

# Who Is Jesus?

Что люди говорят об Иисусе?

من هو يسوع؟

第一课：耶稣是谁？

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# Who Is Jesus?

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# **Lesson 1: Who do people say he is?**

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Memory Verse:

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” Mark 8:27

Introduction:

In these thirteen lessons we shall learn some of the great truths concerning Jesus which are taught in God’s Word – the Bible. The question that Jesus asked His disciples in our memory verse is a question that every person must answer at some time in their life.

Today, people have many opinions of who is Jesus? There is no other name for which we can ask this question that will generate as many opinions as asking about Jesus. Some people are positive about who they believe He is. They may either believe He is God, the promised Christ (Messiah) of the Bible, or they may believe He is not, but they are positive. Others don’t know; still others are either not sure or have no real opinion at all.

A recent article in an American newspaper was titled, “From a single faith come many images of a savior”. In the article, a US Senator was quoted as describing the baby Jesus as a homeless person who would have been mistreated today. A state governor was quoted as naming Jesus as his favorite philosopher. Readers who submitted pictures to the paper of their image of Jesus sent in drawings ranging from a carpenter to a clown.

Josh McDowell, in his best selling book “Evidence That Demands a Verdict”, writes that every person will have to make a decision about Jesus. Since Jesus claimed He was God, we must decide if he was a liar, a lunatic, or is he our Lord? We cannot ignore Him, nor can we be ambivalent about Him and His claim that He is God. After reading the following three Scripture passages, write down why everyone must answer this question of “Who is Jesus?”

**John 12:47-48**

**Rev 3:15-17**

**John 6:68-69**

Why must each person answer the question, “Who is Jesus?”

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Make a list below of what you believe people **today** say who Jesus is.

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

During the time Jesus walked on Earth, people had to answer the same question – Who is Jesus? Read the following Scripture about a blind man who Jesus healed. Make a list of every statement about who the various people in the story thought this man Jesus was.

**John 9:1-41**

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

(Add more lines if you need them)

The Apostle Peter was asked the question directly by Jesus as to who he believed Jesus was. Read Peter’s response below.

**Mark 8:27-29**

**Luke 22:66-71**

**Luke 23:1-4**

What differences do you see between the two questions? Why was the question slightly different? What was the reaction of the High Priest when he got his answer as compared to Pilate when he got his answer?

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The answers today are not different than in the days when Jesus walked the Earth. The reactions of people are also not different today than in Biblical times. But if Jesus is who He says He is then learning the answer to this question is a matter of eternal life.

Next week we will look at the question, “Is Jesus the promised one of the Old Testament?”

## **Lesson 2: Is Jesus the Promised one of the Old Testament?**

Memory Verse:

*To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name. Acts 10:43*

Introduction:

Did a man named Jesus actually live on this earth? Why was there an expectation that God would send someone to be a savior, a messiah; someone who would “save His people?”

Outside of the Bible there is ample evidence that a man named Jesus actually lived on this earth in Israel at exactly the time frame the Bible identifies.

The popular historian Will Durant, himself not a Christian, wrote concerning Christ’s historical validity, “*The denial of that existence seems never to have occurred even to the bitterest gentile or Jewish opponents of nascent [fundamental] Christianity*” (Durant, *The Story of Civilization*, vol. 3, p. 555). And again, “*That a few simple men should in one generation have invented so powerful and appealing a personality, so lofty an ethic and so inspiring a vision of human brotherhood, would be a miracle far more incredible than any recorded in the Gospels*” (Ibid., p. 557).

It is a substantial thing that a non-Christian historian of Durant’s fame who spent his life considering historical facts should affirm the reality of Christ’s existence as well as the rapid growth of the early movement.

The Jewish historian Josephus, writing for the Roman government in the 70’s A.D. records some incidental things regarding Christ and the church. He confirms that John the Baptist died at the hand of Herod (this same incident is recorded in the gospels) as well as the death of, “*The brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James...he delivered them to be stoned*” (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XVIII, ch. V, p. 20; Book XX, ch. IX, p. 140). Again we have sources external to the Bible that demonstrate the historical reliability of the text. Josephus, who was probably alive during the time of Christ, is attesting to the reality of his existence. What this also tells us is that within 40 years of Christ’s death, the knowledge of Jesus was widespread enough that Josephus could reference him and expect his readers to know exactly who he was talking about.

Before the birth of Jesus, for over 600 years the Jews had either as a people been held in captivity in a foreign country, or they had seen their own country occupied by armies and ruler of foreign nations. The people had obviously tired of this bondage. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, as well as the Roman historian Tacitus, in the years preceding the birth of Jesus, there was an unusual expectation of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by their prophets.

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophets (preachers) of the Old Testament spoke God’s message to the people. The message was that God would send a Savior (the One who makes a person right with God) into the world. In Jewish thought this person was called The Messiah – The Anointed One. Although there are many references to this Savior before the Jewish people were in captivity in Babylon, the first time the Scriptures record that this Messiah would be the actual title of a King who would come in the future is in the Book of Daniel. Before that the term was used to refer to an “anointed” person. However, perhaps because of their constant occupation by other empires, the Jews began to see this Anointed One as a military and political ruler who would set them free from the then Roman army of occupation. Read over the following from Nelson’s Bible Dictionary.

### **MESSIAH**

*In Old Testament times, part of the ritual of commissioning a person for a special task was to anoint him with oil. The phrase anointed one was applied to a person in such cases. In the Old Testament, Messiah is used more than 30 times to describe kings <2 Sam. 1:14,16>, priests <Lev.*

*4:3,5,16>, the patriarchs <Ps. 105:15>, and even the Persian King Cyrus <Is. 45:1>. The word is also used in connection with King David, who became the model of the messianic king who would come at the end of the age <2 Sam. 22:51; Ps. 2:2>. But it was not until the time of Daniel (sixth century B.C.) that Messiah was used as an actual title of a king who would come in the future <Dan. 9:25-26>. Still later, as the Jewish people struggled against their political enemies, the Messiah came to be thought of as a political, military ruler.*

Now read the account of the Anointed One found in Daniel 9:25-27.

### **Dan 9:25-27**

The Prophets who wrote the Scriptures of the Old Testament, not only testified that He would come as a king in the future, but they also told certain things about His coming and other things which would happen in his life. There are many prophecies about this Messiah (over 300) that we will not cover here due to time and space, but we will look at several of them to see if what the Prophets wrote and what we know about Jesus will lead us to Him.

As we do this study we should also remember this—the prophets of the Old Testament lived and spoke hundreds of years before Jesus was born. They spoke as God taught them by His Spirit, yet the things they said actually happened just as the prophets had said.

### **THE PLACE OF THE MESSIAHS' BIRTH WAS FORETOLD: Micah 5:2**

Micah spoke these words more than 700 years before Jesus was born. It is impossible that man could have such knowledge. He could have known this only as the Spirit of God taught him.

#### **Micah 5:2**

Now turn in your Bible and read Matthew 2:1-6.

#### **Matt 2:1-6**

### **THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN: Isaiah 7:14**

We know that a virgin could never give birth to a child unless the power of God caused it to happen.

#### **Isa 7:14**

Now turn in your bible and read Luke 1:26-35

#### **Luke 1:26-35**

What the Prophet predicted is exactly what did happen. In Luke 1:26-35 we read how Mary, who was a virgin (she had not known a man), was caused to be the mother of Jesus. Although Joseph was known as the earthly father of Jesus, God's word teaches us clearly that Joseph and Mary did not live together as husband and wife until after Jesus was born. We learn of this in Matthew 1:18-25. The words of Isaiah were not fulfilled for many years. But in the birth of Jesus all was done Just as God had promised through the prophet Isaiah.

#### **Matt 1:18-25**

## **IT WAS FORETOLD THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD HAVE THE SPIRET OF GOD:**

### **Isaiah 42:1**

Now read John 1:32-34 and John 3:34,35.

### **John 1:32-34**

### **John 3:34-35**

As we read the New Testament we find that this promise made by Isaiah was surely fulfilled. Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is called by the name Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

## **THE PEOPLE’S REFUSAL OF THE MESSIAH WAS FORETOLD: Isaiah 53:3**

For many years the people of Israel had been looking for a Saviour because of the words of the prophets. However, they did not understand the kind of Saviour that God was going to send them. They wanted a Saviour who could save them from their earthly enemies and give them great wealth and power.

### **Isa 53:3**

Now read Matthew 27:22-23

### **Matt 27:22-23**

The Bible tells us that God has a rule that says, “the wages of sin are death.” God planned to send Jesus in order that Jesus might save all people from their sin. God knew that when Jesus refused to do the wishes of the people they would reject Him and kill Him on a cross. Jesus did not do what the people wished, but spoke to them concerning their sin and their need to turn from those sins. This was spoken of long before it happened so that, when it did happen, the people would understand how Jesus had fulfilled this prophecy also. In the New Testament we read how the rulers and religious leaders hated Jesus and finally nailed Him on a cross.

Read the following about Crucifixion from Nelson’s Bible Dictionary.

#### *CRUCIFIXION*

*The method of torture and execution used by the Romans to put Christ to death. At a crucifixion the victim usually was nailed or tied to a wooden stake and left to die.*

*Crucifixion was used by many nations of the ancient world, including Assyria, Media, and Persia. Alexander the Great of Greece crucified 2,000 inhabitants of Tyre when he captured the city. The Romans later adopted this method and used it often throughout their empire. Crucifixion was the Romans’ most severe form of execution; so it was reserved only for slaves and criminals. No Roman citizen could be crucified.*

*Crucifixion involved attaching the victim with nails through the wrists or with leather thongs to a crossbeam attached to a vertical stake. Sometimes blocks or pins were put on the stake to give the victim some support as he hung suspended from the crossbeam. At times the feet were also nailed to the vertical stake. As the victim hung dangling by the arms, the blood could no longer circulate to his vital organs. Only by supporting himself on the seat or pin could the victim gain relief.*

*But gradually exhaustion set in, and death followed, although usually not for several days. If the victim had been severely beaten, he would not live this long. To hasten death, the executioners sometimes broke the victim's legs with a club. Then he could no longer support his body to keep blood circulation, and death quickly followed. Usually bodies were left to rot or to be eaten by scavengers.*

**THE ENTRY OF THE MESSIAH INTO JERUSALEM WAS FORETOLD:  
Zechariah 9:9**

This prophecy tells exactly how the Messiah would make his entry of victory into Jerusalem-as a lowly person riding upon a donkey.

**Zech 9:9**

Now read Matthew 21:1-9

**Matt 21:1-9**

Jesus fulfilled this prophecy written hundreds of years before His ministry on Earth.

**THE BETRAYAL OF THE MESSIAH WAS FORETOLD: Psalm 41:9**

This verse tells us that the betrayer of the Messiah would be a close friend. It would be some one He trusted and who even ate with Him.

**Ps 41:9**

Now read John 13:2; 21-27 and Matthew 26:14-16

**John 13:2**

**John 13:21-27**

**Matt 26:14-16**

Judas Iscariot was that man the Prophet predicted. He lived as one of Jesus' disciples (followers) for three years. He even preached. But his heart was not right with God. In John 12:6 we learn that during this time Judas was stealing money. Because of his love for money he agreed to betray Jesus and in doing this, the Prophecy was fulfilled in Matthew 26:14-16

**DETAILS OF THE DEATH OF THE MESSIAH WERE FORETOLD**

There are so many prophecies in the Old Testament which tell of the Messiahs' death that we cannot study them all in this short lesson. We will consider a few of them. The following table first shows an Old Testament prophecy relating to the death of the Messiah. The second column shows a New Testament verse that identifies Jesus as fulfilling that prophecy.

| <b>Prophecy</b>                           | <b>OT Scripture</b> | <b>Fulfillment in Christ</b> |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| His cry to God                            | Ps 22:1             |                              |
| People making fun of Him and hating Him   | Ps 22:6-8           | Matt 27:39-43                |
| Nails were driven into His hands and feet | Ps 22:16            | John 20:25                   |

|  |           |               |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| They gambled for His clothes                   | Ps 22:18  | Matt 27:35    |
| His death on the cross was because of our sins | Isa 53:6  | 2 Cor 5:21    |
| He kept quiet at his trial                     | Isa 53:7  | Matt 27:12    |
| He was regarded as a criminal                  | Isa 53:12 | Mark 15:27-29 |

Jesus fulfils the prophecy of the Old Testament regarding the death of the Messiah.

