using writings such as the gospels and letters from Paul, even as they were written. Some of the writings were meant to be passed around and shared so people could benefit from them.

- Around 120-150 AD, false teachers started running around writing things that was wrong and putting a false name on it.

Because of the false writings, church leaders became convinced they needed to compile a list of writings that were true and valid.

- At the Council of Carthage (Africa) in 397, the 27 New Testament books were declared as the only acceptable Scriptures.

Remember that the books were around and used way before that, but made officially into the Bible by this time at the latest.

HOW

In the Old Testament, the books were mainly arranged based on the ‘time’ when they were written. Genesis—the first book, happened first and Malachi—the last book, happened much later.

- However, some books were arranged based on the type of content. For instance, the historical books were arranged next to each other.

In the New Testament, more weight was given to what kind of writing it was, rather than date.

In the New Testament, there are 4 Gospels, and those come first. Paul’s writings are grouped together in one batch, etc.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We see the names of 22 books mentioned in the Old Testament text, which are not part of the Old Testament:

- Book of Jasher (mentioned in Joshua 10:13)
- Book of Samuel the Seer (mentioned in 1 Chronicles 29:29)
- Book of Nathan the Prophet (mentioned in 1 Chronicles 29:29), etc.

Why do you think the Jewish leaders didn’t include these books in the Old Testament?

What are the chances that Joshua misheard what God said, and failed to declare the Book of Jasher as a part of the Old Testament? Do you think he made a mistake?

Matthew 5:18: Heaven and earth may disappear. But I promise you that not even a period or comma will ever disappear from the Law. Everything written in it must happen.

The Catholic Bible includes 12 extra books which are called the 'Apocrypha.' Why don't our Bibles include these books as part of the Scriptures?



APPLICATION

The Jewish leaders and early Christians took great care to arrange the books of the Bible in an organized manner. Studying the Bible becomes easy only when we know the order in which the books are arranged. So take the effort to **Memorize the Order of the Old and New Testament Books.**

ASSIGNMENT: Memorize the Books of the Bible in the right order.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Do you Know your Bible?

Identify the Books of the Bible that belong to the Old Testament, and those that belong to the New Testament. Shade the Old Testament Boxes with pink, and the New Testament Boxes with yellow.

Books of the Bible	Identify if this is an OT Book or a NT Book
Acts	
Amos	
Colossians	
1 Corinthians	
2 Chronicles	
Daniel	
Deuteronomy	
Ecclesiastes	
Ephesians	

Esther	
Exodus	
Ezekiel	
Ezra	
Galatians	
Genesis	
Habakkuk	
Haggai	
Hebrews	



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





Biblical Doctrines

Doctrine of Sin



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that all of us are born with a sinful nature.
- To teach that at the time of salvation, God kills our sinful nature on the Cross.
- To emphasize the importance of renewing our minds if we wish to overcome sin.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Psalms 51:5; Matthew 12:33; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16; Romans 6:6-7, 12:2 (Overcoming Sin).



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 6:6: For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.



INTRODUCTION

Mankind was created without sin, morally upright and inclined to do good (Ecclesiastes 7:29). But sin entered into human experience when Adam and Eve violated the direct command of God by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:6). Because Adam was the head and representative of the whole human race, his sin affected all future generations (Romans 5:12-21).

This and other related issues are discussed under the Doctrine of Sin (Hamartiology). So Hamartiology is the study of sin and deals with how sin originated, how it affects humanity and what it will result in after death.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT !



FIGS



COW'S MILK



SOYA - VEGETARIAN MUTTON

SINFUL NATURE—THE 'ROT' INSIDE US

Deep down in their hearts, most people sense that God is holy. So they feel guilty about the "sinful rot" in their hearts, and try very hard to make themselves presentable to God.

How Man deals with the Guilt of SIN

Write down some common methods used to 'please' God:





When God looks at humans, He sees the 'rot' inside and He finds it repulsive because He hates sin (the same way we find the rot inside a fruit repulsive).

- So no amount of self-inflicted torture or bathing in holy rivers can make us acceptable to God, because the Lord can see the "sinful rot" inside us.

Let's look at some Bible verses that discuss this concept:

According to Psalms 51:5, when does the sinful nature enter a person's life?

Psalms 51:5: I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born.

According to Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:23, can somebody avoid submitting to their sinful nature and live without committing a single sin?

Ecclesiastes 7:20: No one in this world always does right.
Romans 3:23: All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

According to Matthew 15:18-19, where is the sinful nature of a person located?

Matthew 15:18-19: But the words that come out of your mouth come from your heart. And they are what make you unfit to worship God. Out of your heart come evil thoughts, murder, unfaithfulness in marriage, vulgar deeds, stealing, telling lies and insulting others.

Helplessness of Man

These verses show that all of us are born with a sinful nature. And it makes us start sinning from a very young age.

When we sin, the punishment for sin is eternal death in hell.

- Romans 6:23: Sin pays off with death...

HELPLESSNESS of HUMANS

Fact 1:



Ps.51:5: I have sinned and done wrong since the day I was born

Fact 2:



Ps.58:3: You have done wrong and lied from the day you were born

Fact 3:



Rom.6:23: Sin pays off with death.....

FACT 4: Nobody can escape from this Chain of Events!

Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous,
no one who does what is right and never sins (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

JESUS—THE ANSWER

Jesus stepped into the world to rescue man from this terrible chain of events.

- First, Jesus died on the Cross to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself.
- Second, when we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, He helps us to overcome sin and temptation.

Bad Trees and Good Fruit

Matthew 7:18: A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit.

