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Composition of the Bible



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that the present day Bible is accurate and has not been distorted over the years.
- To educate children on the various Ancient Sources of the Bible.
- To demonstrate that copyist errors in the Bible don't affect Bible accuracy.



MEMORY VERSE

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



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 RELIABLE?

The more people a message gets transmitted across to, greater the chances that the original message will get distorted. This is why many critics refuse to accept that the Bible is accurate.

For example, God inspired Moses to write the Genesis Scroll probably around 2000 BC. In those days they didn’t have Xerox machines. So, when the original scroll began to get old, people copied out the original book into new scrolls. They continued doing this for the next 2000 years. So what are the chances that somebody, at some point of time, didn’t make a mistake while copying from the previous copies?

Using this argument, critics say that the Bible we have today must be filled with mistakes. They say it’s probably very different from the original writings given by God.

What can we tell a critic who uses this argument? Do you think the critics are right in saying this? Why or why not?

Video Presentation

VideoLink: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxdoJJhVsEA>

Duration: 4 min. 39 sec.

According to the video, the Great Isaiah Scroll was written around 100 BC. How different is this scroll from the present day Book of Isaiah found in our Bibles?

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

RELIABILITY of the OLD and NEW TESTAMENT TEXT

If you wish to have a copy of the details explained in the class, request your teacher for photocopy of the details.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWxwfFNyVws>

Duration: 2 min. 50 sec.

The video talks about the oldest New Testament fragment that was discovered. In what way does finding an old fragment help?

There are supposed to be 400,000 variations in the text of the New Testament. According to the Video, what are these variants? Do such variants affect the accuracy of the Bible?

What is the Canon? What does the video say about the Canon?

ADDITIONAL READING

EXPLAINING the 400,000 VARIATIONS in the NEW TESTAMENT

There are basically FOUR TYPES OF VARIANTS found in the New Testament:

1. Errors Occurring During Dictation

Scribes would often make mistakes during the dictation of the texts by a reader, because two words sounded the same. (For example in English, ‘there’ and ‘their’ sound the same, and I may write down the wrong word).

- **Eg. Revelation 1:5:** “... to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood.”

Some Copies mention “loves us and has freed us” while other Copies mention “loves us and has washed us.” These two words sound identical in Greek; so somebody might have made a mistake while writing down this word.

2. Mistakes by Copying

- **Eg: Mark 1:40:** And there came a leper to Him, beseeching Him, and kneeling down to Him ... ”
- The above is found in all present versions of the Bible.
- However, two early manuscripts omit the ‘kneeling.’ This was probably due to the Greek word ‘and’ being

found both before and after the word ‘Kneeling,’ and so the scribe’s eyes may have jumped, from one ‘and’ to the other, omitting the word in between.

3. Scribal Corrections

Sometimes the copyist changed a word, assuming that they were correcting a mistake made by an earlier copyist. But actually they were introducing a mistake into the text.

- **Eg: Mark 1:2-3:** “... as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you ...’”

All present Bibles read as above, but some manuscripts (including Codex Alexandrinus) have the text reading; ‘As it is written in the *prophets*.’

- This particular copyist must have realized that the quotation is a combination of Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3. So he probably sought to rectify the mistake by replacing ‘Isaiah’ with ‘the Prophets.’

4. Three Significant Additions (and one less so)

Two large passages are generally believed to be later additions to the original text, and are set apart and marked as such in most Bibles.

- They are John 7:53-8:11, where Jesus intervenes to stop a woman being stoned to death for committing adultery, and Mark 16:9-20, an ending of Mark’s gospel, which otherwise seems to finish abruptly.
- The words of Luke 22:43-44 appear to be an addition. They are included in most Bibles, but a footnote explains that they may not be original.

- Also, some extra words appear to have been added to 1 John 5:7-8, apparently to give greater support to the doctrine of the Trinity. This has been known for centuries and most Bibles retain this section only in a footnote.

Changes in Meaning

In some cases, accidentally changing a word, led to a slight change in meaning:

- In Mark 1:41, Jesus is approached by a man with a skin disease, who asks to be healed. The majority of texts say Jesus was moved with compassion but some texts say Jesus was angry.
- Hebrews 2:9 is generally translated so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone, but some manuscripts have one word different in the Greek, which would then translate as ... “apart from God he might taste death ... ”
- Manuscript copies of John 1:18 have several slightly different variations of two or three words. In essence, the difference comes down to whether Jesus should be called Son of God or God. This is a significant difference theologically, although both translations presented highly exalted views of Jesus' status. Modern translations are split between the two meanings.
- Romans 5:1 is generally translated: we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ but a number of manuscripts have: “let us have peace with God ... ”

- In Luke 2:33, the phrase “the child’s father and mother marveled ... ” was changed in some manuscripts to Joseph and His mother marveled ...” apparently to avoid any implication that Joseph was Jesus' biological father. However the original is used in most Bibles today.

All 400,000 variants fall into these categories. As we can see, none of the variants affect Biblical teachings and doctrines in any way. (Though John. 1:18 is unclear, other verses in the Bible clearly confirm that Jesus is God).

So we can safely regard the present day Bible as being accurate and trustworthy.



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 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 Knowledge Quiz

(Taken from Teen Sunday School Place)

1. How many books are in the Bible? _____
2. The Bible was written over a span of approximately how many years? _____

3. How many different authors contributed to the Bible?

4. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
5. In the Old Testament, what are the five main sections of books?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
6. How many books are in the New Testament? _____
7. In the New Testament, how many gospels are there?

8. Who wrote the most books of the Bible? _____
9. When were chapters and verses added to the Scriptures?

10. Who wrote the majority of the Psalms? _____

11. Which is believed to be the last Gospel written? _____



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





Revelation and Bible Interpretation



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the concept of ‘Revelation.’
- To teach how to interpret the Bible correctly.
- To highlight the importance of correct Bible Interpretation.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Ephesians 3:4-5; Matthew 18:19-20, 23:9; Romans 8:28
(Revelation and Interpretation)



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 1:17: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.



