Wise Words in Times of Foolishness
“Thy Word is a Lamp unto My Feet, and a Light unto My Path.”

—Psalm 119:105
Is the Bible Trustworthy?

How much of the Bible is inspired?
“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:16

How does God speak to the prophets?
“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

2 Peter 1:21

What three parts of the Old Testament Scripture did Jesus refer to in His teachings?
“And he said unto them, ‘These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.’ Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.”

Luke 24:44, 45

Note: When Jesus referred to the Scriptures, He was referring to the Old Testament, since the New Testament was not yet written.

According to Jesus, to Whom does the Old Testament refer?
“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”

John 5:39

“Then he said unto them, ‘O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?’ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”


Why are the experiences of men and women recorded in the Bible?
“Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

1 Corinthians 10:11

Why were the New Testament experiences of Jesus recorded?
“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

John 20:31
What can be the result of Bible study?

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:15

What are the benefits of Scripture?

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

According to Jesus, where do people find truth?

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

John 17:17

What mistake did the Sadducees (a sect of the Jews) make concerning the Scriptures?

“Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.’”

Matthew 22:29

Why can’t people, in their sinful nature, understand spiritual things?

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God: that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

Who only can guide us into all truth?

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.”

John 16:13

Why should we study the Bible?

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

How often should we study and search the Bible?

“These (Christians in Berea) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Acts 17:11
Who Is God?

How does the Bible introduce God?
“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” 

Genesis 1:1

How long has God been in existence?
“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

Psalm 90:2

Where is God’s dwelling place?
“And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.”

1 Kings 8:30

What evidence of God’s existence are we able to see or perceive?
“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”

Psalm 19:1

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

Psalm 139:14

“But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?”

Job 12:7-9

How does the true God of heaven differ from the other gods people have worshipped?
“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

Isaiah 46:9, 10

“For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.”

Psalm 96:5

“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.”

Isaiah 45:18
Scripture declarations about God:

a. “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”
   Revelation 4:11

b. “Great is our God above all gods.”
   2 Chronicles 2:5

c. “With God all things are possible.”
   Mark 10:27

d. “He healeth the broken in heart … His understanding is infinite.”
   Psalm 147:3-5

e. “I am the Lord, I change not.”
   Malachi 3:6

f. “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
   1 John 4:8

What description did God give of Himself to Moses?

“And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

Exodus 34:6, 7

What is the relationship God wants to have with all of us?

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”
1 John 3:1

“The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.”
Psalm 145:9
Why Is There Sin and Suffering?

Who was the first sinner?
“He that commiteth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

1 John 3:8

How did the devil (Satan) come to this world?
“And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”

Luke 10:18

What kind of being was Satan?
“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

Ezekiel 28:14, 15

Note: The “cherub that covereth” is a description of the angel that stood next to the throne of God in heaven (Psalm 80:1). This angel was created perfect and was the most honored of all created beings, until he made himself into a devil by trying to set his own will above the will of God.

What contributed to Satan’s fall and rebellion in heaven?
“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

Ezekiel 28:17

What was Lucifer’s ambition?
How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”
into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”
Isaiah 14:12-14

Note: Lucifer was Satan’s name before his fall.

What happened in heaven after Satan rebelled?

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels. And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
Revelation 12:7-9

To whom did Satan turn with deception after he was expelled from heaven?

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
Genesis 3:1-6

What territory does Satan now claim as a result of Man’s fall?

“And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.”
Luke 4:5, 6

How does Satan exercise tyranny over mankind?

“So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.”
Job 2:7

“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed…?”
Luke 13:16

Why is Satan increasing his efforts to ruin mankind?

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the
accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.” “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”
Revelation 12:10, 12

**How will God ultimately destroy the devil?**

“By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”
Ezekiel 28:16-19
What were God’s instructions to Adam in the Garden of Eden?

“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

Genesis 2:15-17

But Adam and Eve disobeyed God…

“The serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as Gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her: and he did eat.”

Genesis 3:4-6

What resulted from their disobedience?

“And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

Genesis 3:22-24

How did sin affect the relationship between mankind and God?

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Isaiah 59:2

What has been the result of Adam’s sin upon all mankind?

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

Romans 5:12

Besides Jesus, are there any other people who have never sinned?

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23
Can sinful human beings do anything to change their fallen condition?