- A person who has the sinful nature in him will not be able to produce 'holy' fruit.

Matthew 5:48: Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

1 Peter 1:16: I am the holy God, and you must be holy too.

- God expects perfection, but nobody can be perfect! A man may be good, kind to people, hardworking and honest. He may regularly give alms to the poor and help those in need.
- But God expects perfection and nobody can be perfect!

Bathing in the Ganges river doesn't make us as perfect as the Father, **which is the standard that God expects.**

Donating money to charity does not make us as holy as the Lord, **which is the standard that God expects.**

All of us fall short of God's high standards because there is 'sinful rot' inside us.

- Romans 3:23: All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

Matthew 12:33: Make a tree good and its fruit will be good...

- A tree starts bearing good fruit only after it's made into a 'good tree.'
- In the same way, a person can start producing holy fruit only if God changes him into a new person.

When a person chooses to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, God changes his spirit into a "new creation."

- That day onwards, God begins to work in the person (to help him change his thinking, speech and behaviour) so that he starts becoming more like Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

1 John 3:6: ... people who stay one in their hearts with Him won't keep on sinning. If they do keep on sinning, they don't know Christ, and they have never seen Him.

So no amount of fasting or self-torture can make us acceptable to a perfectly holy God. **We become acceptable to God only after He makes us into good trees**—after He changes us into a new creation.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians 5:17 says that God makes us into a new creation when we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Then why is it that some Christians are so sinful? Why don't they become a "new creation?"

Galatians 5:16: If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires.

The sinful nature is so strong and so difficult to control!

- It takes less than a second to blow up and lose my temper.
- Sometimes lies pop out of my mouth even before I realize it.

If the sinful nature is that strong (!) how can we ever overcome it? Is it really possible to overcome sinful habits?

Romans 6:6: For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

Isaiah 33:15-16: But there will be rewards for those who live right and tell the truth...They will live in a fortress high on a rocky cliff, where they will have food and plenty of water.

Romans 12:2: Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to Him.

What must we do to renew our minds?



APPLICATION

Let's summarize all that we have learnt today:

We're all born with a sinful nature that forces us to sin.

- Because of our sinful nature, we're destined for eternal punishment in hell.

But Jesus took the punishment for our sins upon himself.

- So if we accept Him as Lord and Saviour, He'll forgive all our sins and make us part of His family.

- He'll also take our sinful nature and kill it on His Cross ... so that it can't control us anymore.

If we carefully listen to His voice in our hearts, He'll show us what to do and what to avoid.

- If we obey His voice, and if we believe the truths in His Bible, our minds will become renewed.
- Then we'll be able to resist sin and temptation successfully.

So there are **three application steps** we need to take:

- First, we must be willing to admit that Jesus alone can get rid of our sinful nature and make our spirit into a new creation.
- Second, we must start listening to God's voice inside us and obey all that He says.
- Third, we must start studying God's Word and believe all the truths mentioned in it.
(Whether or not we practice these truths in our lives will reveal whether or not we really believe these Scriptures are true).



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:16, 19, 22-23:

- If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires ...
- People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts and shameful deeds ...

- God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled ...

Find the Fruit of the Spirit in the puzzle below: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

Y L O V E G E N T L E N E S S
 H G S S E N L U F H T I A F S
 T O N R A E L P A T I E N C E
 L O N G S U F F E R I N G Y N
 A D T I R I P S I C J U L W K
 E N S S E F N O C U A O R O E
 H E S S E N D N I K H E Y F E
 S S F Q H H O N E S T T P R M
 V S O W T R U S T W O R T H Y
 E K I L T S I R H C G I F T S



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

The voice of the Holy Spirit said these things to me, during this week:

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I obeyed God's voice in these ways, during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

These are the Bible verses I believed and practiced, during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





God's Redemption Plan (Soteriology)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that God's laws are unchanging and cannot be simply ignored.
- To show how Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Law of Sin and Death.
- To explain the concepts of Substitution, Redemption and Reconciliation.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

- Acts 20:7-12 (Story of Eutychus).
- Psalms 19:7-8; Genesis 2:17; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 6:23; 8:2, 12-13; Galatians 5:16, 18, 25 (The Two Laws).



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 8:2: ... through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.



INTRODUCTION

According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term *salvation* includes the total work of God by which He seeks to rescue man from the ruin, doom and power of sin, and provides him the wealth of His grace including eternal life, provision for abundant life now and eternal glory (Ephesians 1:3-8; 2:4-10; 1 Peter 1:3-5; John 3:16, 36; 10:10).

Over the next two classes, we'll deal with some basic concepts that form a part of the Doctrine of Salvation, such as Substitution, Reconciliation, Propitiation, etc.



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity : TOUGH LAWS

(Taken from Randomhistory.com.)

In the 1800s USA was still developing, and it had some very strange laws. Let's look at some:

- According to an Atlanta, Georgia ordinance, “smelly people” are not allowed to ride public streetcars.
- In Kansas, when two trains meet at a crossing, “both shall come to full stop and neither shall start up again until the other has gone.”
- In Lander, Wyoming, it is illegal for adults to take a bath more than once a month once the cold weather arrives. Children cannot take a bath at all during the winter.

- It's illegal to ride an ugly horse in Wilbur, Washington.
- Policemen are allowed to bite a dog if they think it will calm the dog down in Paulding, Ohio.

All of these laws have now gone out of date, and have been repealed.