INTRODUCTION

We hear words like inspiration, revelation and interpretation being used constantly with reference to the Bible. This session attempts to provide a clear understanding of these important Bible terms.

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWQ28-JhWKo>

Duration: Please play the video only up to “1 min. 58sec.”
(The rest of the video is **NOT** relevant]

Let’s look at the Bible verses mentioned in the video:

- According to Galatians 1:12, how did Paul receive the gospel. Did one of the disciples tell him about it?

- In Ephesians 1:17, what did Paul pray that the believers should receive from God? Why did he want them to have these two things?

- According to Ephesians 3:4-5, who reveals the mysteries of God to us?

- According to the video, what exactly is ‘Revelation?’

- Can you give some simple examples of how you experienced ‘revelation’ during your own personal Bible reading time?

CORRECT BIBLE INTERPRETATION

Find out the Immediate Context

Don’t read just three to four verses and jump to conclusions. Find out the immediate context of these verses by carefully reading the paragraphs preceding and following these verses.

- For instance, James 5:1 says, “You rich people should cry and weep! Terrible things are going to happen to you.”
- This verse is not saying that if you belong to a rich family, God is going to bring misery upon you.

- The passage preceding this verse talks about how God hates pride and boasting. And the passage following this verse talks about how God hates exploitation and injustice.
- So this verse doesn't say that God hates rich people and will punish them. It says that God will punish those rich people alone who are proud and boastful about their riches, and who exploit the poor to become rich.

When we interpret James 1:5 by reading the preceding and following passages, the meaning of the verse becomes clear.

Interpret Literally Wherever Possible

Remember that the Bible always means exactly what it says except when symbolic language is being used.

- When the Bible says that Noah took animals into the ark, it means exactly that. It doesn't mean that he drew pictures of the animals, and carried these pictures into the ark.
- When the Bible says that Daniel was thrown into a Lion's den, it means that he actually had to be among the lions.

However, in some places symbolic language is used (especially in the poetic and prophetic passages). Only in these passages, we mustn't read a literal meaning into the words.

- For example, the Psalms are poetic. Psalm 23:1 says, "You, Lord, are my shepherd. I will never be in need."

This doesn't mean that God is an actual shepherd who's sitting on a hill somewhere with a bunch of sheep. Nor does it mean that we're sheep.

- This is simply symbolic language, showing that God cares for us the same way a loving shepherd cares for all his sheep.

Think about the Historical Context

When reading Psalm 23:1, the mental picture coming to your mind, may be that of a skinny man leading a bunch of dirty scruffy goats down the road, somewhere in the outskirts of Bangalore.

I doubt this would help you to understand the true meaning of Psalm 23:1 ... That Bangalore shepherd is only interested in feeding the goats enough grass to keep them alive until the day, when they'll be chopped up into mutton.

However, if we look back into the ancient history of Israel, we learn that the shepherds in those days considered sheep their wealth. Because sheep represented wealth in those days, shepherds looked after their sheep the same way you'd look after your gold chain today!

So historically speaking, the shepherd of Psalm 23:1 would give his sheep royal treatment, providing it everything it needed. So when we understand the ancient historical context of a Bible passage, the rich meaning contained in the Bible verses becomes much clearer.

Observe Grammatical Structure

Take note of the verb tenses and pronouns used in a Bible passage. These can significantly deepen the meaning of a Bible verse.

- For instance, 1 Peter 2:24 says, “‘He himself bore our sins’ in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; ‘by His wounds you have been healed.’”

The verse says, “You have been healed.” The tense used is the past perfect tense. This means Jesus had already finished making the payment for our healing. Now it’s up to us to claim it.

Similarly, let’s look at the usage of pronouns. In Genesis 1:26, Genesis 3:22 and Isaiah 6:8, the Lord refers to Himself in the plural.

- Genesis 1:26: Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness ... ”

These verses prove that God is One, and yet He is also Triune.

When we study a Bible Passage keeping these things in mind, we’ll be able to understand Bible verses more correctly.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation (Play 2 videos back to back)

- **Video Link 1:** <http://www.youtube.com/atc?v=b9ZxKAObpV4>
Duration: 3 min.20 sec.
- **Video Link 2:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPjZY2UBtjw>
Duration: Please play the video only up to “3 min.10sec.” (There may not be enough time to play the rest of the video.)

According to the first video, why did Jesus command us not to call anybody 'Father?' How did Russell (speaker in the video) find the correct meaning for this verse?

According to Russell in the first video, what is the correct understanding of Matthew 18:19-20? What, according to you, is the correct meaning of these verses?

When Jesus originally spoke these words about prayer in Matthew 18:19-20, what topic was He discussing?

Skim through Matthew 18 and describe how we should treat people who fall into sin.

Skim through Roman 8 and determine the real meaning of Romans 8:28.



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

This week, use the Bible Interpretation methods we have studied to find out the real meaning of Luke 6:38. Then answer the following two questions:

What is Luke 6:38 referring to?

If I give money to someone in need, will God return to me “a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over?”



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





Doctrine of Sin



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that all of us are born with a sinful nature.
- To demonstrate how we can submit to God by putting on the spiritual armour.
- To teach some practical weapons that can be used in spiritual warfare.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Psalms 51:5; Romans 3:23, 1:18; 1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7; Ephesians 6:11-17 (Overcoming Sin and Temptation).



MEMORY VERSE

James 4:7: Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you.



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.

VIDEO PRESENTATION

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0gBhE8aiuw>

Duration: 3 min. 52 sec.

Discuss:

If the baby (in the illustration) had the strength and ability of an 18 year old, would he truly murder his father? What is your opinion?