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.”

Jeremiah 13:23

How do we obtain eternal life?

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

Note: Eternal life is a gift, but we must accept it.

How many people is God willing to save?

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

Though God is love, He is also just. God does not overlook guilt…

“The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.”

Exodus 34:5-7

What plan did God devise to save sinful mankind?

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

Why did Jesus come to earth?

“To seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 19:10

“He shall save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

What did God the Father lay on Jesus as He hung upon the cross?

“All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 53:6
What do we have to do to receive God’s grace?

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

Ephesians 2:8

What did Paul tell the jailer to do in order to be saved?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Acts 16:31

When should we decide to receive the free gift of salvation?

“Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

2 Corinthians 6:2

As we accept Christ into our hearts, what assurance can we have?

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

1 John 5:12, 13

“... The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
Jesus, the Man
Who Is God

How long has Jesus, the Son of God, been in existence?
“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2
“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:5

Who is Jesus, the Word, according to the Bible?
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” John 1:1, 14

What does Paul say about Jesus?
“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” 1 Timothy 3:16

What did other witnesses say about Jesus?
Peter said: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16
The Roman Centurion said: “Truly this was the Son of God.” Matthew 27:54
God the Father said: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17
Thomas, the disciple, said: “My Lord and my God.” John 20:28

What part did Jesus play in the creation of this world?
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him: and without him was not any thing made that was made…. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” John 1:1-3, 14
“By him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.” Colossians 1:16
“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.” Hebrews 1:1

Bible Teaching 5

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“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.” Hebrews 1:1
What did Jesus do to become our Saviour?

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Philippians 2:5-8

Why did Jesus leave heaven and come to this earth to die?

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15

What was Mary told about Jesus?

“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:35

What did Peter say about the life of Jesus?

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” Acts 10:38

When the disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father, what did Jesus tell them?

“Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?” John 14:8-10
What kind of life did Jesus live on earth?

“What did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

1 Peter 2:22, 23

What demonstration did God make by the death of His Son?

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

Thought Promises:

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”

1 John 3:1

“He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.”
How many “good” people are there on earth?
“As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.” Romans 3:10

The Apostle Paul expresses the human dilemma:
“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.” Romans 7:18-20

Why did Paul say that humankind in their natural condition cannot please God?
“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” Romans 8:7, 8

What happens if we allow our sinful nature to control us?
“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:6

Did Paul find deliverance from his sinful nature?
“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:24, 25

Faith in Christ enabled Paul to live a successful Christian life:
“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

How did Jesus describe the conversion experience?
“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:1-3

Did Nicodemus (a prominent Jew) understand what Jesus told him?
“Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?” John 3:4
How did Jesus explain to Nicodemus that he could be born again?

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”

John 3:5-7

**How does God accomplish this change (conversion) in our lives?**

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:8

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

Romans 8:14

**How does Paul describe the “born again” person?**

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

**How does God give us the knowledge and desire to obey him?**

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

Philippians 2:13

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.”

Hebrews 10:16

**Will the new Christian continue to live a life of sin?**

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:1-4

**Can we expect forgiveness if we sin after we have been born again?**

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

1 John 2:1

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

**Thought Promise:**

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:13
HEAVEN WILL BE A REAL PLACE

Just before His death and resurrection, what promise did Jesus make to His followers?

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

John 14:1-3

How does the Bible describe the “Father’s house”?

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem…prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Revelation 21:2

“We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”
What description does the Bible give us of this Holy City, New Jerusalem?

“The city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth; and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.”

Revelation 21:16

*Note: A furlong is 1/8th of an English mile, which would mean that this city, forming a perfect square, is at least 375 miles long on each side!*

“The building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.”

Revelation 21:18

“The foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones.”

Revelation 21:19

“And had twelve gates…and the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”

Revelation 21:12, 21

“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”

Revelation 21:23

What very special tree will be growing in the New Jerusalem, which was also found in the garden of Eden?

“In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Revelation 22:2

“Therefore the Lord sent him (Adam) forth from the garden of Eden…and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

Genesis 3:23, 24

God intends to make this earth the eternal home for those that are saved:

“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

Matthew 5:5

*Note: This will occur at the end of a 1,000 year period which the redeemed will spend with God in heaven. A more complete explanation will be found in a succeeding study, “1,000 Years of Peace” (Lesson 16).*

God will re-create the earth:

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

2 Peter 3:13

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

Revelation 21:1
God will transport His capital city, the New Jerusalem, to earth!