### **THE RESURRECTION OF THE MESSIAH WAS FORETOLD: Psalm 16:10**

The prophecies of the Old Testament foretold that the Messiah would not stay in the grave after His death, but would rise from the dead.

#### **Ps 16:10**

Now read John 19:40-42; 20:6-17

#### **John 19:40-42**

#### **John 20:6-17**

As Peter, one of Jesus' Disciples, preached on the day of Pentecost (the day the Holy Spirit of God came into the world) he used these verses from the Psalm as proof that God had foretold the resurrection (raised from the dead) of Jesus. When Peter had finished his message many of the people realized how Jesus had fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. They then believed that Jesus must surely be the promised Saviour of the Old Testament. That very day about three thousand people turned from their sins and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. When they did this they received forgiveness of sin and life which lasts forever.

#### **Acts 2:22-27**

### **JESUS IS THE ONE FORETOLD BY THE PROPHETS**

How do you now believe the evidence demonstrates that Jesus fulfils all the prophecies of the Old Testament about the Messiah?

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Next week we will look at whether Jesus is the Son of God?

## **Lesson 3: Is Jesus the Son of God?**

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Memory Verse:

*And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved son, with whom I am well pleased,"*  
Matthew 3:17

Introduction:

In this lesson we shall study what the Bible teaches concerning Jesus as the Son of God. There are some people who say:

"We agree that Jesus is the Son of God. We agree because all people are the sons of God. God created us all and He is our heavenly Father, therefore we are all sons of God."

This is NOT what the Bible teaches concerning Jesus as the Son of God. We will see that the Bible teaches that Jesus is the only Son of God. There is not, has never been, and will never be another related to God as Jesus is.

### **JESUS HAD NO EARTHLY FATHER**

If Jesus had an earthly father, then His claim to be the Son of God could not be true. The Bible tells us about the birth of Jesus and that it is clear that He did not have an earthly father.

Read carefully Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35

#### **Matt 1:18-25**

#### **Luke 1:26-35**

From these verses we learn the following things. Fill in the blanks.

Joseph and Mary were planning \_\_\_\_\_. The angel \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear a child. She said this would be impossible because she was \_\_\_\_\_. Gabriel told her that the \_\_\_\_\_ would come over her and that the child would be called \_\_\_\_\_. When Joseph learned that Mary was expecting to bear a child he planned to \_\_\_\_\_. An \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to Joseph in a dream and explained to him how Mary came to be with this child. Then Joseph took Mary as his wife but they did not live together as husband and wife until after \_\_\_\_\_ was born. We see then that Jesus has no earthly father because Mary had become with child by the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **THE ANGEL GABRIEL DECLARED JESUS TO BE THE SON OF GOD**

The Angel Gabriel is the one who brought the news to Mary and apparently to Joseph. We have been asking Who is Jesus, but we may now have a question as to Who is Gabriel? Why should we believe him? Why would he have such knowledge that he could tell this to Joseph and Mary and be right?

There are four appearances of an angel in the Bible where we are told that this angel's name is Gabriel (Dan. 8:16; Dan 9:21; Luke 1:19; Luke 1:26). One of them is the appearance we just read about in Luke. However, in one of the others we learn something about this angel that is important in our understanding of why we would want to pay attention to whatever Gabriel said. First, remember that angels are God's messengers. All the appearances of Gabriel in the Bible are linked to the coming of the Messiah or the second-coming of the Messiah. Look at the one of the four appearances where Gabriel is identified specifically as the angel who is present.

### **Luke 1:19**

What do we learn about Gabriel that makes his message something to which we should pay special attention?

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Read again Luke 1:35.

### **Luke 1:35**

Now ask yourself this question. "According to the words of the angel Gabriel, who is Jesus?"

We see at once that there is only one answer—Jesus is the Son of God. Some people try to be very wise and ask questions concerning who Jesus was. The angel from heaven had no questions about this. Gabriel, an angel who stands in the presence of God, knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

## **JOHN THE BAPTIST DECLARED THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD**

Just like the Prophets wrote about the Messiah, they also wrote about another person who they said would come before the Messiah and "prepare the way" for Him. The prophecy about this person can be found in the books of Isaiah and Malachi.

### **Isa 40:3**

### **Mal 4:5-6**

This man who would go before the Messiah would "prepare the way" for Him.

From these Scriptures, what specific purpose would this man who would "prepare the way" have?

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He would convict the hearts of men about the Messiah. The Bible tells us that this person was the son of a couple named Zechariah and Elizabeth. The story of this man's birth, who was called John the Baptist, is told in the gospel of Luke. It shares some of the same miraculous aspects as the announcement of the birth of Christ. Read about this in the following:

### **Luke 1:11-17**

The Bible tells us about the first meeting of John the Baptist and Jesus. Turn to John 1:29-34 and study these verses.

### **John 1:29-34**

God had sent John the Baptist to prepare the hearts of the people that they might receive Jesus, the promised Saviour. He did this by calling the people to repentance (being sorry for sins and turning from them). God also told John how he would be able to recognize this promised Saviour when he came. How would he know Him? Read again verse 33.

When John saw the Spirit of God coming down and sitting upon Jesus he knew that Jesus was the promised Saviour. He also declared that Jesus was the Son of God (verse 34).

### **GOD HIMSELF DECLARED THAT JESUS WAS HIS SON**

The gospel of Matthew records that after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist that God Himself spoke and named Jesus as His son. Read the following account from the gospel.

### **Matt 3:16-17**

On another occasion where some of Jesus' disciples were present, God Himself spoke about Jesus and who Jesus is. Read the following account of this experience the disciples had in a place called the Mount of Transfiguration.

### **Matt 17:5**

### **Mark 9:7**

### **Luke 9:34-35**

The disciples understood clearly that the voice they heard was the voice of God. Years later when the Apostle Peter was writing of the things which happened on the Mount of Transfiguration (mountain where Jesus was changed to have a shining appearance), he said that Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father. They heard the voice say, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." 2 Peter 1:17,18. God wanted people to understand who Jesus was-His Son.

### **2 Pet 1:17-18**

God in the presence of Jesus' disciples declared that Jesus was His Son.

### **EVIL SPIRITS DECLARED THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD**

The Bible records several times where Jesus encountered "evil spirits." The Bible tells us that evil spirits are followers of a fallen angel whose name is Lucifer or Satan. According to the Scriptures the ultimate source of evil in the world is Satan, also called "the devil" <Luke 8:12> and "the wicked one" <Matt. 13:19>. The Christian believer can rest assured that Jesus will triumph at the end of time, when Satan will be cast into a lake of fire and brimstone and evil will be overcome <Rev. 20:10>.

There are many examples in the Bible where evil spirits recognized Jesus and said that He was the Son of God. Let us look at two of these examples. Read Luke 8:26-39.

### **Luke 8:26-39**

In these verses the devils declared that Jesus was the One who had power to destroy them. Now turn to Mark 1:23-27.

## **Mark 1:23-27**

Here the evil spirit says that Jesus is “Holy One of God.” Why do you think Jesus told the evil spirit to be quiet?

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Who should tell others about Jesus? Read again Luke 8:39. This man’s life had been made right by the power of Jesus. It was this man, and those like him today whose lives have been changed by their encounter with Jesus, whom Jesus wants to tell others about Him.

## **THE DISCIPLES DECLARED THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD**

If we only meet or know people casually, we often do not really know who they are. We get only a superficial knowledge of the person, and often just the knowledge the person is willing to allow to be revealed to us. When we spend time with someone and get to know them well, we are more able to form an opinion regarding who a person really is.

Jesus disciples spent years with Him. They apparently spent 24 hours a day and 7 days a week with Him. They got to know him intimately. They saw His actions and heard His words. They knew Him better than anyone. Let’s see who they thought He was.

See Matthew 16:13-17 and John 6:67-69

## **Matt 16:13-17**

## **John 6:67-69**

The disciples had lived with Jesus for about three years. They had watched His life closely. They had heard Him teach the wonderful things of God. They had seen His sinless life. They had seen the great miracles (works of wonder) which He did. Because of these things they knew that Jesus was truly the Son of God. Notice that they also called Him the Holy One of God.

## **JESUS HIMSELF DECLARED THAT HE WAS THE SON OF GOD**

Before Jesus was crucified, a trial was held in which Jesus was falsely accused of many things. When Jesus was being tried the people hearing the trial were unable to find anyone who could prove that Jesus was guilty of the charges set out. They then asked Jesus this question, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” Jesus gave a very straightforward answer, “I am.” (Mark 14:60-62) If Jesus had said that He was not the Son of God, perhaps His life would not have been taken. He refused to lie about it. He wanted people to understand who He was – the Son of God.

## **Mark 14:60-62**

## **JESUS’ RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD SHOWS THAT HE IS THE SON OF GOD**

While Jesus was with his disciples He told them that He would be put to death and would arise from the grave on the third day. (Matthew 16:21; John 2:18-22; John 10:17,18) The enemies of Jesus had also heard of these words. These enemies did everything possible to prevent this prophecy from coming true. They put the great stone at the entrance of the cave where Jesus’ body had been buried. They put a seal on the stone. They had soldiers guarding the entrance. How foolish they were. The strength of man could never stop the

work of God. Jesus arose from the dead just as He had said He would. His resurrection proved that He spoke the truth. It proved that he was indeed the Son of God (Romans 1:4).

**Matt 16:21**

**John 2:18-22**

**John 10:17-18**

**Rom 1:4**

The Bible speaks very plainly concerning Jesus. **He was and is the Son of God.** (To say this is not true is to say the Word of God is not true).

Next week we will look at whether Jesus is God?

## **Lesson 4: Is Jesus God?**

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Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

We learned in the last lesson that Jesus is the Son of God. In this lesson we shall see that Jesus is also God, Himself. Perhaps you are asking, “I do not understand this-How can Jesus be the Son of God and also God?” At the very beginning of this study we must understand the following truth clearly-God is greater than our understanding. That which we know concerning God is because God chose to show it to us. We do not know God because of our own logic or cleverness.

In 1 Corinthians 1:21 we find these words; “...the world did not know god through wisdom.” How Jesus can be fully God and fully man is a mystery that God has not chosen to reveal to us. However, it is not our purpose here to debate or consider the unknown. It is our purpose in this lesson to learn what God teaches us in the Bible concerning Jesus. We shall see that the Bible teaches very clearly that Jesus is God.

### **1 Cor 1:21**

#### **WE ARE TOLD PLAINLY THAT JESUS IS GOD**

The Bible tells us clearly that Jesus is God. Let’s look at two verses of Scripture that teach this fact. The first is John 1:1 which is our memory verse for this lesson. We will learn in lesson 5 that the “WORD” refers to Jesus. This verse tells us... “And the Word was God.” To say that God and the Word (Jesus) are not the same is to say the Bible itself is not true.

### **John 1:1**

The second verse which we want to look at is Romans 9:5. This verse is talking about the children of Israel and how they received the law and the promised Messiah of God. It tells how, by His physical birth, Jesus was born in their nation. In other words, in the eyes of men, Jesus would be considered an Israelite. But the verse also tells us that Christ is over all. God honored forever.

