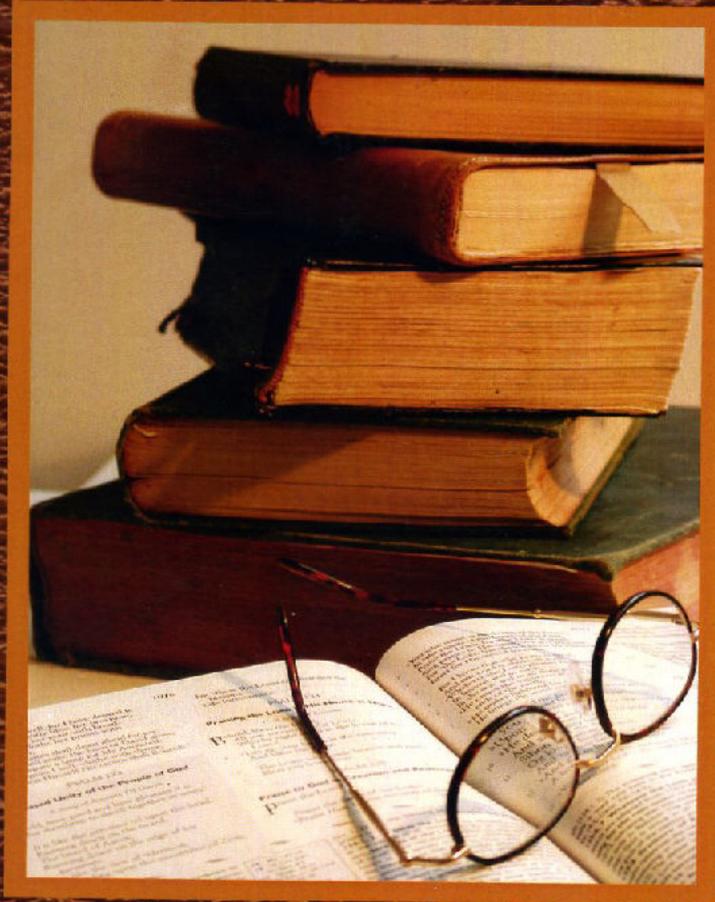


UNDERSTAND YOUR BIBLE



Wilfred A. Munnings

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Introduction

This book is planned to help you understand the Bible. You will have to read many verses in the Bible which will help you understand other verses. For this it is necessary for you to have a Bible beside you. So the first thing is to buy or borrow a Bible, or at least a New Testament.

This book is for you. Please try to get the whole Bible when you can. This book takes some verses from the Old Testament too, and it is good to find them and read them for yourself.

You may have read the Bible often, but you still find some things that you do not understand. We hope this book may help you to understand those hard things. The Bible is God's message and is not too difficult to understand, but you may need some help. We read about a man in Acts 8:30-33 who didn't understand the verses he was reading from the Old Testament. Philip explained the meaning of the verses and the man understood God's message and went away happy.

We hope this book will help you understand God's message in the Bible for you.

God's Plan for All Time

The Time of Innocence

Genesis is the first book of the Bible and Revelation is the last book. Genesis begins with the story of God creating heaven and earth and everything in them. The Bible tells the story of man and God. God made man, and God has a plan for men for all time.

God made one man and one woman, then He made a beautiful place, a garden, to make them happy. He told Adam he could eat any of the fruit in the garden except the fruit from one tree. Adam and Eve may have lived in that garden for a long time; we do not know, the Bible does not tell us. They were happy because they obeyed God. They did the things God wanted them to do and did not do what God had told them not to do.

This was the first period in man's history and we call it the time of innocence because it was the time before Adam and Eve sinned. The Bible tells us about this time in Genesis chapter 2. It says in verse 15 that the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden to care for it and to keep it.

The Time of Conscience

Adam and Eve sinned when they disobeyed God. God told Adam not to eat the fruit from the one tree, but they ate some of that fruit anyway. God put Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden and left them to live as they felt was best. We do not read that God gave them any other orders or commands, but left them to live to please Him if they wished to do so.

Every person has in him a still, small voice which tells him when he is doing something wrong. This is called our conscience, Romans 2:15. Adam and Eve did not have the Bible, but they should have followed their own conscience. We call this period the time of conscience.

Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters, and they also had many grandchildren. People became very wicked and sinful. They did not live to please God but killed and cheated and robbed each other. There were many people on the earth by this time, and they were very sinful. God killed those sinful, wicked people by sending a flood of water. We read about the flood in Genesis chapters 6 to 9.

The Time of Human Government

God kept a man named Noah and his family safely through the flood of water when all the other people died. God told Noah that He would not send a flood of water again to kill all the people on the earth. God also told Noah and his family that they must not murder anyone. They must not kill people; but if anyone did kill another person, that person must be killed. Murder is a terrible sin and the person who kills another person must be punished — he must be killed.

It seems that God was showing the people in those days that people were to punish other people who did wrong things. This was the beginning of human government. Some people were to have the right and authority to punish those who did very bad things.

In those days there seems to have been very few rules and laws, but there was the beginning of government over

the people. We call this time the time of human government. This kind of government is still in the world. God intends that some people have the right to rule over others and to punish those who do not obey.

The Time of God's Promises

Human government did not keep the people from becoming very wicked and bad. God had another way to teach people how to please Him.

God chose a man named Abram and God later changed his name to Abraham. God gave Abraham some special promises and told him that He would make his family become very large. His family would become a nation and would belong to God in a very special way. They would be God's people. We read about Abraham and his family in the book of Genesis from chapter 12 to the end of the book.

Most of the other books of the Old Testament tell us about Abraham's family. They are called the children of Israel because Abraham's grandson Jacob, or Israel, had many sons and their children had many more children and they grew into a whole nation of people. The time of promise continued through many years and the family of Israel became very large. They went to live in the land of Egypt where Pharaoh was the king.

The Time of Law

God promised Abraham to give the land of Canaan to his family. Canaan was in the land of Palestine and other peoples and nations lived there. The children of Israel were living in Egypt and became slaves, helpless servants, of the people of Egypt. But God had promised to give them the land of Canaan, so He freed them from Egypt and brought them on the way to Canaan. God sent Moses to lead His people out of Egypt and into Canaan. God gave them laws and regulations to teach them what they should do and what they should not do. These rules are called, "the law" or, "the law of Moses" because God gave them to Moses for the people of Israel.

The law of Moses was the guide and rule for the people of

Israel for hundreds of years. Often these people made God angry because they did not keep the law and did not obey God, so God punished them. People are sinful and disobedient, and God gave the law to show them how sinful and bad and weak they really are.

Then God sent the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The people of Israel showed how wicked they were when they killed Jesus, the Son of God, and how wicked all other people are too. Men nailed Him to a pole called a cross and left Him there to die. He was dead for three days and then He lived again. He came out of His grave; God raised Him up and then He went back to heaven. We read the story in the New Testament books, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These books are the Gospels.

The Time of God's Grace

The Lord Jesus went back to heaven but before that He told His followers to go and tell the good news to everybody in the world. They were to tell the people that He is the Son of God and that He had died for them. God had punished Him for their sins and now God would forgive them if they would believe God's message and trust Jesus Christ as their Savior. We read about this in the book of the New Testament called the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul, one of Jesus' followers, was preaching one day and told the people that Jesus would forgive their sins if they trusted in Him. He told them that the law that Moses gave them could not do that. Read Paul's words in Acts chapter 13, verses 38 and 39. Jesus Himself had told His followers to go to all the people of the world and tell them the Good News. He promised that all who would believe would be saved. He also told them to baptize those who believed. Read about this in Matthew 28:18-20 and in Mark 16:15,16.

This time is called the time of God's grace because God saves by His grace every person who trusts Christ as Savior. God does not ask anyone to keep the law or be religious to be saved. He only asks that people confess their sins and trust Christ to save them. John's Gospel very clearly

explains how we can be saved. We read in John 3:36 that the one who believes in the Son has life that is for ever, but God is angry with the one who refuses to believe in Him.

This time period is also called the Church Age, and it will end when Christ comes back for His people. God's grace can never fail but the Church Age ends in failure, as we read in 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1; 2 Peter 2:1; Revelation 2:20; 3:1.

The Time of Jesus' Reign on Earth

The time of God's grace continues from the beginning of the church in Acts chapter 2 to the present. Many prophets of the Old Testament said that a time of great suffering would come on earth. After this time of suffering, God will make His Son the King of the earth. David said that the kings of the earth have rebelled against God and against His anointed One, Christ. But God said that He has a King who will reign in Zion. Zion is the name of part of Jerusalem. Read about this in Psalm 2:1-6.

Jesus' followers, His apostles, also tell us that Jesus will be King on earth. Read First Corinthians 15, verse 25. It says that Christ must reign until He has made all His enemies submit to Him.

The Lord Jesus told His disciples that He would come back to earth with great power and glory and that He would judge the people and rule the world. Matthew 24 and verse 30 says that the people will see Him, the Son of Man, coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. It would be good to read chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew. The Lord Jesus told His followers many things in those chapters about His return and about His reign as King on the earth.

The last book of the Bible is not easy to understand, but it shows us many things about the punishment that God will send on men. In chapters 19, 20, and 21 it tells us about the end of God's time of testing men. He will finally bring peace and joy and glory on the earth. Sin and evil and wickedness will be punished and then God will rule over everyone. Revelation chapter 21 and verses 3 and 4 say that

a loud voice came from heaven. The voice said that God will stay with men and they will be His people and He will be their God. God will take away everything that makes people sad and gives them pain. God will make everything new.