GOD'S UNCHANGEABLE LAW

Psalms 19:7-8: The Law of the Lord is perfect; it gives us new life ... The Lord's instruction is right; it makes our hearts glad ... The laws made by humans are sometimes defective. (Because humans are imperfect, they make imperfect laws).

- But the Bible declares that God's Laws are perfect—Psalms 19:7. There's absolutely no defect in even one of them.

In the same way, human laws can sometimes be 'wrong.' (The laws passed by Hitler were very wrong because they led to the murder of millions of innocent people).

- But the Bible declares that God's Laws are 'right'—Psalms 19:7. They're never wrong.

So while human laws can be modified or cancelled, we can't treat God's laws in the same way.

Story of Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12)

When God created the universe, He laid down a set of laws to run the universe:

- For instance, the **Law of Cause and Effect** causes every action to have an equal and opposite reaction.

- *The Law of Gravity causes each object in the universe to attract each other, etc.*

Because God's laws are perfect, He doesn't keep changing them or cancelling them.

Please Note:

- When Eutychus fell out of a window on the third floor, God didn't suspend the Law of Gravity.
- Instead God had made the provision of the Principle of Faith.
- When Paul exercised the Principle of Faith, it brought Eutychus back to life.

LAW of SIN and DEATH vs LAW of the SPIRIT

Romans 6:23: Sin pays off with death.

Genesis 2:17: If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die before the day is over!"

When Adam and Eve sinned, in that very moment their spirits died within them (it became a spiritually dead and sinful spirit).

God did NOT suspend the Law of Sin and Death simply to save Adam and Eve! His laws are perfect and cannot be changed.

Rather, just as in the case of Eutychus, God used a different law to help deliver Adam and Eve.

Law of the Spirit of Life

God sent a **'SUBSTITUTE'** to bear the punishment of the Law of Sin and Death!

- The Substitute, Jesus Christ, fulfilled this Law by volunteering to take our place on the Cross, and pay the punishment on our behalf.

Redemption:

After sin entered the world, humans became slaves of sin and came under the control of satan.

- But by making a blood payment—by paying with His own life—Jesus was able to buy back all the slaves.
- This process of buying us back and setting us free is known as **REDEMPTION**. Jesus redeemed us and set us free from satan's control.

We're now RECONCILED with God

As long as a person lives under sin, he is God's enemy—because God hates sin.

- But when the person turns his back on sin and submits his life to Jesus' control, then God decides to make a peace treaty with him; He promises not to consider him an enemy anymore.
- This declaration of peace between God and the person is known as **RECONCILIATION**.

Those who choose to be reconciled with God are no longer slaves of the Law of Sin and Death. Instead they become slaves of the Law of the Spirit.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does 'Substitution' mean? Explain in your own words.

What does 'Redemption' mean? Explain in your own words.

What does 'Reconciliation' mean? Explain in your own words.

Adam's sinfulness placed mankind under the control of sin and satan. Jesus redeemed us from this slavery by paying the price for us.

- What about all the people before Jesus' times? Did they get redeemed or not?

Revelation 13:8: The beast was worshiped by everyone whose name wasn't written before the time of creation in the Book of the Lamb who was killed.

Galatians 4:4-5: But when the time was right, God sent His Son, and a woman gave birth to Him. His Son obeyed the Law, so He could set us free from the Law, and we could become God's children.



APPLICATION

Summary:

When Adam and Eve sinned, they brought all mankind under the curse of the Law of Sin and Death.

To rescue us from this terrible fate, the Lord appointed Jesus as our substitute:

- As our substitute, Jesus took our place on the Cross, and paid the punishment of death.
- With His blood, He bought us out of our slavery to sin, thereby redeeming us and setting us free.

- Because of what Jesus has done, God is now willing to make peace with us and be reconciled with us.

All those who choose to be reconciled with God, come under the Law of the Spirit of Life.

- Romans 8:2: The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death.
- Romans 8:12-13: My dear friends, we must not live to satisfy our desires. If you do, you will die. But you will live, if by the help of God’s Spirit you say “No” to your desires.

According to these verses, if I have placed myself under the Law of the Spirit, **then I need to live according to the Spirit.**

- Galatians 5:16: If you are guided by the Spirit, you won’t obey your selfish desires.
- Galatians 5:18: But if you obey the Spirit, the Law of Moses has no control over you.
- Galatians 5:25: God’s Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit.

So, under the LAW of the SPIRIT of LIFE, I’m expected to:

- Obey the voice of the Holy Spirit in my heart.
- Put to death all my sinful attitudes / habits.

Sinful attitudes/thoughts that I need to “put to death”:

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

Sinful behaviour / habits that I need to “put to death”:

1. _____

2. _____

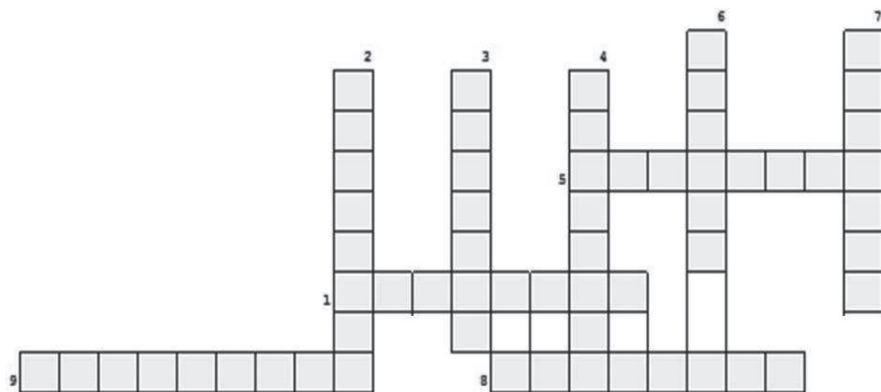
3. _____



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Law of Gravity vs Principle of Faith

(Puzzle created at Gospelhall.org.)