Genesis 6:5: The LORD saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil.

In the video, Paul Washer says that you and I have the ability to be as evil as Hitler. Can this be true?

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

In the video, Paul Washer says that ALL unbelievers are God-haters. Do you think this is true?

James 4:4: You people aren't faithful to God! Don't you know that if you love the world, you are God's enemies? And if you decide to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.

SINFUL NATURE

Let's look at some Bible verses which discuss the Sinful Nature:

What does Jeremiah 17:9 say about the human heart?

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: Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right...

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

Satan instigates our Sinful Nature to commit two categories of sins. What are they? (Refer to Romans 1:18.)

Romans 1:18: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How is Satan described in 1 Peter 5:8?

According to James 4:7, how can we escape from this roaring lion?

SUBMISSION TO GOD

“Submission to God” is the key to a victorious life. The more we submit ourselves to God, the less Satan is able to control us.

Eph. 6:11-17 describes the Full Armour of God.

- Even as we put on each piece of the armour, we submit to God in a particular way.

Can you guess what type of submission each piece of the armour involves?

Example:

FIRST PIECE OF ARMOUR: Belt of Truth

How putting on this Piece of Armour involves submission to God:

Satan is a master at lying to us. But we submit to God by choosing to believe and practice what God's Word says (rather than believing what Satan is saying to us).

Practical Example of Submission:

Satan promises to help me escape trouble if I lie to the teacher about my homework. But I choose to believe Isaiah 33:15-16 which says, "Those who walk righteously and speak what is right ... they are the ones who will dwell on the heights ... Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them."

I submit to God by believing what the Bible says and practicing the truth contained in the Word. I may get into trouble with the teacher that day, but I know that God will now reward me and "take me to the heights"—just as He promised in His Word.

SECOND PIECE OF ARMOUR: _____

How putting on this Piece of Armour involves submission to God:

Practical Example of Submission:

THIRDPIECEOFARMOUR: _____

How putting on this Piece of Armour involves submission to God:

Practical Example of Submission:

FOURTH PIECE OF ARMOUR: _____

How putting on this Piece of Armour involves submission to God:

Practical Example of Submission:

FIFTH PIECE OF ARMOUR: _____

How putting on this Piece of Armour involves submission to God:

Practical Example of Submission:

SIXTH PIECE OF ARMOUR: _____

How putting on this Piece of Armour involves submission to God:

Practical Example of Submission:

You might have noticed that almost all the pieces of the armour revolve around:

- trusting God,
- believing in His Word, and
- choosing to obey Him

We'll now watch a video clipping that describes some other practical methods of 'submitting' to God.

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jt7YUXY8ICM>

Duration: 3 min. 40 sec.

What are the Weapons of Warfare mentioned in this video?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____



APPLICATION

Today we learnt that Satan tempts us to commit 'ungodly' acts and 'unrighteous' acts.

However, if we make sure that all the pieces of armour are

in place, and we sincerely practice the weapons described in the video, it brings the presence of God into our situations. Satan is then forced to flee from us.

So reflect on how you can personally practice the weapons mentioned in the video, during this week.

Some areas of my life that I'm going to re-submit to God:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Some sins that I'm going to repent of and stop doing:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Some people whom I need to forgive:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Some people whom I'm going to bless this week (through prayer, kind acts, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

I'm going to express praise and thanksgiving for these things:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Some practical ways in which I'm going to exercise the Fruit of the Spirit:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



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. _____

2. _____

3. _____



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Full Armour of God

(Taken from Kids Sunday School Place.)

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

Belt

Salvation

Sword

Shield

Righteousness

Shoes

Helmet

Spirit

Peace

Breastplate

Faith

Truth





Soteriology—Process of Salvation



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach the concepts of Justification, Sanctification and Glorification.
- To briefly explain the terms “Election and Predestination.”
- To explain how sanctification takes place in our daily lives.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 13:12; Ephesians 5:25–27; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Romans 12:2 (Justification and Sanctification).



MEMORY VERSE

Word scramble on Page 49 contains Memory verse.



INTRODUCTION

According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term *salvation* encompasses 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 Justification, Sanctification, the Grace of God, etc.

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9FrC9vDBUo>

Duration: 3 min. 10 sec.

In the video, what was the Book Title that the man was trying to sell?

Why didn't anybody in the graveyard buy the man's books? Did they feel it wasn't a useful book?

In the video, how is the Discount Offer of the book compared to the Offer of Salvation?

Theory of Election:

- **John 6:44:** No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me makes them want to come. But if they do come, I will raise them to life on the last day.
- **Acts 13:48:** This message made the Gentiles glad, and they praised what they had heard about the Lord. Everyone who had been chosen for eternal life then put their faith in the Lord.

These verses seem to suggest that God has specifically appointed some people for eternal life and the Father will draw only these people to Him.

Discuss:

- **Do you think this is the correct meaning of these verses? Do you believe that God has ‘appointed’ some people for hell and some people for heaven?**

Unconditional Election:

- **2 Peter 3:9:** ... God is patient, because He wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.

- **John 3:16:** God loved the people of this world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never really die.

These verses clearly show that God wants everyone to be saved. He has NOT appointed anyone to be sent to hell.

How correct is the video? Are people “too dead” to respond voluntarily to the salvation message?

1 Timothy 4:2: ... Hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

Matthew 23:33: You are nothing but snakes ... How can you escape going to hell?

Romans 1:28: Since these people refused even to think about God, He let their useless minds rule over them ...

Romans 2:4: ... The reason God is good to you is because He wants you to turn to Him?

Romans 2:11: God doesn't have any favourites!

Ephesians 2:8: You were saved by faith in God ...

This is God's gift to you and not anything you have done on your own.

THE SALVATION PROCESS

The process of salvation consists of Justification, Sanctification and Glorification.

1. 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."