We see that there are seven periods of time from the beginning to the end of time. They are these:

1. The Time of Innocence.
2. The Time of Conscience.
3. The Time of People Government.
4. The Time of God's Promises.
5. The Time of Law.
6. The Time of God's Grace.
7. The Time of Jesus' Reign on Earth.

You will note that God tried men under different ways in each of these seven time periods. Note that each one of these ended in man's failure, for example:

Time period	Ended in
Innocence	Adam's sin
Conscience	Wickedness of all men, Genesis 6:5
Human Government	Babel and Idolatry, Genesis 11; Joshua 24:2; Romans 1:19-23
Law	Rejection of Christ
Grace	False teaching in Church
Jesus' Reign	Men follow Satan, Revelation 20:7-9.

EXAM 1 God's Plan for All Time

Enter the correct answer:

1. The Lord God
 - a. made a garden to make the man and woman
He had created, work
 - b. put the man in the garden to care for it and keep it
 - c. gave Adam and Eve many commands
2. Adam and Eve sinned
 - a. when they disobeyed God
 - b. when they ate the apple
 - c. because they followed their conscience
3. The Children of Israel
 - a. were descended from Abraham
 - b. were no different from any other nation
 - c. were slaves in Canaan
4. God gave the law to the people
 - a. while they were in Egypt
 - b. and they always obeyed them
 - c. to show them how sinful and bad and weak they really are
5. We are saved
 - a. by keeping the law
 - b. by being religious
 - c. by grace when we confess our sin and trust Christ to save us

Enter TRUE or FALSE in the space provided:

6. The time before Adam and Eve sinned is called The time of innocence.
7. God does not intend that some people have the right to rule over others.
8. The law of Moses was the guide and rule of the people for the 40 years in the wilderness.
9. The time of God's grace is also called the Church Age.
10. The time of Jesus' reign on earth will end when men follow Satan.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Have you found this way of looking at God's plan for all time helpful?
If so, why?

The People of the Bible

God does His work in a very orderly way. In the first chapter of the Bible we read about God making everything. He made things like plants, birds, and animals, and then He made Adam and Eve, the first man and the first woman. God wanted people to live in peace and happiness, but He also wanted them to choose to obey Him. They would only be really happy if they obeyed Him.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and God sent them out of the beautiful garden. They became parents of two boys, Cain and Abel, who also were sinners and did things that were wrong. As time went on there were many people on earth and they became worse and worse. They refused to obey God and to follow His ways. Finally, God sent the flood of water and most of the people died. People were just as bad when they increased in numbers again. Then God took one man, Abraham, and promised that his family would become a nation, Genesis 12:1-3.

God cared for Abraham's children and blessed them, especially his chosen son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob, who was also named Israel. He promised to make their descendants the greatest people in the world. They were called the children of Israel, or Hebrews, or sometimes just "Israel."

The other people of the world, the ones who were not Hebrews, or Israelites, are called “Gentiles.”

The Bible does not tell us very much about Gentile people after the time of Abraham. God did not forget the Gentiles, but He let them go their way and live their own lives. God still loved them and spoke to them through Israel.

The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world as a Jew, an Israelite. He was from Abraham’s family. Many people of Israel became known as Jews because the family of Judah, one of Jacob’s sons, had become the best known family of Israel. Jesus Christ came to earth as a King; He was born King of the Jews, Matthew 2:2. His own people did not want Him, so they killed Him by nailing Him to a cross.

Jesus Christ died, but He came back to life — He died to save people from their sins by taking the punishment for them. When He came back to life He promised to save anyone who believes in Him. He saves both Jews and Gentiles. He went back to heaven, but told His disciples to take the message to everyone in the world, the Jewish people and the Gentile people.

The disciples preached Christ’s message and the Holy Spirit made Jews and Gentiles one with each other as believers in Christ. They called these people Christians, and the new group is the church. The first time the Bible calls these people “the church” is in Acts 2:47. It says that the Lord added the people who were being saved to the church. Paul wrote to the believers at Corinth and told them not to cause anyone to stumble, neither the Jews, the Gentiles nor the church of God, 1 Corinthians 10:32.

These three groups of people are different. The Gentiles are the people who are not Jews. They choose to live without God and without Christ. The Jews are the people of this present time who are part of Abraham’s family, but they do not want Jesus Christ and they have not trusted Him as their Savior. People who were either Jews or Gentiles make up the church. They became Christians when they followed and trusted Christ. These are the people of God in this time of

God's grace. We will look at these three groups, or classes of people, and see what God says about them.

The Gentiles

Paul tells us about the Gentiles and their relation to God, in Romans chapter one and verses eighteen to thirty-two. From the very beginning men knew about God. They lived in a world that God made and they knew that God was powerful and God was wise. But they did not want God to tell them what to do. They did not want to obey Him. So they made idols of different kinds and gave them different names and worshiped them instead of the true God. These idols were things that they called gods, but they were not real. People did not obey the living God, so they did whatever they liked and God let them go. He let them do as they liked, and they liked to go away from God and to do wicked and evil things. God let them go for many, many years.

Jesus, God's Son, came to earth and died for the sins of all people, Jews and Gentiles, and sent His followers to preach the message of salvation to everyone. God had not given any message to the Gentile people for many years, but now He spoke to them through Jesus Christ and His message of salvation. God is speaking to them in this way and He will still speak to Gentile people until the end of this time of His grace. James told the people what God was doing. We read about this in Acts 15:14-18. James said that God has turned His attention to the Gentile people during this period of time. He said that the prophet Amos in the Old Testament had explained what God would do. God will keep His promises to the Jews after He has given the message to the Gentiles. Amos said this in the book of Amos chapter nine and verses eleven and twelve.

God will judge and punish all the Gentile people who do not believe His message to them and who do not trust Jesus Christ and follow Him. We read about this punishment, or judgment, in different places. Second Thessalonians 2:11,12 says that God will keep them from understanding the truth because they did not believe it, but liked to do wrong things.

They chose the wrong way, so God will punish them. John 3:36 also tells us that the person who believes in God's Son has life, everlasting life. But God is angry with the person who will not believe His Son. He will continue to be angry with that person for ever.

The Jews

The Jews received many promises and many blessings from God. The Jews are part of Abraham's family. God told Abraham that He would bless him and that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him. Read Genesis 12:1-3. God made many more promises to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, and to David and his family. God promised David that one from his family would be king over the people of Israel and over all the people of the world.

God sent His Son to the Jews first as their Messiah, the One whom God had promised to be their King. When the wise men came looking for Jesus they asked, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" Matthew 2:2. The Jews did not want Him. The Roman governor brought Jesus out and said, "Look at your King!" The Jews said, "Take Him away and kill Him by nailing Him to a cross." Pilate, the governor, asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" They replied, "We have no king but Caesar, the Roman emperor." So the Jews refused God's Son, their King.

He died and rose again and went back to heaven, but He gave the Jews another chance to change their minds about Him. Peter preached to them about Jesus and their need to repent, to change their minds and receive Christ. We read what Peter said to the Jews in Acts chapter two. In verse 38 he said that the Jews should repent, change their attitude about Him, and become His followers. Some Jews did repent, but most of the Jews would not change. In Acts 28:28 Paul said that he would take the message of God to the Gentiles because the Jews did not want it.

This is still true. The message, the gospel of salvation, is for everyone, but the Jewish people have refused God's mes-

sage, so God has turned away from them and sends the message to Gentile people. Romans chapter eleven and verse 8 explains that many Jews have not received God's message so God has made them like people who can neither see nor hear. They do not know God or truly hear His message to them.

The Bible says that the Jews who have not believed will be punished. That includes most of the Jewish people now and until Christ comes again to reign as their King. Daniel chapter twelve, verse one, says that there will be terrible suffering for the Jews, Daniel's people, but some will be delivered. In verses 2 and 3 it says that God will bring people back to life. Some will suffer shame and some will be honored. It says they will shine like stars for ever and ever. The ones who shine as stars are Jewish people who have seen their mistake in killing their King and have become His followers.

There are many promises of happiness and honor and blessing in the Old Testament for the Jews. God will keep those promises and bless all the Jews who have come to Christ and have accepted Him. He will take away all who will not believe, and so He will have a whole nation of believing Jews. He will bless them and Jesus will reign over them. Read Isaiah chapters 12 and 35. The Lord Jesus also spoke of this time when believing Jews will be blessed. He said that the King will say, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom made ready for you from the beginning of the world," Matthew 25:34.

The Church

Just before the Lord Jesus went back to heaven, He told His followers that the Holy Spirit would come to them after He had gone. The Holy Spirit is also God as the Father is God and Jesus is God. The Holy Spirit came and lives in every true believer in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit makes all those believers one, making them all part of each other like hands and feet are parts of a body. That is the picture that the New Testament uses of those who

believe in Christ. Paul told the believers at Corinth that the believers are one body like a human body. It has many parts, but it is one body. He says that the Holy Spirit puts all the believers together into one Body. Read this in 1 Corinthians 12:12,13.

Paul wrote a letter to the believers at Ephesus and explained that believers in this time are Christ's body. This is in chapter 1, verses 22,23. He said that the church is Christ's body. Then in chapter 5 and verses 25 to 27 Paul taught that the church is the bride of Christ. Christ loves the church very much like a man loves a woman whom he is about to marry.

So, during this time there is another group of people on earth — the church.