Use the NIV Version to fill in the blanks and complete this Bible Story:

Acts 20:7-12—Eutychus

On the first day of the week we came _____
 (Clue 5) to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and,
 because he _____ (Clue 2) to leave the
 next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many
 lamps in the _____ (Clue 8) room where we

were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man named _____ (Clue 4), who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound _____ (Clue 6), he fell to the ground from the third storey and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw _____ (Clue 3) on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be _____ (Clue 7)," he said. "He's alive!" Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until _____ (Clue 1), he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly _____ (Clue 9).



FOLLOW UP

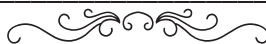
(To be filled up before the next class)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





Forgiveness of God (Soteriology)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the Biblical concept of forgiveness.
- To help children see themselves as ‘saints’ (not ‘sinners’).



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 3:2; 1 John 1:8-9; Acts 20:21; Ephesians 1:7 (God’s Kind of Forgiveness).



MEMORY VERSE

Words Scramble on page 53 contains Memory verse.



INTRODUCTION

According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term *salvation* includes the total work of God by which He seeks to rescue man from the ruin, doom and power of sin

and bestows upon him the wealth of His grace encompassing eternal life, provision for abundant life now, and eternal glory (Ephesians 1:3-8; 2:4-10; 1 Peter 1:3-5; John 3:16, 36; 10:10).

Over the next two classes, we'll deal with some basic concepts that form a part of the Doctrine of Salvation, such as Substitution, Justification, Forgiveness, etc.



Understanding SALVATION and FORGIVENESS

Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14):

- Luke 18:9: To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable.
- Luke 18:14: I tell you that [the tax collector], rather than the [Pharisee], went home justified before God”.
- Matthew 3:2: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

- 1 John 1:8-9: If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts. But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

SALVATION is given ONLY to those who CONFESS THEIR SINS and REPENT

Acts 20:21: I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

Jesus said that if you confess your sins and repent, then you will “ [go] home JUSTIFIED before God” (Luke 18:14).

Justification

Justification takes place the moment the individual has faith in Christ (Romans 4:2; 5:1).

Justification involves two main aspects:

- It involves the pardon and removal of all sins and the end of separation from God (Acts 13:39; Romans 4:6–7; 5:9–11; 2 Corinthians 5:19).
- It also involves God clothing us with His righteousness, and declaring that we're now entitled to “all the blessings promised to the just.”

We must ‘believe’ these two truths:

- At the moment of salvation, God forgives ALL our sins —past, present, and future!
- At the moment of salvation, God declares us righteous and gives us access to a whole lot of blessings.

Those who BELIEVE they're justified, see themselves as 'SAINTS' not 'SINNERS'

If I believe that God has really forgiven and forgotten my sins, I won't pray to Him like an unforgiven sinner anymore.

I will instead pray with the confidence of a child requesting his father for his needs.

God's Kind of Forgiveness

Ephesians 1:7: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

- In this verse, the Greek word used for 'forgiveness' is 'aphesin.' This word literally means "to let go, release" or "send away."
- The noun form is used in Ephesians 1:7 where it stresses the believer's sins have been forgiven or sent away because of the riches of God's grace as revealed in the death of Christ.

If we refuse to believe that we're completely forgiven, it would mean that we think:

- That God is lying.
- That God is constantly thinking about the sinful things we've done in the past, and of the sins that we're going to commit in the future.
- That God's grace is not big enough, or rich enough, to be able to forgive and forget what we've done.

We must choose to believe that God has forgiven and forgotten our sins.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

At the time of salvation, does God forgive only the sins we have committed up to that time? Or does He forgive even future sins?

Colossians 2:13: You were dead, because you were sinful and were not God’s people. But God let Christ make you alive, when He forgave **all** our sins.

1 John 1:8-9: “If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn’t in our hearts. But if we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.”

- If all my sins are already forgiven, then why am I told to regularly confess my sins to God?

If I think of myself as a sinner (instead of a saint), doesn't that make me a more humble person? Doesn't it make me like the Tax Collector whom Jesus praised?



APPLICATION

Failure to believe in God's total forgiveness, harms us in two ways:

- First, we can't approach God confidently.
- Second, we're not able to exercise the great spiritual authority given to us.

1. Approach God Confidently

- We don't need to be scared of God, like sinners who cannot be sure whether their prayers will be answered or not.
- We can go to God confidently, fully believing that we're "God's favourite child," and He'll give us the best!

Remember:

- God just wants true repentance.

- If we truly make a commitment to turn our back on a particular sin and not repeat it, God forgives us—even if it's the worst sin on earth.

In other words, the next time we go to the Lord in prayer, He looks at us as if we have never sinned!

2. Exercise Spiritual Authority

Satan reminds us of past sins to keep us feeling like failures. As long as we feel this way, we're unable to exercise our God-given spiritual authority to overcome obstacles and fulfill God's purposes for our lives.

On the other hand:

- If I truly believe that I'm forgiven, I can command sickness to leave my mind, in Jesus' Name ... and it will leave.
- When I'm confident that I've been forgiven, I can boldly speak to the 'mountains' in my life ... and see all my problems resolved.
- If I know I'm forgiven, it gives me the confidence to withstand temptation and successfully overcome it.