2. Sanctification

After we've been justified, God begins to separate us from sin and the power of sin, so that we become more and more like Jesus. This is called sanctification.

3. Glorification

Glorification is the final stage in the process of salvation. It'll take place at the Second Coming of Christ when all of us will receive glorified bodies and be permanently transformed.

1 Corinthians 15:52-53: ... in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the

dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

So currently we're in the second stage of 'SANCTIFICATION':

Three Aspects of Sanctification:

Positional Sanctification: According to the Bible, we already have positional sanctification. Because of Christ's sacrifice God has forgiven us, and He regards us as being holy; He doesn't think of us as sinners but as saints.

- Hebrews 13:12: Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Ultimate Sanctification: This will take place in heaven when we're completely transformed into the likeness of Christ. At that time, all believers will be presented to the Lord without any blemish.

- Ephesians 5:25–27: [Christ]...loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Experiential Sanctification: This aspect of sanctification relates to our daily life and experience. We're commanded to sanctify ourselves on a daily basis. This experiential sanctification grows as the believer dedicates his life to God (Romans 6:13; 12:1–2) and is nourished by the Word of God (Psalms 119:9–16).

- 1 Pet. 1:14-16: As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ye-5h5FapKg>

Duration: [Play only the first 2 min.47 sec. The rest of the video is not relevant for our discussion.]

According to the video, why did the rebellious boy begin ‘wanting’ to live a perfect life? What motivated him?

What can motivate us to strive towards perfection in our own lives?

Video Presentation

Video Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_42-anR_FA

Duration: [Play only the first 2 min.14 sec. The rest of the video is not relevant for our discussion.]

According to Sanchez in the video, what is Sanctification?

Demons know more about Jesus than believers. In fact demons know the Bible by-heart! Then why aren't they getting sanctified?

According to the video, what's the connection between "knowing Jesus" and getting sanctified?

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

- What are some common ways that Christians tend to conform to the world?

How can renewing our minds help us STOP conforming to the world?



APPLICATION

Do you have a Testimony?

- Have you been in a situation where you chose not to be like the world (i.e., you refused to conform to the world)?
- Did you see your act of trust and obedience yielding positive results?

Share your experiences with the class.

Areas of life where I tend to think/behave like the world:

1.

2.

3.

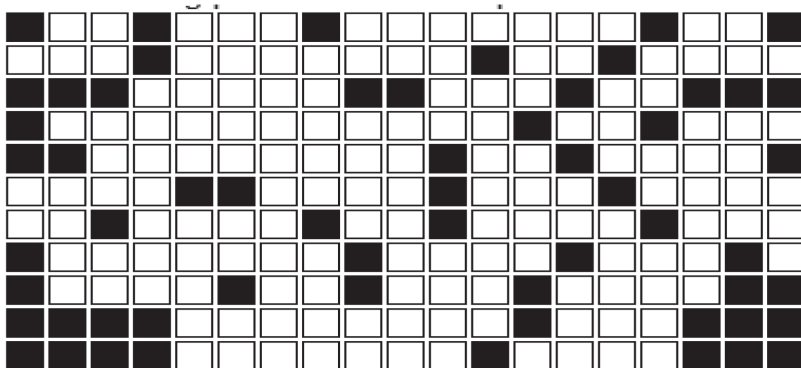


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

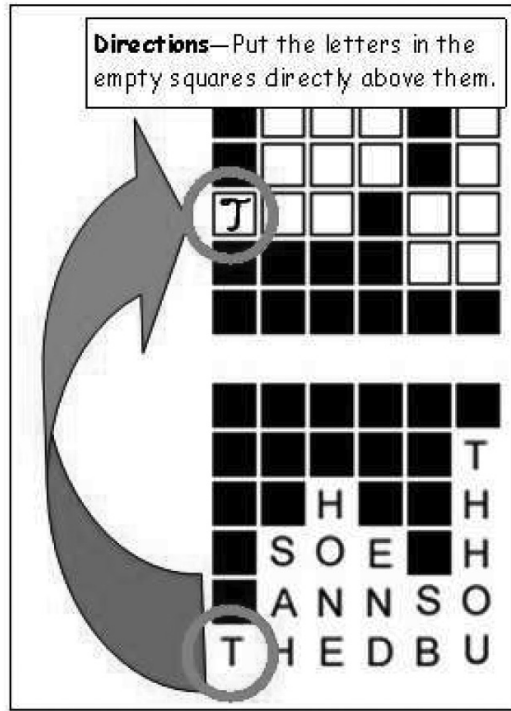
Memory Verse

(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.



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



Write down the Memory Verse:

Romans 12:2: _____

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. _____





Soteriology—Saving Grace of God



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the difference between Grace and Mercy.
- To explain the difference between Common Grace and Special Grace.
- To show how Grace can be applied to our personal lives.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Luke 15:11-31; Ephesians 2:6; Genesis 25-35; Romans 2:4, 3:23-24; Hebrews 4:16 (Grace of God).



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 3:23-24: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.



INTRODUCTION

According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term *salvation* encompasses 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).

Within a brief duration of two classes, we're dealing with some basic concepts that form a part of the Doctrine of Salvation, such as Justification, Sanctification, the Grace of God, etc.

SAVING GRACE of GOD

What do you think is the difference between Mercy and Grace?

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRoXCBOAjBU>

Duration: 52 sec.

According to the video, what is Justice?

As sinners, what do we deserve from God?

Why isn't God giving us what we deserve? Isn't He supposed to be a God of Justice?

According to the video, what is Mercy?

According to the video, what is Grace?

Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-31)

In the Parable of the Prodigal Son what 'justice' do you think the prodigal deserved?

In the Parable, how was 'mercy' shown to the Prodigal?

In the Parable, how was 'grace' shown to the Prodigal?