The church began at Pentecost, the time the Holy Spirit came. We read about this in Acts chapter 2. The church is growing today, like a person grows from a baby to a man or woman, an adult. Ephesians 4:15 tells of "growing up" and verse 13 talks about a "perfect" man — a mature man.

Ephesians chapter 2, verses 19-22, tell us that the church is also like a building, a temple, the place where God lives. It is getting larger. The Holy Spirit places saved people in the church as a builder puts stones in the wall of a house that he is building. This is what God is doing in the world. He is building His church.

The church will continue to grow until Jesus Christ comes for her, His bride. He told the disciples that He would come for them and take them to be with Himself, John 14:1-3. Paul also explained this event in 1 Thessalonians chapter four and verses thirteen to eighteen. He told the believers that all those who had trusted in Christ would be taken up to heaven. Some died many years ago but they will live again and Christ will take them too. It will be a happy time of meeting for believers and a time of real joy and blessing that will continue for ever. Paul says, "We shall always be with the Lord," and he added, "there-

fore comfort one another with these words.”

There are Gentile people in the world. They are the ones who are not Jews. They do not know God and have not received Christ.

There are Jews. God has blessed them in many ways, but most of them have refused Christ and are like people who cannot see and cannot hear.

There are believers in Christ, and together they form the church and Christ loves and cares for them. Christ will come some day and take them to heaven to share in His joy and to see His glory.

Enter the correct answer:

1. 1 Cor 10:32 speaks of three groups of people
 - a. Gentiles Jews and Christians
 - b. Gentiles, Jews and the Church
 - c. Gentiles, Israelites and Christians
2. Romans chapter 1 tells us that
 - a. men could not know about God
 - b. men had every excuse not to glorify God
 - c. people did whatever they liked and God let them go
3. The Jews
 - a. are part of Abraham's family
 - b. accept Jesus as their promised Messiah
 - c. have forfeited God's promises of blessing
4. In Ephesians we read that the church is
 - a. a body
 - b. a body and a bride
 - c. a body, a bride and building
5. The Church
 - a. began on the day of Pentecost
 - b. is complete
 - c. comprises only living believers

Enter TRUE or FALSE in the space provided:

6. Jews are descended from Abraham through Isaac and Jacob.
7. People who are not Jews are Gentiles.
8. Jesus, God's Son, came to earth and died for the sins of all people, Jews and Gentiles.
9. The Church is made up of Jews and Gentiles who trust in Christ.
10. The Church is like a building, a temple, where God dwells.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Which picture of the Church (Body, Bride or Building) do you like best and why?

Jesus' Coming

This is something that is very plain in the Bible. The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world once and He will come again. He will return to earth.

God promised to send a Savior into the world. The Old Testament prophets predicted it many times. Many people celebrate a special day called Christmas. This day reminds us that Jesus was born of a pure virgin mother whose name was Mary. The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us the story.

Matthew lists Jesus' family in chapter one, verses one to seventeen of the Gospel of Matthew. Christ's family was the family of David, the king. God had promised David that he would have a Son who would be king, and He would reign as king for ever. Please read Psalm 72; it is all about Christ and His reign of glory. We read many wonderful things in that chapter which is a song of happiness and joy. It says that people will respect Him for all generations, verse 5. It says that His name will continue for ever and that all nations will bless Him, verse 17. In verses 18 and 19 the writer praises the Lord and says, "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name for ever!"

Luke tells us that God's angel, Gabriel, told Mary that she would call her child "Jesus". He would be great; they would call Him the Son of the Highest and He would reign over the house of Jacob for ever. Gabriel also said that His kingdom would never end.

The prophet Isaiah wrote that a Child is born to us, a Son is given to us. He will be the Ruler; He will be called Wonderful; He will give good advice; He is the powerful God; He is the Father of endless time; He is the Prince who rules in peace. This is in Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6 and 7. Please read these verses in your Bible.

The Lord Jesus was about thirty years old when He left His home and family and began to travel through the land of Galilee, and also in Samaria and Judah. He began to preach to the Jews, the people of Israel, and to tell them that God's kingdom was very near. He cured many people who were sick. He made demons leave people; He made the storm on the Sea of Galilee to stop immediately and He even brought dead people to life.

Many people thought, "This is the King the prophets told us about. This is God's King and He will free our nation from our enemies." But the religious leaders hated Him and finally they persuaded the Roman governor to kill Him. They nailed Him on a cross and He died there. What happened? Were the people too strong for Him? Did the people defeat God's purpose?

He came back to life after three days and then went to heaven after another 40 days, but He promised His followers that He would come back. He had told them that He would be killed long before it happened. He also told them very clearly that He would go away and return to earth. He said in Matthew chapter twenty-four and verse twenty-seven, that His coming would be like lightning. It happens in the western sky and you can see it right around in the eastern sky. He told the disciples to watch for they do not know when He is coming, Matthew 24:42.

We should remember these things when we read our

Bible. We read in one place that He is coming with honor and power and in another place it will say that He will come and suffer and die. He came to be King, but He died to become our Savior. He will come back and will be King in the world. Isaiah chapter fifty-two and verse thirteen says that they will praise and honor Him and He will be very great. In the next verse, verse fourteen, we read that they beat Him so much that His face didn't look like a man's face.

In Isaiah chapter 53, verse 7, we read that He was quiet like a sheep when men cut off its wool. He was like a little sheep when they take it and kill it. We also read in verse twelve of the same chapter that God will place Him among the great and strong people because He gave His life to save others.

We read our Bible and come to a verse that says that He will come with glory; then we need to remember that He will come with glory. He has told us that He will come again. We read other verses that tell of His sufferings and His death, so we remember that is also true. He did come and He did suffer for us and He died for us.

We will notice three things about His coming back:

1. He Will Come for Believers

The Lord Jesus told the disciples that He will come back and take them to heaven to be with Him for ever. He promised this to His followers in John 14:1-3. He was soon to leave them and they were very sad. He told them not to be sad or sorry because He would come again and take them to be with Himself. He told them that there were many rooms in His Father's house and He was going to prepare a place for them. He was going away, but He would come back for them.

Paul, one of His followers, wrote a letter to the believers in the city of Corinth some years later. He explained many things about believers dying and rising to live again. In First Corinthians chapter 15 and verses 51-57, he wrote that believers who had died will suddenly live again. Believers who are still living will get bodies that do not die.

That will be the time when Jesus comes and changes all believers and He will take them to heaven to be with Himself.

Paul wrote another letter to other Christian believers at a city called Thessalonica in eastern Europe. Please read First Thessalonians chapter 4 and verses 13 to 18. He wrote about the Lord coming for the believers, and he gave them a few more facts. He told them that the Lord Himself will come from heaven with a loud call. The believers who had died will live again, and then all believers will be taken up to be with the Lord for ever.

The Lord Jesus will come back for believers.

2. He Will Come to Punish Sinners

Even John the Baptist warned his hearers that Christ would punish sinners. He told the crowds who came to hear him preach that He would gather the wheat into his barn, but He would burn the chaff with fire that cannot be put out. Read this in Luke 3:17.

The Lord Jesus warned those who would not have Him that He would come and judge them. He told the story of a man who was about to become a king. The people of the kingdom sent a message after him. They said that they would not have him as their king. The man came back as king. He called his servants first and gave some of them rewards for their faithful service for him. Then he told his army to bring the people who did not want him as their king and kill them. It was a clear picture of His return and His punishment of His enemies. Read this in Luke 19:12-27.

There are other verses we should mention. Paul told the believers in Thessalonica that the Lord Jesus will appear from heaven. He will come in fire and punish those who do not know God — those who do not obey the message of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Thessalonians 2:12.

Revelation, chapter nineteen and verses eleven to twenty-one, tells us more about Christ's return to punish His enemies. John saw Him in a vision coming from heaven. He

says that His eyes were like fire and there were many crowns on His head. He says that He killed His enemies with a sword that was in His mouth. He will come to destroy His enemies.

3. He Will Come to Save Israel

God gave so many wonderful promises to His people, the people of Israel. But they refused His Son, their King, and they are now a nation without a king. They suffer many troubles and many people hate them and harm them.

God will keep His promises to them; that is one reason for His return. Christ told His disciples that there would be many troubles and much suffering before He came back. But He told them that they will see Him coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Then He will gather His people from every part of the earth. Read this in Matthew 24:30,31. These two chapters, Matthew chapters 24 and 25, tell us much that we should know about Christ's return to bless His people Israel and to reign over them.

There are other verses in the Old Testament that tell us that He will come back to earth to bless Israel. Please read Zechariah chapter fourteen. We read that His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces Jerusalem on the east. It says that He will come and all the saints with Him and that the Lord will be King over all the earth.

So the Bible shows us that Christ came to earth once to suffer and die and to save people from their sins.

The Bible teaches that He will come to take believers of His church to be with Him in heaven.

The Bible tells us that He will come to earth again to punish His enemies and to bless His people Israel and reign over them.

Enter the correct answer:

1. In the Old Testament
 - a. the coming of a Saviour is hardly mentioned
 - b. the prophets predicted the coming of a Saviour many times
 - c. very few details are given about the coming Saviour
2. The account of Jesus' birth is found in the gospels of
 - a. Matthew and Mark
 - b. Luke and John
 - c. Matthew and Luke
3. Jesus went back to heaven
 - a. and told His disciples that they should be troubled
 - b. to prepare a place for His followers
 - c. and will send an angel to receive them
4. Jesus told those who would not accept Him
 - a. that they would be saved anyway
 - b. that He would come and judge them
 - c. that God was too loving to punish anyone
5. Jesus
 - a. was accepted by the Jews when He came
 - b. will one day stand on the Mount Zion
 - c. will return to bless His people Israel

Enter TRUE or FALSE:

6. Jesus was killed and God's purpose was defeated.
7. Jesus came back to life after three days and then went to heaven after another 40 days.
8. The Lord Jesus will come back for believers.
9. John saw a vision of Jesus as 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild'.
10. God keeps His promises.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Are you waiting for Jesus' return?
What effect does it have on your life?