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

Revelation 21:2, 3

The earth, made new, will be perfect!

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

Revelation 21:2, 3

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

Isaiah 35:5, 6

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.”

Revelation 21:4

God’s redeemed people will be satisfied!

“And they shall build houses, and inhabit them, and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.”

Isaiah 65:21, 22

They will worship and praise God:

“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.”

Isaiah 66:23

According to Jesus, in heaven we will become acquainted with other Bible characters:

“And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 8:11
Under oath, what declaration did Jesus make to the High Priest at His trial?

“Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.” Matthew 26:64

Why will Jesus return?

“I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:1-3

Is there another reason for His second coming?

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Matthew 16:27

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:12

His Coming Will Be Literal!

According to heavenly angels, how will Christ return to this earth?

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they (the disciples) looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel. Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-11

His Coming Will Be Visible!

Everyone living at the time of Jesus’ return will see Him coming:

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” Revelation 1:7
“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

Revelation 6:15-17

His Coming Will Be Audible!

What triumphal sounds shake the earth as Jesus comes?
“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16

How does Peter describe the deafening sound of that momentous day when Jesus returns?
“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

2 Peter 3:10
Immediate, Dramatic Changes Will Occur At His Coming!

What thrilling change takes place as Christ returns?
“Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
1 Corinthians 15:51, 52

What instruction will Jesus give to the angels when He appears?
“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”
Matthew 24:30, 31

What happens to the living, righteous saints when Christ appears?
“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
1 Thessalonians 4:17

There will be a mighty earthquake:
“There was a great earthquake…And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”
Revelation 6:12, 14

His Coming Will Be Glorious!

To what can we compare the glory and brightness of Christ’s coming?
“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”
Matthew 24:27

Whose glory will add to the splendor of Christ at His second coming?
“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s and of the holy angels.”
Luke 9:26
A Warning Of Counterfeit Christs!

**What specific warning did Jesus give so His followers would not be deceived?**

“Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

Matthew 24:26, 27

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Matthew 24:24

**His Coming Will Be Unexpected!**

**Who only knows the day and hour of the second coming of Jesus?**

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

Matthew 24:36

**Why should we be always ready for Jesus’ return?**

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

Matthew 24:44

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always.”


**Thought Promise:**

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

1 John 3:2, 3
What question did the disciples ask Jesus concerning the end of the world?

“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

Matthew 24:3

Here are some of the signs Jesus said would occur at the end of the world:

**War and Bloodshed**

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

**Natural Disasters and Calamities**

“and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

**Religious Persecution**

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

**False Prophets and Teachers, Immorality and Divorce**

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”

Matthew 24:6-12

Additional signs of the “end-times”:

**Economic Woes**

“Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your
“gold and silver is cankered...ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.”
James 5:1-3

A SELFISH AND PROUD GENERATION
AT THE END...

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”
2 Timothy 3:1-5

Two prophetic writings are to be given special attention at the time of the end:

“But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end. (Then) many shall run to and fro and search anxiously (through the book), and knowledge (of God’s purposes as revealed by His prophets) shall be increased and become great.”
Daniel 12:4 (Amplified Bible)

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein...”
Revelation 1:1, 3
Note: Two prophetic writings are widely recognized as apocalyptic (that is, having to do with the end of time); the book of Daniel in the Old Testament and the book of Revelation in the New Testament.

What did Jesus say about Daniel’s prophecy and events at the end of time?

“When ye (Christ’s followers at the end) therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains…For then shall be great tribulation… Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Matthew 24:15, 16, 21, 23, 24

What special message found in the book of Revelation will be preached to the whole world just before Christ returns?

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

Revelation 14:6, 7

What events will mark the climax of earth’s final crisis?

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”


What should God’s redeemed do when all these signs come to pass?

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Luke 21:28
What was Christ’s attitude toward God’s law?

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”

Psalm 40:8

How did Jesus address God’s law in His most famous sermon?

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Matthew 5:17, 18

How did God make His law known?

