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TEACHINGS OF JESUS

BIBLE COURSE

Hello! It is with great joy that we present you the Bible course Teachings of Jesus. I am confident that this material will facilitate your Bible study, helping you to better understand God's will for your life.

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1 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

Qumran Caves - Bogdan siudy

JESUS called the sacred writings of His day “Scriptures” (Matthew 21:42). They may also be called “the Scripture of Truth” (Daniel 10:21); “Words of Life” (Acts 7:38); “Holy Scriptures” (Romans 1:2); “holy writings” (2 Timothy 3:15); or even “the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). It is popularly known as the Holy Bible. Written over more than 1,500 years, by around 40 writers who lived in different times and circumstances, it is God’s source of truth and handbook for us. Today we will learn more about the holy book.

Learning together

1. According to Jesus, what can be found in the Scriptures? John 5:39

At the end of this world’s history, every human being will receive either eternal life or eternal death. To help us make the right choice, God left us a handbook, a practical guide: the Bible. It contains all the necessary guidelines to take hold of eternal life.

2. What stern rebuke did Jesus give to religious leaders in His time? Matthew 22:29.

Jesus had a deep knowledge of the Scriptures. Since His childhood, He had an affinity with the sacred teachings. At the age of 12, He was already arguing in the temple with the doctors of the law (Luke 2:42, 46). When tempted by Satan in the wilderness, He demonstrated His knowledge of the Word by answering, "It is written" (Luke 4:4, 8).

Jesus' Bible

In the days of Christ, the books that make up the New Testament did not yet exist. The first writings to be produced were Paul's letters, about 20 years after the death of Jesus.

3. What Bible did Jesus use? Matthew 5:17;7:12

The expression "Law" was used to designate the five books written by Moses, also called the Pentateuch. "Prophets" is a reference to all the other books. In all, the Old Testament is made up of 39 books.

4. Who prompted the prophets to write the holy book? 2 Peter 1:21.

The Bible was written by about 40 writers inspired by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, God is its Author. It was He who chose and inspired these holy men to record the histories, teachings, and counsel that should be preserved for future generations. He not only inspired the prophets. Jesus said that He also would lead us into all truth (John 16:13) and remind us of the things Jesus taught (John 14:26). Therefore, He is the author of the Scriptures and also the Teacher.

The original languages of the Bible

The Old Testament was almost entirely written in Hebrew, and the New Testament was written in Greek. Hebrew was the language of the Hebrews or Israelites. The Greek of the New Testament is called koiné, which means "common language of the people."

There is also a third language in the Bible, Aramaic. It was the language of the Arameans, who lived mainly in Mesopotamia and Syria. It was adopted by the Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians, and was also spoken during the time of Christ. In the Old Testament, we find Aramaic in the expression "Jegar-Saaduta" (Genesis 31:47), in Jeremiah 10:11, in sections of Ezra 4:8 to 6:18, 7:12 to 16 and 22 to 26, and in Daniel 2:4 to 7:28.

Division of the Bible into chapters and verses

The division into chapters, used in modern editions of the Bible, has been attributed to Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury and professor at the University of Paris, who died in 1228. The division into numbered verses was made by Robert Estienne, a famous French printer and scholar, in the 16th century. He made the numerical separation of the verses in the Old Testament in 1548 and in the New Testament in 1551.

5. According to Jesus, what is the source of truth? John 17:17.

Jesus was clear in establishing the Word of God as the norm or standard of truth. Many religious and philosophical groups have other sources as the norm of truth. Buddhists believe in the teachings of Buddha. Muslims believe in the Quran; Kardecist Spiritists believe in the writings of Alan Kardec. Mormons believe in the writings of Joseph Smith. However, Christianity, to be authentic, must rely only on the Bible as the sole authority and norm of faith and practice.

6. What are the benefits of studying the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

David, the Psalmist, compared the Word of God to a lamp (Psalm 119:105). The light of God's Word dispels the darkness of evil and sin.

Regarding how people receive the Word of God

Jesus taught through many parables. In the parable of the sower (Matthew 13), He presented a seed as a symbol of the principles of the kingdom of God planted in the human heart. The different types of soil in the parable represent the willingness of the heart to accept and assimilate these principles into life.

7. What are the types of soil presented in the parable? What do they mean? Matthew 13.

Verses 4 and 19: _____

Verses 5, 20, and 21: _____

Verses 7 and 22: _____

Verses 8 and 23: _____

8. For how long is the Word of God valid? Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8.

Some believe that the Old Testament has lost its value. However, the Gospels proved that Jesus constantly drew on the Old Testament Scriptures as endowments of ultimate authority. When tempted by the devil to assuage His hunger, Jesus resisted, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3: "Man shall not live on bread alone." Thus, the Word of God stays forever!

9. Upon whom did Christ pronounce a special blessing? Luke 11:28.

A similar promise is made in Revelation 1:3: "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." It is not enough to simply hear the instructions of the Bible. We need, by the grace of God, to obey what is revealed, and then we will attain true happiness.

Conclusion

We must accept the Holy Scriptures as the infallible revelation of God. No Christian will grow in grace without the habit of reading and obedience to the teachings of the book of God.

My decision:

- ☐ I believe that the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ I desire to accept it as a rule of faith and practice.
- ☐ I promise, by the grace of God, to study and practice its teachings.

2 LESSON



WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE SALVATION

Golgotha Hill - Freepik

JESUS came to this world with a clear mission: to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). He came to rescue humanity from eternal death. At His birth, the angel had told Joseph, “You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). At His presentation in the temple, about 40 days after His birth, the devout Simeon declared, “Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You may now dismiss Your servant in peace, [...] for my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:29-30). The great mission of Jesus is to save.

Learning Together

The Bible informs us that all have sinned (Romans 5:12), and since the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), the certain destiny of every human being would be that. However, so that we could have a second chance, Jesus intervened. He was willing to die in our place and, in this way, save us from the condemnation of sin and guarantee us the right to eternal life.

- 1. What is the condition of human nature after sin?** Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 15:19.
-

Jesus taught that the human heart is corrupt and full of death, adultery, prostitution, etc. Sin established a separation between the creature and its Creator (Isaiah 59:2). To overcome this abyss, Jesus had to come to the world, becoming the link between God and humanity (John 14:6). Through His divinity, Jesus is connected to God, and through His humanity, He is connected to us.

2. What plan did God establish to save human beings from eternal death? John 3:16.

Jesus was sent by God to assume the sins of humanity and die in their place, “But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman” (Galatians 4:4). This was not a last-minute plan, as God was not caught off guard by sin. Even before humanity was created, a plan was devised in case they fell. That is why the Bible teaches that Jesus, the Lamb of God, was slain before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19-20; Revelation 13:8).

3. How did Jesus define His mission? John 12:47.

Jesus came to this world because humanity needed to be saved from eternal death. It was a wonderful act of love. Leaving the heavenly courts and all His glory, assuming our fragile nature, and dying on a rough cross – he did it all out of love. If this does not touch our hearts, nothing else will.

4. What did Jesus do for us on the cross? John 10:15; Peter 2:24.

Indeed, even eternity will be insufficient to thank Jesus for everything he has done for us. By taking on our guilt, he had to die our death. It is even more impressive that Jesus did this even knowing that many would not recognize this sacrifice. How many people today live as if there were no story of the cross! Have you ever stopped to think about that?

In Christ, however, we have a profound union with God. Through His righteous life and substitutionary death, we are justified and accepted by the Father.

5. What did Jesus teach about joy in Heaven when a sinner is saved? Luke 15:4-7.

With Jesus, the story always has a happy ending. Even without making an effort, just by desperately crying out, the sheep was saved. This parable teaches us that Jesus is the Shepherd who always comes. In our desperation, when we

cry out for help, he will come to meet us. He will heal our wounds, put us on His shoulders, and safely bring us home.

Another teaching of the parable is that there is rejoicing in Heaven when a son or daughter returns home. This joy was felt by Jesus. The prophet Isaiah declares, "He [Jesus] will see the fruit of the travail of His soul and be satisfied" (Isaiah 53:11).

6. Does salvation depend on our works? Ephesians 2:8, 9; Galatians 2:16.

We are saved by the grace of God regardless of good works, that is, regardless of our good deeds. This salvation is received by faith in Christ as the promised one "Lamb of God". This is faith in the justice of Christ that is imputed to us, faith in His merits, fully sufficient to forgive and save us. Paul confessed: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14).

7. How can a human being attain salvation? Acts 16:31; 1 John 5:11, 12.

The Bible establishes a clear contrast between the true and false ways of salvation. Paul declares: "Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness" (Romans 4:4-5). This is the crucial issue - no one needs works to be justified. We only need to believe and trust in Christ.

8. If we are saved by grace alone, what is the value of works in the Christian life? Ephesians 2:10; James 2:17.

There are two very common errors nowadays. The first is to believe that our works can somehow contribute to our salvation. The Bible teaches that those who seek to become holy through their own works are attempting the impossible (Jeremiah 13:23; Isaiah 64:6).

The opposite error, and no less dangerous, is to think that belief in Christ exempts us from observing God's law and the demands of the Gospel. We are saved by grace, but those who are not in Christ will be judged by their works (Matthew 12:36; 16:27; Revelation 20:12). In the scene of the "Great Judgment," Jesus made it clear that the saved practiced good works. In other words, the natural result of being saved by Jesus is the practice of good works (Matthew 25:37-40). Jesus made it clear that when we are connected to him, it will be impossible not to bear fruit (John 15:5, 8).

Conclusion

Even before humanity sinned, God had established a plan to redeem them. Jesus would come to the world to die in their place. We are saved solely by the grace of Jesus. When the sinner, through faith, accepts Christ as their personal Savior, Christ's righteousness is imputed to them, replacing their life of sin. The result of Christ's dwelling in the heart is the practice of good works, as a "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23). The great news of the Gospel is that it was not us who chose Christ, but He chose us and destined us for salvation (John 15:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:9).

My decision:

- ☐ Now that I have understood the wonderful plan of salvation, I desire to trust solely in the merits of Christ to be saved.
- ☐ I desire, through His dwelling in my heart, to produce the fruits of repentance and thus glorify His name.



3 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE SANTIFICATION

Capernaum Synagogue - Eddie Gerald


JESUS was recognized as the “Holy One of God” (John 6:69; Luke 1:35; 4:34). No one could point out a single sin in him (John 8:46). John wrote that Jesus appeared to take away the sins of the world and that “in him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5, NIV). The Bible is clear in teaching, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). How can we achieve this holiness?

Learning Together

In our last lesson, we learned that the Bible presents salvation in three tenses: past, present, and future. What Jesus did for us on the cross in the past was to bring justification, which frees us from the penalty of sin. What Jesus does for us in the present is the work of sanctification, which frees us from the power of sin. What Jesus will do for us in the future is called glorification when we will finally be free from the presence of sin. Today we will learn more about sanctification.

A Special Prayer

1. What prayer did Jesus make for His disciples? John 17:17.



When we study God's Word, the truth, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and helps us purify everything that is not sanctified. It is the Spirit who convicts us of sin and transforms us into the image and likeness of Christ. This is sanctification.

2. According to Paul, what is God's will for His children? 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

The basic meaning of sanctification is "to set apart," "to separate," as illustrated by the seventh day of creation. When God set apart the Sabbath from the other days, He blessed and sanctified it, that is, He separated it from the other six days (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11).

3. What metaphor did Jesus use to speak about sanctification? John 15:5, 7.

Just as branches need to be connected to the vine to survive and bear fruit, believers need to be united to Christ. Separated from him, we have no life. This union happens in practice when we spend time in prayer and study of His Word. At this very moment, as you study the Bible, you are connected to the Vine.

4. Why do we need sanctification? Hebrews 12:14.

To be "holy" is to be set apart from the world for God. Therefore, biblical sanctification is not simply an improvement of our moral behavior or good social actions. Biblical sanctification is living out the principles of the kingdom of God, motivated by the constant operation of the Holy Spirit within us. This operation is aimed at honoring and glorifying God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

5. How does Paul address the members of the church to whom he directs his letters? Romans 1:7; Philippians 1:1.

The believers in these churches are called "saints" because they are "in Christ," not because they have achieved a state of sinlessness. If justification is what God does for us, sanctification is what God does in us. In justification, God considers us righteous; on the other hand, in sanctification, He makes us righteous. Although there is no human merit in this work, sanctification requires a complete and daily surrender to God's will and the rejection of habits and attitudes that lead to the practice of sin.

6. Whose work is sanctification? 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

In order to enable a person to experience sanctification, God grants His Spirit. Now, filled with the Spirit, we no longer walk “according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:4). As we walk, our faith increases and our transformation progresses. In this way, we obtain new victories over the powers of darkness.

7. How did Paul emphasize to the Christians in Rome their total obligation to God? Romans 12:1-2.

Merely knowing the truth is not enough for character development. With knowledge, there must come obedience. Knowing what is right and not practicing it will not make us grow in holiness. When we accept Christ as our Savior and Lord and submit our will to His, then we grow in grace.