Two Resurrections

The Bible teaches us that dead people will be brought back to life. God created Adam. He made Adam different from the animals, for animals die and are gone, but people will live again. One great chapter of the Bible is Ezekiel chapter thirty-seven. The Lord gave Ezekiel a vision, a dream. He saw many bones of people who had been dead for a long time. It did not seem possible for those bones to become part of living people again. But God showed Ezekiel that He can bring people back to life, even after they have been dead for a long time. Those bones started to come together to form bodies. The other parts of the bodies all formed on the bones, and those bones became a large group of living people. Only God can do that.

Job was one of the first men to write part of the Bible. He said in Job 19:26 that he knew that he would see God as a living person, even after he had died and his body had gone to dust. The prophet Isaiah said, "Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise," Isaiah 26:19. Daniel was also a prophet in the time before Christ; he wrote that many dead persons will awake, some to endless life and some to endless shame. We read this in Daniel 12:2.

The New Testament tells us even more about the resur-

rection, that is, dead people coming to life. The Lord Jesus called Himself “the Resurrection and the Life” in John’s Gospel, chapter eleven and verse twenty-five. He also said in John five, “The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment,” John 5:28,29.

All the dead people do not rise at one time. The Bible mentions the first resurrection in Revelation 20:5. It also says in the next verse that those who have a part in the first resurrection are holy and God has blessed them. It says in verse 4 of the same chapter that they lived and reigned with Christ for one thousand years. But it also says that the other dead people, “the rest of the dead,” did not live again until the thousand years are finished.

The Bible tells us plainly that the Lord raises some dead people at one time and they share God’s blessings. He raises the other dead people later, after one thousand years, and He punishes them. The last part of chapter 20 of Revelation tells us about the other dead people and the time when God will raise them. Please read Revelation 20:11-15.

Those verses tell us that John saw a great white throne, like a king’s chair, and he saw people who had been dead standing in front of that throne. They did not want to be there. God will judge them for all the wicked, evil things they have done and then put them into the lake of fire. This is called the second death in chapter 21:8. They had died once, but God raised them again and judged them. They die again when God sends them away into the lake of fire. They continue to suffer God’s punishment for ever. They will never come near to Him again — they will never be saved.

The First Resurrection

Some verses in the Bible tell us that God will raise the people who received Christ and are saved. We will notice a few of those verses. It says in 1 Corinthians 15:22 that all believers in Christ, or, “all in Christ,” shall be made alive. In verse 51 Paul writes that we shall not all sleep, or die, but

we shall all be changed, very suddenly. The dead believers will be raised, brought to life, and the believers who are still living then will be changed.

Paul also tells us about this time in First Thessalonians chapter four and verses sixteen to eighteen. These verses tell us of Christ's return for His church. Many people who have trusted Christ have died. It is nearly two thousand years since the Holy Spirit came and formed the church. The people of that time have died. Thousands more believers have died since then and perhaps many more will die before Jesus comes again. But He will come and He will raise all those believers and will take them to heaven. The verses in First Thessalonians chapter four and verses fourteen to seventeen tell us that the Lord Himself will come from heaven with a shout. The dead people who had believed in Christ will rise first and then the living believers will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air. Paul adds, "and so we will always be with the Lord." What a wonderful experience that will be!

So the believers of this time will go to heaven and then there will be many people who will trust in God and obey Him. In Revelation chapter 20 and verse 4 we read about people who had their heads cut off because of their witness for Jesus. They had refused to worship the person called "the Antichrist." They would only worship and serve the true Christ, the Lord Jesus, so men killed them. It says that they lived and reigned with Christ for one thousand years. In the last part of verse five of the same chapter we read, "This is the first resurrection." These people died for Jesus' sake in the time of great trouble; they were the final, the last people, whom God raised again to enjoy His blessing for ever.

The Other Resurrection

God warns us in Hebrews 9:27 that all people die. It is God's judgment, God's punishment, because they are sinners. But the next part of the verse says, "But after death, the judgment." God will review the life of each of these persons

and will give them His final word.

We read more about this time of judgment in Revelation 20 and verses eleven to fifteen. Just notice that God gave them the exact punishment for all the bad things they had done. He judged them by the writing in the books. There was a careful record of all they had done.

Those people had not been saved by trusting Christ and God put them into the lake of fire. That is the place of punishment for those who have not trusted God and who have not come to Christ. The Bible says, "This is the second death." God will put these people away from Him for ever. It is the final experience of being put away from God and from His love and life.

The Bible teaches that those who die will rise again.

The Bible teaches that those who have trusted in Christ will be raised and will be with Christ for ever.

The Bible teaches that those people who have not believed and are not saved will be raised later. They will be judged by God and sent away from Him for ever.

Enter the correct answer:

1. The Bible teaches that
 - a. people die and are gone
 - b. Adam was no different to the animals
 - c. dead people will be brought back to life

2. All dead people
 - a. will rise
 - b. will rise at the same time
 - c. will share God's blessings

3. Who wrote 'I know ... after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God'.
 - a. Isaiah
 - b. Job
 - c. Daniel

4. When Christ returns for His Church
 - a. only living believers will be taken
 - b. living believers will be taken first
 - c. the dead in Christ will rise first and then living believers will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air.

5. The Bible teaches that those who have not believed
 - a. will not be raised later
 - b. will have a second chance
 - c. will be judged by God and sent away from Him forever

Enter TRUE or FALSE:

6. Isaiah saw a vision of dead bones becoming living people.
7. Job was one of the first men to write part of the Bible.
8. Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the Life'.
9. 'Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire'.
10. Those who have not trusted Christ will be judged 'by the writing in the books'.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Which resurrection will you take part in? How do you know?

-5-

God's Law and God's Grace

In the first chapter of this book we saw how God teaches the people of the world in different ways at different times. We want to look at one way God used in the past and one way He is using now to teach people about Himself.

The Law of God

God gave the law to Moses to teach to the nation of Israel. We read the story in Exodus chapter 20 and verses 1-17. These commands are called "the Ten Commandments". The whole law of Moses is much larger than these ten commandments and includes the religious teachings that God gave to Moses. The other chapters of Exodus and Leviticus have many more instructions from God for Israel.

We should be careful to understand that God gave these laws and teachings to the people of Israel. Israel was His special people; He freed them from the Egyptians; He fed them and gave them water in the desert and He protected them from their enemies. The book of Numbers tells

the story of God's care for Israel as He brought them through the desert. Remember this — God never gave the law to Gentile people. He only gave it to His special people, Israel.

The law, specially the Ten Commandments, tells people what they must do to please God. God commanded the people to serve and worship Him only. They must not make or serve any idols or serve any other god of any kind. They must not murder or steal. They must not harm or do anything wrong to other people. The Lord Jesus explained the teaching of the law in a very few words. He said that the law taught the people to love God perfectly and to love other people the way they love themselves, Matthew 22:37-40.

God gave orders to the people and told them how they must punish those who did not obey His law. There are many different punishments which God gave for those who did not obey Him. He said in Exodus chapter 21 and verse 12 that a person who struck and killed another person must be killed. He said that a person who injured or harmed another person must be injured in the same way. Read Exodus 21:23-25.

The law of Moses showed the people of Israel that God is just and fair. He punishes those who sin, and He punishes them in a fair way. The law told the children of Israel that they must live good clean lives to please God. They must love and serve Him most. The law said, "You must do what I tell you or I will punish you."

The people broke the law; they did not do what God told them to do. The people all promised to keep the law, to do what God told them to, even before God gave them the law. Read about this in Exodus chapter 19. God told the people that He would make them His people in a special way if they would obey Him and keep His law, (verse 5). The people promised to do all that the Lord told them to do, see verse 8. Then we read in chapter 32 that the people made an idol and worshiped it! From the very first they did not obey God or love Him.

The other books of the Old Testament tell us that the people of Israel failed to love and obey God. The Angel of the Lord rebuked the people in Judges 2:1,2. He told them that He had brought them out of Egypt into the land that He had promised to them. He had made a very strong promise to them and told them not to make any agreements with the people of the land of Canaan. They must destroy the idols of the people living in the land. "But," He said, "you have not obeyed my voice. Why have you done this?"

There was a prophet of God who lived in the land of Israel many years later when the nation of Israel was divided into two separate kingdoms or nations. They called one country Israel and the other part Judah. Elijah was God's messenger to Israel. He prayed against Israel and said that the people had broken their promises to God. They had pulled down the altars for worshiping the true God and they had killed the prophets, the men God sent with His message to the people. The people would not obey God's law.

God sent other prophets to plead with His people and to warn them. Some of those prophets wrote the words that God gave them. We have those words in the books of the Bible called "The Prophets." Some of these books are Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and others.

Many of these books contain words of warning to Israel because they would not obey God. Please read Isaiah chapter five. All the verses warn Israel and Judah that God will soon punish them because they refused to keep God's law. God said that He was angry with the people and many of them would die because they had rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. See verses 24 and 25 of chapter five.

God punished the people of Israel and the people of Judah. The armies of other countries came and took away many as prisoners. Some people came back many years later and settled in their own land. They built a temple again and started to try to live close to God by obeying the law.