### **Rom 9:5**

The Bible is described as “the Word of God.” The Scriptures tell us that the Bible was written by men (prophets) who were directed by God’s Spirit. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21

### **2 Peter 1:20-21**

What is the relationship you see between God, the Word as the Bible is called, and the Word as Jesus is called?

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#### **JESUS’ POWER TO FORGIVE SIN SHOWS THAT HE IS GOD**

What is sin?

Sin is anything that displeases God. Sin is breaking God’s laws. Sin involves the denial of the living God from whom human beings draw their life and existence <Acts 17:28>. The consequence of this revolt is death and the torment of hell. Death is the ultimate penalty imposed by God for sin <Rom. 6:23>.

Sin is lawlessness <John 3:4>, or not doing God's will, either by omitting to do what God's law requires or by doing what it forbids. Sin can occur in thoughts <1 John 3:15>, words <Matt. 5:22>, or deeds <Rom 1:32>. Mankind was created without sin, but sin entered into human experience when Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, violated the direct command of God by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden <Gen. 3:6>. Because Adam was the head and representative of the whole human race, his sin affected all future generations <Rom. 5:12-21>. Associated with this guilt is a corrupted nature passed from Adam to all his descendants. Out of this nature arise all the sins that people commit <Matt. 15:19>; no person is free from involvement in sin <Rom. 3:23>. Mankind originally fell into sin at the temptation of Satan. As the tempter, he continues to lure people into sin <1 Pet. 5:8>; nevertheless, people remain fully responsible for what they do.

God is holy and cannot sin <James 1:13>. God is not the author of sin, but His plan for world redemption does include His dealing with the reality of sin <2 Sam. 24:1, 1 Chr. 21:1>. Only God can forgive sin.

Violation of the law of God in thought, word, and deed shows the sinfulness of the human heart. Sin is actually a contradiction to the holiness of God, whose image mankind bears. This depraved condition is called "original sin" because it comes from Adam and characterizes all persons from the moment of their birth. All sin is against God.

Long ago King David prayed to God and said, "Against you, you only, have I sinned" (Psalm 51:4). The only person who can forgive sin is the one who has been sinned against. We shall see that Jesus had power to forgive sin. Read the Psalm passage and Mark 2:1-12.

#### **Ps 51:4**

#### **Mark 2:1-12**

The Jews believed that a man with a problem such as this paralytic had was because of sin in his life, or because the sins of his parents had been passed down to him. They believed, and rightly so, that only God can forgive sin. They also believed that the evidence of forgiveness of sin in a person that was afflicted such as this man would be evidenced by him overcoming the illness.

From these verses we can see the following things.

- Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven. The enemies of Jesus said that only God could forgive sin. They were right about that.
- Then they said Jesus was doing evil because he was claiming power that belonged to God alone. Jesus then healed the man that He might prove to the people that He did possess the power to forgive sins.

Let us think about it in this way. Suppose there is a house that is locked. We know that there is only one key in the world that will unlock the door. We have never seen the owner of the house, but we know that he is the one who has the key. If we saw a man come to the house, take a key, and unlock the door, then we would know that he was the owner of the house. We know that only God can forgive sins. Therefore, when we see Jesus come with the power to forgive sin we know that Jesus is God.

### **JESUS CLAIMED EQUAL HONOR WITH GOD**

Jesus makes a statement that He is equal to God. The Jews did not like that claim and claimed He was lying and committing blasphemy (The act of cursing, slandering, reviling or showing contempt or lack of reverence for God.)

Read John 5:17-23

## **John 5:17-23**

In these verses Jesus makes it clear that men are to honor Him as they honor the Father. If you begin reading from verse 17, you will find that the Jews wanted to Kill Jesus. The Jews said that Jesus was teaching that he was equal with God (verse 18). If Jesus had not claimed to have been equal with God, He would certainly have corrected them. He would have made it plain to them that they had misunderstood and that He did not claim to be equal to God. Did He do this? No. Instead, Jesus told them that “All men should honor the son, even as they honor the Father.”

Read Philippians 2:6

## **Phil 2:6**

This verse tells us that Jesus was in the form of God before He came to earth. Jesus did not think it robbery to be equal with God. This means that Jesus was not robbing honor from God when He claimed to be equal with God.

## **JESUS ACCEPTED WORSHIP AS GOD**

Today we have seen many occasions where people are following a religious or political leader virtually to the point of worship. It is also popular to claim an association today with angels.

In Acts 14:8-18, we read that Paul and Barnabas were preaching at Lystra. By the power of Jesus they healed a man who could not walk. The people who saw this miracle wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas. They believed that those who had such power must surely be gods from heaven. Paul and Barnabas immediately corrected this mistake and told the people that they were men like themselves. This is exactly what they should have done.

## **Acts 14:8-18**

When John had his special dream of heaven and fell down to worship the one who spoke to him, he was told that he should not do so. God only should be worshipped. Read Revelation 19:10. The person who spoke to John refused to be worshipped because he knew that God only should be worshipped. He did exactly what he should have done.

## **Rev 19:10**

Now read John 20:27-29. After his resurrection Jesus appeared to Thomas. When Thomas realized that it was truly Jesus who had risen from the dead he said, “My Lord and my God.” Did Jesus correct him for calling Him God? No. Jesus accepted what Thomas said. Jesus did so because He was God.

## **John 20:27-29**

What do the Scriptures teach about worship of men and angels as compared to the worship of Jesus?

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## **GOD WAS IN CHRIST**

There are some people who do not want to honor Jesus as they honor God the Father. They say, “If Jesus is God, that means that God died upon the cross.” Actually, this is exactly that the Bible teaches us. In 2 Corinthians 5:19 we are told this, “God was Christ, reconciling the world to Himself.”

### **2 Cor 5:19**

We also read about this in Acts 20:28. Paul was talking to the elders from the church at Ephesus. He told them how they must care for the church of God that He purchased with His own blood. As you read this verse carefully you will see that Paul is talking about God. He calls the church “The church of God” and then adds, “Which He (God) has purchased with His own blood.”

### **Acts 20:28**

As we said at the beginning of this lesson, there are many things that our minds do not understand. When we look about us in the world we see so many things which are beyond our understanding. If we cannot understand that these things have been created by God, how can we understand fully the deep things of God. However, the things which God teaches us we can believe.

We have seen that the Bible really teaches that Jesus IS God. We may not understand all about it, but we can believe it because God had taught it to us. The wonder of it is that God should come to the earth in a body, live among men, and die for their sins so that they might have life forever through faith in Him.

Next week we will study whether Jesus was the sinless sacrifice that God required to redeem men from their sins.

## **Lesson 5: Was Jesus The Sinless Man?**

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Memory Verse:

*But (Jesus) in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sinning.* Hebrews 4:15b

Introduction:

Why is it important to know if Jesus was a man, and whether He was a sinless man?

If Jesus was not a man, it would leave room for some to argue that Jesus did not have to live with the problems and difficulties that life presents us. If Jesus had sinned, He could not have died in the place of sinful man. He would have had to receive the punishment of His own sin. God required a perfect sacrifice, one without sin, in order to bring man back into a relationship with God. Man required a redeemer to which he can look that knows and understands man's life.

In lessons two and three we studied about Jesus being God. We saw that He was the Son of God and also God. In this lesson we will learn what the Bible teaches about Jesus being a man. We shall see that Jesus was man in all ways like ourselves except that He was without sin. If we are to begin to understand the true nature of Jesus, we must understand that He was both God and man.

Think about it in this way. A man may hold a coin in his hand. He knows that it is one coin. He also knows that the one coin has two sides. The nature of Jesus is like this. The nature of Jesus was one. But this one nature possessed two sides-the God side and the human side.

### **JESUS WAS MAN**

Consider some of the things which the Bible tells us about Jesus which cause us to know that He was God, but also a man.

1. Jesus was born of woman just as we are. Although God was His Father, he was conceived in the womb of Mary. He developed, and was born as all other babies (Galatians 4:4).

#### **Gal 4:4**

2. The body of Jesus was like ours. We know this because of the following reasons:
  - (1) He grew from childhood to man hood as all other men do. Luke 2:52
  - (2) He felt hunger and thirst as all other men do. Matthew 4:2; John 19:28
  - (3) He became tired just as other men do. John 4:6

#### **Luke 2:52**

#### **Matt 4:2**

#### **John 19:28**

#### **John 4:6**

3. The feelings of Jesus were like our feelings:
  - (1) He felt such great sorrow upon the death of a friend that He wept. John 11:34-36
  - (2) He felt loving pity because of the sufferings of others. Luke 17:12-14
  - (3) He felt grief and anger because of the sinfulness of men. Mark 3:5

**John 11:34-36**

**Luke 17:12-14**

**Mark 3:5**

Can you think of any other times the Bible shows us the feelings and emotions Jesus had?

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### **AS MAN JESUS WAS TEMPTED JUST AS WE ARE TEMPTED**

Read Hebrews 4:14-15. In these verses Jesus is called our great High Priest. It goes on to say that He was tempted in every respect as we are tempted. We must not think that the only time Jesus was tempted was when Satan came to Him after He had not eaten for the forty days and nights. Jesus was tempted many different times in many different ways.

**Heb 4:14-15**

At one time satan even tempted Jesus through Simon Peter, one of the disciples. When Jesus told the disciples how He must soon suffer and die, Peter spoke strong words to Him. Peter told Jesus that such a thing should never happen to Him. satan was using Peter to tempt Jesus to avoid death on the cross. If Satan could have gotten Jesus to escape dying on the cross there would have been no salvation for mankind. Jesus understood exactly what Satan was trying to do through Peter. That is why He spoke to Peter as he did in Matthew 16:23. Read verses 21-23. All of us should understand this. There are times when Satan will tempt us even through our friends.

**Matt 16:21-23**

Do you believe Jesus had a special “power” given Him by God to reduce the “effect” of the temptations? Why or why not?

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Jesus did have the power. But apparently He refused to use His own power to make His temptations lighter. When he was hungry, Satan tempted Him to turn the stones into bread. Jesus had the power to do this. Jesus refused to use His power to lighten the temptations put upon him by satan. Why? Because then He would not have been tempted as we are tempted. He could not have truly been like us.

### **JESUS LIVED LIFE WITHOUT SIN**

Read the following verses: Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; James 4:17. This IS the one way in which Jesus, as a man, was different from all mankind. All men have sinned. Jesus was without sin.

**Heb 4:15**

**2 Cor 5:21**

**1 Pet 2:22**

**James 4:17**

There are two ways in which a man can sin. The first way is by doing things which we know are evil. The Bible tells us certain things that God does not want us to do. When a man refuses God's will, and does these things, he is against God. We know that it is sin to do a thing that is wrong. Typically, when we are talking about certain things God does not want us to do we refer to the Ten Commandments.

These Commandments are found in Exodus 20:1-17

**Exod 20:1-17**

The second way of sinning is to fail to do the thing that we know is right. God tells us that there are certain things that we should do. When we fail to do these things, we sin against God. In James 4:17 we read, "Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."

What are some of the things that God tell us we should do, but we often fail at?

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When we say that Jesus was without sin, we mean that He never did anything that was evil in the eyes of God. We also mean that He always did everything that was good in the eyes of God. He never did evil. He never failed to do good.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF JESUS BEING THE SINLESS MAN**

In 2 Corinthians 5:21, we learn that Jesus, who had no sin, become sin for us so that we might be made right with God in Jesus.

**2 Cor 5:21**

What does that mean to you that Jesus "became sin for us?"

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If Jesus had sinned, He could not have died in the place of sinful man. He would have had to receive the punishment of His own sin.