“And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”

Exodus 31:18

Note these facts about God’s law:

No human element was involved in the formulating of the Ten commandments as found in Exodus 20:1-17. Everything else in the Bible was written by the prophets. Not so with the Ten Commandments! If some parts of the Word of God were purer than others, this would be the ultimate! Government cannot exist without law and order. Society cannot function without rules. Men cannot do business without certain guidelines. Children cannot play games without rules. Even nature has her laws! Should we be surprised then that God governs His universe by law?
# A Comparison of God’s Law and Moses’ Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>God’s Law</th>
<th>Moses’ Law</th>
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| Called “The Law of the Lord”  
Isaiah 5:24                | Called “The Law of Moses”  
Luke 2:22  
1 Corinthians 9:9         |
| Written by God on stone  
Exodus 31:18; 32:16       | Written by Moses in a book  
2 Chronicles 35:12  
Deuteronomy 31:24        |
| Placed inside the ark  
Deuteronomy 10:2, 5       | Placed in the side of the ark  
Deuteronomy 31:26        |
| Points out sin  
Romans 7:7; 3:20         | Added because of sin  
Galatians 3:19           |
| Not grievous  
1 John 5:3                 | Contrary to us  
Colossians 2:14          |
| Called “The Royal Law”  
James 2:8              | Called “Law contained in ordinances”  
Ephesians 2:15           |
| Judges all men  
James 2:10-12            | Judges no man  
Colossians 2:14-16       |
| Spiritual  
Romans 7:14             | Carnal  
Hebrews 7:16             |
| Perfect  
Psalm 19:7             | Made nothing perfect  
Hebrews 7:19             |
The Ten Commandment law, written on stone by God’s own finger, was placed INSIDE the ark.

“At that time the Lord said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first….And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark …And he wrote on the tables…the ten commandments … and the Lord gave them unto me. And I … came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made.”

Deuteronomy 10:1-5

A second “law” was written by Moses in a book (instead of on stone), and placed IN THE SIDE of the ark.

“And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.”

Deuteronomy 31:24-26

What is the purpose of the law of God?

“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”

Romans 7:7

What is the purpose of the law of Moses?

“Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions.”

Galatians 3:19

Note: Unfortunately, Paul does not differentiate between the two laws, but refers only to the “law.” As a result many have concluded that God’s law (Ten Commandments) has been done away with. However, as we read the context, we can readily discern which law Paul was referring to since he states that it was “written in the book of the law” and not on stone (see Galatians 3:10).

Those who love God and their fellow beings, fulfill (keep) the Law of God!
Jesus said:

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40

*Note: Some theorize that the Ten Commandments are the Father’s, while Christ’s commandments are just two, totally unrelated to the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament. A careful study of the Ten Commandments, however, reveals that the first four deal with our love toward God, while the last six deal with our relationship to our neighbor. This is why Jesus said, “On these two commandments hang all the law.” The Father’s commandments and Christ’s commandments are one and the same!*

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.” John 15:10

“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:19

“If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” Matthew 19:17

**The Bible Conclusion:**

**Old Testament**

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13

**New Testament**

“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” James 2:10-12
**Law and Grace**

**What is the Bible definition of sin?**

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

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1 John 3:4

**How many have sinned?**

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

---

Romans 3:23

**What have all sinners earned?**

“For the wages of sin is death…”

---

Romans 6:23

**How then does God save sinners?**

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

---

Romans 6:23

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

---

Ephesians 2:8, 9

**According to Paul, what does our faith in Christ do to the law of God?**

“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”

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Romans 3:31

**If we keep the law, does this save us?**

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight…”

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Romans 3:20
Then what purpose does the law serve?

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” Romans 3:20

If the law only points out sin, how is it then, that we can be cleansed and saved from our sins?

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

Note: The law can only point out sin in our lives; it cannot forgive us for that sin. Forgiveness can only come through the sacrifice of Jesus. James 1:23-25 tells us that while a mirror may show us what we look like, the mirror will not remove any dirt that may be on our face! We need to wash our face with soap and water in order to be clean. When it comes to sin, God’s law is the mirror that reveals it, and Jesus’ cleansing blood removes it!

Does grace give us license to break God’s Law?

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.” Romans 6:1, 2, 14, 15

Note: Sin is defined as the transgression of God’s law. Jesus came to save us from our sins, not in them. Grace is not a license to sin; it is the power that God gives that we may be able to stop sinning.