The Lord Jesus came and lived among them and loved and taught them about God and the deeper meaning of the law. Please read Matthew's Gospel chapters 5-7. Most of the people were very religious and tried to keep the law, but they didn't love God nor really understand the law. The religious leaders of the people hated Jesus Christ and finally persuaded the Roman Governor to kill Him, but He rose again.

The Grace of God

God would have been just and fair if He had destroyed all the people of the world. They had rejected and killed His Son whom He had sent to them. God destroyed all the people in Noah's day with a flood and they had not done such a terrible thing as these people had done. These people had proven that they could not obey the law and please God; now God gave them a new opportunity. God the Father had punished His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, when He was dying on the cross. God punished His Son for sin. Then God offered to save people from the judgment for their sins and to make them His children. God does not ask people to obey His law to be saved from punishment. God promises to save every person who believes in Jesus Christ and receives Him as their Savior.

John's Gospel, chapter 3 and verse 16 says that God loved the people of the world so much that He gave the Son He loved for them. Anyone who believes in Him has life that is for ever. This is God's grace. He is ready to save any person. He does not want to punish any one.

We should remember that this offer of salvation is great and wonderful, but some people do not want God and refuse His salvation. This is a greater sin against God than refusing to obey His laws. We read in Hebrews 10 that punishment is greater for the person who turns away from Christ than it was for those who refused Moses' law.

God began to offer salvation to everyone after Christ rose again and went back to heaven. The apostles, God's special messengers, preached this message to Jews and Gentiles. Many Jews felt that God gave the law so they must still live

by the law. They might be saved by God's grace, but they must still try to please God by trying to keep His laws.

Many New Testament verses teach that God does not ask believers in Christ to keep the law to get saved. Paul wrote in Romans 6:14, "You are not under law, but under grace." He wrote about how he felt when he was trying to please God by keeping the law even after God saved him. We read this in Romans 7:7-24. He said that he was a very unhappy man. He had no joy. He was always trying and always failing.

Paul tells us in Romans chapter 8 that the Holy Spirit is the secret of living a life that pleases God. The Holy Spirit comes and lives in the believer when he trusts Christ. Paul writes in verses 1-4 of chapter eight that the Holy Spirit gives the believer the strength to overcome sin and to live in a way that pleases God. The law told the people what they must do to please God, but the Holy Spirit gives them the strength to live a life that pleases Him.

Paul wrote the book of Galatians also. Someone had taught the believers in Galatia that they must keep the law. They were not people of Israel — they were saved by the grace of God, but they must keep the law of Moses!

Paul was very unhappy with those teachers and with the believers who listened to them. Paul told them many things that they should have known. He taught them that the law could not save them. It could only show them that they needed to be saved. The law showed them that they were weak and sinful and that they needed Christ to save them. He said that the law helps us to understand that we need Christ. Read Galatians 3:22-24.

There are still people who teach that believers in Christ must keep the law. The Bible very clearly teaches that salvation is only by believing in Christ. The Bible also clearly teaches that a believer lives to please God when he allows the Holy Spirit to control him and direct his life. Paul wrote in Galatians 5:16 that we should walk in the Spirit. We should let the Spirit of God control our lives, and then we will not do the sinful

things that we feel we would like to do. Remember the verse in John's Gospel that says that Moses gave the law but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, John 1:17.

Enter the correct answer:

1. God gave the law to
 - a. His special people, Israel
 - b. the Gentiles
 - c. Israel and the Gentiles

2. The law of Moses showed the people of Israel that God
 - a. did not care how they lived
 - b. was just and fair
 - c. was a tyrant

3. The people of Israel
 - a. always obeyed God's laws
 - b. never worshipped idols
 - c. were punished by God because they refused to keep His law

4. God can now forgive sin because
 - a. He can overlook it
 - b. Jesus took the punishment that we deserve
 - c. He loves us

5. Grace says
 - a. 'You must do what I tell you or I will punish you.'
 - b. 'Keep the law and you will be saved.'
 - c. 'Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.'

Write TRUE or FALSE in the space provided:

6. The 'Ten Commandments' is much larger than the whole law of Moses
7. The Ten Commandments tell people what they must do to please God.
8. If people did not obey the law they were to be punished.
9. The Holy Spirit lives in the believer and gives the strength to overcome sin and live in a way that pleases God.
10. The law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Once a person is saved, does it matter how he or she lives?

Two Natures

It is wonderful to be a believer in Christ, to be a Christian. The Bible promises the believer in Christ many wonderful things. Romans chapter 5 tells us that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God is not angry with us; He is not going to punish us, and so we are not afraid of His anger.

The Lord Jesus promised to give His followers a new life from God that lasts for ever. He calls the believers His sheep and says that they will never be lost or go to Hell. He will keep them safely in His hand and His Father God will keep them safely in His hand. Read these promises in John 10:27-30.

Peter writes to tell us that God bought us for Himself by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and that we are like stones in the house where God lives. Peter says we are living stones, and Christ is the important stone in the corner of the wall which holds the whole wall together. Please read 1 Peter 1:18,19 and chapter 2, verse 5.

Paul wrote many wonderful things in his letter to the Ephesians. He said that God the Father chose us in Christ before He made the world. He said that God is going to gather everything together in Christ in the future. He will be Head, the Great Ruler over everything and everyone, and

we will be part of that glory because we are His children, we belong to Christ, Ephesians 1:3,4, also verses 10,11.

We trust in Christ and we belong to Him, we are His sheep and He keeps us safely. We are very happy until we commit some sin. We may do something sinful. We may have some doubts in our mind. Someone may say or do something we don't like and we are angry and we wonder why we feel the way we do.

The Bible explains the problem so we do not have to continue to be sad and discouraged. Let us see what the Bible says:

The Old Nature

The Bible clearly teaches that we were born sinners. There is a nature in us that likes to do wrong things like a dog likes to growl or bark or bite. We are born as sinners and we love to sin and that sin nature in us still likes to sin. We may have been liars before we were saved. We may still feel a sudden desire to lie after we are saved. We may have been thieves before we were saved. We may still feel a desire, an urge, to steal after we are saved.

The people who lived before Christ came, in the time of the Old Testament, showed that this was true. God took the wicked people away with a flood, but soon after the flood Noah himself drank too much strong drink and shamed himself and his family. God gave a wonderful, pure law to the people of Israel, but they did not obey it. Jeremiah the prophet gave God's message when he said that people are very wicked and evil in their heart. Read Jeremiah 17:9.

Paul saw that this was true. He wrote the book of Romans and tells us that there is no one who is truly good. Everyone has turned away from God and says and does very many bad things because no one loves God and obeys Him. Read Romans 3:10-12. Remember, too, that Isaiah said that we have all been like sheep, we have chosen to go our own way, Isaiah 53:6.

Paul felt like an animal in a trap when he saw that he still sinned, even when he did not want to sin. He wrote about his feelings in Romans chapter seven. He said that

he could not do the good things he wanted to do and that he was doing the bad things he did not want to do. He couldn't get free. What could he do?

The New Nature

The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to have a new birth. Nicodemus was a good man in many ways and he was even a religious leader and teacher, but Jesus said he needed this new birth. He explained to Nicodemus that a person is born as a baby with a body, his flesh, but he needs another birth to have a new nature from God. Read John 3:3-6. This new birth, Jesus says, gives us a new nature that comes from God. Jesus called it spirit. That new nature comes from God and can know and love God. We know that a child, a baby, is like its father and mother. It has their nature. A believer in Christ has a new nature that loves God and wants to please Him. The Bible says that the believer in Christ is really a new person. God has made him again and God gives him a new life. Read this in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

It is very difficult for many Christians to get away from the old, sinful things they used to do, and to do the things they now want to do. They want to be kind to other people and to help them to believe in Christ, too. But they find that it is so easy to get angry or to do or say something that spoils the good they hoped to do. What can they do about it?

Let us remember what Paul learned in Romans chapters seven and eight. He learned that he could not be good by trying to be good. He had the law of Moses to teach him what he should do, but he found he still could not do it. Then he learned that God's Holy Spirit has come to live in every believer and gives that believer the strength he needs to do what is good and right. He wrote in chapter 8 and verse 13 that we will die if we live according to our old sinful nature, but we will live if we refuse to live our old sinful lives. The Spirit of God gives us the strength we need.

Paul wrote about this struggle in Romans chapter six. He said, "Do not let sin rule in your body. Give your whole body to God and let Him use your body for right

things,” Romans 6:13. He said that believers are not now the slaves of sin; they are the slaves of right, verse 18. In verse 22 he tells the believers that Christ has set them free from sin and they are now slaves of God.

These verses explain to us that we do not need to obey the desires of our old sinful nature. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome sin in our lives and to live for God. We must choose which master we will serve. Romans 6:12 tells us not to let sin rule in our body, and verse 19 tells us to give our bodies to God as slaves of what is right.

Paul wrote in chapter 12 and verses 1 and 2 and told the Roman believers to give their bodies to God as a complete gift that would please God. We can do this by letting God be our Master and our Lord. We let Him give the orders and we obey Him like a soldier in the army obeys his officer.

There are also some verses in Ephesians where Paul told the believers how to live. He tells the believers to put off the old man, or old nature, like we would take off an old shirt or dress. They should put on the new nature which God has given them. The new nature is like God’s nature and is good and holy and pure. They did not need to wear the old clothes; God gave them new ones, Ephesians 4:22-24.