Grace goes far beyond Mercy

- Mercy is like forgiving a murderer and not putting him in prison, even though he deserves it.
- Grace, on the other hand, would be like appointing the murderer as the President of the country, endowing him with power, prestige, wealth and fame!

The father of the Prodigal didn't simply show mercy by forgiving him.

He went far beyond that—plying him with love, honour, wealth and prestige!

Jesus narrated this parable, to show how God wishes to treat sinners. He doesn't simply wish to forgive us our sins and spare us from Hell. This, in itself, is great! We would be infinitely grateful if God did just this one thing for us.

But God wishes to go far beyond this. **He wants to seat us in the heavenly places with Christ, in a position of honour, authority and power!**

- Ephesians 2:6: And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

JACOB and LABAN (Genesis 25-35)

1. *COMMON GRACE in Jacob's Life—God's PROVISION*

In spite of Jacob's sinfulness, the Lord showed him kindness on a daily basis.

This is 'COMMON GRACE.' God provides for human needs—irrespective of whether people follow Him or not.

- Therefore Jesus said, "... your Father in heaven ... causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:44-45).

2. *COMMON GRACE in Laban's Life—God's PROVISION*

In spite of Laban's deceitfulness, God continued to provide for Laban's needs. His flocks were few in number before Jacob arrived. But after Jacob began to work for him, the Lord caused Laban's flocks to increase greatly (Genesis 30:30). God's 'COMMON GRACE' took care of Laban every day, even though he was more sinful than Jacob!

3. *COMMON GRACE in Jacob's Life—God REVEALING Himself*

In spite of Jacob's sinfulness, God reached out to Him in a dream and promised to fulfill the Covenant He had made with Abraham (Genesis 28:11-15).

Jacob, however, didn't respond to this kindness with much faith. He said:

"IF God will be with me

... and will watch over me on this journey I am taking

... and will give me food to eat

... and clothes to wear

... so that I return safely to my father's household, THEN the Lord will be my God" (Genesis 28:21).

In other words, he agreed to worship the Lord ONLY IF He treated him well!

God helped when Laban cheated

In spite of this wrong attitude of Jacob, God showed Jacob again and again how loving and faithful He is.

4. COMMON GRACE in Jacob's Life—God's RESTRAINING Force

Most of his life, Jacob had been a liar and cheat. It would have been very easy for Jacob to continue lying and cheating even in Laban's home—especially because Laban cheated him all the time.

But the COMMON GRACE of God restrained Jacob from cheating Laban!

Common Grace works in people, restraining them from becoming uncontrollably evil.

5. COMMON GRACE in Laban's Life—God's RESTRAINING Force

Left to his own devices, Laban would have exploited Jacob utterly. But the COMMON GRACE of God restrained Laban from crossing certain limits.

Though Laban cheated Jacob many times, God restrained Him from causing Jacob permanent harm (Genesis 31:7).

6. *SPECIAL GRACE in Jacob's Life*

When Jacob was terrified that Esau may kill him and his family, again God took the initiative to reach out to Jacob. At Peniel, the Lord came to Him in human form and Jacob did not recognize Him. When Jacob finally realized it was the Lord, he clung in faith and said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me” (Genesis 32:26).

The Lord was pleased with his faith and declared, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome” (Genesis 32:28).

Because Jacob placed his faith in God, SPECIAL GRACE changed Him into a new person “Jacob the deceiver” got changed into “Israel—Prince of God.”

7. *SPECIAL GRACE in the life of Jacob's Family*

Though Jacob's family saw God's COMMON GRACE at work in their lives, they didn't worship the Lord.

Then a few years later, a time came when the people of Shechem were about to kill them and wipe them out (Genesis 34). In this time of great danger, the family of Jacob finally decided to turn to the Lord.

They finally buried their idols and surrendered themselves to the Living God (Genesis 35:2-4). In His SPECIAL GRACE, the Lord forgave them and accepted them.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Can you name two ways in which Common Grace worked in Laban's life?

What are some lessons we can learn from the Common Grace in Laban's life?

Romans 2:4 says, " ... do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?"

- According to this verse, why do you think God showed Laban 'Common Grace?'

God showed Special Grace to Jacob and turned Him into Israel. Why do you think God didn't do this for Laban?

Romans 3:23-24: ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

At Shechem, what if Jacob's family had refused to give up their idols? Would the Lord have provided them His salvation through Special Grace?



APPLICATION

Just like Laban, Jacob and their families, even today people are experiencing the common grace of the Creator God who made them. However, only those who choose to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and worship Him alone, will receive God's 'Special Saving Grace.'

Experiencing Special Grace on a Daily Basis

If you remember, we discussed a fictional variation of the Prodigal parable, at the beginning of the session.

- If the father had granted permission to the prodigal to live as a servant, and enjoy all the privileges of that position, it would have been similar to Common Grace.
- But the prodigal was reinstated as son and heir of the family! The status of a son is far superior to that of a servant. He was given Special Grace.

Many Christians live like saved servants—claiming a few limited privileges for themselves. They fail to make use of the Special Grace that has been given to them!

Video Presentation

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxZmkq7v7ag>

Duration: Please play only up to 3 min.57 sec. The rest of the video is not relevant for our topic

In the video, the man walked away with something he never had before! He walked away with the favour, blessing and grace of God shining upon him.

Most believers don't realize that God's grace is shining upon them.

- They don't realize that if they believe this truth, and claim victory over sin, God will grant it.
- If they claim healing, God will grant it.
- If they claim help for impossible problems, God will grant it.

God will do all this because the righteousness of God now resides inside the person's spirit, and he is now 'qualified' to receive everything from God.

Don't Give Up

Christians pray, but give up too early. They don't wait until they receive, because they don't realize that God's righteousness resides inside of them, and that God's grace is shining upon them.

What are some areas in your own life where you need to see more of God's grace?

I need God's Special Grace in the following areas:

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

Claim God's Special Grace for these areas of your life.