What has our Heavenly Father promised regarding His law?

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.” Hebrews 8:10

What special blessing is pronounced in the last chapter of the Bible?

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14

Thought Promise:

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21
A Day to Remember

God created the heavens and the earth in six days. What did He do on the seventh day to make it His special day?

“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; He rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.”

Genesis 2:2, 3

Which day is the seventh day?

*The Dictionary’s answer:*

“Seventh day, saturday, the seventh day of the week”


Throughout the Bible, what unique expression or name is given to the seventh day?

“In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Exodus 20:11

According to Scripture, to whom does this day belong?

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.”

Exodus 20:8-10

*Note: In a previous lesson, the importance of God’s Ten Commandments has been noted. God wrote them with His own finger. A simple reading of the Ten Commandments will reveal how many words God devoted to the Sabbath Commandment (4th Commandment) as compared with the other nine.*

What three specific commands are encompassed in the fourth (Sabbath) commandment?

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Exodus 20:8

“Six days shalt thou labour …”

Exodus 20:9

“In it thou shalt not do any work.”

Exodus 20:10
Think it through:

Jesus’ Words:
“I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”
John 15:10

Jesus’ Example:
“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”
Luke 4:16

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.”
Hebrews 13:8

According to the New Testament, Who created all things?
“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”
Hebrews 1:1, 2

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....All things were made by him...He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not .... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”
John 1:1, 3, 10, 11, 14

Note: Jesus created our world. The Creator Himself came to die for us. One who is equal with God, for He is God. By remembering to keep the Sabbath holy, we acknowledge our faith in Jesus, not only as our Saviour, but also as Creator.

Which day of the week did the Apostle Paul keep holy?
“And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures.”
Acts 17:2

Did Paul teach both Jews and Gentiles on the Sabbath?
“And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks....And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”
Acts 18:4, 11
The Law of God

1
“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

2
“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

3
“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

4
“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

5
“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

6
“Thou shalt not kill.”

7
“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

8
“Thou shalt not steal.”

9
“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

10
“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s.”

Exodus 20:3-17
According to the Book of Acts, when did the Gentiles request that the truth of Christ be presented to them?

“And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”

Acts 13:42, 44

So many centuries have passed, can Christians today be certain just which day is the seventh day of the week?

The Bible Answer:

“This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.”

Luke 23:52-54

Note: Christ died on “Good Friday.” Friday, the sixth day of the week was called the preparation day by the Jews. They were to prepare for the Sabbath which would begin at sundown on Friday. God’s creation days began with the evening, or dark part, first; the daylight portion followed (Genesis 1:5-31). Hence God’s instruction to observe Sabbath from “even (evening) unto even.” (See Leviticus 23:32; also Mark 1:21, 32).

“And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.”


Note: The closest followers of Christ observed the Sabbath at His death and afterward. Jesus Himself rested in the tomb over the Sabbath hours, keeping God’s commandments even in His death!

“And they returned, ... and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre...and found not the body of Jesus.”

Luke 23:56; 24:1, 3

Note: This scripture passage is very helpful in establishing the fact that the seventh day of the week, the day we call “Saturday,” is the seventh day of the week mentioned in the Bible, the day called “The Sabbath” (see Mark 16:1, 2).
**Sabbath Facts:**

**The Sabbath was given to be a blessing to humanity:**
“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.”

Mark 2:27

**The Sabbath is the Lord’s day:**
“Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.”

Mark 2:28

**The Sabbath is not for work or business:**
“In those days saw I in Judah some treading winepresses on the sabbath … and I testified against them … which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. Then I … said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?”

Nehemiah 13:15-17

**The Sabbath is not for secular pleasure-seeking, but a day for spiritual pursuits:**
“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

Isaiah 58:13, 14
When Jesus creates the new earth, what will we do on the Sabbath?

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord…it shall come to pass, that from…one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.”

Isaiah 66:22, 23

What did Jesus say is lawful to do on the Sabbath?

“He went into their synagogue: And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.”