Paul wrote something like this to the Colossian believers. He told them to put off things like anger and envy and lying and bad language. They should put on the new man, or the new nature, which is like God who made him.

The believer in Christ does not need to live a life of sin. The Holy Spirit lives in him and gives him power to live for God. The believer has a new nature and so he wants to do the things that please his Father. The Bible tells him to get rid of the old bad habits and ways and to live a new life that is pleasing to God.

Enter the correct answer:

1. Those who trust in Christ
 - a. will never sin
 - b. may do sinful things
 - c. will always be discouraged
2. The bible teaches that
 - a. we were born sinners
 - b. we were born sinless
 - c. sin is not a problem
3. The Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus that
 - a. he was a good man
 - b. he needed to turn over a new leaf
 - c. he needed to be born again
4. Paul wrote in Romans chapter seven that
 - a. he was always able to do the good things that he wanted to do
 - b. he never did bad things that he did not want to do
 - c. he needed to be set free
5. Believers
 - a. are not slaves
 - b. are slaves of sin
 - c. are slaves of God

Enter TRUE or FALSE:

6. Man has a natural aversion to sin.
7. God's Word says that people are very wicked and evil in their heart.
8. It is easy for Christians to get away from the old, sinful things they used to do.
9. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome sin in our lives.
10. The believer has a new nature and so he wants to do the things that please his Father.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Are you a new person in Christ?

What old things have gone from your life and what new things have come into your life (2 Cor 5:17)?

-7-

True Believers and Pretending Believers

Everyone knows about pretenders or deceivers. They try to look good to fool other people. In one part of the world the farmers deceive their cows. If the calf, the cow's baby, dies, the farmer thinks that the cow will not give her milk. The farmer takes the dead calf's skin and stuffs it with straw and puts it in front of the mother cow. The farmer then milks the cow while the cow is licking its dead calf's skin. The farmer deceives the cow and takes her milk.

Many people try to deceive other people; they pretend to be something or someone they really are not. The Lord Jesus was teaching His followers one day and told them to be careful not to listen to false teachers who had sheep's clothing. They were not really sheep, they were really like fierce wild animals of the forest, wolves. Read about this in Matthew 7:15.

The Bible tells us about many true Christians, true believers. They were not pretenders, they were real believers. We will look at a few Bible verses:

True Believers

Just after the Lord Jesus went back to heaven the Holy Spirit came and the church began. Believers in Christ became one Body and the Holy Spirit came to live in every believer. Very soon there were many believers. Peter preached to the crowd that had gathered and told them to repent, to change their mind and attitude to Christ, and to be baptized. We read about this in Acts chapter 2. In verse 41 of that chapter it tells us that the Lord added three thousand people to the group of believers. Then it says, in verse 42, that these people continued faithfully in the teaching of the apostles and in the church gatherings. A true believer usually continues faithfully in the teachings of the Bible and comes regularly to the church gatherings.

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples that He was a Shepherd and they were His sheep. He told them that His sheep listen to His voice and they know Him, their Shepherd, and they follow Him. Then He gave them a wonderful promise. He promised to give them eternal life and to keep them safely in His hand. He is a good Shepherd and a faithful Shepherd and a strong Shepherd. He keeps every true sheep safely all the way home. Read John 10:27-30.

Peter, Jesus' disciple, was a true believer in Christ, but he was not always faithful to Christ. He denied Christ three times. We read in Luke 22:34 that the Lord warned him that he would fail; he would deny the Lord three times that very night. Peter thought he would never do that. He was ready to suffer with Christ or to go to prison for His sake.

We know what happened. Peter denied the Lord just as Christ had said, but Peter was sorry; he repented and the Lord brought him back as His follower; read John 21:15-17.

Pretenders

Judas was another follower of Christ. He had followed Him for three years and had seen the miracles, the wonderful things Jesus did. He had even preached and done wonderful things in Jesus' name with the other disciples. Jesus knew that Judas was only pretending, and He warned

Judas that He knew that he was not true.

One day Jesus asked His disciples if they wanted to go away and leave Him. He knew what was in their hearts, but He asked them to say how they felt. Peter was very strong and bold and told Jesus that they couldn't follow anyone else because they were sure that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Peter thought all the other disciples agreed with him in his love and devotion for Christ. Jesus knew better and said that one of those twelve disciples was a devil or a demon, John 6:67-70.

Some time later Jesus spoke to the disciples and told them that one of them would give Him over to His enemies. The other disciples didn't know that Judas was not a true follower of Jesus. We read about this in John 13:21-27. Judas was a pretender, and he was such a clever pretender and deceiver that the other disciples didn't think he would do such a thing. Judas only pretended to love Jesus Christ, and he went out and handed Him over to His enemies. Judas later saw that he had made a great mistake and had committed a great sin. He went and hanged himself on a rope. It is a terrible thing to pretend to be something that we really are not.

It is not always easy to know who are pretenders. In Hebrews chapter six and verses four to eight the writer warns the readers. He says that some people seem to be true believers; they have heard God's good news and have become a part of the whole Christian movement. They seem the same as all the other Christians. Then the writer warns them that they may change their attitude and turn against Christ. It is not possible to bring these people back when they turn their backs on Christ and openly shame Him. They are like a piece of ground that gets plenty of rain but produces no useful plants. Those useless plants, those weeds, will be burned. No one has any use for them. So God will punish these people.

Peter writes about pretenders in his second letter, or Epistle, chapter two. Some people leave old sinful ways when they hear the story of God's grace in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Peter says that they may get caught and tangled up in their old life again. They are like a pig when it has been washed. It is

clean for a time, but it is still a pig and will go back to the mud when it can. People may act like true believers, but some are not born again and will go back to their former way of life.

True Believers and Pretenders

The Lord Jesus had many followers when He was here on earth. Some of them were true followers and some were not. The Lord Jesus told the disciples many stories in Matthew chapter 13. The disciples knew that He was teaching them a lesson in the stories, but sometimes they did not understand the lesson. He said that a farmer planted good seed in his field, but his enemy came along and put some weed seeds into the ground among the good seeds. The good plants and the weeds looked alike until the grain was nearly ripe, then they saw that there were weeds among the grain plants. The servants wanted to pull the weeds, but the owner said, "No. Let them grow together, but when they cut the grain to thresh it, they will take the weeds out. The servants will take the weeds and burn them, but they will keep the grain and bring it to the house."

The disciples asked Him to explain what the story meant. The Lord Jesus explained that there are true believers and pretending believers together in the world. At the end of the time, the angels will take away the pretenders and God will punish them. The true believers will enjoy the blessings and joys of Christ's kingdom. We read about this in Matthew 13:37-43.

Someone may wonder how we may know who is real and true and who is only pretending to be a Christian. The Lord Jesus said that we would know false teachers by their fruit, Matthew 7:16. We know that a tree is a good tree when we see good fruit on it. We know that a teacher is a good teacher when he helps and blesses people by his teaching.

Paul tells us in Second Timothy chapter two and verse nineteen that the Lord knows His people, He does not make any mistakes; no one can deceive Him. The verse also says that the person who says he is a believer should leave sin.

We should remember that there are deceivers. God knows them and He will punish them. There are true believers and God will bless and keep them.

Enter the correct answer:

1. Peter
 - a. never denied Jesus
 - b. believed that he would never deny Jesus
 - c. denied Jesus twice
2. Judas
 - a. was a true believer who failed
 - b. was only pretending to be a follower of Jesus
 - c. deceived Jesus
3. Peter
 - a. was not concerned that he had denied the Lord
 - b. was weak and cowardly
 - c. confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God
4. Pretenders
 - a. are never part of the Christian movement
 - b. are obviously different from true Christians
 - c. seem to be the same as all other Christians
5. True believers and pretenders
 - a. are together in the world
 - b. will all enjoy the blessings of Christ's Kingdom
 - c. will all be judged by their works

Enter TRUE or FALSE:

6. Jesus warned His followers about false teachers pretending to be His 'sheep'.
7. A true believer will always be faithful to Christ.
8. The Holy Spirit came and the Church began before the Lord Jesus went back to heaven.
9. It is easy to know who are pretenders.
10. God knows who are the true believers and who are the pretenders.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Has this chapter made you consider your position with regard to Christianity - true believer, non-believer or pretender?

Salvation and Rewards

The Bible is a large book with many parts and it teaches us many lessons. We continue to learn the teachings of the Bible as long as we live in this world. We listen to many teachers and they tell us different things that we may not understand and we become confused.

Salvation

It is important that we clearly understand the Bible teaching of salvation. The Old Testament gave us the beginning, the first lessons about salvation, and the New Testament tells us that Christ died for our salvation. The Old Testament told the people to bring animal sacrifices to God to cover their sins. The New Testament shows us that Christ came and gave Himself as the Sacrifice to take away our sins. We are saved when we trust Christ. The prison keeper in Acts 16 asked Paul what he should do to be saved. Paul told him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and he would be saved, Acts 16:30,31. Christ took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross for us, Isaiah 53:5,6, and now everyone who trusts in Him is saved, Acts 16:31.

Paul did not tell the prison keeper to give some money. He did not tell him to pray or to go to church or to be kind

and good. He told him to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. God gives salvation without asking a price for it. We do not buy salvation, we receive it from God as a gift.

Here are some Bible verses that you should read:

John 4:10.

The Lord Jesus was talking to the woman from Samaria and He asked her for a drink of water. She was surprised that He would ask her for water because He was a Jew and most Jews didn't like the people of Samaria. Jesus told her that she should have asked Him for living water. He would have given it to her freely. He would have given her this living water without asking her to pay anything for it. Jesus was talking about salvation. It is a gift.