The development of character involves two elements: (1) the conscious choice to do what is right according to the light received, and (2) obedience to conscience. Therefore, the will of the Christian plays an important role in sanctification. Before conversion, our will was more subject to Satan’s influence, however, upon accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior, we must consciously surrender and submit our selfish will to the will of Christ and His Spirit.

8. What advice does the Apostle Peter give us? 2 Peter 3:18.

Growth is not automatic, whether physical or spiritual. Both require food, drink, and exercise. This means that we should maintain communion with Christ through prayer and reading the Bible to nourish ourselves (John 6:56). We also need to exercise our faith by witnessing to others about Christ (Luke 8:38, 39). This is the way to spiritual growth and sanctification.

Conclusion

Sanctification should not be confused with impeccability. The sinful nature with which we are born will only be removed from us in glorification, at the time of Jesus’ return. We sin because we are sinners. This is the natural tendency of every human being. Therefore, true holiness can only be achieved by persevering to stay close to Christ. In this way, Jesus’ sinless life is attributed to us as a gift, and we are saved by His merits.

My decision:

- ☐ I desire to have a relationship with Christ through prayer and Bible study, leading a life of holiness and constant growth with Jesus.
- ☐ I desire to open my heart to the influence of the Holy Spirit and allow him to transform me daily into the image of Christ.
- ☐ I desire to exercise my faith by sharing the truths of the Bible that I have learned.

4

LESSON



WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit - Shutterstock

JESUS was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18), baptized with the Spirit (Mark 1:9, 10), led by the Spirit (Luke 4:1), and performed His miracles through the Spirit (Matthew 12:28). These are some examples that Jesus' mission and the mission of the Holy Spirit were completely interdependent. After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit came to earth to be with believers until Jesus returned again (John 14:1-3, 16). Today, we will learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Learning together

The Bible reveals that the Holy Spirit is a Person, and not an impersonal force or power (Acts 15:28). He possesses the same attributes of Divinity, for he is God (Acts 5:3, 4). In the Old Testament, he is described as participating in the creation of the Earth (Genesis 1:2), working in the human heart (Genesis 6:3), and enabling certain individuals for special tasks (Judges 6:34). He was also promised for the last days (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:15-17).

1. What promise did Jesus make to the disciples? John 14:16, 17.

The news of Jesus' departure brought uncertainty to the hearts of the disciples. They still did not understand how it would happen. After years in the company of the Master, they did not accept the idea of His absence. However,

Jesus would not leave them as orphans. He made the promise to send “another Comforter,” the Holy Spirit. The word “another,” used by Jesus, indicates someone equal to Him. The Spirit would not only be with the disciples, but would also dwell in them. Being filled with the Spirit, they would be secure for the great challenges that awaited them.

2. When did Jesus fulfill His promise to send the Holy Spirit? John 7:39; 20:22; Acts 2:4.

The fullness of the Holy Spirit could not be granted until after Jesus had completed His mission. His death on the cross and resurrection on the third day were part of the plan of salvation. One more step was needed - the Father accepting the sacrifice of the Son on behalf of sinful human beings. When Jesus’ vicarious (or substitutionary) sacrifice was accepted by God, Jesus was glorified, and the Spirit was sent to Earth. Peter declared, “Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing” (Acts 2:33).

3. What would be the work of the Holy Spirit? John 14:26; 16:8, 13.

The Spirit, the Comforter, would be sent to teach all truth and remind us of what Jesus had taught. He not only presents the truth about Christ but brings Christ’s very presence. Thus, both the Father and the Son make their dwelling in the heart of the believer (John 14:23). Therefore, the only way we can abide in Christ is through the Spirit.

4. What is God’s willingness to give us His Spirit? Luke 11:13.

The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift that Heaven can give to human beings. We should pray with as much fervor for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed to do that at that time, today we need it much more. The great desire of the Lord is to give us His Spirit, for it is through the Spirit that God dwells in us (1 Corinthians 3:16).

5. To whom does God exclusively give His Spirit? Acts 5:32.

The Holy Spirit is given to every follower of Christ when the heart is entirely surrendered for His dwelling. Paul wrote the command, “Be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18), and this command is also a promise of its fulfillment. If we seek to align our life with God’s will, if we humble ourselves and confess our dependence, the Spirit will come in response to our prayers.

6. According to Jesus, for which sin is there no forgiveness? Matthew 12:31, 32.

Jesus taught that one of the functions of the Spirit would be to convince men of their sin (John 16:8, 9). Repentance or sorrow for sin can only occur by the action of the Spirit in the heart. Therefore, sin against the Holy Spirit is the persistent refusal to heed His invitations to repentance. God is always willing to accept repentance, for “He is rich in forgiving” (Isaiah 55:7), but human beings themselves, by the hardness of their hearts and attachment to sin, place themselves beyond the reach of God’s grace.

Conclusion:

After the ascension of Christ, the disciples anxiously awaited the fulfillment of His promise to send the Spirit. Upon entering the gates of heaven, Jesus was enthroned amidst the worship of the angels (Psalm 24:7-10). As soon as this ceremony was completed, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples as proof of Jesus’ authority as Priest and King, and all power in heaven and earth was given to him.

Jesus did not close the reservoir of heaven after pouring out His Spirit on Pentecost. We have the privilege today of being baptized with the same power. Heaven is full of the treasures of His grace, and those who go to God in faith can claim everything he has promised.

My decision

- ☐ I believe in the Holy Spirit of God as the Comforter, my friend and helper.
- ☐ I desire to open my heart to His influence and to listen to His loving counsel and teachings.
- ☐ I will seek to receive His daily baptism and help others to know more about Jesus.



5 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE

PRAYER

Cethsemane - Freepik

JESUS was a man of prayer. He enjoyed seeking a solitary place for those enjoyable moments of communion with the Father (Mark 6:46; Luke 5:16). Sometimes, he spent the whole night praying (Luke 6:12). He also liked to pray for His disciples (John 17:8, 9). He even prayed for all of us (John 17:20).

Since Jesus is our example in all things, we should pray as he prayed. Considering that the Son of God felt the need to pray, how much more should we, weak and sinful mortals that we are, feel the need for constant prayer!

Learning together

Christ's prayers and His habit of communing with God greatly impressed the disciples. On one occasion, they found him concentrated, praying. Unaware of their presence, he continued praying out loud. The hearts of the disciples were deeply touched.

1. What request did the disciples make to Jesus? Luke 11:1.

The disciples felt the need to pray. So, Jesus began to teach them how to pray. He instructed them to present their daily needs to God and to cast all their concerns upon Him.

The certainty that Jesus gave them, that their petitions would be heard, is also a reality for us today.

2. What prayer did Jesus teach the disciples? Luke 11:2-4.

Corresponding to their request, Christ spoke the “Lord’s Prayer,” just as he had given it in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:9-13). This is a model prayer and presents elements that should be present in all of our prayers. We should approach God with thanksgiving, talk about our needs, confess the sins we have committed, and plead for mercy in harmony with His promise.

Types of prayer

3. What kind of prayer did Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount? Matthew 6:5-8.

Secret prayer should only be heard by Jesus. We should form the habit of having a quiet place for these moments of communion. When we pray, we should open our hearts to God like a friend, talking about our victories and defeats, losses and gains, joys and sorrows. Remember: God is not a Father who only wants to hear good news from His children, without caring about their problems. The Lord wants us to talk about everything that happens in our lives.

4. What wonderful promise did Jesus make regarding our requests? Matthew 21:22.

It is wonderful to know that God inclines Himself from His throne to hear the cry of the oppressed. It was with this certainty that David and Daniel developed the habit of praying three times a day (Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10). They saw in every difficulty a call to prayer. We should do the same.

Conditions for Prayer to be Answered

There are certain conditions under which we can expect God to hear our prayers. Let’s examine some of them:

First condition: Feeling the need for help (Matthew 7:7, 8)

Those who recognize their need and long for God can be sure that they will be satisfied. The heart must be open to the influence of the Spirit; otherwise, God’s blessing cannot be obtained. We are as needy of God’s care as a baby is in need of the attention and care of parents.

Second condition: Pray with faith (Mark 11:24)

Jesus praised many who were healed by their faith (Luke 18:42) and criticized the lack of faith even among the disciples (Luke 8:25). James taught that when we ask without faith, we will be like waves of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind (James 1:6). In fact, the Bible is clear in teaching that “without faith, it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). Therefore, we must also pray with faith.

Third condition: Obey the commandments (John 15:7)

All gifts are promised on the condition of obedience. Those who disobey the law have their prayers refused by Heaven (Proverbs 28:9). God has a heaven full of blessings for those who cooperate with Him. All who are obedient to Him can ask for the fulfillment of His promises. The Apostle John taught: “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments” (1 John 3:22).

Fourth condition: Forgive those who offend us (Mark 11:25, 26)

Jesus taught in the model prayer: “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). If we expect our prayers to be answered, we must forgive others in the same way and to the same extent that we expect to be forgiven.

Fifth condition: Ask according to God’s will (Matthew 26:42)

The Apostle John also taught this truth: “And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us” (1 John 5:14). We are so fallible that sometimes we ask for things that would not be a blessing. However, God is so kind that He only grants what He knows to be for our benefit.

Sixth condition: Persevere and do not give up (Luke 18:1-7)

Perseverance in prayer is also a condition for it to be answered. We must pray continually if we want to grow in faith and experience. Paul advised: “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2).

Seventh condition: Pray in the name of Jesus (John 14:13)

Praying in the name of Jesus is more than just mentioning His name at the beginning and end of the prayer. It is to pray according to the feeling and spirit of Jesus, while at the same time believing in His promises and resting in His grace. Christ Himself declared: “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13).

Conclusion

God has three ways to answer our prayers: YES, NO or WAIT. The answer will always be YES when all the conditions are met and what we ask for is the best for us. The answer will be NO when what we ask for is not the best for us. James wrote: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions" (James 4:3). God is very wise, so He never makes a mistake. At the same time, because of His infinite love, He will never fail to bless those who are sincere. The answer will be WAIT when God wants to test our faith or experience the sincerity of our desire. Maybe it is not yet time for us to receive what we ask for, but the blessing will come later.

My decision

- ☐ Now that I have a better understanding of prayer, I decide to fully trust in the God who hears prayers.
- ☐ I decide that in addition to family and public prayers, I will set aside time every day for private prayer.
- ☐ I desire, through the grace of Christ, to fulfill all the conditions so that my prayers may be answered.



6 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE FORGIVENESS

Sea of Galilee - Dave Herring

JESUS practiced forgiveness extensively in His earthly ministry. He said dozens of times, “Your sins are forgiven” (Matthew 9:2; Luke 5:20). Even in the hour of His death, suffering the torments of crucifixion, His prayer was, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

Just as a person needs oxygen to breathe, human beings depend on God’s forgiveness. We need it every moment. However, how can divine forgiveness be achieved? And when I offend someone or am offended, to whom should I ask for forgiveness? In this study, we will find answers.

Learning together

1. What is the human beings’ situation? Romans 3:10, 23.

How can someone be righteous before God? It is only through Christ that we achieve harmony with God. But how should we come to Christ? Many are asking today the same question that the crowd asked on the day of Pentecost when, convinced of their sin, they cried out, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Peter’s answer was, “Repent” (Acts 2:38). On another occasion, he said, “Repent [...] and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out” (Acts 3:19).

2. What prayer did David make after he sinned against God? Psalm 51:1, 2, 10.

David's prayer, after the greatest mistake of his life, illustrates the nature of true sorrow for sin. His repentance was sincere and profound. He made no effort to diminish the guilt. It was not the desire to escape judgment that inspired his prayer. David recognized the enormity of his transgression, saw the contamination of his being, and felt disgust for sin. He did not only plead for forgiveness, but also for a pure heart. He desired the joy of holiness and to be once again in harmony with God.

3. Who alone can forgive sins? Psalm 130:4; Mark 2:7.

No human being has the power to forgive sins. Only God, through Christ, who never sinned, can grant us forgiveness and peace of mind. The teaching that any human being has the power to forgive sins is not in harmony with the Bible. No human action is capable of obtaining forgiveness. Only God, in Jesus Christ, can forgive our sins. Therefore, we must approach him with a truly repentant heart.

4. Does only Jesus forgive or can humans also forgive? John 20:23; Ephesians 4:32.

Forgiveness has two dimensions. If it is true that every sin must be confessed to God (vertical dimension), it is also true that we must seek forgiveness when we offend someone (horizontal dimension). Jesus himself taught, "If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4).

Conditions for Forgiveness

5. What is necessary, according to the Bible, to obtain the remission of sins? Acts 2:38.

Repentance is the first condition for forgiveness. However, many do not come to Christ because they do not yet feel repentant. Repentance is not produced by a mental exercise, but only when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, convicting us of our mistakes and the need for change. Just as we cannot obtain forgiveness without Christ, we also cannot repent without the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin.