For example, let us suppose that two men kill a man. They are judged and found guilty. Then one of the men says to the judge, "Sir, let me die in the place of my friend here." Immediately the judge would answer, "No. You are both guilty. He must die for his wrongdoing and you must die for yours." The guilty must suffer for his own guilt.

Think about what happens when a man or woman becomes a public figure today. All the things of their past, mostly the bad ones, are dredged up and aired in public. If Jesus had sinned or there was evidence of sin in His life, don't you think His critics would have made them public as quickly as possible? Wouldn't those who opposed Christianity in the first century have published list after list of His faults? There are no such lists.

Jesus, as a sinless man, never committed any sin. That is why he was able to suffer in our place because of our sins. God accepted His sacrifice of His life in place of yours and mine.

Next week we will look at Jesus as the Word of God.

## **Lesson 6: Is Jesus The Word of God?**

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Memory Verse:

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John 1:14*

Introduction:

As we study John 1:1-14 we read about the “Word.” Perhaps the question comes to your mind, “Who or what is the Word?” Our memory verse will give us the answer to this.

We read that the Word became flesh and dwelt (lived) among us. Since we know John is writing about Jesus, we then know for sure then that the Word is Jesus. But why is Jesus called the Word?

Let us think about it in this way. Suppose you are considering something privately in your mind. You want your friends to know about this thing, but you are not sure how are you going to make it known to them. There is really only one choice for you. You must tell them. You must use words to cause your friends to know the thing that you want them to know. There is no way they will know what you have hidden in your mind and heart unless you tell them.

We cannot know anything about God unless He reveals Himself to us. God reveals Himself to us in two ways.

First, He reveals Himself to us through the works of His hands. That revelation by God is addressed to, and therefore available to, all men at all times. It is rooted in creation, is addressed to man, and more particularly to human reason. It finds its purpose in the realization of the creation to know God and enjoy communion with Him. This revealing of God is evident in;

- The existence of nature about us as well as its ongoing processes, which sustain life.
- His creation - - man.
- The natural channel of the conscience or moral nature of man.

Second, God reveals Himself to us through His Word. Through His Holy Spirit God caused men from time to time to write down His Word in what we call the Scriptures.

The revealing of God through His Word is His redemptive plan. It is addressed to man as a sinner. It can only be understood by faith, and finds its purpose in restoring the relationship between man and God despite the interference of sin.

Remember the Scripture passage from Revelation 19:10. It says that “...Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” That means that Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy. This does not mean that He is the last of the prophets. It means that He is the living Word of God. He is the entirety of the redemptive plan of God.

God sent Jesus, the Word, to make His message of redemption from sin known to men. It is Jesus who causes us to know those things which are in the heart of God. Jesus made God’s message known by His teachings and by His action. That is why Jesus is called the Word. He is God’s Word to all people for all time. Therefore we see that the “Word” is one of the many names of titles of Jesus. Let us now see some of the great truths about God that Jesus shows to us as the Word of God.

### **JESUS REVEALS THE TRUE NATURE OF GOD**

Jesus said, “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Many people have asked in their hearts, “What is the true nature of God?” It is impossible to describe exactly the nature of someone – especially when that One is God. It is much better if we can see that person. That is exactly what happened with Jesus. God let us see Himself in Jesus Christ. The prophets of the Old Testament tried in many different ways to tell the people about the true nature of God. What they said was true but they were never able to tell

everything about God. This could only be known by seeing God. Man can see God fully in Jesus Christ. Jesus was God's Word to man so that man might truly know the nature of God.

John 14:9

## **JESUS SHOWS GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION**

People everywhere feel a need for God in their hearts. They know that they have sinned against God. They know that sin causes things to be wrong between them and God. They begin to think, "How can I make things right between myself and God?"

In their effort to make things right they do many different things. Some worship spirits of their fathers. Some worship Gods made of wood and stone. Some kill animals for an offering. Some follow the teachings of certain men who profess to know the way to God. None of these things is right.

If a man wants God's salvation, Jesus offers the answer.

### **John 14:6**

## **JESUS SHOWS THE WILL OF GOD FOR THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS**

Do you know the will of god in your life?

Jesus is God's Word to man and He shows God's plan of salvation to man.

Jesus is also God's Word to the man who has been saved so that the saved man may know how he should live.

Obviously, a Christian should read the Bible carefully. He should study the life of Jesus. But realize that the will of God was above all else in the life of Jesus. When Jesus thought of the great suffering which would be His upon the cross He prayed to God. We can find His prayer in Matthew 26:39

### **Matt 26:39**

If there was a way to escape the suffering of the cross, Jesus wanted to escape it. But His desire to do the will of God was greater than His desire to escape the suffering that was to come. Because Jesus put the will of God before His own wishes, there is a way of salvation for us today.

Jesus was God's Word to all people. He not only told men that they should obey God, but He showed them how they should obey God. They should do it by putting God's will above all else in their lives.

## **JESUS SHOWED THE TRUTH CONCERNING LIFE AFTER DEATH**

Is there life after death? Today that question is asked thousands of times a day. It is the subject of scientific studies regarding what are called "near death" experiences. In the 1700's this question even resulted in a doctor in England weighing his patients just before death and just after to calculate the amount of body mass taken up by the spirit as it left the body. In ancient Egypt, this question resulted in the building of great stone pyramids to house the bodies and accompanying needs of the dead person in their "after-life." It is on a more personal basis, the question asked by many as their loved ones pass from this life and leave them behind. This question which mankind has considered for thousands of years was answered by the Word as revealed in Jesus.

A teacher cannot teach difficult subjects to children in primary school. They are just beginning to learn. Therefore the simple things must be taught to them first. Then when they have learned well the first truths they are ready to learn greater things. The Old Testament is like primary school. The great beginning truths are taught in it and these truths need to be learned well. But in Jesus we get a fuller understanding of God and specifically life after death.

Jesus was God's Word who made these truths clear to us.

We shall be studying more about life after death in lesson eleven of this course. In the meantime, let us keep it clearly in mind that Jesus is God's Word to us, if we want to understand truly concerning life after death, then we must learn what He teaches.

Jesus was teaching in the Temple in Jerusalem when a group of people called the Sadducees came to him. These Sadducees posed a question to Jesus that they thought would trap him. The Sadducees did not believe in life after death. There was another group that did believe in life after death called the Pharisees. Aside from asking Jesus a very confusing question, they expected to trap Him into taking sides in this debate about life after death and therefore weakening His followers. Read this account.

### **Mark 12:18-27**

What did Jesus use to make His point about life after death, and answer their question?

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Jesus used the Words to answer their question. He told them that if they really knew the Word, they would not have to ask such a question. Most importantly, Jesus said that men who they knew had died on this earth – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – were actually alive and with God.

On another occasion, Jesus was talking to His disciples and He told them the following:

### **John 14:1-6**

Jesus told His disciples that He was going to be with God, that He was preparing a place for them, that He would take them there with Him. He told them that there is life after death and it is with Him. He also told Thomas one very important thing about going with Him to heaven. What was that?

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## **JESUS IS GOD'S FINAL WORD TO MAN**

When the truth has been told, there is no need for something else to be added. God told the full truth about himself, salvation, and Christian living in Jesus Christ – the Word. In Colossians 1:15 we read the following concerning Jesus:

### **Col 1:15**

What this passage tells us is that if man wants to know the truth about God, he must learn this truth from Jesus Christ. Other people have come and they say, "But God has told us more than is written in the Bible. We have the Bible and additional truth." **THIS IS A LIE.** The things that God has shown us of Himself were completed in Jesus Christ.

If a perfect picture has been painted then anything, which is added to the picture or taken from it, will spoil it. God is pictured perfectly in Jesus. Whenever anyone tries to take from or add to the picture of God that we see in Christ, that person spoils the picture.

God has spoken very clearly about those who try to change the Bible in any way. In the last book of the Bible it is made clear that anyone who comes with “extras” has not come from God. Read Revelation 22:18,19.

### **Rev 22:18-19**

Next week we will study the power that has been given Jesus.

## **Lesson 7: What Power Does Jesus Have?**

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Memory Verse:

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me."  
Matthew 28:18*

Introduction:

When we think of power we may have different opinions of what it is. Some may think of the ability to make someone do something against their will. Some may think of power as in electric, steam, or gas power that make machines function. Some may think of political power that can rule a country. Others may think of the power of money which would let them buy what they want.

The power that Jesus displayed is far greater and more awesome than any of these.

Jesus died on the cross. The Bible tells us that on the third day He rose from the dead. For a period of forty days He met with his disciples at various times. These disciples knew with certainty that Jesus who had died on the cross and had been buried was alive. They had seen Him. They had talked with Him. They had touched Him with their hands. At the end of the forty days Jesus called the disciples together. As He talked with them He spoke the words that we find in the memory verse for this lesson, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me." He wanted them to understand completely concerning His power. Then, when He had finished speaking to the disciples, He went up into heaven. They stood and watched as He disappeared into the clouds.

Christians do not worship a dead and buried Saviour. They worship the risen, living, all-powerful Son of God. In addition to His power over death, while Jesus was living on Earth He showed His power in many ways at different times.

### **JESUS HAS POWER OVER NATURE**

1. We know this as we see His power to command the wind and the sea. (Matthew 8:23-27)

#### **Matt 8:23-27**

2. We know this as we see His power to walk upon the water. (John 6:16-21)

#### **John 6:16-21**

3. We know this as we see how He had the power to multiply five loaves of bread and two small fish so that 5,000 men could be fed. Then, after all had eaten, there remained enough food to fill twelve baskets. Jesus had fed 5,000 men with these two fishes and five loaves and yet more food remained than He had in the beginning. (John 6:5-14)

#### **John 6:5-14**

4. We know this as we see His power to command a green tree and cause it to dry up (Matthew 21:18-21)

#### **Matt 21:18-21**

5. Jesus not only had the power to make the heavens and the earth but He also has the power that keeps all things from destruction. The world in which we live today would fall to pieces if it were not for the power of Jesus. Each day we are allowed to live in this world because of the power of Jesus. (Colossians 1:16,17)

## Col 1:16-17

Can you think of a time when you were caught in what seemed to be an impossible natural event such as a storm? Was there a time when it seemed like you could not survive against the strength of nature? Write about it here.

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Recently there have been a number of natural disasters. A “swarm” of tornadoes in the United States in Oklahoma that literally wiped off the face of the earth hundreds of homes. A mud slide in South America that apparently buried alive over 30,000 people. A storm at sea that caused an oil tanker to break up off the coast of Europe and spill thousands of gallons of oil into the ocean. Tragedies that leave the victims stunned with the power of nature. Yet the Bible tells us that Jesus has power over all of Nature. Just His spoken Word put the forces of nature into submission to Him.

## JESUS HAS POWER OVER EVIL SPIRITS

The Bible teaches that there are evil spirits that obey the commands of satan. The Bible also teaches us that the power of Jesus Christ is far greater than their power. The person who trusts in the power of Jesus can be victorious over the evil forces of satan.

There are many places in the New Testament where we can read how the power of Jesus is greater than that of satan and his evil spirits. Let us look at one of these places. Read carefully Luke 8:26-39.

## Luke 8:26-39

These verses show clearly the work of satan. The work of satan is to destroy. He is against God and all that is pleasing to God. When satan’s devils were in the heart of this man they were working to destroy him. Jesus drove them out by **His power**. They then entered into some pigs feeding nearby. They caused the pigs to destroy themselves by running into the sea where they died. The power of satan always tries to destroy that which is good.

Are there evil spirits in our world today? Have you ever encountered a person who you believe may have been possessed by evil spirits?

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The power of Jesus is always ready to help those who truly want to receive His help. Because the power of Jesus is greater than all the power of satan, we can receive the help which we need.

## JESUS HAS POWER OVER DISEASE

Many people were healed by the power of Jesus. Let us consider a few of them.