Romans 6:23.

Paul explained to the believers in Rome that all people are sinners before God and can only expect Him to punish them. Paul also teaches them that God is ready to save them when they believe in Christ. The wages for their sins is death — this is what they have earned and can expect to receive. But the gift of God is eternal life — that is what God is willing to give them through Jesus Christ. Read Romans chapter three several times.

Ephesians 2:8,9.

The believers at Ephesus had been Gentiles, and they were far away from God and His blessings. Paul said that they were dead in sins, Ephesians 2:1. They had served Satan and were his slaves. In verses 8 and 9 Paul tells them that they were saved by God's grace through faith. They simply believed the message God gave them and accepted His Son. Paul says it was not anything they did to deserve to be saved. They couldn't earn salvation or buy it; God gave it to them as a gift.

Revelation 22:17.

These are almost the last words in the Bible. The verse says that God's Spirit asks people to come. The people of the church ask people to come, and everyone who hears

that message should pass the message on. The message is that anyone who is willing may have the water of life freely. No one has to pay anything to be saved — salvation is free.

Salvation is something that we have, or can have, now. We do not earn it; we do not pay for it, we receive it now by faith. Here are some more verses we should consider carefully.

John 3:36.

This verse says that the person who believes in the Son has everlasting life. That means that he does not have to wait or pray. He HAS everlasting life: he HAS salvation, he IS saved. The verse also says that the person who does not believe in Christ does not have true life, but God's anger is on him right now. That is important. We believe in Christ now and have salvation now, or we do not believe in Christ, and God is angry with us now. Think of that!

Luke 7:50.

One day a woman came to Jesus and cried so much that her tears fell on His feet. Then she put some sweet-smelling oil on His feet and wiped them with her hair. She was crying because she knew she was a sinner and she wanted Jesus to forgive her. Jesus told her that her trust in Him saved her. She could go in peace, her sins were forgiven. Jesus did not ask her to wait or tell her that she might be saved in the future. He told her that she was saved immediately.

John 6:47.

Jesus was talking to the Jews and they were arguing with Him. He told them in verse 35 that He is the Bread of life. Whoever comes to Him will not be hungry again and the one who believes in Him will never be thirsty. He satisfies believers in the inside, in their hearts. Jesus told them very plainly in verse 47 that the person who believes in Him has everlasting life. That person has a life that is spiritual, a life from God. Then Jesus told

them again that He is the Bread of life. He gives that life when a person trusts Him.

1 John 5:11,12.

The apostle John was writing to his little children, they were people who were new believers in Christ. He wanted them to be sure about some important spiritual truths. Verse 11 says that God has given us eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. Verse twelve makes this truth clearer when it says that the person who has the Son has life and the person who does not have the Son of God does not have life. That is simple and clear. Eternal life is something we have now because we have Christ as our Savior. We do not have eternal life if we have not come to Christ. The apostle John is not talking of some time in the future. He is telling us something that is true now.

Rewards

You may have noticed that God offers rewards for those who obey and serve Him. Please be very careful to understand that God does not give salvation as a reward. We saw some verses which show that salvation is free and it is something believers have now. We will look at Bible verses which promise rewards. Rewards are something like prizes that you may get if you work hard enough or run fast enough.

Matthew 10:42.

The Lord Jesus said these words and it is a good example of a reward being offered for something good that a person may do. He says that He will give a reward to any person who gives a very small amount of help to one of His followers. That follower may be very small and humble, but the Lord will certainly give him a reward. A very small kindness earns a reward. God will certainly give a reward for every small kindness His people do for His sake.

Luke 19:17.

This is part of a story that the Lord told His disciples. It

was the story of a man who left some money with his servants. He asked them to use it for him so he would have more money when he returned. Two of the servants used the money well and their master gave them a good reward when he came back. The master rewarded the servant in this verse with authority over ten cities! That was a very large reward for caring for a small amount of money. It should encourage believers to be faithful to the Lord while He is away in heaven. He will reward them when He comes back.

1 Corinthians 9:24,25.

Paul explained to the Christians at Corinth that he was careful to do all he could to win people to Christ. He would not do things just to help or please himself. He was denying himself because he wanted to get a reward from Christ. He was like a person running in a race. The runner uses all his strength to get the prize after the race. He does not pay attention to anything else. He may be running where there are beautiful trees, but he does not stop to rest in the shade. He may get very hungry but he does not stop to eat, and he does not stop to drink if he is thirsty. He wants to win the prize. Paul said that the prize he wanted was one that would not wither and fade away like dry leaves. It was a prize that would last for ever. He did not mean that he would get to heaven if he ran well; he meant that God would give him a prize in heaven if he ran well.

1 Corinthians 3:11-14.

Paul explains in these verses that some builders will get a reward and some will lose the reward they hoped to get. The house or building that these people are making is the assembly, the believers who come together and form a church. Paul explains that we may be busy in the church and it is growing and we are happy. Christ will test the work we do like a fire tests the kind of materials the builders put in a building. The work we did in the church may seem large and important, but it may be

useless in the end. We did not truly serve Christ and we did not really help the church.

Some people will get a reward because they truly served Christ and helped His people in the church. God will give them a reward for their work.

Crowns

A king or a queen wears a crown because they are great and have authority and power. The people in old days gave a crown to the winner in the race. It didn't mean that he was a king, but it was a reward for running well. The Bible mentions some crowns of this kind.

Philippians 4:1.

Paul preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people at Philippi and many of them believed. Paul said that these believers were like a crown to him. God rewarded him for his service. Paul also told the believers at Thessalonica that they were like a crown to him. He would rejoice in that reward in the future when the Lord comes back, 1 Thessalonians 2:19,20.

2 Timothy 4:8.

Paul was near the end of his life and he knew it. He told Timothy that the Lord would give him a crown of righteousness on that Day. He said that the Lord also would give a crown of righteousness to all who love Christ's coming. Paul loved the coming of Christ because he had given up everything to serve Christ while He was away. Paul will be rewarded when Christ comes.

James 1:12.

James wrote this letter to the believers and told them that the believers will receive a crown of life if they do not yield to temptation. This prize is for those who love Him. Those who love Christ will not yield to temptation; they will obey Christ. Christ will reward them with a crown of life. The Lord Jesus told the believers in Ephesus that He would give them a crown of life if they were faithful to Him. They must be faithful to Him even

if it meant dying for Him, Revelation 2:10.

1 Peter 5:4.

Peter was writing to men who were shepherds over God's people. They were elders in the assemblies. Peter told these men to be faithful and humble in their care for God's people and He would give them a crown of glory. Peter told the elders that Christ would give them this reward when He appears. He will come back and then He will reward these faithful men.

We do not need to be confused about salvation and rewards when we read our Bibles. Salvation is a free gift from God that He gives to every believer. God gives salvation to every believer now, in this life. God gives rewards to believers who obey and serve Him faithfully. They are rewards for faithful believers. God does not give those rewards now, in this life; He gives those rewards in the future.

Enter the correct answer:

1. When the prison keeper in Acts 16 asked Paul what he should do to be saved, Paul told him to
 - a. give some money and be kind and good
 - b. to pray and go to church
 - c. believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and he would be saved
2. Salvation
 - a. is a gift from God paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. is a reward from God for good works
 - c. can be bought
3. Paul told the believers in Ephesus that they
 - a. had been dead in sins
 - b. had been saved by their good works
 - c. could boast about their good works
4. All who love Christ's Coming will receive
 - a. a crown of life
 - b. a crown of righteousness
 - c. a crown of glory
5. A crown of life will be given to
 - a. faithful shepherds of God's people
 - b. those who do not yield to temptation
 - c. those who love Christ's Coming

Enter TRUE or FALSE:

6. It is important that we clearly understand the Bible teaching of salvation.
7. Salvation is free but we have to wait for it.
8. We are saved by grace through faith, not by works.
9. God gives rewards to believers who obey and serve Him faithfully.
10. God gives these rewards now in this life.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Which three Bible passages, referred to in this chapter, have had the greatest impact on you?

Judgments

The Bible often speaks about judgment. God is holy and just but men are wicked and sinful so God must judge sinful men. The Bible says in Hebrews chapter nine and verse twenty-seven that everyone must die and after he dies God will judge him. This is something that each of us should think about carefully. What will He say to me when He judges me for my sins?

The Bible tells us about different judgments at different times for different people. We should know about the judgment of Christ on the cross for our sins.

The Judgment of Christ on the Cross

One of the first great lessons in the Bible is that God is holy and must punish sin. He punishes the person who has sinned, or He punishes another who is willing to suffer for the guilty person. God used types or little pictures to teach this lesson in the Old Testament. God told the people in those times to bring an animal and kill it as a sacrifice to God. The animal died instead of the person who sinned and should have died for his sins.

God told Moses to make an altar called the altar of

burnt offering and to put fire on it and enough wood to keep the fire burning always. They killed an animal every day and poured out its blood, but the rest of the animal they burned on the fire. It was a little picture of the Lord Jesus' love for His Father, God. He was willing to suffer death and judgment just because He loved His Father so much. Please read Leviticus chapter one and think about it carefully. Then read chapter 10 of Hebrews and verses 5-7 and see that Jesus died on the cross because He loved God so much.

But Jesus also died on the cross because He loved us. Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, "The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me." Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that God the Father made Him like the animal that died for the sins of people. Jesus became our Sin-Offering. He died for our sins. God punished Him instead of us and now we are not guilty sinners in the sight of God. God gives His perfect righteousness to those who believe in Jesus.