6. After repenting, what should the sinner do? 1 John 1:9.

Once we have repented, we must present our confession to God in a clear and specific way. If we do this, we will be washed by Jesus, and His blood will purify us from all unrighteousness. Only he can accomplish this work. Christ poured out His precious blood to purify us because there can be no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22).

7. What condition did Jesus present for the forgiveness of our sins? Matthew 6:12.

After finishing the model prayer, Jesus also declared: “But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15). Those who are unwilling to exercise mercy towards those who offend them cannot obtain mercy from God. It is human selfishness to desire divine forgiveness without being willing to offer forgiveness to others.

8. How many times should I forgive someone who offends me? Matthew 18:21, 22.

The ancient teachers limited the practice of forgiveness to three offenses, at most. Peter, who professed to follow Christ’s teachings, expanded it to seven, a number that indicates perfection. However, Christ taught that we should never tire of forgiving. Not “up to seven,” he said, “but up to seventy times seven,” meaning we should forgive those who offend us as many times as God forgives us.

Conclusion

Only Jesus has the power to forgive our sins. Therefore, we can approach Him with confidence to receive the relief we so desperately need. However, many people expect to deserve God’s grace and forgiveness by doing good deeds. They do not recognize their sinfulness and incapacity. Only when we discover that we possess nothing that qualifies us for Heaven, does the Spirit create in us a desire for change.

My decision:

- ☐ I believe that only Jesus can forgive my sins.
- ☐ I desire to confess my faults to Him and trust in His mercy to obtain forgiveness.
- ☐ I decide, from today onwards, to forgive those who offend me, just as Jesus forgave me.



7 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE MONEY


City of Jericho - Valdemaras D.

JESUS spoke extensively about the love of money in His teachings. After the topic of the “kingdom of God,” the Master spoke more about money than any other subject. For Christ, wealth can suffocate spirituality, becoming a rival god that often enchants its worshipers. Since money is part of our daily lives, how can we live without making it an idol? Jesus taught two practical and systematic ways: tithing and offering.

Learning Together

The act of tithing - The word tithe means “tenth part.” It is holy and belongs to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30). By returning to God the tithe of our income, we recognize that all things belong to Him and participate in fulfilling the mission of preaching the gospel to the whole world (Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; Matthew 24:14). Tithing is an act of worship and honor to God. The Bible says in Proverbs 3:9: “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase.”

1. Did Christ approve the giving of tithes? Matthew 23:23.



Jesus approved the giving of tithes, but emphasized that this act should be done with love and justice, without hypocrisy. In Luke 18:10-14, Jesus told the story of the Pharisee who boasted of returning tithes while despising the poor tax collector. The Pharisee was reproved by Jesus because his motivation and actions were wrong. The true feeling that should move us in the returning of tithes is total dependence on God, knowing that we have nothing and that everything belongs to him.

2. What is the first example in the Bible of someone returning tithes? Genesis 14:20.

Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe of everything he possessed. Melchizedek was the king of Salem and “priest of God Most High.” This was an act of recognition of divine sovereignty. In Deuteronomy 14:22-23, the Bible says: “Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the Lord your God at the place He will choose as a dwelling for His Name, so that you may learn to revere the Lord your God always.

3. How was the tithe used in Israel? Numbers 18:21.

When we read chapter 2 of Numbers, we discover that the tribe of Levi did not receive an inheritance because God set apart this tribe for full-time religious service (Numbers 1:53). God was their inheritance, the one who would provide for their needs (Deuteronomy 18:2). The tribe of Levi then began to survive on tithes from the people of Israel.

4. What does Paul affirm about the support of the evangelical ministry? 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14.

Just as it was with the tribe of Levi, pastors and workers who work full-time in the preaching of the gospel should also live on tithes. God gave special guidance on this. He does not want His work to be hindered by lack of resources. The portion that God reserved for himself should not be diverted for another purpose.

The act of offering - just as tithes should be brought to the church, voluntary offerings should also be brought into the presence of God. Tithing reflects our faithfulness to God.

5. Besides the tithe, what else should we bring to the Lord? Psalm 96:8; Malachi 3:8.

Offerings express our gratitude for everything God gives us. The tithe is a defined percentage (10%). Offerings are proportional to God's blessings, according to the value the giver has purposed in their heart (Deuteronomy 16:17; 2 Corinthians 9:7).

6. What is the essence of true giving according to Jesus? Luke 21:1-4.

Giving an offering to God is not an automatic reflection of our surrender to Him. Both the poor widow and the rich men gave voluntary offerings to maintain the services of the temple. So, what was the difference between them? The rich gave out of their surplus and only did so for religious formalism. The poor widow, despite giving only two coins, gave everything she had. To God, it is not the amount given that matters, but the level of surrender to the Lord that makes the offering acceptable before Him. The widow's gift was based on the certainty that God would provide for all her needs. Her offering came from the depths of her being. For her, it mattered little what would be left over. In fact, she did not give all she had; she gave all that she was. This is sacrifice.

7. What attitude should we have when giving tithes and offerings? 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Everything we have and are comes from the loving hands of God. How grateful we should be for the blessings we receive! This same gratitude should be demonstrated through our offerings, with joy in our hearts (2 Corinthians 8:5).

Conclusion

God makes a beautiful promise to the faithful in tithes and offerings: to open the "windows of heaven" and pour out "blessings without measure" (Malachi 3:10). Unlike what happened in the flood, where the "windows of heaven" poured out divine judgment (Genesis 7:11), God has poured out a "flood of blessings" on both the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45). However, it is certain that faithfulness to God is a spiritual exercise that brings more benefits to the giver. And God still pours out other blessings! Do you want this? Then be faithful in returning tithes and offerings.

My decision:

- ☐ I accept that tithes and offerings are part of God's plan for the maintenance of His work.
- ☐ I decide to systematically return a tenth of all my income to the Lord.
- ☐ I decide to systematically return my offerings to the Lord as an expression of my gratitude for the blessings received from him.

A photograph of the Masada Fortress, a large stone structure built on a rocky plateau overlooking the Dead Sea. The scene is captured during sunset, with a vibrant orange and yellow sky and a calm, dark blue sea in the background. The fortress's stone walls and terraces are silhouetted against the bright light of the setting sun.

8 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE HIS RETURN

Masada Fortress

JESUS will return in glory and majesty! This has been the blessed, happy hope of believers throughout the millennia. Enoch, the seventh after Adam, was already anticipating this event (Jude 14). Job, the first book of the Bible to be written, records the following words: “For I know that my Redeemer lives and at last he will stand upon the earth” (Job 19:25). Servants of God such as Abraham (Hebrews 11:8-10), David (Psalm 50:2-4), Isaiah (25:8, 9), and Habakkuk (3:3-13) held the same hope. Indeed, the second coming of Christ is the climax of the gospel and the plan of salvation.

Learning together.

1. Before His departure, what promise did Jesus make to the disciples? John 14:1-3.

Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus comforted His disciples with the promise of His return. The second coming of Jesus is the keynote of the Holy Scriptures. This glorious event is mentioned 300 times in the New Testament and over 1,500 times throughout the Bible. All the information has been given so that there would be no doubts about the importance and nearness of the event.

What will be the return of Jesus like?

2. Did Jesus teach that His return would be a secret event? Matthew 24:27; Revelation 1:7.

There is nothing secret about Jesus' return to this world. It will be a literal, visible, and audible event. Forty days after the resurrection, as Christ was returning to Heaven, angels declared to the disciples: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). If, before ascending, Jesus was a personal being who could be seen (John 20:16) and touched (John 20:27), who ate fish and honey (Luke 24:42-43), all of this indicates that His coming will be as literal and personal as His departure.

3. Who will accompany Jesus at His return? Matthew 25:31.

Thousands of angels serve God day and night. In Daniel's vision of God's throne, the prophet describes that "thousands upon thousands served him" (Daniel 7:10). All these celestial beings, commissioned by God to help in the salvation of humanity (Hebrews 1:13-14), will come with Jesus on that day. They will have the mission of gathering families separated by death (Matthew 24:31). Parents will be reunited with their children, children will embrace their parents, spouses will be reunited with their loved ones, siblings will find each other, and for all eternity, people will live united and happy.

Objectives of Jesus' return.

4. What will be one of the objectives of Jesus' return? Matthew 16:27; Revelation 22:12.

Some teach that the reward - salvation or damnation - occurs as soon as a person dies. However, this teaching is not supported by the Bible. In the scene of the great judgment described by Jesus, it is clearly taught that the reward will only be given on the day of His coming (Matthew 25:31-46).

Consequences of Jesus' return

The second coming of Christ will affect the two great divisions of humanity - those who accepted Jesus and the salvation he offered will be on one side, and those who rejected it on the other.

5. What will happen to the righteous who are alive? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

A group of the saved will not taste death. They are described in Revelations 7 and 14. They are called the 144,000. They received the seal of God on their forehead; they went through the great tribulation (Daniel 12:1; Revelation 7:13-14), during which the “time of Jacob’s trouble” will occur (Jeremiah 30:5-7). They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, and finally, they will be glorified. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, all traces of sin will disappear, and they will receive an incorruptible and immortal body.

6. What will happen to the wicked who are alive? 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

Many wicked people will die during the final events of history. However, those who are alive at the time of the Second Coming will die in the splendor of Christ and all the phenomena that will occur. In their desperation, they will try to hide in caves and rocks in the mountains. They will say to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb” (Revelation 6:16).

However, this is the first death, and they still have a second death to face - eternal death (Revelation 21:8).

7. What will happen to the righteous who are dead? 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16

Jesus compared death to sleep (Luke 8:52; John 11:11). The book of Revelation calls those who die in the Lord blessed (Revelation 14:13). At the return of Christ, it is time for them to awaken. Paul declares that Jesus will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise. They come out of the graves transformed, that is, with an incorruptible and immortal body. They will never again feel the pains or consequences of sin.

8. What will happen to the wicked who are dead? John 5:28, 29; Revelation 20:5.

The wicked dead will not be resurrected at the return of Jesus, but only a thousand years after it. This is called the second resurrection, marked by condemnation. They will be resurrected in the same way that they went down to the grave, will be deceived by Satan, and will try to invade the holy city, the New Jerusalem, which has come down from heaven. However, when they march across the surface of the earth, fire will come down from heaven and destroy them forever (Revelations 20:7-9).

The signs of the return of Jesus

9. What signs predicted by Jesus would indicate His coming? Luke 21:25, 26.

The same events predicted by Jesus - a great earthquake, signs in the sun, moon, and stars - appear in the description that the book of Revelation makes of the opening of the sixth seal (see Revelation 6:12, 13). These events have already been witnessed in history: (a) the great earthquake in Lisbon, Portugal (November 1, 1755); (b) the darkening of the sun and the red blood-like moon (May 19, 1780); and (c) the falling of the stars (November 13, 1833). All this indicates to us that only the opening of the seventh and final seal is missing, which is the very return of Jesus (Revelation 8:1)."

10. What sign did Peter point out regarding the return of Jesus? 2 Peter 3:3, 4

Even skepticism and disbelief in our day are signs of the nearness of Jesus' return. Jesus warned that people would be eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, without any concern for the end, just as it was in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:38, 39). Despite the many warnings in the Bible, many still live as if Jesus is not actually going to return.

Conclusion

We are warned that Jesus will come like a thief, that is, at an hour when we do not expect him (Matthew 24:43, 44; 2 Peter 3:10). No one should consider themselves exempt from the danger of being caught off guard.

There is only one way out: to be ready. This will only happen when the return of Jesus is the top priority in our lives. How much time have you dedicated to preparing for this event? Where does the kingdom of God rank in your value system? In the 24 hours that God gives you each day, how much time are you setting aside for reading the Bible and prayer? The answers to these questions will help you know your priorities

My decision:

- ☐ I understand that the return of Jesus will be visible, personal, and literal, and that only at His return will the reward be given to each human being.
- ☐ I decide, today, by the grace of Christ, to make all the preparation for the return of Jesus.
- ☐ I desire, with the help of the Spirit of God, to warn others about the soon return of Jesus.

9 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE

DEATH

Jewish cemetery in Tiberias, Israel - Hanay

JESUS felt the pain of death when he lost His friend Lazarus, whom he loved very much (John 11:35, 36). He faced death several times. By His power and command, he brought Lazarus back to life. He also raised the son of the widow of Nain and the daughter of Jairus. He himself experienced death, but rose again on the third day. Therefore, Jesus has all the answers regarding this intriguing topic. In this lesson, we will learn what the Bible teaches about the state of the dead.

Learning together

1. What did Jesus compare Lazarus' death to? John 11:11-13.

Jesus compared death to sleep. The apostle Paul did the same (1 Corinthians 15:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14). When we sleep, perhaps for seven or eight hours during the night, we do not perceive the passage of time. The same thing happens to those who die. They close their eyes and open them at the resurrection, as if only an instant had passed. Jesus himself declared, "Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come out" (John 5:28). The saved in the resurrection of life, and the lost in the resurrection of judgment.