1. Leprosy was a bad skin disease that no one thought could be healed in the days of Jesus. In Mark 1:40-43 we read how a man who had leprosy came to Jesus for help. Jesus healed him with a touch of His hand.

## Mark 1:40-43

2. In Mark 5:25-34 we read of a woman who had been ill for twelve years. She had been to many doctors and she had spent all her money trying to be healed. No one could help her. But when she touched the garment of Jesus she was healed immediately.

## Mark 5:25-34

There are many other examples where Jesus healed the sick, but we will not read of these in this lesson. There is one thing we do want to keep clearly in mind. There is no sickness that Jesus can not heal. He has complete power over all disease.

## JESUS HAS POWER TO FORGIVE SIN

The question is often asked, “How can I receive forgiveness for my sins?” Some people try to find forgiveness by confessing their sins to a priest. Others hope to find forgiveness by joining a church. There are others who hope to receive forgiveness by receiving baptism. The Bible teaches us that none of these things has the power to forgive sin.

What is forgiveness?

*The act of excusing or pardoning another in spite of his slights, shortcomings, and errors. As a theological term, forgiveness refers to God’s pardon of the sins of human beings.*

*No religious book except the Bible teaches that God completely forgives sin <Ps. 51:1,9; Is. 38:17; Heb. 10:17>. The initiative comes from Him <John 3:16; Col. 2:13> because He is ready to forgive <Luke 15:11-32>. He is a God of grace and pardon <Neh. 9:17; Dan. 9:9>*

*Sin deserves divine punishment because it is a violation of God’s holy character <Gen. 2:17; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Pet. 1-16>, but His pardon is gracious <Ps. 130:4; Rom. 5:6-8>. In order for God to forgive sin, two conditions are necessary. A life must be taken as a substitute for that of the sinner <Lev. 17:11,14; Heb. 9:22>, and the sinner must come to God’s sacrifice in a spirit of repentance and faith <Mark 1:4; Acts 10:43; James 5:15>.*

*Forgiveness in the New Testament is directly linked to Christ <Acts 5:31; Col. 1:14>, His sacrificial death on the cross <Rom. 4:24>, and His resurrection <2 Cor. 5:15>. He was the morally perfect sacrifice <Rom. 8:3>, the final and ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament sacrifices <Heb. 9:11-10:18>. Since He bore the law’s death penalty against sinners <Gal. 3:10-13>, those who trust in His sacrifice and freed from that penalty. By faith sinners are forgiven – “Justified” in Paul’s terminology <Rom. 3:28; Gal. 3:8-9>. Those who are forgiven sin’s penalty also die to its controlling power in their lives <Rom. 6:1-23>.*

It is Jesus who has the power to forgive sin. In an earlier lesson we read Mark 2:1-12. We are going to use it again in this lesson. Give special attention to verse 10. Jesus said that He had the power to forgive sins. He proved that He had this power. He healed the man who had been brought to Him.

## Mark 2:1-12

If you are looking for the forgiveness of sin, you can be sure that there is forgiveness in Jesus Christ alone. Read Ephesians 1:7; Acts 4:12; Acts 10:43.

## Eph 1:7

**Acts 4:12**

**Acts 10:43**

## **JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH**

Men and women everywhere fear the uncertainty of death. Benjamin Franklin, the well known American, once wrote a friend of his a letter in which he stated, "There is nothing certain in this life, except death and taxes." John Heywood, a British writer in 1565 penned these words about death, "...and death makes equal the high and low." Physical death is certain for each of us, unless the Lord returns first. And death comes to everyone – the rich, the famous, the high and mighty, the pauper. But Jesus demonstrated that He had been given power over death.

Read Matthew 9:23-26

### **Matt 9:23-26**

This girl was dead. The ritual mourning had begun. The young girl had been dead long enough for friends to gather at the house and grieve with the family. But Jesus brought her back to life.

Now read Luke 7:11-17;

### **Luke 7:11-17**

They were taking the widow's son to the place of burial that they might put his body in the grave. Jesus simply spoke the Words and the dead boy was alive again.

### **John 11:1-46**

Lazarus had been dead for four days and was already buried. His sister said that his flesh had already begun to decay. Jesus showed His power over death by putting back life in all of these.

In lesson ten we will study further concerning Jesus' power over death. We will see that He had power to take up His own life and that He also has power to give life to all who die.

Jesus power over death is clearly documented. There is no doubt death submits to Him.

Next week we will look at the question, Is Jesus the Lamb of God?

## **Lesson 8: Is Jesus The Lamb of God?**

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Memory Verse:

*The next day he (John) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* John 1:29

Introduction:

In this lesson we will be studying about Jesus – who is called “the Lamb of God.” In the days of the Old Testament a lamb was used as a sacrifice (an offering to God killed on an altar) for the sin of the people. God had given the people very clear directions about sacrifices and the people understood these directions. Therefore, when John the Baptist spoke of Jesus as “the Lamb of God” the words had great meaning to the people who heard. If these words describing Jesus are to have the same meaning to us, then we must learn about the lamb of sacrifice of the Old Testament. As we come to understand about them, we will come to understand in a better way concerning who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

The need for a blood sacrifice rose with the first man and woman on the earth – Adam and Eve. Sacrifice and sacrificing originated in the Garden of Eden immediately following the FALL of man. The FALL of man occurred, according to the Bible, when Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God and succumbed to the enticement of satan. Adam and Eve made loincloths of leaves to cover their sinfulness, then hid from God because their provision was inadequate in their own minds. God then killed innocent animals on their behalf and made coverings for Adam and Eve. God’s covering was adequate, while man’s covering was insufficient.

### **THE NEED FOR A LAMB**

There are many commandments in the Old Testament that God gave His people. There were certain things they should not do. There were other things they should do. When a man knew God’s will and yet refused to do it, that man sinned against God. Sin is refusing the will of God so that we may do our own will.

Let’s use a somewhat simplified example to understand this need for a lamb by relating a story about a man who lived in the days of the Old Testament. This man sinned against God. After he had committed the sin he was sorry and began to think, “What can I do?” He went to the priest and said, “I have sinned against God. What must I do?”

The priest would then explain to him that sin is very serious to God. It must be punished. The sinner must either suffer the punishment for his sin, or another must suffer the punishment in his place. The priest would tell him that God had a plan so that an animal, such as a lamb, could be sacrificed because of the sin the man had committed. In other words, the lamb would suffer the punishment of sin in the place of the one who actually committed the sin. Then the sin could be forgiven by God. Now read Leviticus 4:32-35.

### **Lev 4:32-35**

Suppose the man then asked, “But sir, let me confess my sin to you and perhaps God will forgive it.” The priest would have to reply, “NO, According to the plan of God, where there is a sin, there must be a death to pay the punishment of sin.” The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans in the New Testament a very similar statement.

### **Rom 6:23a**

Perhaps the man would then say, “But sir, if I promise that I will never sin again could this sin be forgiven without the sacrificing of my lamb?” The priest would have to answer, “No, your sin has already been done. And according to the plan of God, If there is to be forgiveness of sin, there must be the pouring out of blood.” Read Leviticus 17:11 to see this principle of God stated.

## **Lev 17:11**

The Old Testament also referred to sacrifices as “food for Jehovah” <Lev. 3:11,16; 22:7> and an offering made by the fire for the “satisfaction of Jehovah” <Lev. 2:2,9>. As a spiritual being, God did not need physical food. Nevertheless, He did insist that these sacrifices be given to Him. Sacrifice as worship is man giving back to God what God has previously given him as a means of grace. Ultimately, these sacrifices speak of the one final and perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ <Heb. 10:11-18>.

## **Heb 9:22**

### **THE KIND OF LAMB NEEDED**

According to God’s command, the animal sacrificed had to be physically perfect in age and condition. Through the perfection of this animal, perfection was presented to God. A lamb that is sick or injured or imperfect in any way would not be acceptable to God. When the lamb was brought, the priest would examine it very carefully to be sure that it had all the qualities needed according to the Old Testament.

Ultimately, this symbolized the necessity for man to present himself perfect before God by presenting the perfect one in his place <1Pet. 1:8-19>.

## **1 Pet 1:18-19**

Jesus, as the Lamb of God, was perfect. He was without sin. God, Himself, examined Jesus and said of Him, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17). Therefore, Jesus, the perfect and sinless One, had the qualities God said were necessary so that He could be our lamb of sacrifice.

## **Matt 3:17**

### **THE DEATH OF THE LAMB FOR THE SINNER**

After the man returned with the lamb, and the priest had looked at it carefully and accepted it, two things would happen. First, the man would put his hands upon the head of the lamb and confess his sin. This was a picture that the sin confessed was being removed from the man and put upon the lamb.

Secondly, the lamb, which had now taken the sin and guilt of the man upon itself, must die. The priest took the lamb and killed it according to the directions given by God. The innocent lamb had died for the guilty man. Read the account of this law in Leviticus 4:32-35.

## **Lev 4:32-35**

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote the following about the Messiah over 700 years before Jesus;

## **Isa 53:6-7**

## **Isa 53:12**

We read that John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God.” Elsewhere in the New Testament Jesus is called a lamb <Acts 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 5:6>. The Book of Revelation speaks of Jesus as a lamb 28 times.

This is exactly what happened when Jesus died on the cross. As the Lamb of God, He took our sins upon Himself. He suffered and died because of our sins. This was done so that we might have forgiveness of sin and life forever. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

## **2 Cor 5:21**

### **THE WAY OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN**

Before we end this lesson we need to understand some things very clearly. These things were true in the Old Testament days and they are also true today. If a man looks for forgiveness for his sins, the following things must happen:

1. He must realize that he has sinned against God. (Romans 3:23).

## **Rom 3:23**

2. He must feel true sorrow in his heart because of sin. He must want to leave all his sin. God will not accept a sacrifice unless there is true repentance. (Amos 5:21-24)

## **Amos 5:21-24**

3. He must accept God's plan for forgiveness. There is only one way for forgiveness and that is through the Lamb of God; Jesus Christ (John 14:6)

## **John 14:6**

Now that we understand these things about the lamb of sacrifice, we can better understand what John the Baptist meant when he called Jesus "the Lamb of God." He meant that Jesus was the sinless Saviour whom God had sent into the world to die for our sins.

Next week we will look at the question, "Is Jesus the Savior of the World?"

## Lesson 9: Is Jesus the Savior of the World?

Memory Verse:

*She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from sins.*  
Matthew 1:21

Introduction:

In lesson eight we studied what Jesus did in order to pay the price God demanded for our sins. He willingly died as the Lamb of God because of our sins. We say that He “saved” us from our sins. This is why we call Him “Savior”. In this lesson we will be studying about Jesus as Savior and the salvation which He freely gives to anyone and everyone who will **repent** of their sins and trust in Him.

What does being saved mean?

*Being saved means that you have been delivered from the power of sin. You have been redeemed by God. When you are saved, you are now sinless in the sight of God and can have fellowship with Him and be in His presence. We are able to be saved and be in God's presence only because of what Jesus did for us in His sacrifice as the Lamb of God. Because we are sinless through Jesus in God's eyes, we are no longer under the penalty of death. Although we will certainly die on this earth, **we can live forever** with Jesus in Heaven.*

*In the Old Testament, the word salvation sometimes refers to deliverance from danger <Jer. 15:20>, deliverance of the weak from an oppressor <Ps. 35:9-10>, the healing of sickness <Is. 38:20>, and deliverance from blood guilt and its consequences <Ps. 51:14>. It may also refer to national deliverance from military threat <Ex. 14:13> or release from captivity <Ps. 14:7>. But salvation finds its deepest meaning in the spiritual realm of life. Man's universal need for salvation is one of the clearest teachings of the Bible.*

*The central Old Testament experience of salvation is the Exodus <Ex. 12:40—14:31>. Much of Israel's worship of God was a renewal of this mighty experience that brought them from tyranny in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land <Ex. 13:3-16>. The mighty saving power of God was demonstrated dramatically as the Israelites formed a holy nation of priestly servants of the Lord <Ex. 19:4-6>. The Exodus became a pattern of salvation by which God's future deeds of redemption would be understood.*

*The Salvation that comes through Christ may be described in three tenses: past, present, and future. When a person believes in Christ, he is saved <Acts 16:31>. But we are also in the process of being saved from the power of sin <Rom. 8:13; Phil. 2:12>. Finally, we shall be saved from the very presence of sin <Rom. 13:11; Titus 2:12-13>. God releases into our lives today the power of Christ's resurrection <Rom. 6:4> and allows us a foretaste of our future life as His children <2 Cor. 1: 22; Eph. 1:14>. Our experience of salvation will be complete when Christ returns <Heb. 9:28> and the kingdom of God is fully revealed <Matt. 13:41-43>.*

What is repentance? What does it mean to repent?