There was darkness when Jesus was dying on the cross for our sins. Christ cried to God out of the darkness and asked why He had left Him. It was during that time that Jesus experienced the punishment that we should have experienced. It was then that He took our place and our punishment.

There are other verses that we should think about:

1 Peter 2:24.

Peter says that Christ himself bore, or carried on Himself, our sins in His own body when He hung on the cross, the tree.

1 Peter 3:18.

Christ suffered for sins, though He had no sins. He suffered for unjust people, for sinners. We can come to God because Jesus suffered under God's punishment for our sins, not for His own.

Hebrews 1:3.

Jesus Christ is God, the Creator, the Person who made

everything. He was just as great and glorious as God the Father and yet He Himself took away our sins by giving Himself for us. Read the first three verses of Hebrews chapter one and see that it was a wonderful thing Jesus did because He is such a great Person.

The Judgment of the Sins of Believers

Our sins are all forgiven when we accept Christ as our Savior. We are saved, but God leaves us here in this world for a time and so we sin again. Do we have to be saved again? No. God forgave all our sins. The Lord Jesus died for all our sins on the cross. John wrote in his letter that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleans away all sin. Read 1 John 1:9.

We are saved and we become a child of God when we trust in Christ; God becomes our Father. God treats us as His children and trains us, or chastens us. He makes us hurt and makes us sad so we will learn not to sin and cause Him to be sad and disappointed in us. We read about chastening or training in Hebrews 12:7. Every human father should chasten and train his children. God chastens His children, too. We must endure God's training and chastening and so please our heavenly Father.

We should also judge ourselves. We need to read God's Word carefully to see if we are doing the things God wants us to do. If we are not pleasing God, we need to confess our sins to God and to ask Him to forgive us. Paul was talking about this when he wrote verses 31 and 32 of 1 Corinthians chapter 11.

The church should judge believers who are a part of a church group or fellowship. First Corinthians chapter five tells of a man who was in the church and had done something very wrong. Paul wrote to the people of that church to put that man out of their fellowship. He said in verse 12 of chapter 5, "Don't you judge those who are inside?" Then he told them in verse 13 to put the wicked person away from themselves.

Judgment of Believers' Doings

There are also some verses in the Bible which teach that believers will get a reward or a prize for the things they have done to please God. Some verses call the place of this judgment, "the judgment seat of Christ." It is like the place where players or runners receive their prizes after a game or a race. Here are some verses which refer to that judgment:

2 Corinthians 5:9,10.

Paul wrote this book, and he said that he always wanted to please the Lord because he and every other believer must come to the judgment seat of Christ. They will receive some reward for all they have done for Christ.

Romans 14:10.

The believers in Rome had different opinions about things they should do or shouldn't do. Some were condemning other believers because they did not agree with them. Paul told them that they shouldn't condemn each other because each one would come to the judgment seat of Christ. Christ will judge each one in a just way.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

Paul and Apollos had both been teaching and preaching at Corinth. Paul had gone there first and preached the gospel and many people trusted in Christ. Apollos came later and taught the believers and helped them to grow in their spiritual lives. Some believers began to say, "I am Paul's follower." Some others said, "I am Apollos' follower." Paul wrote and said, "You are all followers of Christ, and Apollos and I are only servants of Christ. Christ will reward both Apollos and me if we have faithfully served Him and helped you." There will be no reward for anyone who has not served Christ honestly and faithfully. That is what Paul meant by the story of materials built on a foundation. Some were very good and valuable and Christ will reward those who served Him faithfully. Some materials were burned up. Some

people have not served Christ honestly and faithfully and they will not get a reward. They will be saved, but they will have no reward.

Mark 9:41.

The Lord Jesus told His disciples that He will reward a person who gives even a cup of cold water to another person because he is a believer in Christ. God is very generous; He loves to give and He loves to reward those who give to others because they love Him.

The Judgment of the Nations

Before He went away the Lord Jesus told His disciples about His return to earth. We find these prophecies in chapters twenty-four and twenty-five of Matthew. Mark also tells us what Jesus said when He told His disciples about things that will happen when He comes back, Mark 13:1-37. Luke tells us about the same things in Luke 21:5-36. Matthew tells us a little more than either Mark or Luke. He tells us that Christ will judge people when He comes back to reign on earth as King. Please notice that He says “when He comes in His glory, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.” This is in Matthew 25:31. He says that all the nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate them into two groups. The one group will come with Him into His kingdom, verse 34. The other group of people will be sent to a place where they will be punished forever. This is in verse 46.

We will notice a few things about this judgment:

1. The time of the judgment.

It is when Christ comes in His glory and sits on His throne. We learned about the periods of time in the history of men on earth. We called one of these periods of time, the reign of Christ on earth for one thousand years. The time of this judgment is at the beginning of this period. Please also read Revelation chapter 20.

2. The reason for the judgment.

Christ's kingdom will be righteous. He must remove

from His kingdom the people who do not want Him and who have mistreated His people.

The Lord Jesus told His disciples a story about wheat and weeds in Matthew chapter thirteen. Wheat is a good plant and weeds are bad plants. He said that people gather the good plants, the wheat, and keep the grain, but they burn the bad plants, the weeds. Then He said that He will send His angels and they will gather all those who are bad from His kingdom and will throw them into the fire. Read Matthew 13:36-43.

3. The things that make the difference in the judgment.

The Lord Jesus told one group of people to come and enjoy His kingdom with Him. He said that the reason for His decision was that these people had been kind to "His brothers." Read this in Matthew 25:35 and 36. They did this because they trusted and loved Him. They had lived in the time of great trouble and persecution for anyone who followed Christ. It was especially hard for Jewish people who believed in Him and waited for Him to come as their King. These people of the nations came into the kingdom of Christ because they believed in Him and loved Him and His people.

He sent the other group of people away into everlasting punishment because they had not been kind to "His brothers." Read verses 41 to 46 of Matthew 25. These people did not believe Christ or receive Him as their King. They were not kind to His people in the time of great trouble and tribulation. They will suffer for ever.

4. Old Testament verses referring to this judgment.

There seems to be a connection between the verses in Matthew 25:31-46 and Joel 3:1-17. The Lord says in verse 12 of Joel chapter 3, "I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations." He had promised in verse 2 of the same chapter, "I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat and I will judge them there." There may be some differences

between these verses in Joel and those in Matthew, but both groups of verses promise that Christ will judge the nations, or the peoples. Both groups of verses seem to refer to the same period of time.

The Judgment of Sinful Dead People

The Lord tells of a very frightening experience in Revelation chapter 20, verses 11-13. This is very fearful because the place of judgment is called a great white throne. John says that earth and heaven tried to run away from that throne, but there was no place for them to hide.

The Person on that throne is called "God" in verse 12, and we know that this Person is Jesus Christ, who is God, John 1:1. The Lord Jesus said that the Father God does not judge anyone, He has given that authority to the Son, John 5:22. He also said in verse 27 of John, chapter five, that the Father has given the Son the authority to judge because He is the Son of Man.

The judge on the throne judges people who have died, Revelation 20:11,12. In Hebrews chapter nine, verse twenty-seven, we read that men must die and after death God will judge them. We read of the time of judgment for sinful people in these verses. We know that God is not judging believers in these verses, for the Lord Jesus promised that those who believe in Him will not come into judgment. They have passed from death into life, John 5:24.

Please notice the time of this judgment and the result of this judgment.

1. The time of the judgment.

The earlier verses of Revelation chapter 20 tell us that an angel tied the devil and put him in a prison, verses 1-3. After they put Satan in prison, people who had died for Christ's sake were raised from death and shared Christ's kingdom. Christ had reigned for a thousand years but Satan was set free and he went and gathered many people to fight against Christ. God sent fire from heaven and burned up Satan and his army and they

threw Satan into the lake of fire. Then John saw this great judgment; it was after the reign of Christ on earth.

2. The result of the judgment.

The Bible says that they threw everyone into the lake of fire unless his name was written in the Book of Life. That means that everyone will suffer for ever unless he has repented and turned to Christ. There are many Bible verses that say the same thing in different words. John wrote the same thing in chapter three and verse thirty-six of the Gospel of John. He said that the one who believes on the Son has eternal life. The person who does not believe in Him does not have eternal life, but God's anger is on him. That means that God will punish him for ever!

EXAM 9 Judgements

Enter the correct answer in the space provided:

1. According to the Bible, after death
 - a. there is nothing
 - b. there is judgement for sin
 - c. there is heaven for all
2. Jesus
 - a. experienced the punishment that we should have experienced
 - b. suffered for His own sins
 - c. had no control over His death
3. Believers
 - a. do not sin
 - b. have to be saved again if they sin
 - c. have the assurance that God forgave ALL their sins
4. The Judgement of the Nations
 - a. will take place when Christ comes in His glory and sits on His Throne
 - b. is not referred to in the Old Testament
 - c. is prophesied in the gospel of John
5. The Person judging on the Great White Throne is
 - a. God the Father
 - b. God the Holy Spirit
 - c. God the Son

Enter TRUE or FALSE:

6. The Bible tells us about only one judgement.
7. God can overlook sin.
8. Peter says that Christ Himself, bore our sins in His own body on the tree.
9. The Lord Jesus promised that those who believe in Him will not come into judgement.
10. The person who does not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ does not have eternal life, but God's anger is on him.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Is your name written in the Lamb's book of Life?
if not, why not put your trust in Jesus now?