Mortality or immortality

Many believe in the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. What does this

doctrine teach? Two basic points: (a) the soul exists independently of the body; (b) after the body's death, the soul remains alive. In this second point, there are divergences of thought: (1) Some believe that if the person was good, their soul goes to paradise and receives a reward. If not so good, they must go to purgatory to be purified and thus have the right to heaven. If terribly bad, they go straight to hell, which would be a place of eternal torment. (2) Others believe that immediately after death, the soul goes to meet God and receives the reward of eternal life. (3) There are still those who believe that after physical death, the soul is re-configured into another being, which is known as the doctrine of reincarnation. Let's see if the Bible supports these points of view.

2. According to the Bible, is the human being mortal or immortal? Ezekiel 18:4, 20.

The idea that man is immortal was Satan's first lie (Genesis 3:4). Since Eden, this lie has been preached on our planet. Paul is clear in affirming that only God possesses immortality (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16). However, there is great hope that one day we will be immortal, as Jesus promised (John 3:16; 5:24). Thus, immortality is not inherent in the human being but a gift from God.

3. When will the saved receive the gift of immortality? 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

Immortality will be granted only on the day of Jesus' return. So what about the biblical account of the thief on the cross (see Luke 23:42-43)? Did he not go to heaven on the same day as his death? Wasn't that what Jesus promised? In fact, no. First of all, Jesus did not go to heaven that day (Friday), He ascended after His resurrection (John 20:17). Second, Jesus was clear in affirming that the saved will only receive their reward on the day of His coming (Matthew 16:27; Revelation 22:12).

4. How does the Bible describe the state of the dead? Psalm 6:5; Ecclesiastes 9:5.

There is no consciousness in death. If this is true, there is no possibility of independent life after death. Therefore, the theory that the soul leaves the body to continue its existence has no biblical support. So, how can we understand the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)? Does it not teach that the reward comes after death? In fact, no. In the parable, Christ shows that each person decides their eternal destiny in this life. A new opportunity will not be granted. This was a familiar parable to Christ's listeners. He approached them on their own ground to teach that the poor person who trusts in God will be

rewarded, while the rich person who does not trust in God will lose eternal life.

5. How did God form the human being? Genesis 2:7.

In forming the human being, God joined dust from the earth with the breath of life, and man became a “living soul.” The best synonym for “living soul” is “person.” Each person is a soul. Some people think that each person has a soul, but this is incorrect. We do not have a soul; we are a soul.

6. What happens at the death of a human being? Genesis 3:19; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 12:7.

At death, the reverse process of creation occurs. In forming man, God joined dust from the earth (body) with the breath of life (spirit, consciousness, reason), and man became a living soul. At death, these elements separate, and none of them exists on its own. Therefore, consciousness or reason cannot be active or alive without the body, and the body cannot exist alone. Both are interdependent. That is precisely why God is clear in condemning the practice of consulting the dead, as it is not they who respond, but “spirits of demons performing miraculous signs” (Revelation 16:14; Isaiah 8:19).

Conclusion

If, at the time of death, a conscious soul or spirit immediately left the body, going to heaven, hell, or even reincarnating, what would happen to those who had already died and been resurrected? Would they have anything to tell us? In the Bible, there are several cases of people who were raised from the dead: the widow of Zarephath’s son (1 Kings 17), the Shunammite woman’s son (2 Kings 4), the widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11), Jairus’ daughter (Luke 8:41), Lazarus (John 11:1), Tabitha or Dorcas (Acts 9:36), and Eutychus (Acts 20:9).

The question is: did these people’s souls immediately go to heaven or hell? Did they report anything about the glorious things of heaven or the horrors of hell? There is no record of them saying anything, simply because death is a state of unconsciousness. According to the words of Christ, it is sleep.

My decision

- ☐ I understand that death is a sleep or a state of unconsciousness and that the dead do not know anything and cannot relate to the living.
- ☐ I understand that God has a solution for all problems, including death, and therefore promised us eternal life when Jesus returns.
- ☐ I desire, through the dwelling of Christ in my heart, to prepare myself for eternal life.



10

LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

Representation of an ancient tomb in Nazareth Village - Pxfuel

JESUS died, but He rose again and lives! This is the glorious truth of Christianity. Jesus' tomb is empty. Thanks to His resurrection, anyone who accepts Him as their Savior, even if they die, will one day be resurrected. "Resurrection" is the term we use to indicate a return to life. There are different theories about what happens after death. As we will see, all those who sleep the sleep of death will one day rise again to receive their reward.


Learning together:

1. What did Jesus teach about resurrection? John 5:28, 29.

Saved and lost will one day be resurrected. Paul affirmed this same truth: "Having hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15). Jesus did not teach that there is a reward at the time of death, but at the time of resurrection (Luke 14:14).

The first resurrection – saved

2. When will the first resurrection occur and who will be resurrected in it? 1 Thessalonians 4:16.



Paul is clear in emphasizing when this resurrection will happen: “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God.” The first resurrection will occur at the moment of Christ’s return. All the righteous dead, from Abel to the last righteous person who dies before the close of probation (Matthew 25:10; Revelation 22:11), will be resurrected to eternal life.

3. What will happen to the righteous who are alive? 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

The righteous who are resurrected will join the saved who did not experience death, and all will ascend to meet Jesus in the clouds. This text shows us once again that no one goes to heaven immediately after death, but only at the return of Jesus.

4. What extraordinary transformation will happen to the saved at the moment of Jesus’ return? 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

Paul says that the righteous dead will be resurrected in glory, and the living righteous will be transformed; that is, all physical or mental defects will disappear. Everyone will possess the eternal vigor of youth. Humans were created in the likeness of God, not only in character, but in form and appearance. Sin disfigured and almost erased the divine image, but Christ came to restore it. He will give us a body of glory (see Philippians 3:21).

The second resurrection - the lost

5. When will the second resurrection occur and who will be resurrected in it? Revelation 20:5, 6.

A thousand years after Christ’s return, the second resurrection will occur. The wicked from all ages will be resurrected. Their number is like “the sand of the sea” (Revelation 20:8). The Bible tells us that the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, will descend from heaven (Revelation 21:10) and settle on the Mount of Olives, which will split in two, forming a great valley (Zechariah 14:3, 4). The words of the prophet will be fulfilled: “Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain” (Zechariah 8:3).

6. What will happen to the wicked who are resurrected? Revelation 20:7-10.

Satan will deceive all the resurrected wicked once again. He already deceived them, leading them to perdition; in the final moment, he will deceive them by

leading them to think that they can take the holy city by force. They will march across the surface of the earth and besiege the New Jerusalem. At that moment, God will execute what the Bible calls His “strange work” (Isaiah 28:21). God never desired that humans should die (Ezekiel 18:23). He has the purpose that all should be saved, but He cannot force anyone to follow Him. Each human being must make their own choice.

When the wicked are marching towards the city to attack it, God will send fire from heaven and destroy them all. The devil, the beast, the false prophet, and all the lost will be completely destroyed, with “neither root nor branch” left (Malachi 4:1).

7. What will happen to this planet after the destruction of the wicked?

Revelation 21:1-4.

The same fire that destroys evil will purify this planet to be the eternal dwelling place of the saved. God will make all things new. Everything that humans lost in Eden will be restored. The river of life, the tree of life, and eternal life.

Let's summarize the future events:

(1) Jesus will return in power and glory (Revelation 1:7). (2) The dead in Christ (the righteous) will be resurrected (1 Thessalonians 4:16). (3) The righteous living will be transformed (1 Thessalonians 4:17). (4) The wicked living will be killed at the second coming of Jesus (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 6:15-17). (5) The saved will go to heaven and reign with Christ for a thousand years, while Satan remains imprisoned on earth (Revelation 20:6). (6) After the thousand years, Satan will be released and deceive all the wicked who are resurrected, leading them to think they can attack the holy city (Revelation 20:7-9). (7) When they surround the holy city, God will send fire from heaven and consume them all (Revelation 20:10); the earth will be the eternal dwelling place of the saved (Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1).

Conclusion

How can we reconcile the idea of a loving God with this terrible destruction? First, we must understand that divine grace is offered to all (John 3:16); and everything that needs to be done for the salvation of humanity, Jesus did on the cross (1 Peter 2:24). Today, he appeals to each one of us: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20). Jesus made it clear that the lake of fire was not prepared for us (Matthew 25:41). However, anyone who does not abandon a life of sin and does not accept Christ as their personal savior will one day have the same fate as sin and its originator.

My decision

- ☐ I understand that one day all the dead will be resurrected, some to the resurrection of life; others, to the resurrection of judgment.
- ☐ I accept this truth in my life and wish to soon see the people I love and who were taken by death.
- ☐ I trust completely that if death comes to me, Jesus will call me from the grave and give me eternal life on the day of his coming.

11

LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE

JUDGMENT

Dead Sea

JESUS spoke about a day of judgment. He said to the Pharisees, “I tell you that on the Day of Judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak” (Matthew 12:36). Paul declared, “because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31). The first angel of Revelation 14 announces in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come” (Revelation 14:7). The theme of judgment is recurrent in the Bible and is connected to the work of salvation performed by God.

Learning together

1. How many people will face divine judgment? 2 Corinthians 5:10.

The judgment reveals to the heavenly beings who among the dead are saved and worthy of waking up in the first resurrection (Revelation 20:6). It also reveals who among the living remains in Christ, prepared for glorification and translation (1 Corinthians 15:52-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). It also vindicates God’s justice in saving those who believe in Jesus and destroying those who rejected saving grace (Matthew 25:41).

2. By what things will people be judged? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Matthew 12:36, 37.

Paul declares that each one will receive according to the “good or evil that he has done in the body” (2 Corinthians 5:10). For works to be analyzed, there must be an accurate record in Heaven. This is what the Bible informs us. She speaks of books of records (Revelation 20:12): the book of life (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 21:27), the book of remembrance of the righteous (Malachi 3:16), and also of a book in which the actions of the wicked are recorded (1 Corinthians 4:5). Jesus Himself taught: “For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done” (Matthew 16:27).

3. What will be the standard used by God in the judgment? Ecclesiastes 12:13; James 1:25; 2:10-12.

In order to be ready for the judgment, it is necessary for humans to keep God’s law. The law will be the standard in the judgment. Therefore, Paul declared, “For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous” (Romans 2:13). Jesus Christ, responding to the rich young ruler’s question about how to obtain eternal life, affirmed, “If you want to enter life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). Later, John, the beloved disciple, exhorted, “Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person” (1 John 2:4).

A tribunal and the phases of judgment

Just as a court sits for judgment in current trials, the same will happen in the divine judgment. In this judgment, God is the Judge (Psalm 7:11), Jesus is the Advocate (1 John 2:1), Satan is the accuser (Revelation 12:10), the witnesses are the angels (Revelation 20:12), the defendant is the sinner (Acts 17:31), and the moral code is God’s law (James 2:10-12). God’s judgment is divided into three phases:

a) First phase: pre-advent or investigative judgment

This phase of the judgment concerns the people of God, beginning with the first inhabitants of the Earth and reaching those who are alive when the Lord comes. Those who did not accept Christ as Savior will not be judged in this phase. This is what Jesus declared: “Whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son” (John 3:18).

4. What vision did the prophet Daniel have regarding divine judgment? Daniel 7:9, 10.

In chapter 7, Daniel saw the judgment being initiated in Heaven; in chapter 8, he heard that the judgment would begin after 2,300 “evenings and mornings” (Daniel 8:14). One “evening and morning” equals one day (see Genesis 1:5, 8, 13), so 2,300 evenings and mornings equals 2,300 days. In regard to prophecy, we should apply the day-year principle of prophetic interpretation, in which each prophetic day equals a literal year when applicable (see Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6, 7). Thus, the judgment was to begin in the heavenly sanctuary after 2,300 literal years. The period of 2,300 years would begin with the order to “restore and rebuild Jerusalem” (Daniel 9:25). This order went into effect in 457 B.C. (Ezra 6:14; 7:7-12).

If we travel 2,300 years from 457 BC, we will reach the year 1844. The judgment in the earthly sanctuary was always held on the tenth day of the seventh month. Transposing this date to our calendar, we arrive at October 22, 1844. From there, the judgment in the heavenly sanctuary would begin. The investigative judgment will end with Jesus’ departure from the heavenly sanctuary (Daniel 12:1), which means the end of His intercession and the opportunity for salvation (Revelation 15:8; 22:11).

b) Second phase: the evidential judgment

5. What vision did the prophet John have regarding judgment? Revelation 20:11, 12.

This judgment refers to those who do not have their names in the book of life (Revelation 20:15). It occurs for a thousand years after the return of Christ (Revelation 20:5). It does not mean that there is still hope of salvation. It will be a judgment to demonstrate God’s justice and to verify the reason for the perdition of the wicked.

c) Third phase: the executive judgment

6. How does John describe the judgment that the wicked will receive? Revelation 20:7-9.

The third and final phase is called the executive judgment, as it is the application of the sentence to the unrepentant. The divine fire will destroy sin and sinners. Nothing will remain (Malachi 4:1). The same fire that will destroy the wicked will purify this planet, which will be the eternal dwelling place of the redeemed (Revelation 21:1-3).