Those who see themselves as sinful failures are unable to confidently exercise their spiritual authority.

These are some Urgent Prayer Needs that I have:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Approach God’s throne confidently to pray for these needs. God will answer you!

“So whenever we are in need, **we should Come Bravely before the throne of our merciful God.** There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help” (Hebrews 4:16).

This week, I’ll exercise my Spiritual Authority for these things:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Mark 16:17-18: **Everyone Who Believes** me will be able to do wonderful things. **By Using My Name** they will force out demons, and they will speak new languages. They will handle snakes and will drink poison and not be hurt. They will also heal sick people by placing their hands on them.



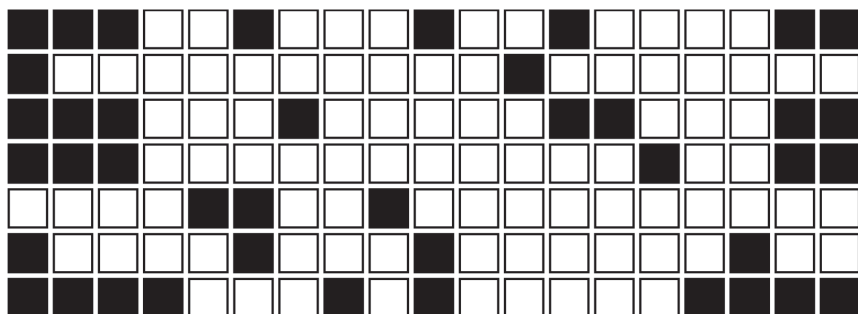
TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Memory Verse

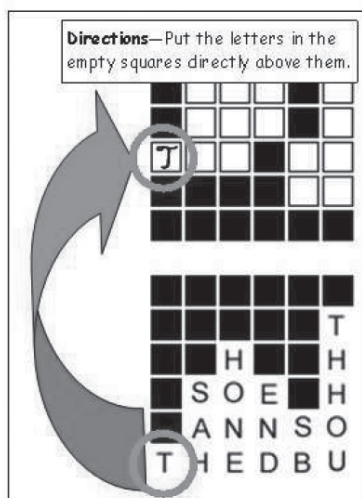
(Created online at GospelHall.org)

The following puzzle is a “Dropped Verse.” All of the letters in the white squares have fallen to the ground. Raise them back up into their places to see what the Memory Verse says.

Forgiveness of God (Soteriology)



N I W
 I E H T M N E T H A V
 D I P B I O D H R O E
 H O M G I L O N E S S T H U
 R E F S I N V O C C O R D O E G H
 I N S H R T H E E R I C H E A F C E
 S W I T G O D S A G R A C E S N O F



Write down the Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:7: _____

DON'T FORGET TO MEMORISE THE MEMORY VERSE!



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





Life After Death (Doctrine of Eschatology)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach what the Bible says about Heaven and Hell.
- To urge children to check whether their decision for Christ was genuine or not.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Lamentations 4:19; Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Kin. 8:27; Matthew 17:3-4; Mark 9:43; Luke 12:47-48, 16:23-24; John 14:2; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 2 Corinthians 12:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Hebrew 12:1; 2 Peter 2:4, Revelation 20:2-3, 13-15 (Heaven and Hell).



MEMORY VERSE

John 14:2: My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?



INTRODUCTION

The word Eschatology literally means “Study of Last Things:”

- It studies the intermediate and ultimate state of both the righteous and the wicked, and
- It studies the various events that lead up to the final establishment of the Kingdom of God (including Christ's Second Coming, the resurrection of the body, the final judgments, etc).

In this session, we’ll specifically study about man’s ultimate dwelling place—heaven or hell.

HEAVEN

Atmospheric Heaven: Lamentations 4:19 says, “Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles of the heavens.” This verse is simply referring to the atmosphere surrounding the earth; it refers to the sky in which eagles fly.

Celestial Heaven: In the Bible, *Heaven* is also used to describe the celestial realm—the realm of sun, moon, stars, and planets. God created the universe (Genesis 1:1; Psalms 33:6), placing these lights in the heaven (Genesis 1:14).

Dwelling Place of God: Finally, *Heaven* is used to describe the place where God’s throne dwells. In the Old Testament, people used words like “highest heaven” (Deuteronomy 10:14) and “heaven of heavens” (1 Kings 8:27) to describe this third heaven.

Our Dwelling Place

God will prepare a place for us in the third heaven, so that we can live with Him forever.

- John 14:2: There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I wouldn’t tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you.

When a Jew married, he added an apartment to his father’s house, and the son and his bride **took up residence in the father’s household**. Believers will enjoy that same family fellowship in the Father’s household in heaven.

HELL

It’s very important to know that God never created hell for people. It was created for satan and his demons.

- Matthew 25:41: Then the king will say to those on his left, “Get away from me! You are under God’s curse. Go into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels!

However, through their sinfulness, people choose to share hell with the demons.

The original Bible, which was written in Greek, uses five different words to refer to hell. We’ll study all these five words, so that we can gain a clearer picture of hell.

1. Hades (called ‘Sheol’ in Hebrew):

In the Bible, the most common word used to describe hell is ‘Hades.’

- Luke 16:23: He went to [Hades] and was suffering terribly ...

This is the place that the rich man went to after death. All those who reject God go to Hades.

On Judgment Day, God will order all the people in Hades to come and stand before Him to be judged. Some will be assigned more severe punishments than others.

- Luke 12:47-48: If servants are not ready or willing to do what their master wants them to do, they will be beaten hard. But servants who don't know what their master wants them to do will not be beaten so hard for doing wrong.