Hebrews 4:16: Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

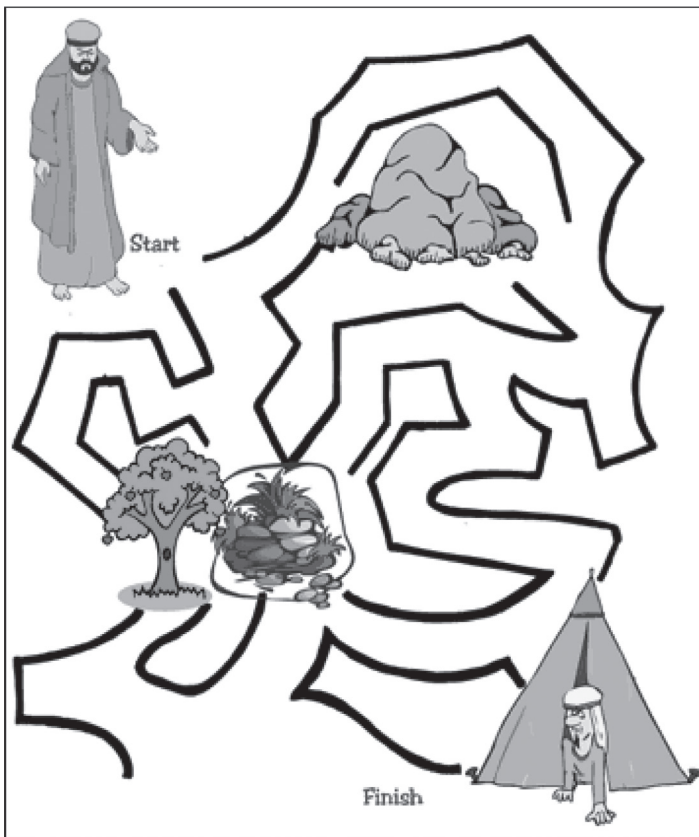


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Jacob and Laban

(Taken from Kids Korner.)

Help Jacob make his way to Laban's tent.





FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____





Doctrine of Eschatology—The Second Coming



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To warn that Jesus will judge us at His Second Coming
- To explain that there are two different judgments for two categories of people.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Matthew 24:37-40; 2 Peter 3:3-10; Luke 12:35-48; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (God's Judgment).



MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.



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 judgment, etc).

In this session, we’ll specifically study these things in greater detail.

Video Presentations 1

Video Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HN01p6Gd_i4

Duration: 59 sec.

Video Presentation 2

Video Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-v054W0qTXI>

Duration: 57 sec.

The videos talk about Noah’s Flood and Jesus’ Second Coming. What do you think is the connection between these two incidents?

Based on Matthew 24:37-40 and 2 Peter 3:3-10, how do you think Noah's Flood and the Second Coming are connected?

PREPARING for the SECOND COMING

The Bible passages we looked at stress the need to be ready. But how do we get ready for the Second Coming of Jesus? The parable in Luke 12:35-48 explains this.

In Luke 12:36, what were the servants supposed to do when the master came?

Can you think of some imaginary distractions that could prevent a servant from being ready (especially if it was a servant in our modern times)?

How can we apply this to ourselves? How does God want us to be ready?

What are some distractions that could stop us from getting ready?

In the parable, why did the master cut the servant to pieces?

What lesson can we learn from this terrible incident?

Jesus used this Parable to teach us the importance of Being Ready for His coming.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation 1

Video Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTtMFt_GWII

Duration: 2 min.39 sec.

What are the two kinds of Judgment mentioned in the video?

The video mentions a person being saved “as by fire.” What does this mean? Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 and explain.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15: ... because Christ is the only foundation. Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire on the day of judgment. Then everyone will find out if we have used gold, silver, and precious stones, or wood, hay, and straw. We will be rewarded if our building is left standing. But if it is destroyed by the fire, we will lose everything. Yet we ourselves will be saved, like someone escaping from flames.

Matthew 11:21-22: You people of Chorazin are in for trouble ... If the miracles that took place in your towns had happened in Tyre and Sidon, the people there would have turned to God long ago ... I tell you that on the Day of Judgment the people of Tyre and Sidon will get off easier than you will.

- Jesus says that Chorazin will get a more severe punishment in hell than Tyre. On what basis does He decide whose punishment should be more severe? (Refer to Luke 12:47-48.)

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.



APPLICATION

Accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour

All who fail to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, will have to face the Great White Throne Judgment. So, make sure that you repent of your sins and choose to follow Jesus.

Build with gold and silver

As for those who are already saved, you too will be judged by Jesus Christ. So, make sure that your thoughts, words and deeds are glorifying God. If you do this, it'll be like building your life with gold, silver and precious stones. And your reward will be great in heaven!

Some distractions that are taking me away from God:

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____

Get rid of the distractions. Focus on glorifying God.

Areas of my life that I need to clean up:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Build your life with gold—not hay.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Jesus will Return Again

(Taken from *Kid Explorers*.)

Search out the highlighted words:

As **believers**, we look forward to the **return** of **Jesus Christ**. We **anticipate** the day that He arrives, riding on a **white horse** and descending through the **clouds** with a multitude of **saints** filling the **sky**. He will return as the **King** and **Victor**, coming in **judgment**. But for His followers, He will be like a **groom**, coming to take His **bride** away to **heaven** for **eternity**. When we are with Christ, we will truly experience His **love**, **happiness**, **hope** and **joy**. Come Lord Jesus, come!





Tribulation and Millennium



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To briefly outline the events of the Tribulation and Millennium.
- To explain that only those who are faithful today will rule in the Millennium.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Isaiah 51:3, 65:20-25; Joel 2:24; Matthew 25:31-33; Luke 19:17; Revelation 8-9; 16:10-18; 19-20 (End Times).