7. What strong appeal does the apostle Peter make to us? 2 Peter 3:7, 11-13.

Conclusion

The prophet Daniel presents us with valuable information: God's judgment is carried out in favor of the saints (see Daniel 7:18, 22, 27). If the judgment is in our favor, we do not need to fear unless our case is not yet in the hands of the Advocate Jesus (see 1 John 2:1). Entrust your case to Jesus now. He has never lost nor will he ever lose a case. You will be a victor if you are connected to him.

My decision

- ☐ I understand today that God's judgment is taking place at this moment, and that every human being will give an account of their works.
- ☐ I understand that God's law is the standard of divine judgment and I desire to align my life with it.
- ☐ I accept Jesus as my Advocate before the Father, and I desire him to intercede on my behalf.

12

LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE LAW

Mount Sinai

JESUS, our selfless Redeemer, in His pilgrimage on Earth, was a living representation of the character of God's law. He did not come to change the law, but to exalt it and make it glorious (Isaiah 42:21; Matthew 5:21, 22, 27, 28). The law is the expression of God's will with regard to the moral conduct of humanity and is as eternal as God Himself.

Learning Together

1. What did Christ teach about the law? Matthew 5:17, 18.

Jesus mentioned "the Law and the Prophets" several times. What did this mean for Jesus? The "Law," in a general sense, refers to the writings of Moses - the first five books of the Bible - with a focus on the Ten Commandments, understood as the moral law. The "Prophets" represent the rest of the books of the Old Testament. Jesus called the Old Testament "the Law and the Prophets," although there is also a division into three parts: "Law, Prophets, and Psalms" (Luke 24:44).

2. Did Christ keep the law? John 15:10.

Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). If Christ had committed even

a single sin, he could not be our Savior (see Romans 5:19). By His own obedience to the law, Christ testified to the unchanging character of the law. He also proved that the law can be obeyed through His grace.

The Law written on tablets of stone

3. How did the written law of God come to humanity? Exodus 31:18.

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 430 years (see Exodus 12:40; Galatians 3:17). During that time, they had no freedom to worship the true God. Therefore, all religious traditions and commandments of the Lord were forgotten. With the liberation of His people, God wanted to start a new experience. Thus, by delivering the written law, God made a covenant with His people.

4. What did Jesus teach about obedience to the commandments? John 14:15, 21.

5. If the law of God was not abolished, what is its function? Galatians 3:24; Romans 3:20; 7:7.

Just as a mirror shows the dirt on our face, the law shows our sin. Like the mirror, it cannot clean us nor has that function. Its function is to point out our faults and our need to go to Christ for forgiveness.

6. What will be the standard used by God in His judgment? James 2:10-12.

The Ten Commandments are the basis of the covenant between God and His people. They are the norm of His judgment. Everyone will be judged according to the law (2 Corinthians 5:10). So, what about those who lived before the law was given to Moses?

Many people think that the Ten Commandments came into existence after their delivery on Mount Sinai. However, this is not true. God's law is eternal like himself. Since the creation of the world, we see the law implicitly. Even in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, we see allusions to the first and second commandments (35:1-4); to the fourth (2:1-3); to the fifth (18:19); to the sixth (4:1-8); to the seventh (39:7-9; 19:1-10); to the eighth (4:1-11); to the ninth (12:11-13; 20:1-10); and to the tenth (27).

7. Does human salvation depend on the law? Ephesians 2:8, 9.

Our salvation is entirely obtained by grace, not by works (or good deeds). However, its fruit is obedience to the commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is evidence of our love for the Lord and our attention to our fellow human beings.

We conclude that we are not saved by keeping the law, but saved to keep the law. Only those who have been saved by Jesus can obey God's law.

Conclusion

David declared: "Those who love Your law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:165, NIV). God's law is a guide to happiness and the protection of humanity. Living according to its principles provides peace and security. Our obedience to God is an expression of our love and gratitude for the great salvation offered at the cross of Calvary.

My decision

- ☐ I understand that God's law is an expression of His character and as eternal as he is.
- ☐ As the law is the standard of judgment, I will seek, by the power of God, to live its principles in my life.
- ☐ I desire, by the grace of God, to live these principles as a demonstration of love and gratitude for salvation in Christ.

The Ten Commandments in the New Testament

1. "You shall have no other gods before me" (Acts 15:20; 17:22, 28, 29).
2. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything" (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
3. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" (Matthew 5:33-37).
4. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (Acts 16:13; Hebrews 4:4-6).
5. "Honor your father and mother" (Ephesians 6:1).
6. "You shall not murder" (Matthew 5:21, 22).
7. "You shall not commit adultery" (Matthew 5:27).
8. "You shall not steal" (Romans 13:9).
9. "You shall not give false testimony" (Mark 10:19).
10. "You shall not covet" (Romans 7:7).

13

LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE

SABBATH

Pool of Bethesda

JESUS taught that our love for him would be demonstrated through obedience to the law. He said, “If you love me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). God’s law is in effect today as it has always been, for it is as eternal as God Himself. However, an Old Testament prophecy predicted an attempt to change God’s law, compromising His entire government. We will learn more about the law in this study.

Learning Together

1. How did Jesus magnify the law? Matthew 5:21, 22, 27, 28.

Isaiah had prophesied that the mission of Christ would be to “magnify the law and make it glorious” (Isaiah 42:21). Through His obedience and teaching, Jesus made it clear that divine commandments are eternal. In the Sermon on the Mount, He expanded the meaning of the law, saying, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder’...But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of judgment” (Matthew 5:21, 22).

2. How many commandments are in the law? Deuteronomy 4:13.

You can read all ten commandments in Exodus 20:3-17 and Deuteronomy 5:7-21. On one occasion, a law interpreter, testing Jesus, asked, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” The answer of Jesus was, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Then Jesus concluded, “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:36-40). With this, Jesus showed that the first four commandments contain our duty towards God, and the last six, our duty towards our neighbor.

3. What did Jesus say about the fourth commandment of the law? Mark 2:27, 28.

After six days of creating the world, God rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of creation (Genesis 2:1-3). The Sabbath is a day for rest, worship, and ministry, in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus. The Sabbath is a day to establish communion with God and with one another. It is a perpetual sign of God’s eternal covenant with His people. The joyful observance of this sacred time, from sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God’s creative and redemptive acts.

4. Why should we rest on the Sabbath? (See texts below.)

-
- a) Because God rested on it, blessed it, and made it holy (Genesis 2:1-3).
 - b) Because God commanded us to sanctify it (Exodus 20:8-11).
 - c) The manna that God provided in the wilderness from the first to the sixth day of the week shows the holiness of the Sabbath (Exodus 16:23).
 - d) It is an eternal memorial between God and His people (Exodus 31:12, 13; Ezekiel 20:12, 20).
 - e) The Sabbath was kept in the days of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 9:14; 10:31; 13:15-21).
 - f) The Sabbath will be observed in the new earth (Isaiah 66:23, 24).

5. Was the Sabbath observed in the New Testament? Luke 4:16, 31; 23:54-56; Acts 16:13; 17:2; 18:4.

6. Did Jesus ever break the Sabbath? Mark 3:2-5.

If Jesus had broken any commandment, He could not be our Savior. On the contrary, He would need a Savior, just like us. Although accused of breaking the

Sabbath (John 5:18), in the view of some religious leaders, Jesus actually showed the true meaning of the Sabbath. The Bible records eight episodes of controversy involving the Sabbath, in which Jesus demonstrated the significance of this day for human beings: (a) the disciples plucking grain (Matthew 12:1-8); (b) Jesus healing a man with a withered hand (Matthew 12:9-15); (c) the healing of a man with an unclean spirit (Mark 1:21-28); (d) the healing of a woman who had been ill for 18 years (Luke 13:10-17); (e) the healing of a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-6); (f) the healing of a sick man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15), (g) the healing of a man born blind (John 9:1-14); and (h) the issue of circumcision (John 7:22-24).

In those passages, there is no indication that Jesus was questioning the validity of the biblical Sabbath. In fact, He was presenting the proper use of that day. Jesus clashed with the religious leaders of His time because of their legalistic way of interpreting the fourth commandment. They created hundreds of laws about what should or should not be done on the Sabbath. For them, walking more than a journey (about a kilometer), spitting on the ground, carrying any weight, picking ears of grain, healing... all of this was a sin if done on the Sabbath. Jesus, on the other hand, came to show the true meaning of the Sabbath, which had been lost amid many human rules.

7. What prophecy in Daniel involves the law of God? Daniel 7:25; 8:12.

In his vision, the prophet Daniel witnessed a small horn that would try to change the law. How did this happen in history? Three changes were made to God's law by this power. The first was the exclusion of the second commandment, which clearly states: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image [...] You shall not bow down to them nor serve them" (Exodus 20:4, 5). The second commandment was completely removed from the Roman Catechism. With the exclusion of the second commandment, a maneuver had to be made so that the law would not have only nine commandments. Then, the tenth commandment of the law was divided into two. Thus, we read in the Roman Catechism:

9th commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife."

10th commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods."

The third arbitrary change made by the papacy involves the fourth commandment of God's law, the Sabbath. The Roman Church openly admits responsibility for introducing Sunday observance in place of the Sabbath, claiming the right to make such changes. Pope John Paul II published an apostolic letter on May 31, 1998, called *Dies Domini* ("Day of the Lord"). He wrote: "Christians [...] have made the first day after the Sabbath their festive day because on that day the Lord rose [...] From the seventh day, we move to the first day: the *dies Domini* becomes the *dies Christi*!" (Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini*. São Paulo, SP: Paulinas, 2002, p. 20, 21).

Thus we see how this religious institution acted to change God's holy law. Today, the sanctity of Sunday is the most popular belief shared by Catholics and Protestants, both considering Sunday as the "Lord's day" in honor of Christ's resurrection, even though there is not a single text in the Bible that supports such a concept.

8. According to the book of Revelation, what are the characteristics of God's remnant church? Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

Conclusion

The Sabbath is not a new institution, but has been established since the creation of the world for the benefit of man. God granted humans six days to work and commanded rest on the seventh day (Exodus 20:10). The prophet Daniel had already predicted that a change would be made in God's law - exactly what we see today. If we desire to be faithful to the teaching of Jesus, we must keep all of God's commandments, including the Sabbath.

My decision

- ☐ I understand that God's law is eternal and that no one has the power to change it.
- ☐ I recognize the human attempt to alter God's law, but believe in the entirety of the law.
- ☐ I accept the Sabbath as the day of the Lord and desire, by the grace of Christ, to observe the commandments as taught in the Bible.



14

LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE

CHURCH

Synagogue in Nazareth Village

JESUS came to this world with the mission of organizing His church. Christ's call to the twelve disciples was the first step towards organizing it. As in the Old Testament, twelve patriarchs occupy the place of representatives of God's people, Israel, so in the New Testament, twelve apostles represent the Christian church.

The church was organized in order to fulfill God's plan to fill the world with the knowledge of the glory of God. It becomes responsible not only for taking the gospel to the world (Matthew 28:18-20), but also for spiritually nurturing those who accept the gospel (1 Peter 5:2, 3). We will learn more about this topic in this study.

Learning together

1. Who is the founder of the Christian church? Matthew 16:16, 18.

Jesus Christ is both the founder and the foundation of the church. Paul says: "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). This church founded by Jesus would have the responsibility to keep the flame of the gospel alive, preserve the apostolic doctrine, and alert the world about the return of Jesus.

2 Whom does the Apostle Paul recognize as the foundation of the church? Ephesians 2:19-21.

The image of building a temple is often used in the Scriptures to illustrate the building of the church. Zechariah refers to Christ as the Branch who would build the temple of the Lord. He speaks of the Gentiles as helpers in this work: "Those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD" (Zechariah 6:12, 15). Isaiah declares, "Foreigners shall build up your walls" (Isaiah 60:10).

3. What is Christ's great desire for His church? Ephesians 5:27.

Just as a bride prepares herself for her future husband, the church should live in a pure and blameless manner, awaiting the arrival of her Bridegroom, Jesus.

The Visible Church of God

In the Bible, the visible Church of God is called the remnant church. The term "remnant" or "rest" occurs dozens of times in the Bible (see Ezekiel 6:8; Romans 9:27; 11:5, for example). The New Webster Dictionary defines "remnant" as "rest; what remains; what is left." What, then, are we to understand by "remnant church"? This expression defines the last church, the one that will remain at the end of Earth's history. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, early on, became known as the remnant church. In what way can we identify the remnant church as the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

4. What are the biblical characteristics of the true church? (See texts below).

- a) Keeps all of God's commandments (Revelation 12:17; 14:12).
- b) Has the "testimony of Jesus," which is the "spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 12:17; 19:10).
- c) Would arise as a prophetic movement at the end of the "2,300 evenings and mornings" of Daniel 8:14, that is, in the year 1844.
- d) Would have a special message to preach, contained in Revelation 14:6-12.
- e) Would be a worldwide movement (Matthew 24:14).
- f) Would maintain all apostolic truths as found in the Bible (1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 2:42).