After judgment is passed, Hades itself, and all the people belonging to it, will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

- Revelation 20:13-15: The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

In other words, Hades is a temporary hell—it is a holding place where God is holding the unrighteous for future judgment. Once this judgment is passed, people will be thrown into the permanent hell, which is the Lake of Fire.

2. Gehenna (Lake of Fire):

So, the Lake of Fire is the ultimate destination of the unrighteous. They will have to suffer there forever and ever. In some places, Jesus used the word 'gehenna' to describe this permanent hell.

- Mark 9:43: So if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! You would be better off to go into life crippled than to have two hands and be thrown into the fires of [gehenna] that never go out.

3 Abyss (Tartarus):

The deepest part of the Lake of Fire is called the Abyss or Tartarus.

Currently, there's a huge demonic army living in the Abyss, where they have been imprisoned.

- 2 Peter 2:4: God did not have pity on the angels that sinned. He had them tied up and thrown into the dark pits of [Tartarus] until the time of judgment.

Satan too will be locked away in this place for a while

- Revelation 20:2-3: He chained the dragon for a thousand years. It is that old snake, who is also known as the devil and Satan. Then the angel threw the dragon into the pit. He locked and sealed it, so that a thousand years would go by before the dragon could fool the nations again. But after that, it would have to be set free for a little while.

Satan and his demons will be temporarily released from the Abyss for a short duration, so that they can fight a battle against God and be utterly defeated. After this, they will be returned to the Lake of Fire, where they will be tormented forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Will each believer be given a big bungalow in heaven?

John 14:2: There are many rooms in my Father's house ...

John 14:23: "My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home..." "

Do you think we'll be able to recognize family members and friends in heaven?

Luke 16:23: ... When he looked up and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side

- **1 Thessalonians 4:13** says, "... we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death ..."

- **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** says, "... We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed ... For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

- Are these verses saying that dead people will go into a deep sleep, and wake up only at Christ's Second Coming?

2 Corinthians 5:8: ... we would rather leave these bodies and be at home with the Lord.

Luke 16:24: ... I'm suffering terribly in this fire.

Hebrew 12:1 says, "... since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles ...

- **Does this mean people in heaven are looking down and watching us all the time?**



APPLICATION

A decision to simply repeat the salvation prayer does not take us to heaven.

- It's the decision to trust in Jesus, take up the Cross daily and follow Him, that takes us to heaven.

- So a salvation prayer is valid only if it involves a childlike trust in Jesus, choosing to obey Him and follow Him wherever He takes them.

Jesus did NOT go from town to town crying, “Say the Salvation Prayer.” Rather He preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17).

A person saying the salvation prayer with a repentant heart will not be rejected by Jesus.

Reflect on the decision that you have made.

- Were you repentant about your sinfulness?
- Did you wish to leave your sinful past behind and live for Jesus alone?

If this was your attitude when you said the salvation prayer, your name is definitely in the Lamb’s Book of Life!

Share with others the Good News (of Jesus’ forgiveness and promise of a new life) so that they too can join you in heaven.

I’ll share the Salvation Message about Jesus with these people:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

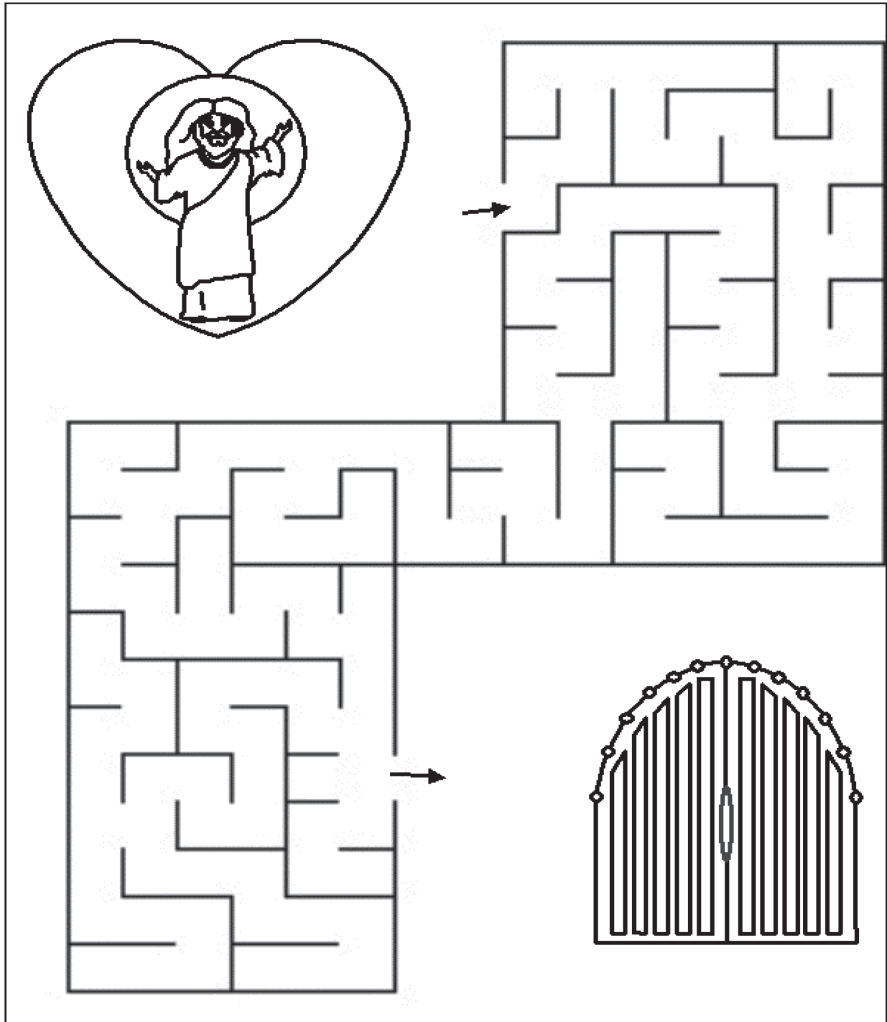


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Heaven

(Taken from DLTk – Growing Together.)