*Repentance is a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God <Matt. 9:13; Luke 5:32>. In a more general sense, repentance means a change of mind <Gen. 6:6-7> or a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct <Matt. 27:3>. True repentance is a “godly sorrow” for sin, an act of turning around and going in the opposite direction. This type of repentance leads to a fundamental change in a person's relationship to God.*

## **JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOR**

Today it is popular thinking to “allow room” for many religious beliefs – to be tolerant of diversity in religion as well as other beliefs. Many people today try to make “politically correct” statements in order to not offend any one. Recently, there has been a great outcry from those who want to accept any belief as “OK”, as long as you have one. Their outcry has come as a result of statements by Southern Baptists that they were praying for the repentance and salvation of certain non-Christian groups, such as the Jews and Muslims. The outcry has even extended to those described as “Religious Leaders” in some communities. Basically, what these people are proposing is that as long as a person belongs to any religion, they are going to be saved and those of us who have found the true answer should leave them alone. Unfortunately, although it is popular to respect diversity, that is not what the Bible teaches on salvation and the free offer of eternal life for the believer. The Bible is very specific on the question, “If a man is of another religion such as Islam, Hinduism, etc., will that man be saved?” According to the Bible the answer is, “No. Jesus, the Son of God, is the only one who can save.”

What is another way for those non-Christian groups to look at these efforts by Christians toward their salvation?

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Let us suppose that a man wants to go from one town to another town. There is only one road which will take him there. The man becomes confused as he prepares to begin his journey. In his confusion he chooses the wrong road. He is very sincere in believing that he is travelling the correct road. Although he is sincere he will never arrive at the place he wants to reach. Many people are like that man—they are sincere but they are wrong.

In Proverbs 14:12 we read these words:

### **Prov 14:12**

Jesus makes it very clear that no man can come to God except through Him. Read John 14:6 and Acts 4:12;

### **John 14:6**

### **Acts 4:12**

These Bible verses teach us that if a man is trusting in any way other than Jesus Christ for salvation, that man has missed the right road to the place he believes he is going.

## **JESUS SAVES US FROM SIN**

The next thing we need to understand about Jesus as Savior is this -- Jesus saves us from our sin that separates us from God.

Some people may believe that if they become a Christian they will be saved from all illness and trouble. Then when sickness or trouble comes to them they feel that Jesus has failed to do for them all the things that He should do. This is because they have not understood the kind of Savior Jesus is. When we read in the Bible about the lives of the disciples of Jesus we see that they suffered many troubles. Many were even killed for their faith. These things happened to them because they were following Jesus and not because

they had done anything evil. They knew that Jesus had saved them from their sins and that they had a home forever in heaven with Him.

Now let us consider this salvation from sin that Jesus offers.

1. *Jesus saves us from the punishment of sin.* Read Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15.

### **Matt 25:46**

### **Luke 16:19-31**

### **Rev 20:11-15**

In these verses we learn that there is a place where there is terrible punishment forever for those who refuse God's way. This punishment that lasts forever is the payment of sin. Jesus died on the cross and suffered in our place so that we would not have to bear the punishment of our sins. We see then that Jesus saves us from the punishment of sin.

2. *Jesus saves us from the power of sin.* People who try to remove sin from their lives soon learn that sin has great power. They find that they do not have the strength to put away their sins. Read Romans 7:18.

### **Rom 7:18**

When a person becomes a Christian, Jesus saves him from the power of sin. Jesus puts His Holy Spirit into the heart of the Christian. Then the Christian is able to get the victory over sin because of the power of Jesus within him. Read Philippians 4:13;

### **Phil 4:13**

3. *Jesus saves us from the presence of sin.* The man who is not a Christian loves to sin. He looks for ways of sinning. Perhaps he loves beer. Perhaps he loves gambling, sex sins, or some other sin. If there were no opportunity for sin the lost man would be very unhappy. Read about those who are happy in their sins from the Book of Job;

### **Job 21:12-14**

But the Christian is different. He has a new heart. He wants the will of God done in his life. Therefore the presence of sin is a great trouble to him. But one day Jesus shall save all Christians from the presence of sin and all the troubles that sin brings. Jesus will take the Christians to live with Him in heaven for all time. In heaven there will be no sickness, sorrow, death, hunger, or trouble. Read Revelation chapters 21 and 22. This will help us to understand that all will be joy and happiness in the place God has prepared for His children to live.

### **Rev 21:1-22:21**

### **Chapter 22**

Make a list of the things in Heaven of which you are most excited about.

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## **JESUS SAVES US FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE TO GOD**

As Savior, Jesus does more than save us from sin. He saves us for a purpose – that we might live in a way that is pleasing to God.

People will say, “but I have so many problems in my life. I have done so many wrongs. I have sinned too much to be a Christian. I would have to have an entirely new mind, body and heart to be a Christian.”

That is exactly what Jesus does for a man when He saves him. He gives him a new life and heart. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we find these words;

### **2 Cor 5:17**

When a man possesses this new heart he will want to do the will of God. There was a man whose name was Saul. Saul was a Jew who was proud of his record of persecution of Christians. He sought them out to kill them and bring them to trial. People would run from him they were so afraid. One day while he was travelling he encountered Jesus. Jesus called him to be an Apostle. He gave his entire life after that to Jesus. He had been so feared, that even after he gave his life to Jesus, many people were afraid to be around him out of concern that he was still the old person – the killer of Christians. But this man, the Apostle Paul, had become a new creation and God used him in ways that no one who knew him before he met Jesus could ever believe.

A man came to our church recently. He was very big and somewhat frightening. He told us that he had been molested as a boy. He had been on drugs. He had sold drugs. He had been guilty of many crimes. At one time in his life he had been convicted of a crime and sent to prison. While he was in prison someone gave him a Bible. He read it and eventually met Jesus and asked Jesus to be his savior. He is now a minister in a church in Oklahoma – a new creature, the old has gone, the new has come.

Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth and said this to them.

### **1 Cor 6:19-20**

God saves us from sin and we become a new creature in Him. We can live with Him forever in Heaven.

Next week, we will look at the topic of whether Jesus Conquered Death?

## **Lesson 10: Did Jesus Conqueror Death?**

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Memory Verse:

*I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Revelation 1:18.*

Introduction:

From the beginning of time men have known death as an enemy that could not be conquered. Men have tried to escape death in many ways but there always comes a time when they die and death is the winner.

In this lesson we shall study about Jesus as the conqueror of death. We shall see how Jesus allowed Himself to be put to death by sinful men. We shall see how He was buried and how He arose from the grave on the third day. We shall also learn what his victory over death can mean to us.

### **JESUS SHOWED HIS POWER OVER DEATH BY GIVING LIFE TO SOME WHO HAD DIED**

In lesson seven we learned that Jesus has all power in heaven and in earth. One of the ways he showed this power was to give life to three people who had died. Let us think again about these three stories.

In Matthew 9:23-26 we learn how a young girl died. Friends had gathered at the home of her parents to grieve with them. When Jesus told them that the little girl was not dead but sleeping they laughed at Him. They had seen the body of the little girl. They knew she was dead. Jesus went into the room where the child lay. He took her by the hand and put life back into her. Just as we would wake a child from sleep. Jesus was able to call this child from death.

In Luke 7:11-17 we read how Jesus met a group who were going out of the city to buy a man. This man had been the only son of a widow. Now the mother was left alone. Jesus had pity on her. Jesus commanded the dead man to arise and he obeyed. Imagine the surprise all the people must have felt.

In John 11:1-46 we are told about the death of Lazarus. He was a friend to Jesus. Martha and Mary were the sisters of Lazarus. They sent for Jesus while Lazarus was ill. When Jesus arrived at their home Lazarus had already died. He had been dead for four days. His family and friends had already buried him. Jesus told them to roll the stone away from the cave. He then commanded Lazarus to come out. in answer to the voice of Jesus, Lazarus walked out of the cave.

Jesus certainly proved His power to give life to those who were dead. But this was not the greatest test of His power. This great test was to come later. Could Jesus, Himself, die and conquer death?

Jesus has the power to conquer death in anyone who believes in Him and trusts Him as their savior.

Why do you believe Jesus waited to come to Lazarus until he had already died?

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### **JESUS PROMISED THAT HE WOULD CONQUER DEATH**

Some people might say that Jesus was a victim of circumstances. Some say that Jesus could have prevented Himself from going to the Cross if he had just answered the way the High Priest wanted Him to answer. But Jesus was not a victim. Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to Him and He went to the cross

willingly. Jesus knew that He was going to be put to death long before it ever happened. He also knew that He would rise from the dead on the third day. Read Matthew 16:21; Matthew 26:32; Mark 9:9.

**Matt 16:21**

**Matt 26:32**

**Mark 9:9**

Jesus told these things to His disciples before they happened. He did it so that when He fulfilled His promise and arose from the dead the disciples would believe more strongly in Him. Read John 14:29

**John 14:29**

**JESUS TRULY DIED**

There are many wild theories about Jesus and His death. Some people propose that He really didn't die on the cross – that He just “fainted” and later was revived. Others suggest that He did die, but His followers came after the tomb had been sealed and took the body. If we are to fully understand Jesus' victory over death then we must understand that Jesus truly died. He did not just faint or act as though he were dead. Let us examine the following facts.

Read carefully Luke 23:32-56 and John 19:16-42.

**Luke 23:32-56**

**John 19:16-42**

Make a list of all the people and types of people who were apparently present at the Death of Jesus.

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Did you notice something? Jesus died in the presence of many people. He did not die in some secret place where there were no people to see or only a few. Almost all the people of Jerusalem had probably come out to watch Jesus die on the cross. There was no doubt in the minds of these people. They knew that Jesus had died on the cross.

There were basically three groups present who were sure that Jesus had truly died.

First, there were the soldiers. These men were trained to kill. They knew death when they saw it. They knew that Jesus was dead. One of the soldiers even threw a spear into Jesus' side. When he did, blood and water came out. This showed that Jesus had truly died. These were Roman soldiers. They could not fail.

The penalty for failure in their ranks was death. Do you really believe that they made a mistake and let Jesus down without being sure He was dead?

Second, the enemies of Jesus were there to be sure that He was dead. They would have never allowed Jesus to be taken from the cross if they had not been certain that He was dead. After all the work the High Priest and the Sanhedrin had gone to get Jesus falsely convicted and sent to the cross, do you believe they casually went home and did not make sure He was dead?

Third, there were those who loved Jesus. They also were sure that He was dead. If their loving hands had felt the smallest sign of life as they prepared Him for burial and carried him to the grave they would have never buried Him. Do you believe that His friends and disciples would have buried Him alive?

There can be no doubt concerning the fact that Jesus had truly died.