Only one church in the world meets all of these prophetic specifications. We can conclude that the visible Church of God on Earth is the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Invisible Church of God

If it is true that God has a visible church today, it is also true that He has an invisible church. It is composed of the children of God throughout the world and throughout all times. They are people who have followed the light that Christ has given them (John 1:9).

Many have never had the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ, but have responded to the Holy Spirit and have acted “by nature, in accordance with the law” (Romans 2:14).

5. Read the texts below and find out what they say about God’s invisible church.

- a) John 10:16: Christ states that not all of His children gather in the visible church.
- b) Revelation 18:4: John makes it clear that many sincere people will still come out of religious confusion (Babylon) and join the remnant church.
- c) Acts 17:30: Many still have not known Christ and the truths of His Word, but God, in His infinite mercy and justice, will judge everyone by the knowledge they have today. They are considered sincere because they live according to what they know from the Word.

Conclusion

Throughout history, God has had a people loyal to His laws, with the mission of teaching them to the world. In the Old Testament, it was the people of Israel; in the New Testament, the Christian church. The Bible teaches that God has a visible church, also known as the remnant. This would emerge at the time indicated by prophecy (Daniel 8:14; 9:24-27; Revelation 10:8-11). At the same time, God has an invisible church. In every era, God has had people who, even though they did not belong to the visible church, followed all the truths they knew from His word and will be judged by that knowledge (Acts 17:30; Romans 2:14, 15).

My decision

- ☐ I accept that God has always had a people loyal to His claims. These people were responsible for spreading the knowledge of the Lord to all people.
- ☐ I understand that God has sincere children in all religious denominations; these are the members of God’s invisible church.
- ☐ I acknowledge the Seventh-day Adventist Church as the remnant church of biblical prophecy and wish to join it through holy baptism.



18

LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE PROPHETS

"Scribe" - Freepik

JESUS was recognized as a prophet of God (Matthew 21:11, 46) and warned His followers that many false prophets would arise before His coming (Matthew 24:11), who would perform great signs and, if possible, deceive even the elect (Matthew 24:24). In order not to be deceived by these false prophets, we need to learn more about this topic.

Learning Together

The "gift of prophecy" or "prophetic gift" does not belong only to a specific period of history. Both the Scriptures of the Old Testament and the New Testament have come to us through this prophetic gift, manifested through the writers of the Bible. However, even in our days, this gift would be seen.

1. What did Jesus compare false prophets to? Matthew 7:15.

The expression "ravenous wolves" describes a class of religious teachers who profess to be Christian; they have a form of godliness and appear to be working for the good of the people, but their teachings are in conflict with the teachings of Christ. They are devoid of His meek and humble spirit. If Jesus warned about false prophets, it is because there would certainly also be true prophets of God.

2. What did Joel prophesy about the final days of human history? Joel 2:28-32.

The prophecy of Joel was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles like the early rain (at the beginning of planting) and marked the birth of the Christian church (Acts 2:14-18). At the conclusion of God's work in our day, Joel's words must be fulfilled again in the latter rain (at the time of harvest), when a much greater portion of the Spirit will be given, and prophets of God will arise to announce the coming of the Lord (see Joel 2:23).

3. What are the two characteristics of the true church? Revelation 12:17; 19:10.

In clear terms, the prophet John speaks of the remnant, or the last church, as those who "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17). Then John declares that the expression "testimony of Jesus" is the "spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10). On another occasion, John intended to worship the angel who appeared to him in a vision, but the angel said to him, "See, do not do it; I am your fellow servant and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 19:10). If we compare this text with Revelation 22:9, we will discover that John's "brethren" who have "the testimony of Jesus" are called "the prophets." We conclude that, before the second coming of Christ, His true church would keep His commandments and have the "spirit of prophecy." That is, the prophetic gift would be restored.

The emergence of the prophetic gift in the remnant church

At the age of 17, young Ellen Gould Harmon was chosen by God to motivate and guide those who had waited for the return of Jesus on October 22, 1844. In that same year, her messages were initially received by a group of believers dedicated to the deep study of biblical prophecies, being recognized as a revelation from God for the end time. For 70 years, she wrote about 100,000 pages of counsel, warnings, and practical guidance in various segments, becoming one of the most prominent writers in human history. After her marriage to Pastor James White, she became known as Ellen G. White.

Proving the true prophet

The Bible presents tests for us to differentiate the true prophet from the false one. To test the prophetic ministry of Ellen G. White, we must apply them to her life.

4. What are the biblical tests for a true prophet? (See texts below).

1. *Everything she teaches must be in harmony with the Bible* (Isaiah 8:20). Ellen G. White wrote about 25 million words found in more than 100,000 handwritten pages. These are articles from magazines, letters, and books. In all of these publications, there is harmony with the Scriptures.
2. *You will know them by their fruits* (Matthew 7:20). Seventy years is a long time to live and work, especially under the observation of unbelievers, full of suspicion and hostility. This was the time of Ellen G. White's ministry - from the age of 17 to 87 - above any suspicion.
3. *When the word of that prophet comes to pass* (Jeremiah 28:9). Ellen G. White made several predictions, and these were clearly fulfilled:
 - a) In 1868, Ellen White warned certain very obese people to be susceptible to acute illness and sudden death. Only in the 20th century did medicine establish the link between excess weight and cardiac risk.
 - b) In 1872, she spoke of the importance of exercise for good health, especially walking, or "cooper," a discovery made by science only in 1960.
 - c) From 1902, she began warning of the imminent destruction of San Francisco and Oakland. This happened as she had predicted in the great earthquake of 1906.
4. *Divine guidance in times of crisis* (Psalm 32:8; Hosea 12:13). In the decisive and crisis moments of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ellen G. White was a strong voice of God guiding the direction that should be taken. In her tireless years of work, she was a voice that God used to give direction to His church.

What is the function of Ellen G. White's writings for the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is essentially a biblical movement, meaning that all of its 28 fundamental beliefs are based on the Bible. However, God, in His infinite mercy, has given us precious practical guidance on health, education, family, and various aspects of life through Ellen G. White. Her writings have the following purposes: (a) to lead people to the Bible; (b) to correct those who deviate from biblical truth; (c) to help clarify themes of the Bible and its message.

To learn more about the prophetic ministry of Ellen G. White, consult the following works: *Messenger of the Lord*, *Ellen White: Woman of Vision*, and *Encyclopedia Ellen G. White* (visit the website www.cpb.com.br).

Conclusion

Although written more than a century ago, Ellen G. White's books are still very relevant. Let us never forget the advice of King Jehoshaphat: "Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper" (2 Chronicles 20:20).

My decision

- ☐ I accept that the true church in the end times would have the gift of prophecy restored.
- ☐ I understand that Ellen G. White was a messenger of God.
- ☐ I want to learn more about her and her writings and put into practice her inspired advice.



16

LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE

BAPTISM

Jordan River

JESUS began His earthly ministry by being baptized by John the Baptist. Baptism is a doctrine of the New Testament that arose with John the Baptist. He received his name because he baptized people. Jesus was about 30 years old when He went to the Jordan River to be baptized and begin His earthly ministry (Luke 3:23). His baptism remains an example for all those who wish to follow Him and obey His teachings.

Learning together

1. What circumstances surrounded Jesus' baptism? Matthew 3:13-17.

Many sought out John to receive the baptism of repentance and obtain forgiveness for their sins. However, why did Jesus, who had no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22), submit to the rite of baptism? First, as our Substitute, He took on the guilt of humanity and was baptized because of our sins. Second, Jesus wanted to set an example for all who would one day believe in Him as Savior to also go through the rite of baptism.

2. Did Jesus see baptism as a condition for salvation? Mark 16:16; John 3:5.

In His dialogue with Nicodemus, Jesus was clear: “unless one is born of water (baptism) and the Spirit (conversion), he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). Is there an exception? The Bible itself presents a case: that of the thief on the cross. He died without being baptized, but Jesus declared that he would be saved (Luke 23:43). For what reason? He believed in Jesus as his personal Savior, but he did not have the opportunity to be baptized, as he was hanging on a cross and about to die. This leads us to believe that if a person makes their decision for Christ and baptism, but their life is suddenly taken away, they can still be saved, even without having undergone the rite.

Four conditions for baptism

- a) Being taught (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 16:32, 33).
- b) Believing (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-38).
- c) Repenting (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19).
- d) Converting (Matthew 18:3; Acts 9:35).

Based on the texts above, we can conclude that the first step is to be taught. Paul asks, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?” (Romans 10:14). After understanding the fundamental principles of the gospel, the person must believe that Jesus is the Son of God. This belief will lead them to repentance, which means sorrow for sin, and then to conversion, or a change of direction in life.

3. In whose name should people be baptized? Matthew 28:19, 20.

When Jesus was baptized, God the Father was present, and from above was heard the voice, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). The Holy Spirit of God was also present and descended on Jesus in the form of a dove. Likewise, today, when someone makes the decision to surrender to Christ through baptism, the Trinity is present.

4. Why were some people baptized only in the name of Jesus? Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5.

Baptism “in the name of Jesus” does not invalidate the command to administer baptism in the name of the Trinity. It is not a suggestion of a new baptismal formula, but only an emphasis on the basic condition for this rite to be administered. In other words, an ethnic Jew or proselyte, who already believed in the true God, could only be baptized in the Christian community if he also believed in Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah.

It is important to note that the same texts that speak of baptism “in the name of Jesus Christ” are imbued with the concept of the Trinity. Analyzing the content of these texts,

it can be perceived, in the first place, that those baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ” were people who already believed in God, the Father, beforehand. Additionally, in all these occasions, baptism “in the name of Jesus Christ” was accompanied by the prior, simultaneous, or subsequent reception of the “gift of the Holy Spirit” (see Acts 2:38; 8:14-17; 10:44-48; 19:1-6).

5. What is the correct way to administer baptism: by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion? Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:36-38.

The only recognized form of baptism in the New Testament is immersion. The Greek word baptizo, from which the word “baptism” is derived, means “to immerse,” “to plunge,” “to submerge.” There is no example of baptism by sprinkling or pouring in the Bible.

Symbolism

6. What is the symbolism of baptism according to the Scriptures? Romans 6:3-6; Colossians 2:12.

Many Christians consider the first day of the week, Sunday, to be holy because Jesus resurrected on it. They observe this day in honor of Christ’s resurrection. However, this is not the biblical teaching. Jesus left baptism as the ceremony to celebrate His resurrection. Just as Christ died, was buried, and on the third day, resurrected, when we are immersed in the waters of baptism, we die to sin, bury the old life, and are reborn as a “new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

This symbolism confirms the idea that baptism should always be administered by immersion because, otherwise, it would lose all the symbolism of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

7. From what age can one receive baptism? Acts 22:16.

Since there are conditions to be fulfilled before baptism, and a newborn child cannot fulfill them, baptism should only be administered to children who are old enough to: (a) be instructed, (b) recognize their sinfulness, (c) believe in Jesus as their personal Savior, and (d) request baptism.

8. What happens to a person after their baptism? 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:27.

To be clothed with Christ means to be covered by His righteousness, strengthened by His Spirit, and saved by His grace. Daily, there is a struggle with the carnal nature and a strengthening of the spiritual nature. The action of the Spirit of Christ in our hearts leads us to purity of character. We leave the works of the flesh and begin to produce the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-25).

Conclusion

Baptism is a doctrine of the New Testament pointed out by Jesus as a condition for salvation. It should only be administered to people who are old enough to receive knowledge of God's Word, believe in Jesus as their personal Savior, demonstrate repentance and a change of life. After baptism, the Spirit implants a new nature and makes the person like Christ.

My decision (check only one option)

- ☐ Understanding that baptism is a requirement that should be administered only by immersion, I desire to seal my faith with Jesus, being baptized as He was, and unite myself with the church of Christ.
- ☐ Even though I have already been baptized by immersion, I now understand some truths that I did not know or did not practice before. Based on the example of Paul (Acts 19:1-5), I desire to undergo a new baptism and unite myself with the church of Christ.
- ☐ I have already been baptized by immersion and remain loyal to everything I have learned from the gospel. However, knowing biblical doctrines that I have not seen before, I desire to unite myself with the church of Christ through my profession of faith.



17 LESSON

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE CARING FOR THE BODY

Wailing Wall - Maarten van der Bent

JESUS dedicated more time to healing the sick than preaching. He came to this world to remove the burden of diseases and sin. He suffered with the sick and desired to restore the health of all. Those who came to Christ were never rejected. On the contrary, His invitation was always: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Wherever Jesus went, the blind could see, the mute could speak, the deaf could hear, the paralyzed could walk, and diseases were cured.

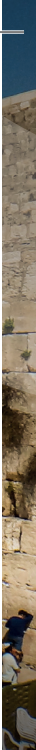
Learning together

1. What does Jesus desire for each of us? John 10:10.

Jesus always desires the best for His children. Not only spiritual health, but also physical and mental health. However, to find the balance of human capabilities, we need to learn more about biblical guidelines regarding the care of our bodies, and only then can we present to God a “rational worship” (Romans 12:1, 2).