MEMORY VERSE

Luke 19:17: 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'



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).

VIDEO PRESENTATION

VideoLink: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5ctj983tOU>

Duration: 2 min.3 sec.

This video speaks of various events that will probably occur after the Rapture of the Church:

Do you think the Antichrist will be able to really bring 7 years of peace to the Middle East? Why or why not?

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.

Revelation 6:3-4: When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come out!" Then another horse came out. It was fiery red. And its rider was given the power to take away all peace from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. He was also given a big sword.

The video also suggests that the Ark of the Covenant will come to light after the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple? Can you think of any Bible verses which indicate this?

BRIEF OUTLINE of END TIME EVENTS

Summary of Events covered at the Junior Level:

1. Formation of the State of Israel
2. Rapture
3. First Half of the Tribulation
 - Chaos after the Holy Spirit leaves with the Church
 - Antichrist offers to restore peace and order
 - Antichrist's World Government receives support and backing from "Babylon the Great"
 - The False Prophet

- The first four ‘Seal Judgments’
- The Two Witnesses
- Persecution of Christians
- The Two Witnesses Martyred
- The Two Witnesses Resurrected
- Earthquake in Jerusalem
- Satan thrown down to the Earth

4. Second Half of the Tribulation

- Opening of the Sixth Seal
- Satan indwells the Antichrist
- Antichrist destroys Babylon the Great
- Antichrist declares himself God
- Antichrist has a “near-death-experience” after being Assassinated
- Idol of Antichrist Created
- Mark of the Beast
- Warning not to receive the Mark
- 144,000 Jews Sealed

Opening of the Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpet Judgment

Once the sealed Jews are safely hidden in a secure place (where no judgment can harm them), Jesus will finally

open the seventh seal. This is the seal which will lead to the terrifying Trumpet Judgment of God. And so, the minute Jesus opens this seal, everybody in heaven becomes silent, waiting with bated breath for the judgment to begin.

- Revelation 8:1: When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Then God will hand out seven trumpets to seven angels. As each successive angel blows his trumpet, terrible judgment will be unleashed on the earth.

- Revelation 9:15: The four angels had been prepared for this very hour and day and month and year. Now they were set free to kill a third of all people.

The Seventh Trumpet and the Seven Bowls of Plague

- Revelation 16:1: From the temple I heard a voice shout to the seven angels, “Go and empty the seven bowls of God’s anger on the earth.”
- Revelation 16:10-11: The fifth angel emptied his bowl on the throne of the beast. At once darkness covered it’s kingdom, and it’s people began biting their tongues in pain. And because of their painful sores, they cursed the God who rules in heaven. But still they did not stop doing evil things.

Antichrist Initiates Plans for a War Against God

- Revelation 16:13-14: An evil spirit that looked like a frog came out of the mouth of the dragon. One also came out of the mouth of the beast, and another out

of the mouth of the false prophet. These evil spirits had the power to work miracles. They went to every king on earth, to bring them together for a war against God All-Powerful. But that will be the day of God's great victory.

- Revelation 16:12: The sixth angel emptied his bowl on the great Euphrates River, and it completely dried up to make a road for the kings from the east.

Preparations for Armageddon

- Revelation 16:16: Those armies came together in a place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Seventh Bowl Poured Out

Once the armies have gathered, the final judgment upon the earth (which is the seventh bowl), will be unleashed by God, leading to utter devastation.

- Revelation 16:18: There were flashes of lightning, roars of thunder, and the worst earthquake in all history.

Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus

The Battle of Armageddon is described in Revelation 19:11-20:3 and Ezekiel 38:17-39:29. The battle will start with Christ descending from heaven with angels and believers.

- Revelation 19:11-16: I looked and saw that heaven was open, and a white horse was there. Its rider was called Faithful and True ... The rider wore a robe that was covered with blood, and he was known as "The Word of God." He was followed by armies from

heaven that rode on horses and were dressed in pure white linen ... On the part of the robe that covered his thigh was written, "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF Lords."

Fate of Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet

- 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.

All the unbelievers who participated in the Battle of Armageddon, will be killed and sent to hell.

- Revelation 19:21: But the rest of their army was killed by the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse. Then birds stuffed themselves on the dead bodies.

Resurrection of Martyred Tribulation Believers

If you remember, during the Rapture, the dead bodies of all believers (from the time of Adam up to the time of the Rapture) will come out of their graves, and be rejoined with their spirits. In the twinkling of an eye, all their bodies will be transformed into glorified bodies.

This will now happen for all the new Christians who were killed during the Tribulation.

- Revelation 20:4: I saw thrones, and sitting on those thrones were the ones who had been given the right to judge. I also saw the souls of the people who had their heads cut off because they had told about Jesus and preached God's message. They were the same ones who had not worshiped the beast or the idol, and they had refused to let its mark be put on their hands or foreheads. They will come to life and rule with Christ for a thousand years.

Fate of the Leftover-People After Armageddon

At this point of time, two types of people will be left on the earth—those who have taken the mark of the beast and haven't yet died, and those who refused to take the mark but somehow escaped being killed.

So now Jesus will separate these two categories, and send all the left-over unbelievers to hell.

- Matthew 25:31-33: When the Son of Man comes in His glory with all of His angels, He will sit on His royal throne. The people of all nations will be brought before Him, and He will separate them, as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats. He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

5. MILLENNIUM KINGDOM OF JESUS CHRIST

Christ's Thousand-Year Rule:

After the 'sheep' and 'goats' have been separated, God will establish a one thousand-year rule on earth, with Jerusalem as His headquarters.

- Revelation 20:5-6: These people are the first to be raised to life, and they are especially blessed and holy. The second death has no power over them. They will be priests for God and Christ and will rule with them for a thousand years. No other dead people were raised to life until a thousand years later.