## **JESUS AROSE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY**

The enemies of Jesus did all they could to prevent His rising from the dead. A great stone was placed over the entrance of the grave and a seal was placed upon it. Soldiers were put there to guard the grave and be sure that the body was not stolen. Read Matthew 27:62-66;

### **Matt 27:62-66**

These guards were under the same penalty for failure as were the Romans at the cross. If they fell asleep at the tomb or allowed the body to be taken, they would be put to death themselves.

But all their efforts were useless. On the third day the tomb was empty. Jesus had risen. After His resurrection Jesus appeared many times to His disciples and others. They talked with Him. They touched Him with their hands. They knew that it was Jesus and that He was alive from the dead. Over 400 people saw Jesus after He had come out of the grave. Jesus had died. He had been buried. He had conquered death. Now, He was alive forevermore. Read John 20:1-31; John 21:1-25.

### **John 20:1-31**

### **John 21:1-25**

Even in just these verses we can find many people who saw Jesus and several places where He was seen. Write down the names of those people who saw Him and what places He was seen.

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

## **WHAT IS THE MEANING OF JESUS' VICTORY OVER DEATH?**

There are two things we especially want to point out in this lesson concerning Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

First, the resurrection proves that Jesus is the living Son of God. We read of this in Romans 1:4;

## **Rom 1:4**

Second, Jesus, who has power over death, will rise all people from the grave at the last day. More details about what will happen at this time of resurrection will be found in later lessons. (John 5:28,29)

## **John 5:28-29**

We can worship and serve a Savior who is conqueror of death. He can save us from our sins, raise us from the dead, and take us to live with Himself forever. Let us learn this message well and let us share it with those who have not heard or who do not understand.

Next week we will look at the question, "Is Jesus our Lord?"

## **Lesson 11: Is Jesus our Lord?**

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Memory Verse:

*Let all the house of Israel therefore know, assuredly, that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Acts 2:36*

Introduction:

In this lesson we shall study another great truth concerning Jesus. We shall see that Jesus is “The Lord”. The question each Christian must deal with is whether they are willing to let Jesus, who is The Lord, be Lord of their life. The Bible teaches that if a person accepts Jesus as Savior, they must be willing to accept Him as their Lord – the ruler of their life. Jesus himself said, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). Jesus spoke these words so that those who were thinking of following Him would understand that Christianity is not always easy. Sometimes the followers of Jesus will face problems. Sometimes the followers of Jesus will face great danger. Jesus Himself faced all these things and, in the end, death itself in the most painful way possible—dying on a cross. As followers of Jesus, we must be willing to walk in the way of our Lord, allow Him to direct our lives, and do His will whatever the cost.

### **THE MEANING OF THE WORD “LORD”**

In the Bible the word “Lord” has a strong meaning. It is more than just a title that a person might be given.

In the Old Testament, the word seen in English Bibles “Lord” or “LORD” is a translation of one of the names of God – YHWH. Although Hebrew has no vowels even today, we believe that this word was pronounced “Yahweh” – (Ya way). This is also the word that is translated in the Old Testament as “I AM.” We have no trouble saying this word today, but the Jews did in the Old Testament times, as they do today. For fear that they might use the name of God improperly, the word for Lord or YHWH that was said aloud was “Adonai.” During the middle ages the vowels of Adonai became attached to the consonants of YHWH and a new name for God became widely used – Ya Ho Wa – or Jehovah. In any case when the Old Testament is speaking of the Lord, or the LORD, or Jehovah, it is talking about God Himself.

In the Old Testament, we also find the word “lord.” This is a use of the word that is more similar to the way we use it today. Depending upon the version of the Bible you are using this word may in some cases be translated “prince.” The word’s root in Hebrew is Adown. It is the source of the word we discussed earlier – Adonai. It means master or owner.

In the New Testament, the word “lord” is used only three times. In each case it is used as a verb and is the Greek word “kurieuo”, which means to have dominion over. All the other times the word is used as a noun and it is “Lord” and always is speaking about Jesus. In the Greek language the word that is used is “kurios”. The meaning of the word is:

*He to whom a person or thing belongs; about which he has power of deciding; master; lord; the possessor and disposer of a thing; the owner; one who has control of the person; the master.*

*It is a title of honor expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants salute their master. It is the title given to God, the Messiah.*

Therefore, as the Bible uses the word “Lord” it means this:

**When a person is Lord of something, that thing belongs to him and he has complete power over it. He can do with it as he wishes.**

If you buy a bicycle then you are the owner, the master, the lord of that bicycle. You have the power to say how it is to be used and what is to be done with it. Now let us think together about the lordship of Jesus Christ.

## **JESUS LORDSHIP IS FOREVER**

Some people may teach that if you become a Christian by repenting of your sins, acknowledging what Jesus did for you on the cross, and asking him into your life as Lord, if you sin again after that you have somehow “lost” your salvation and eternal life. To regain it you must again repent of your sins and go through the entire process over and over. As a Christian, you may feel that even though you once asked Jesus into your heart that you have not lived the life you should and are not sure if you are still “worthy” of being a Christian. This is not what the Bible teaches.

When we accept Jesus as our savior he takes ownership of us. We belong to Him. The Bible teaches that when we become Christians we are marked with a seal. The seal we are given is permanent. It is the “promised Holy Spirit.” We will study this Holy Spirit a little later, but for now read Eph. 1:13-14.

### **Eph 1:13-14**

This Spirit is a sign of God’s guarantee of His promise to save us.

To suggest that we could “fall away” from our salvation after having received it, is to suggest that Jesus who is God is not more powerful than satan and sin. We know from our previous lessons that He is. Jesus promises that once you belong to Him he will never let you go. No one is able to take you away from Him and His promise of salvation. Read John 10:

### **John 10:27-30**

When you accept Jesus He will never let you go. He will never let satan take you away from Him. But He still wants you to live in a manner pleasing to Him and make Him Lord of your life.

Have you ever met anyone who felt that they could not still be a Christian because of the things they had done? What can you tell them now?

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Jesus paid the price for our sins, not because He had to, but because He was willing to of His own accord. He gave us a gift of unmerited favor. We cannot earn it or buy it. It was by His grace alone. Read Eph. 2:4-9.

### **Eph 2:4-9**

## **LIVE WITH JESUS AS LORD OF YOUR LIFE**

Some people may say, well if what I ever did does not matter, and there is nothing I can do to lose the promise of salvation by Jesus through His grace, then I guess it doesn’t matter what I do in the future. I can live my life anyway I want after I accept Jesus as my savior and Lord. That is not what the Bible teaches.

First, if that is the way someone feels, then perhaps they are not really giving up their will to accept Jesus’ will for their lives? The Apostle Paul dealt with this question in Romans 6:1-23. Read it now.

## **Rom 6:1-23**

Even though you are saved, you are not perfect. You will make mistakes, but the Christian does not live a life of purposeful sin after being redeemed by the grace of Jesus. The Apostle John wrote the following words;

### **1 John 1:8-10**

Make Jesus Lord of your life. And know He is faithful and forgiving if we stumble.

## **KNOW THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD LIVES WITHIN YOU**

Earlier in this lesson we saw that when we become a Christian and make Jesus Lord of our lives that He “seals” us with the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit?

As Christians we describe God as the triune God. That is one God, but three “faces” we see of Him. First is God the Father. Second is God the Son. Third is God the Spirit. These are not three separate gods, but one God. Think of it like this. A man is a “son” to his father. He is a “father” to his sons or daughters. And he is a “husband” to his wife if he is married. This is still the same single man, but he has different roles.

*The Holy Spirit is the “third person” of the trinity, who exercises the power of the Father and the Son in creation and redemption. The work of the Holy Spirit is the power by which believers come to Christ and see with new eyes of faith, He is closer to us than we are to ourselves.*

*The Holy Spirit is the power by which Christians are brought to faith and helped to understand their walk with God. He brings a person to new birth: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” <John 3:6>; “It is the Spirit who gives life” <John 6:63>. The Holy Spirit is the Helper, whom Jesus promised to the disciples after His ascension.*

*He guides believers into all truth with what He hears from the Father and the Son <John 15:26>. His chief function is to illumine Jesus’ teaching, to glorify His person, and to work in the life of the individual believer and the church.*

*In the act of repentance, they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit <Acts 2:38>, becoming witnesses of God’s grace through the Holy Spirit.*

When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives and lives with us in our Christian walk. If we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us He will give us peace and freedom. Read Rom. 8:6-9;

### **Rom 8:6-9**

## **JESUS IS LORD OF EVERY CHRISTIAN**

There are two reasons why Jesus is the Lord of every Christian.

1. Jesus is the Lord of every Christian because He paid the price to save every Christian from sin and its punishment that lasts forever. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 we read these words;

### **1 Cor 6:19-20**

Again we read concerning this in 1 Peter 1:18-19

## **1 Pet 1:18-19**

Therefore we see that Jesus has power over the life of every Christian because He has bought that one through His death on the cross.

2. Jesus is the Lord of every Christian because every person who repents and accepts Jesus as Savior also accepts Him as Lord. One of the things that Christians in the days of the New Testament had to do was to confess Christ as their Lord. Read Romans 10:9;

## **Rom 10:9**

We also see that all Christians realized the lordship of Jesus, when we read 1 Corinthians 8:6;

## **1 Cor 8:6**

How can you allow the Spirit to have more control over your life?

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## **CHRISTIANS SHOULD OBEY JESUS AS LORD**

Some people want to confess Jesus as Lord with their mouth only. Jesus does not accept this. In Luke 6:46 Jesus asks a question;

## **Matt 7:21**

The person who has truly received Jesus as his Savior has also received Jesus as the Lord of all his life. As the Christian comes to know the will of God concerning any part of his life, he will try to do that thing. It is impossible to speak of all the things that the Lord Jesus would have us to do. We will mention a few.

1. Jesus wants the Christian to confess him as Savior and Lord. The Christian should not be ashamed of Jesus. Read Matthew 10:32-33.

## **Matt 10:32-33**

2. Jesus wants the Christian to live in a way that will cause people to honor God. Read Matthew 5:14-16

## **Matt 5:14-16**

3. The work that a Christian does and the games he plays should be according to the will of God. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.

## **1 Cor 10:31**

4. Jesus has a plan for the Christian's marriage and how he should live in the home. The Christian should read the Bible and learn of this and follow it. Begin by reading Ephesians 5:22-28; 6:1-4.

## **Eph 5:22-28**

### **Eph 6:1-4**

5. Jesus should be Lord of the Christian's money. One tenth of the Christian's money should be given for the work of God. Read Hebrews 7:8. The remaining money should be spent in a way that will be pleasing to God.

### **Heb 7:8**

6. Jesus should be Lord of a Christian's time. The Christian should not get so busy that he cannot find time to read the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15). Pray (Matthew 26:41), and attend church (Hebrews 10:25)

### **2 Tim 2:15**

### **Matt 26:41**

### **Heb 10:25**

7. Jesus wants each Christian to tell others about Him and the way of salvation. Read Matthew 28:19-20

### **Matt 28:19-20**

8. Jesus wants each Christian to be baptized and be active in the church. Read how those who were saved did this in the days of the New Testament. (Acts 2:37-47).

### **Acts 2:37-47**

Baptism will not save you. It is an outward sign to others that you have chosen to make Jesus Lord of your life.

What aspects of being a Christian are hardest for you to accomplish? How can you get help to overcome these problems?

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## **AT THE LAST DAY ALL PEOPLE SHALL CONFESS JESUS AS LORD**

It is true that many people refuse to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Some even laugh at the Christian who is living according to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. One day these people shall learn how wrong they have been. Read Philippians 2:5-11

### **Phil 2:5-11**

They will appear before Jesus at the time they stand before God to be judged. They will see Jesus sitting upon the throne ready to judge them. Then they shall know of their great mistake. But the time of repentance will have passed.