Sanctuaries of God

God ordered Moses to build a sanctuary to dwell among His people (Exodus 25:8). Centuries later, this mobile tent was replaced by the glorious



Temple of Solomon (1 Kings 6:13, 14). This temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and rebuilt in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. The temple that Jesus knew was in the same location and had been renovated by Herod the Great.

For centuries, the temple had been the center of Israel's religion. With all its ceremonies, sacrifices, and symbolism, it pointed to the coming of the Messiah. When Jesus came, the ceremonial laws were fulfilled. After His death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus inaugurated the heavenly temple, and the pedagogical function of the temple in Jerusalem ceased. This same temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. by Titus, a Roman general. Since then, there is no longer an earthly sanctuary.

2. What did Paul teach about taking care of our bodies? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Paul declares that our body is the temple, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. He also teaches that we should glorify God in our body. This happens when all our abilities and skills are in tune with His will. For this, good health is essential.

3. According to the Bible, what basic principle should guide the life of a Christian? 1 Corinthians 10:31.

We are what we eat: this is an irrefutable truth. Just as we do not put improper fuel in our car, we should not ingest anything that is harmful to our health.

4. What was the food that God offered to humans when He created them? Genesis 1:29; 2:9.

It was only after the flood that God allowed humans to eat some types of meat. However, some meats would be unsuitable for use. God, in His Word, provided all the guidelines on what kind of food to use (see Leviticus 11). Abstaining from unclean meats is a serious matter (see Isaiah 66:17).

5. Why, according to the Bible, should we not use alcoholic beverages or any substance that harms the body? Proverbs 20:1; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

Paul teaches a difficult but incredibly liberating truth: our body does not belong to us but to God, as His dwelling place. Therefore, the warning: "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person" (1 Corinthians 3:17). In light of this teaching, we can conclude that anything we do that harms our health constitutes sin.

6. What does Jesus desire for each of His children? Exodus 15:26; 3 John 2.

The 8 natural remedies

God has gifted us with natural remedies for maintaining good health, including “fresh air, sunlight, abstinence, rest, exercise, a proper diet, the use of water, and trust in divine power. Every person should have knowledge of nature’s remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge.” (The Ministry of Healing, p. 127; for more information, see: <https://www.adventist.org/health/>)

Conclusion

A sick body is also affected in its disposition to serve and relate to God. Therefore, good health is indispensable for a healthy spiritual life. God desires our prosperity and health (3 John 2) and does not take into account the time of ignorance (Acts 17:30; James 4:17), so let us ask for His help to make the necessary changes and thus glorify His name through good health.

My decision

- ☐ I acknowledge that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and I desire to live according to the health principles taught in the Bible.
- ☐ I now decide to use God’s remedies in nature to maintain good health.





Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem

JESUS condemned much of the traditions of His time because the religious leaders were more interested in their formalities than in the Word of God. However, throughout His life, Christ instituted rites that are prescribed in the Scriptures and that must still be practiced by His followers today. Let's get to know them!

Learning Together

A. Ceremony of child dedication

1. What was the custom of biblical times for children? Exodus 13:1, 2.

2. Did Mary, the mother of Jesus, follow this custom? Luke 2:22, 23.

3. What is the meaning of child dedication? Psalm 127:3; Isaiah 8:18.

The Bible teaches us to present newborns to the Lord, but not in infant baptism. Dedication is a commitment made by parents to raise the child in the ways of God. The parents are called forward, and after a brief Bible reading, a prayer of dedication to the Lord is made.

B. Baptismal ceremony

4. What did Jesus do to begin His public ministry? Matthew 3:13-17.

5. What command did Christ give to His church? Matthew 28:19, 20.

The word of Christ is imperative: "Go... make disciples... baptizing them." He Himself placed baptism as essential (Mark 16:16). All who accept His saving grace and abandon a life of sin may be accepted as members of God's family through baptism.

6. What does baptism signify? Romans 6:4-6.

Baptism celebrates the resurrection of Christ. When we are baptized, we are buried as Jesus was, so that as He rose from the dead, we also rise from spiritual death to a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17).

C. Holy Communion ceremony

7. What did Jesus institute in place of the Passover? John 13:4, 5, 15.

Holy Communion derives its significance from the death of Jesus Christ and His teachings by celebrating His Last Supper. For the Israelites, the Passover reminded them of their deliverance from Egypt. Christ crowned His last meal with the disciples through the new covenant, which marked the end of the Passover celebration and the beginning of a new celebration: the Lord's Supper.

The symbolism of the Supper

Three evangelists and Paul recorded the words spoken by Christ at the time of the Supper (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25). Mark speaks of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice "for many"; Matthew adds the idea of "forgiveness of sins" through the death of Christ. Paul blesses us with the concept of the Lord's Supper as a "memorial" of Jesus' death.

Foot-washing ceremony

Participation in the "bread" and "wine" (pure grape juice) should be preceded by the foot-washing ceremony. Before the Supper, Jesus, in an act of love, took the basin of water and a towel and began to wash the disciples' feet. After washing their feet, He asked, "Do you understand what I have done for you? ... as I have done to you, do the same for one another" (John 13:12, 15). No one should

participate in the emblems of the body and blood without first participating in foot-washing.

E. Wedding Ceremony

8. What did Christ say about marriage? Matthew 19:4-6.

As the creator of marriage (Genesis 2:18-25), Jesus showed His approval of this institution by performing His first miracle at a wedding feast. In Matthew 19:3, Jesus addresses the issue of divorce and is clear in affirming the biblical position. Therefore, the biblical principle of monogamous marriage (one man with one woman) should be followed by all.

F. Ordination Service

The ceremonies of ordination in the Bible were not instituted to form a religious hierarchy, as this would be a departure from the fundamental principle taught by Jesus: the greatest is the one who serves (Matthew 23:11). They place new responsibilities on the candidates, who must seek the endowment of the Holy Spirit to fulfill them.

9. What roles did Jesus assign to the disciples? Mark 3:14.

Jesus separated the disciples to be with Him, assigning them a specific task. The Holy Spirit also guided Paul and Barnabas to be set apart for ministry (see Acts 13:2, 3). The Scriptures distinguish two categories of ordained officials:

- a) *Elders* (Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:5, 9). The testimony of the New Testament presents two types of elders: local and itinerant, the latter corresponding to pastors today.
- b) *Deacons* (Acts 6:1-6; Philippians 1:1).

As the New Testament church grew, people were selected for different types of leadership. These same functions should be performed in the church of God today. Therefore, the rite of ordination should still be administered today.

G. Anointing Service

10. What is James' advice? James 5:14.

Although not everyone who is anointed receives healing, the service should bring everyone close to God. The anointing should be done with olive oil, and the sick person should be anointed while someone prays for them. The oil should be

applied to the forehead, with the fingers of the person praying. Family members or loved ones may also be present at the anointing, but everything should be done with the utmost reverence, asking that God's will be done in the life of the sick person.

Conclusion:

As we have seen in this study, there are several rites in which modern Christians should participate, all with a clear purpose, with much reverence and never forgetting the wise counsel of God: "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

My decision:

- ☐ After better understanding the biblical ordinances, I desire, by the grace of Christ, to experience them in my religious experience.
- ☐ I now make the decision to accept the ordinance of baptism and through this act, surrender my life to the Lord Jesus!

Lesson 1 - What JESUS taught about the SCRIPTURES

1. What Bible did Jesus use? Matthew 5:17; 7:12.

- ☐ a) The New Testament.
- ☐ b) Only the Pentateuch.
- ☐ c) "The Law and the Prophets" (the Old Testament).

2. Who inspired the prophets to write the holy book? 2 Peter 1:21.

- ☐ a) The angels.
- ☐ b) The Holy Spirit.
- ☐ c) The ancient wise men.

3. What are the benefits of studying the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

- ☐ a) The Bible brings no benefits, it only contains information.
- ☐ b) It is useful for teaching, rebuking, and training in righteousness.
- ☐ c) Those who study the Bible do not need rebuke.

4. How long would the Word of God be valid? Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8.

- ☐ a) Forever.
- ☐ b) Only the gospels are relevant to our days.
- ☐ c) The Old Testament is no longer valuable.

Lesson 2 - what JESUS taught about SALVATION

1. What is the condition of human nature after sin? Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 15:19.

- ☐ a) Our heart is corrupt.
- ☐ b) Sin brings separation between the creature and its Creator.
- ☐ c) All alternatives are correct.

2. What plan did God establish to save humans from eternal death? John 3:16.

- ☐ a) Sin is so terrible that there is no solution for it.

- ☐ b) God wrote several norms and laws to save us from sin.
- ☐ c) God sent His Son to die in our place.

3. Does salvation depend on our works? Ephesians 2:8, 9; Galatians 2:16.

- ☐ a) Yes. Works add points to our salvation.
- ☐ b) No. We are saved by God's grace regardless of works.
- ☐ c) We are justified solely by the works of the law.

4. How can humans attain salvation? Acts 16:31; 1 John 5:11, 12.

- ☐ a) We must simply believe and trust in Christ.
- ☐ b) Through the practice of good works.
- ☐ c) By doing penances and fasts.

Lesson 3 - what JESUS taught about SANCTIFICATION

1. What prayer did Jesus make for the disciples? John 17:17.

- ☐ a) Sanctify them through religious rituals.
- ☐ b) "Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth."
- ☐ c) None of the alternatives is correct.

2. Why do we need sanctification? Hebrews 12:14.

- ☐ a) Little needed; God is not concerned about it.
- ☐ b) It is essential: without sanctification there is also no salvation.
- ☐ c) It doesn't matter: the need is linked to our feelings.

3. Whose work is sanctification? 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

- ☐ a) The work is solely human.
- ☐ b) Sanctification occurs through transcendental meditation.
- ☐ c) The work is divine, through the action of the Holy Spirit in the heart.

4. What advice does the apostle Peter give us? 2 Peter 3:18.

- ☐ a) Christianity involves only practice, not knowledge.

- ☐ b) We must grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.
- ☐ c) Anyone who has accepted Jesus no longer needs to keep the law.

Lesson 4 - what JESUS taught about the HOLY SPIRIT

1. What promise did Jesus make to the disciples? John 14:16, 17.

- ☐ a) The Holy Spirit would be sent by the Father.
- ☐ b) The Holy Spirit is also called the “Comforter” and “Spirit of truth.”
- ☐ c) All of the alternatives are correct.

2. What would be the work of the Holy Spirit? John 14:26; 16:8, 13.

- ☐ a) Teach that the Old Testament is no longer valid.
- ☐ b) Teach all truth and convict us of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- ☐ c) Show that God’s grace frees us to sin.

3. To whom does God exclusively give His Spirit? Acts 5:32.

- ☐ a) Those who obey God.
- ☐ b) Those who speak the language of angels.
- ☐ c) Those who attend church weekly.

**4. According to Jesus, for which sin would there be no forgiveness?
Matthew 12:31, 32.**

- ☐ a) Adultery.
- ☐ b) Homicide.
- ☐ c) The sin against the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 5 - what JESUS taught about PRAYER

1. What request did the disciples make to Jesus? Luke 11:1.

- ☐ a) They asked for a special place in the messianic kingdom.
- ☐ b) “Teach us to pray.”
- ☐ c) They asked for supernatural power to perform signs and wonders.

2. What prayer did Jesus teach the disciples? Luke 11:2-4.

- ☐ a) The Lord's Prayer, or the "model prayer."
- ☐ b) The "Our Father" is the only prayer that should be prayed.
- ☐ c) The "model prayer" is not a standard, as our prayers should be free.

3. What kind of prayer did Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount? Matthew 6:5-8.

- ☐ a) Prayer in public squares.
- ☐ b) Private or secret prayer.
- ☐ c) Prayer made in church services.

4. What wonderful promise did Jesus make regarding our requests? Matthew 21:22.

- ☐ a) "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."
- ☐ b) Jesus grants us all blessings without us asking.
- ☐ c) Whatever we want will be granted.

Lesson 6 - what JESUS taught about FORGIVENESS

1. What prayer did David make after he sinned against God? Psalm 51:1, 2, 10.

- ☐ a) He acknowledged the sin committed and confessed it to God.
- ☐ b) He confessed his sins to the priest, not to God.
- ☐ c) David thanked God for ignoring his transgression.

2. Who alone can forgive sins? Psalm 130:4; Mark 2:7.

- ☐ a) A religious leader consecrated to the ministry.
- ☐ b) There is no sin, because there is no law.
- ☐ c) Jesus Christ.

3. What is necessary, according to the Bible, to receive the remission of sins? Acts 2:38.

- ☐ a) Before coming to Christ, we need to repent of our sins.
- ☐ b) We need true repentance, which is a divine work in the heart.

- ☐ c) Repentance is not a condition for receiving God's forgiveness.