Accept Jesus and He will lead you to heaven.





FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





The Rapture and Tribulation



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the concept of Rapture to children.
- To briefly outline the events of the Tribulation Period.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Genesis 5:18-27; Jeremiah 30:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6-12 (The End Times).



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 24:44: So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.



INTRODUCTION

There is much debate on the End Times in Christian circles. Some believe that Christ's return will be immediately

followed by the resurrection of all people, and the judgment. Others believe that Christ's return will be followed by a 1000 year rule on earth, which is then followed by judgment. And then there are further variations of these two basic outlooks.

We at All Peoples Church (APC) believe that the Second Coming of Jesus takes place in two stages—including the Rapture and the Establishment of the Millennial Rule on earth (Kindly refer to the APC Statement of Faith—Points 12 and 13).

The 'NOT' People

Genesis 5:18-27:

Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

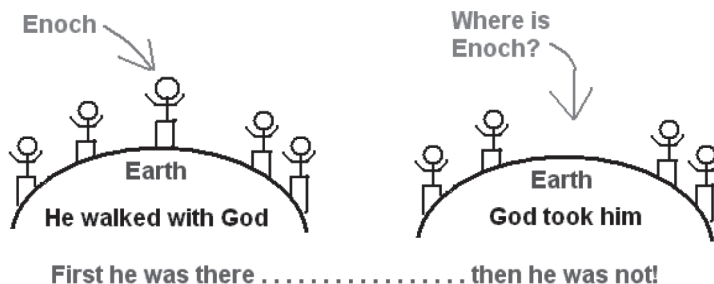
- Jared 'begot' (gave birth to) whom? Name the son of Jared (v. 18) _____

- What happened to Jared after he became 962 years old (v. 20)? _____
- Enoch 'begot' (gave birth to) whom? Name the son of Enoch (v. 21) _____
- Methuselah was the oldest man who ever lived. How old was he when he died (v. 27)? _____
- What happened to Methuselah after he became 969 years old (v. 27)? _____
- Methuselah's father was Enoch. What happened to Enoch after he became 365 years old (v. 23-24)? _____

Why do you think the Bible says, "He was not, for God took him." Why doesn't it simply say, "He died, and so God took him?"

A church in the USA depicted Enoch's disappearance in this way:

(Middle Town Bible Church Sunday School Materials)



BRIEF OUTLINE OF END TIME EVENTS

1. FORMATION of the STATE of ISRAEL

- Jeremiah 30:3: Someday I will let my people from both Israel and Judah return to the land I gave their ancestors.”

2. RAPTURE

- 1 Thessalonians 4:17: Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky. From that time on, we will all be with the Lord forever.

3. FIRST HALF of the TRIBULATION

Once the presence of believers—and the presence of the Holy Spirit who lives in them—leaves the earth, things will deteriorate very rapidly.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7: You already know what is holding this wicked one back until it is time for Him to come. His mysterious power is already at work, but someone is holding him back. And the wicked one won't appear until that someone is out of the way.

The Antichrist

The Antichrist will receive the full backing and support of a powerful country in launching his new reforms. Some say that the powerful nation backing him up will be the USA, but this is mere speculation. The Bible simply refers to this powerful country as “Babylon the Great.”

- Revelation 18:2: The angel shouted, “Fallen! Powerful Babylon has fallen and is now the home of demons.”

The world will praise this leader for his great achievements, and he’ll probably be awarded the Nobel Peace prize as well! But in reality he will be the Antichrist!

- Daniel 9:27: For one week this foreigner will make a firm agreement with many people.
- Revelation 6:1-2: At the same time that I saw the Lamb open the first of the seven seals, I heard one of the four living creatures shout with a voice like thunder. It said, “Come out!” Then I saw a white horse. Its rider carried a bow and was given a crown. He had already won some victories, and he went out to win more.

The False Prophet

- Revelation 13:11: I now saw another beast. This one came out of the ground. It had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon.

God’s ‘Seal Judgments’

- Revelation 6:7-8: When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come out!” Then I saw a pale green horse. Its rider was named Death, and Death’s Kingdom followed behind. They were given power over one fourth of the earth, and they could kill its people with swords, famines, diseases, and wild animals.

The last two seals will be opened during the second half of the tribulation.

Two Witnesses

- Revelation 11:5-6: Any enemy who tries to harm them will be destroyed by the fire that comes out of their mouths. They have the power to lock up the sky and to keep rain from falling while they are prophesying. And whenever they want to, they can turn water to blood and cause all kinds of terrible troubles on earth.

Persecution of Christians

- Revelation 6:9-11: When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of everyone who had been killed for speaking God's message and telling about their faith. They shouted, "Master, you are holy and faithful! How long will it be before you judge and punish the people of this earth who killed us?" Then each of those who had been killed was given a white robe and told to rest for a little while. They had to wait until the complete number of the Lord's other servants and followers would be killed.