At the last day the Lord Jesus Christ will receive those who received Him as Savior and Lord while they lived upon the earth.

Next week we will deal with the question, "Is Jesus a Righteous Judge?"

## **Lesson 12: Is Jesus a Righteous Judge?**

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Memory Verse:

*The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son. John 5:22*

Introduction:

Most people would be very surprised if you told them that they are acting as a judge today – but it is true. Every day people are hearing about Jesus Christ. They are hearing how Jesus died for them and how they must repent and accept Him as Savior and Lord. As they decide what they will do they act as judges of Jesus. Some judge that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for their sins, and they repent and trust Him. Others judge against Jesus. They refuse Him. Still others try to make no judgement about Him, but in doing so they are making a judgement. Read Rev. 3:15-16;

### **Rev 3:15-16**

Jesus in the Book of Revelation tells us that when we try not to be for or against Him, we have already judged him.

In the Bible we read about a man who judged Jesus. His name was Pontius Pilate. He heard the trial of Jesus. He then asked, “What then shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ?” When the angry crowd cried that Jesus should be killed on a cross, Pilate agreed and allowed Jesus to be put to death. He made the mistake of letting the enemies of Jesus decide how he should judge the Son of God. Pilate allowed the crowd, his peers, to decide about Jesus for him.

### **EACH INDIVIDUAL MUST JUDGE PERSONALLY; WHO IS JESUS?**

Being a Christian is not like joining a club or a team. Yes, there is fellowship with other Christians, and Christians should support each other like a team does, but the decision to become a Christian is strictly personal. It is not a decision that can be made for you by anyone else. It cannot be made by your parents, friends, spouse, or even other Christians. Each person in this life is called to be a judge on this matter; Is Jesus who He says He is?

Some people may tell you that God makes you responsible for the sins of your father and mother. That is not true, however, at times because of the sin in an individual’s life we do see that they have passed on to their children physical or mental problems that would not have had to happen if they had not been engaged in sinful activities. Even in the Old Testament, God declared that each person would have to answer for their decision about Jesus. Read Jeremiah 31:29-34;

### **Jer 31:29-34**

Each person must decide whether to accept or reject the free gift of eternal life with Jesus.

People are individually judging Jesus today. The Bible tells us that the day is coming when Jesus will judge all people. Let us see what the Bible teaches us concerning Jesus as Judge. As we study, questions may come to our minds concerning the Judgment. We must realize that the Bible does not give us all the facts of the coming judgment – that is not its purpose. The Bible tells us of the coming judgment so that we can prepare for it.

What ways do you see people making their judgements about who Jesus is today?

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## **JESUS SHALL JUDGE AND RAISE ALL PEOPLE ON THE LAST DAY**

Certainly many people believe that there will be a judgement of them at some time when they die. Some people engage in doing as many “good deeds” as they can. They tell you that this way they hope to “offset” the bad things they have done. But the Bible teaches that even one sin makes a person unacceptable to God, unless Jesus stands in front of God on our behalf.

Consider this story. Let’s suppose we are making an omelet of three eggs. When we crack open the first two eggs they are fine and we stir them together with some milk. But when we crack open the third egg, it is spoiled. It is black and reeks with a smell we can hardly stand. Suppose we go ahead and mix it in with the two good eggs, what have we done to the entire omelet? We have ruined it. Sin is like that. Even one sin makes us fully sinful to God. No matter how hard we try to do good things, if we have committed any sin, and we all have, the Bible tell us we will stand in judgement. Only Jesus can stand between us and God when we are called to the final judgement.

Read Ezek. 18:4

### **Ezek 18:4**

Read carefully John 5:26-30

### **John 5:26-30**

Now consider some truths that this passage teaches us:

1. God has given to Jesus the power to judge: verse 27
2. The Judgment of Jesus will be just: verse 30
3. All people will be raised so that they may appear in judgment. The great and the small will be there. The rich and the poor will be there. The good and the evil will be there. The people of all tribes will be there. The bible says, “All who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come forth” (verses 28 & 29).

People who believe in the last judgement are correct. How we respond to His words will determine how we are judged by Him. Read the words of Jesus below about those who hear His words.

### **John 12:46-48**

How we respond to the word of Jesus will determine our eternal destiny.

## **ALL SHALL BE GATHERED BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT**

Some people believe that they can escape the final judgement. They may believe that in life they are just another animal that when it dies there is nothing. They may believe that God is a “God of Love” and would never condemn any one to Hell. They are actually right, but terribly wrong. God is a God of Love and He does not condemn anyone to Hell. Each person makes that decision personally. God gives them every possible chance. We as individuals are the ones who condemn. God wants everyone to be saved. Read 2 Peter 3:7-10;

### **2 Pet 3:7-10**

God is patient, but the judgement will come upon everyone.

What other ways do people use to try to avoid the last Judgement?

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Now read Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-15

### **Matt 25:31-46**

### **Rev 20:11-15**

Once again the Bible makes it very plain to us that all must appear at this time of judging. None shall escape. Let us see some of the things that shall happen at that time:

1. **A separation shall be made.** See Matthew 25:32-33. This separation shall be made according to where the people are spiritually. In these verses, sheep are used to represent the Christians; goats are used to represent unsaved. They are separated before any word is spoken concerning their good or bad works. They are put into one group or the other because of whose they are. Christ then calls attention to the works of these two groups. Their works show their lost or saved condition. Their actions, not their words, prove their true spiritual condition. Read James 2:18;

### **James 2:18**

In Revelation 20:11-15 we are told again that there will be a separation. This time a different idea is used to teach the same truth. The unsaved will have all their works written in the book and they will be judged according to their works. And as we saw in the example of the omelet, even one sin will judge them. The Christians will have their names written in the Book of Life. There is one thing we should understand before we go any further. No mistakes will be made at this judgment. All the facts of the case will be known. Jesus, himself, will be the Judge.

2. **The Christians enter into life that lasts forever.** Jesus makes it very clear that His sheep, those who have their names written in the Book of Life, will enter into life forever with Him. Those who have accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, while they were living upon the earth, will be accepted by Jesus, at that day.
3. **Those who are not Christians will be judged according to their works and thrown into the lake of fire.** Some verses teach us that a man is guilty because he has failed to believe in the name of Jesus. Read John 3:18.

### **John 3:18**

Let us think about it in this way. Suppose a man breaks a law. He is caught and taken before the judge. The judge hears the case and finds that the man is guilty. He says that the man must pay a fine or go to jail. Now suppose a friend of the guilty man comes and says that he will pay the fine. But the man refuses to allow anyone to pay the fine for him. Then the judge says, "Very well, if you refuse help you must go to jail." The man is then put in jail.

One person could tell about the trial and say that the man was put in jail because of the law he had broken. Another could say that the man was put in jail because he refused the help that another offered to him. Both men would have spoken the truth. The man was guilty because of his crime. He remained under this punishment because he refused the help offered him.

It is the same with the person who has rejected Jesus. He is punished because of his sins. Read Romans 6:23.

## **Rom 6:23**

Jesus paid the punishment for the lost man's sins by dying on the cross for him. If the man refuses the salvation that Jesus offers him, then that man remains under punishment because he has refused Jesus. There is no other help or hope for the man who refuses the salvation that Jesus offers.

The man who refuses Jesus while living here on earth shall one day stand before Jesus. Jesus will then be his Judge. If he has refused all that Jesus has done for him then Jesus, the Holy Judge, shall refuse him in that day. He will be thrown into the lake of fire-a place of punishment forever. Look back at Revelation 20:14-15.

Next week we will study our final lesson in this series – Who is Jesus for?

## **Lesson 13: Who is Jesus for?**

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Memory Verse:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Introduction:

In the very beginning Satan led Adam and Eve into sin through a lie. Adam and Eve were personally responsible for their sin because they chose to believe the lie of Satan rather than the truth of God. Satan is still leading people into sin with his lies. One of the great lies that Satan is telling around the world today is this: "Jesus is a God for the European and American, not the Oriental, or the African, or the Moslem, or the whoever." Those who listen to and follow this lie will be lost forever.

Those who think for themselves and read the bible will never be deceived by this lie. We all know that there is only one God. He is the God of all people. He has made all people. The Bible also teaches us that this one God has only one plan of salvation. This plan of salvation is the same for all people of the earth. Kings and queens who are to be saved must repent and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord in the same way as the poorest man. The teacher in the university must repent and trust Jesus in the very same way as the man who has never been to school. The black man, the brown man and the white man must all repent and trust Jesus in the very same way if they are to find salvation and life that lasts forever. Yes, there is one God, one Savior, and one way to salvation.

Satan lies and says that Jesus is for the white man alone. God speaks clearly in the Bible and says that Jesus is for all people. Let's study God's Word concerning this matter.

### **THE PROPHETS SAID THAT JESUS WAS FOR ALL PEOPLE**

Read Genesis 22:18 and Galatians 3:16

#### **Gen 22:18**

#### **Gal 3:16**

The verse in Genesis teaches us that it was God's plan to show favor to all the peoples of the earth through the son of Abraham. The verse in Galatians is referring to this promise that we have just read in Genesis. It is made clear to us that the Son who is to show favor to all the people of the earth is Jesus Christ. God has made it plain in the Old Testament that the promised Savior is to be for all the world.

In the 49<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah we read prophecy concerning the promised Savior. We find these words concerning this promised One in the last part of verse 6, "I will give you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Jesus said that he was the Light of the World. There can be no doubt about this. God planned that Jesus should be a light showing the way of salvation to all the peoples of the earth.

#### **Isa 49:6**

### **THE ANGELS SAID THAT JESUS WAS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE**

Read Luke 2:10-11

#### **Luke 2:10-11**

The angels at the birth of Jesus came declaring the message that God had given them. In their message from God they say clearly that Jesus is the Savior and that He is for all people.

### **JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID THAT JESUS WAS FOR ALL PEOPLE**

When John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus he spoke of Jesus with these words, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,” (John 1:29), John the Baptist understood that Jesus had not come to save one race of people. John knew that Jesus would be the Savior of all who would repent and trust Him.

#### **John 1:29**

### **JESUS HIMSELF SAID THAT THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION WAS FOR ALL PEOPLE**

Before He went up into heaven, Jesus spoke to his disciples and said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19). Jesus was telling the disciples that the message of salvation was for all the people of the earth.

#### **Matt 28:19**

### **GOD HAS ONLY ONE PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ALL PEOPLE**

Let’s remember our memory verse for this lesson, John 3:16. From it we learn that God loves all people. We also learn that God gave Jesus, His only Son, so that anyone who would trust Jesus will not be lost but have life forever.

#### **John 3:16**

Satan may try to make people believe that Jesus is for one group of people only, but this is a lie against the truth which God teaches. God makes it very clear that Jesus is the Savior of all people. Every person who repents and trust Jesus will have life that lasts forever. Let us not be deceived by the lies of satan. Let us believe God.

## FINAL THINGS:

Who do you believe Jesus is?

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Have you made him your personal Savior and Lord of your life?

NO                      YES

If you have never accepted Jesus, would you like to now?

YES                      NO

If you would like to accept Jesus as your personal savior, either ask someone to pray with you the prayer below. If no one is available, pray it yourself and then tell someone who is a Christian that you have asked Jesus into your heart. Ask them to help you find a church. You will also want to be baptized like Jesus was to show others that you are now following Him.

**“Jesus, I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins. I know who you are. You are the Son of God. My Savior. I know you died on the cross in my place to pay the price God requires for my sins. I accept you as my personal savior. I know that I am saved and will live with you forever because you have promised this to all who call on your name. Amen.”**

If you are not ready to accept Jesus at this time, but would like for someone to pray for you, ask someone who is a Christian to do that.

If you are already a Christian, write down below some of the things that God illuminated to you through the study of His Word in this series.

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