4. How many times should I forgive someone who offends me? Matthew 18:21, 22.

- ☐ a) Three times, according to the teaching of Christ's time.
- ☐ b) Seven times, which is the number of perfection.
- ☐ c) "Seventy times seven," which means forgiving in the same way that God forgives us.

Lesson 7 - What JESUS Taught About MONEY

1. How was tithing used in Israel? Numbers 18:21.

- ☐ a) It was designated for the tribe of Levi, who served the Lord full-time.
- ☐ b) Only the high priest was entitled to the tithe.
- ☐ c) It was designated as an inheritance for the tribes of Israel.

2. What does Paul assert about the support of the evangelical ministry? 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14.

- ☐ a) Tithing is designated for those who work full-time for God.
- ☐ b) Those who perform sacred services support themselves from their own temple.
- ☐ c) All alternatives are correct.

3. In addition to tithing, what else should we bring to the Lord? Psalms 96:8; Malachi 3:8.

- ☐ a) Offerings of gratitude that are voluntary and proportional to divine blessings.
- ☐ b) God does not need our offerings, so we do not need to bring them to church.
- ☐ c) Defined offerings according to the blessing we wish to gain from God.

4. For Jesus, what is the essence of a true offering? Luke 21:1-4.

- ☐ a) God wants what is left over, not what is given sacrificially.
- ☐ b) The essence is not in the quantity, but in the surrender of the heart.

- ☐ c) The offering demonstrates the economic status we possess.

Lesson 8 - What JESUS Taught About HIS RETURN

1. Did Jesus teach that His return would be a secret event? Matthew 24:27; Revelation 1:7.

- ☐ a) Yes, Jesus will come secretly and rapture the saved in the same way.
- ☐ b) No, Jesus will return in a literal, visible, and audible way, with great power and glory.
- ☐ c) The return of Jesus will be invisible, as it will be spiritual and not corporal.

2. What will happen to the righteous who are alive? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

- ☐ a) They will be secretly raptured.
- ☐ b) They will go to heaven with their mortal bodies.
- ☐ c) They will be transformed in the “twinkling of an eye.”

3. What will happen to the wicked who are alive? 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

- ☐ a) They will be at ease because they will have a second chance to repent.
- ☐ b) They will be killed by the manifestation of the coming of Christ.
- ☐ c) None of the alternatives are correct.

4. What will happen to the righteous who are dead? 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16.

- ☐ a) They will be resurrected with an incorruptible and immortal body.
- ☐ b) There will be no resurrection, as the righteous will already be in heaven.
- ☐ c) There is no resurrection of the body, but of the spirit.

Lesson 9 - What JESUS Taught About DEATH

1. What did Jesus compare Lazarus’ death to? John 11:11-13.

- ☐ a) The beginning of the reincarnation process.
- ☐ b) A sleep.
- ☐ c) The entrance into the spiritual world.

2. According to the Bible, is the human being mortal or immortal? Ezekiel 18:4, 20.

- ☐ a) Mortal, because we are sinners.
- ☐ b) The body dies, but the spirit remains alive.
- ☐ c) Even after the entrance of sin, we do not lose immortality.

3. How does the Bible describe the state of the dead? Psalm 6:5; Ecclesiastes 9:5.

- ☐ a) The dead do not speak, do not have feelings, and do not remember anything.
- ☐ b) The idea that the soul leaves the body and continues to live is not biblical.
- ☐ c) All the alternatives are correct.

4. What happens to the human being at death? Genesis 3:19; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 12:7.

- ☐ a) The dust returns to the earth and the spirit (breath of life) returns to God.
- ☐ b) The spirit continues to wander, as it is an extracorporeal entity.
- ☐ c) Only the body dies. The soul is immortal.

Lesson 10 - What JESUS Taught About RESURRECTION

1. What did Jesus teach about resurrection? John 5:28, 29.

- ☐ a) There will be two resurrections: the first, of life; and the second, of judgment.
- ☐ b) Each person will receive their reward at the time of death.
- ☐ c) There will be only one resurrection.

2. When will the first resurrection occur and who will be resurrected in it? 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

- ☐ a) The first resurrection will be of all the wicked, for they will see the return of Jesus.
- ☐ b) The first resurrection will be of the righteous and will occur at the return of Jesus.
- ☐ c) Jesus will return secretly, so the resurrection will only be spiritual.

3. When will the second resurrection occur and who will be resurrected in it? Revelation 20:5, 6.

- ☐ a) During the thousand years, the wicked will be resurrected and will remain on Earth.
- ☐ b) All the wicked will be resurrected at the return of Jesus, before the thousand years.
- ☐ c) After the thousand years, the wicked from all eras will be resurrected.

4. What will happen to the wicked who are resurrected? Revelation 20:7-10.

- ☐ a) They will march across the surface of the earth and surround the New Jerusalem.
- ☐ b) They will be destroyed by the fire sent by God.
- ☐ c) All the alternatives are correct.

Lesson 11 - what JESUS taught about JUDGMENT

1. How many will face divine judgment? 2 Corinthians 5:10.

- ☐ a) Only the righteous.
- ☐ b) Only the wicked.
- ☐ c) Everyone.

2. What things will people be judged for? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Matthew 12:36, 37.

- ☐ a) God will judge both good and evil deeds.
- ☐ b) Even hidden deeds will be taken into account in divine judgment.
- ☐ c) All of the above are correct.

3. What standard will God use in judgment? Ecclesiastes 12:13; James 1:25; 2:10-12.

- ☐ a) Sincerity.
- ☐ b) God's law.
- ☐ c) The amount of tithes and offerings we give.

4. What strong appeal does the apostle Peter make to us? 2 Peter 3:7, 11-13.

- ☐ a) We should live in holy conduct and godliness.
- ☐ b) God doesn't want anyone to perish, so there will be no judgment.
- ☐ c) We should fear judgment, as it only serves to condemn.

Lesson 12 - what JESUS taught about the LAW

1. What did Christ teach about the law? Matthew 5:17, 18.

- ☐ a) Christ came to abolish the law.
- ☐ b) The law has already expired, but the teaching of the prophets still remains.
- ☐ c) Christ came to fulfill the law, that is, to practice it.

2. Did Christ keep the Law? John 15:10.

- ☐ a) Yes, but only because he was a Jew.
- ☐ b) Yes, Christ kept the Father's commandments and remained in His love.
- ☐ c) No, the law ended in the Old Testament.

3. What did Jesus teach about obedience to the commandments? John 14:15, 21.

- ☐ a) If we love Christ, we will keep His commandments.
- ☐ b) The commandments are burdensome and difficult to keep.
- ☐ c) Obedience is irrelevant, as God's love is all that matters.

4. If God's law was not abolished, what is its function? Galatians 3:24; Romans 3:20; 7:7.

- ☐ a) To lead the sinner to Christ.
- ☐ b) Through the law comes the full knowledge of sin.
- ☐ c) All of the above are correct.

Lesson 13 - what JESUS taught about the SABBATH

1. How did Jesus magnify the law? Matthew 5:21, 22, 27, 28.

- ☐ a) In His speeches, Jesus never addressed the subject of the law.

- ☐ b) Jesus showed the spiritual nature of the law and made it clear that it is eternal.
- ☐ c) He showed that the “letter of the law” is more important than its spiritual nature.

2. What did Jesus say about the fourth commandment of the law? Mark 2:27, 28.

- ☐ a) The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.
- ☐ b) The Sabbath was abolished.
- ☐ c) Man can keep any day of the week.

3. Did Jesus ever break the Sabbath? Mark 3:2-5.

- ☐ a) Yes, because He performed several healings on that day.
- ☐ b) Yes, Jesus showed that grace is greater than the Sabbath.
- ☐ c) No. By healing on the Sabbath, Jesus showed that we should do good on that day.

4. What prophecy in Daniel involves the law of God? Daniel 7:25, 8:12.

- ☐ a) The law would be abolished on the cross.
- ☐ b) God Himself would change His law.
- ☐ c) A “little horn” (religious power) would change the law.

Lesson 14 - what JESUS taught about the CHURCH

1. Who is the founder of the Christian church? Matthew 16:16, 18.

- ☐ a) Peter.
- ☐ b) Paul.
- ☐ c) Jesus Christ.

2. Who does the apostle Paul recognize as the foundation of the church? Ephesians 2:19-21.

- ☐ a) Christ is the cornerstone, and the apostles and prophets built its foundations.

- ☐ b) The Pharisees and Sadducees, who maintained the Jewish religion.
- ☐ c) God does not have a church on Earth, so there is no foundation.

3. What is Christ's great desire for His church? Ephesians 5:27.

- ☐ a) Christ wants a church that is like the world, flawed, and loves pleasures.
- ☐ b) Christ wants a church that is free and does as it pleases.
- ☐ c) Christ wants a pure, holy church that reveals His character.

4. What are the biblical characteristics of the true church?

- ☐ a) Keeps all the commandments of God's law (Revelation 12:17; 14:12).
- ☐ b) Has the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy (Revelation 12:17; 19:10).
- ☐ c) All of the alternatives are correct.

Lesson 15 – What JESUS Taught About the PROPHETS

1. What did Jesus compare false prophets to? Matthew 7:15.

- ☐ a) Whitewashed tombs.
- ☐ b) Brood of vipers.
- ☐ c) Ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing.

2. What did Joel prophesy about the end times of human history? Joel 2:28-32.

- ☐ a) The Holy Spirit would be poured out only on Pentecost.
- ☐ b) Joel mentioned that the Holy Spirit would be taken away from the righteous.
- ☐ c) The Spirit would be poured out and the gift of prophecy would be given.

3. What are the two characteristics of the true church? Revelation 12:17; 19:10.

- ☐ a) Keeps the commandments of God and has the spirit of prophecy (prophetic gift).
- ☐ b) Receives the gift of tongues and performs miracles.

- ☐ c) Teaches the immortality of the soul and Sunday as the day of worship.

4. What are the biblical tests for a true prophet?

- ☐ a) Everything it teaches must be in harmony with the Bible (Isaiah 8:20).
- ☐ b) It is known by its fruits (Matthew 7:20).
- ☐ c) All of the above.

Lesson 16 – What JESUS Taught About BAPTISM

1. What circumstances surrounded the baptism of Jesus? Matthew 3:13-17.

- ☐ a) Jesus was baptized by immersion, that is, He was immersed and “came up out of the water.”
- ☐ b) Jesus had no sins, but was baptized to set an example for us.
- ☐ c) All of the above.

2. Did Jesus view baptism as a condition for salvation? Mark 16:16; John 3:5.

- ☐ a) No. What matters is accepting Jesus and staying in the old life.
- ☐ b) Yes. Whoever is not born of water and the Spirit cannot enter the kingdom of God.
- ☐ c) No. Baptism is an invention of the churches and is not necessary.

3. In whose name should people be baptized? Matthew 28:19-20.

- ☐ a) In the name of the church.
- ☐ b) In the name of the religious leader.
- ☐ c) In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

4. From what age can one receive baptism? Acts 22:16.

- ☐ a) Newborns can already be baptized.
- ☐ b) At four years of age.
- ☐ c) When they are old enough to understand and accept the plan of salvation in Christ Jesus.

Lesson 17 - what JESUS taught about CARING FOR THE BODY

1. What does Jesus want for each one of us? John 10:10.

- ☐ a) Jesus doesn't care about our body, only our spiritual life.
- ☐ b) Jesus wants us to have life in abundance.
- ☐ c) The "abundant life" mentioned by Jesus means financial prosperity.

2. What did Paul teach about caring for our body? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

- ☐ a) We are free to take care of our body however we see fit.
- ☐ b) Our body belongs to ourselves, not to God.
- ☐ c) The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

3. What was the food that God offered to humans when He created them? Genesis 1:29; 2:9.

- ☐ a) Only vegetables.
- ☐ b) Red meat.
- ☐ c) Fish and shellfish.

4. What does Jesus want for each one of His children? Exodus 15:26; 3 John 2.

- ☐ a) He only wants our spiritual health.
- ☐ b) He wants us to have health and that no illness comes upon us.
- ☐ c) Jesus wants us to spend all our resources on doctors and medication.

Lesson 18 - what JESUS taught about RITES AND TRADITIONS

1. What is the meaning of the dedication of children? Psalm 127:3; Isaiah 8:18.

- ☐ a) A commitment made by parents to teach the child the way of God.
- ☐ b) The dedication of children to God occurs in the baptism of newborns.
- ☐ c) The dedication of a child has no relation to biblical teachings.

2. What did Jesus institute in place of the Passover? John 13:4, 5, 15.

- ☐ a) Circumcision.
- ☐ b) The Lord's Supper.
- ☐ c) Ordination.

3. What did Christ say about marriage? Matthew 19:4-6.

- ☐ a) "The Creator, from the beginning, made them male and female."
- ☐ b) "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife."
- ☐ c) All alternatives are correct.

4. What functions did Jesus assign to the disciples? Mark 3:14.

- ☐ a) He granted wealth and goods as an incentive for ministry practice.
- ☐ b) "He appointed twelve that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach."
- ☐ c) He separated twelve men only to heal the sick, not to preach.