The Two Witnesses Martyred

- Revelation 11:11-12: But three and a half days later, God will breathe life into their bodies. They will stand up, and everyone who sees them will be terrified. The witnesses then heard a loud voice from heaven, saying, "Come up here." And while their enemies were watching, they were taken up to heaven in a cloud.

Earthquake in Jerusalem

A few minutes after the Witnesses leave the earth, a major earthquake will strike Jerusalem, killing 7000 people. Those who survive this terrible earthquake will finally admit that God exists, and that He Himself sent the earthquake. But they will refuse to repent and turn to Him!

- Revelation 11:13: At that same moment there was a terrible earthquake that destroyed a tenth of the city. Seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were frightened and praised the God who rules in heaven.

Satan Thrown Down to the Earth

- Revelation 12:9: Yes, that old snake and his angels were thrown out of heaven! That snake, who fools everyone on earth, is known as the devil and Satan.

4. SECOND HALF of the TRIBULATION

Opening of the Sixth Seal

- Revelation 6:12-14: When I saw the Lamb open the sixth seal, I looked and saw a great earthquake. The sun turned as dark as sackcloth, and the moon became as red as blood. The stars in the sky fell to earth, just like figs shaken loose by a windstorm. Then the sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all mountains and islands were moved from their places.

Again, just as in the case of the Jerusalem earthquake which kills 7000 people, **everybody will realize that God himself is unleashing this judgment.** World leaders will be filled with fear and long to escape from the hands of this great God of Judgment.

- Revelation 6:15-17: The kings of the earth, its famous people, and its military leaders hid in caves or behind rocks on the mountains. They hid there together with the rich and the powerful and with all the slaves and free people. Then they shouted to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us! Hide us from the one who sits on the throne and from the anger of the Lamb. That terrible day has come! God and the Lamb will show their anger, and who can face it?”

Satan indwells the Antichrist

- Revelation 13:2: The beast that I saw had the body of a leopard, the feet of a bear, and the mouth of a lion. The dragon handed over its own power and throne and great authority to this beast.

Antichrist destroys Babylon the Great

- Revelation 18:10: Her sufferings will frighten them, and they will stand at a distance and say, “Pity that great and powerful city! Pity Babylon! In a single hour her judgment has come.”

Antichrist declares himself God

- Daniel 9:27: For one week this foreigner will make a firm agreement with many people, and halfway through this week, he will end all sacrifices and offerings. Then the “Horrible Thing” that causes destruction will be put there. And it will stay there until the time God has decided to destroy this one who destroys.

Antichrist has a “near-death-experience” after being Assassinated

- Revelation 13:3: One of its heads seemed to have been fatally wounded, but now it was well. Everyone on earth marvelled at this beast.

Idol of Antichrist Created

The False Prophet will support the Antichrist’s claims of Godhood.

- Revelation 13:13-14: It worked mighty miracles, and while people watched, it even made fire come down from the sky. This second beast fooled people on earth by working miracles for the first one ...

The False Prophet will set up an image of the Antichrist and order the whole world to worship it. This image will have magical power to speak, and it’ll even kill those who refuse to worship it.

- Revelation 13:14-15: ... Then it talked them into making an idol in the form of the beast that did not die after being wounded by a sword. It was allowed to put breath into the idol, so that it could speak. Everyone who refused to worship the idol of the beast was put to death.

Mark of the Beast

- Revelation 13:16-17: All people were forced to put a mark on their right hand or forehead. Whether they were powerful or weak, rich or poor, free people or slaves, they all had to have this mark, or else they could not buy or sell anything. This mark stood for the name of the beast and for the number of its name.

Warning not to receive the Mark

- Revelation 14:9-10: Finally, a third angel came and shouted: Here is what will happen if you worship the beast and the idol and have the mark of the beast on your hand or forehead. You will have to drink the wine that God gives to everyone who makes him angry. You will feel his mighty anger, and you will be tortured with fire and burning sulphur, while the holy angels and the Lamb look on.

144,000 Jews Sealed

- Revelation 12:14: But the woman was given two wings like those of a huge eagle, so that she could fly into the desert. There she would escape from the snake and be taken care of for a time, two times, and half a time.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Jeremiah 30:3: Someday I will let my people from both Israel and Judah return to the land I gave their ancestors.

- What do you think we can learn from this Old Testament promise of God?

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7: You already know what is holding this wicked one back until it is time for him to come. His mysterious power is already at work, but someone is holding him back. And the wicked one won't appear until that someone is out of the way.

- According to what we studied today, what are these verses talking about?

When God begins to judge the world with the Seal Judgment, He also sends Two Witnesses to preach about Him. Why do you think God does this?



APPLICATION

If the Rapture takes place tonight, will you be caught up to heaven with the rest of the believers? Or will you get left behind, to face the terrible tribulation?

- Make sure where you're personally headed. And make a commitment to tell other people about Jesus, so that they won't have to suffer through the tribulation either.

I'll share the Salvation Message about Jesus with these people:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



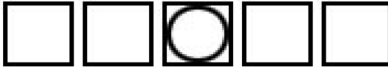
TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

(Created online at <http://gospelhall.org>)

1 - PTEXCE



2 - REYAD



3 - UTSM



4 - BE



Copy the circled letters into the blanks below and unsort the final word.



The words above will fit into the following sentence:

Matthew 24:44: So you also _____ (Clue 3) _____ (Clue 4) _____ (Clue 2), _____ (Clue 5) the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not _____ (Clue 1) Him.

DON'T FORGET TO MEMORISE THE MEMORY VERSE!



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