Citizens of the Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God will contain four types of citizens. It'll include:

- All the believers (from the time of Adam up to the time of the Rapture) who received glorified bodies during the Rapture.
- All those who became believers during the tribulation and got martyred for their faith (and who have now been given glorified bodies).
- Jewish believers who didn't get killed during the tribulation (including the 144,000 who were specially sealed and protected by God).
- Gentile believers who didn't get killed during the tribulation.

The Jewish and Gentile believers, who are still alive in their earthly bodies, will continue to live with their earthly families. Many children will be born over the next 1000 years to them.

Believers Will Rule the Earth:

All those who were martyred during the tribulation period will be given positions of great authority in the Kingdom of God.

The rest of the believers will be given varying degrees of authority, depending on their level of faithfulness during their lifetime. Those who were more faithful during their earthly days will now enjoy greater honour and higher positions.

- Luke 19:17: That's fine, my good servant!" the king said. "Since you have shown that you can be trusted with a small amount, you will be given ten cities to rule."

Prosperity in the Kingdom of God

All the promises of God will finally be fulfilled in this new kingdom.

Earth Rejuvenated:

- Isaiah 51:3: Though Zion is in ruins, the Lord will bring comfort, and the city will be as lovely as the garden of Eden that He provided ...

Amazing Prosperity:

- Joel 2:24: Grain will cover your threshing places; jars will overflow with wine and olive oil.

No War or Weapons:

- Isaiah 2:4: He will settle arguments between nations. They will pound their swords and their spears into rakes and shovels; they will never make war or attack one another.

Peace Among Animals Too:

- Isaiah 65:25: Wolves and lambs will graze together; lions and oxen will feed on straw ...

Long Life Spans:

Because conditions will be perfect on earth, people will live for hundreds of years.

- Isaiah 65:20: No child will die in infancy; everyone will live to a ripe old age. Anyone a hundred years old will be considered young ...

Work considered a Joy:

- Isaiah 65:22: ... my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

6. FINAL JUDGEMENT

Satan released from the Abyss:

- Revelation 20:7-8: At the end of the thousand-years, Satan will be set free. He will fool the countries of Gog and Magog, which are at the far ends of the earth, and their people will follow him into battle. They will have as many followers as there are grains of sand along the beach.

The Deceived:

During the one thousand-year rule of Christ on earth, these millions of youngsters will not commit any sinful deed, in spite of the sinful nature inside them. This is due to two reasons:

- First, they will not sin because God will NOT permit absolutely any disobedience. He will rule with an iron hand and everyone will have to obey.
- Revelation 19:15: He will rule them with an iron rod.
- Second, because satan will be lying bound inside the Abyss, there won't be anybody deliberately tempting them to sin against God.

However, as soon as satan emerges from the Abyss, he'll begin his job of deceiving people once again. It's at this point of time that the new generations born during the Millennium, will get a chance to prove their loyalty to Christ. Some will refuse to be deceived by Satan. But many will fall into satan's trap.

Satan will lead all these deceived persons in one final rebellion against God. The Lord will use this last rebellion as a means of separating those who truly love Him from those who are fake followers.

Battle of Gog and Magog

- Revelation 20:9: ... and they will march all the way across the earth. They will surround the camp of God's people and the city that his people love. But fire will come down from heaven and destroy the whole army.

Final Judgment of Satan

- Revelation 20:10: Then the devil who fooled them will be thrown into the lake of fire and burning sulphur. He will be there with the beast and the false prophet, and they will be in pain day and night forever and ever.

Heaven and Earth Will Vanish

- Revelation 20:11: I saw a great white throne with someone sitting on it. Earth and heaven tried to run away, but there was no place for them to go.

Great White Throne Judgment

- Revelation 20:12-13: I also saw all the dead people standing in front of that throne. Every one of them was there, no matter who they had once been. Several books were opened, and then the Book of Life was opened. The dead were judged by what those books said they had done. The sea gave up the dead people who were in it, and death and its kingdom also gave up their dead. Then everyone was judged by what they had done.

7. A NEW BEGINNING

- Revelation 21:1-2: I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea. Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven. It was like a bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to meet her husband.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation

VideoLink: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCHy1fXzaQI>

Duration: 1 min. 44 sec.

According to this video, believers will rule during the Millennial Kingdom! Does this mean ALL believers will become rulers? Or will only a special few get to rule?

- Refer to Luke 19:11-26 before giving your answer.

Luke 19:24: Then he said to some other servants standing there, "Take the money away from him and give it to the servant who earned ten times as much."

Luke 16:10: Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters.

According to Luke 19:11 why did Jesus narrate the Parable of the Talents?

Luke 19:12: And Jesus told them this story: A prince once went to a foreign country to be crowned king and then to

return.

The Parable of the Talents talks about a noble man who went to a distant land to get himself appointed as king and return. In what way is Jesus similar to this noble man?



APPLICATION

God is maintaining a record of all our deeds. If we are faithful to Him today, in the everyday things of life, we will be given great authority, position and honour during the Millennial Kingdom.

What kind of a reward are you planning to reap when Christ returns? Show your faithfulness in the little things today, so that He can entrust you with much more in His future Kingdom.

I want to increase my faithfulness in the following ways:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5. _____

Matthew 25:21: “Wonderful!” his master replied. “You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!”



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

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

1 - TESRVAN

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2 - PLIEDRE

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3 - CBSAEUE

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4 - SRETMA

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5 - TTMAER

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6 - CAGHER

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7 - VERY

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8 - ELWL

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9 - ENDO

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

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The words above will fit into the following sentence:

Luke 19:17: “ _____ (Clue 8) _____ (Clue 9),
my good _____!’ (Clue 1) his _____
(Clue 4) _____ (Clue 2). “ _____
(Clue 3) you have been _____ Clue
10) in a _____ (Clue 7) small _____ (Clue 5), take
_____ (Clue 6) of ten cities.’

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. _____