Matthew 12:9-13

Thought Promises:

“But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

1 John 2:5, 6

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

1 John 5:3
How Did Sunday Become the Popular Day of Worship?

What vow did God make?
“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.”
Psalm 89:34

What is God’s unbreakable covenant?
“And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments: and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.”
Deuteronomy 4:13

Note: God vowed that He would never alter or change His Covenant Law. If any change has been attempted, it certainly was not done by Jesus, for He Himself said, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-19

Eight New Testament Texts
Note: In the Bible, Sunday is always referred to as the first day of the week, and there are only eight Scripture references in the New Testament which mention the first day of the week. If there is a command to keep Sunday holy it should be found in one of these Bible passages.

Below are five New Testament “first day” texts. Do any of these texts suggest that Sunday, the first day of the week, is to be considered holy?
“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.” Matthew 28:1
“And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.”

Mark 16:1, 2

“And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.”

Mark 16:1, 2

“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.”

Mark 16:9

“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.”

Mark 16:9

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.”

Luke 24:1

“The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.”

John 20:1

The sixth “first day” text involves a gathering of the disciples on the evening of the resurrection day. According to the passage, why were they assembled?

“Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.”

John 20:19

Note: Some claim the disciples had gathered to keep holy the first day of the week in honor of the resurrection. However, Mark explains that the disciples did not even believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead until He appeared in their midst that evening! “Afterward he appeared unto the eleven…and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.”

Mark 16:14.

The seventh “first day” text involves contributions requested by Paul for the poor:

“Now concerning the collection for the saints … Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come.”

1 Corinthians 16:1, 2
Note: Paul was not suggesting changing the Sabbath in order to receive a public collection at a Sunday service. Rather, Paul’s desire was that collections be done during the week so that he could devote more time to teaching and preaching on the Sabbath!

The eighth, and final “first day” text, deals with a farewell meeting Paul held on the first day of the week:

“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.” Acts 20:7, 8

Note: The fact that the disciples broke bread at this meeting does not indicate that the day was holy, since the early believers broke bread every day of the week: “And they, continuing daily... breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness.” Acts 2:46. Notice also that the meeting took place at night since verse 8 says, “There were many lights in the upper chamber.” In the previous lesson, it was noted that a day, according to the Bible, is measured from sundown to sundown. The dark part of the day, or evening, comes first in the Bible, then comes the light part. (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13). Paul called this meeting for the dark part of Sunday, which is what we now call Saturday night. The Good News Bible translates this text as follows: “On Saturday evening we gathered together for the fellowship meal. Paul spoke to the people and kept speaking until midnight, Saturday night, since he planned to leave the next day.” The Book of Acts records eighty-four Sabbath meetings, but only one Saturday night meeting. Should this be construed as a command to change the day of worship?

But most Christians observe Sunday rather than Sabbath; when did the change take place?

Note: Early in the fourth century A.D., the Emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. The Venerable Day of the Sun (SUNDay) was reverenced by his pagan subjects and was honored by some Christians. “It was the emperor’s policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church.” E. G. White, The Great Controversy, page 53.

Afterward, in the year 364 A.D., at the Council of Laodicea, the Catholic Church approved the change of the day of worship and commanded everyone to keep Sunday as the holy day instead of Saturday.
“CATHOLICISM SPEAKS”

“Sunday is a Catholic institution, and its claims to observance can be defended only on Catholic principles...From beginning to end of scripture there is not a single passage that warrants the transfer of weekly public worship from the last day of the week to the first.”

– “Catholic Press,” Sydney, Australia, August, 1900

“Protestantism, in discarding the authority of the [Roman Catholic] Church, has no good reasons for its Sunday theory, and ought logically to keep Saturday as the Sabbath.”

– John Gilmary Shea, in the “American Catholic Quarterly Review,” January, 1883

“It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church.”

– Priest Brady, in an address, reported in the Elizabeth, N.J. “News” of March 18, 1903

“Question: Have you any other way of proving that the [Catholic] Church has power to institute festivals of precept (to command holy days)?”

“Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her: she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.”

– Stephan Keenan, “A Doctrinal Catechism,” page 176

“Reason and common sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either Protestantism and the keeping holy of Saturday, or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible.”

– “The Catholic Mirror,” December 23, 1893

“God simply gave His [Catholic] Church the power to set aside whatever day or days, she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days, as holy days.”

– Vincent J. Kelly, “Forbidden Sunday and Feast-day Occupations,” page 2

“We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”


“We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.”

– Pope Leo XIII, in an Encyclical Letter, dated June 20, 1894

Not the Creator of the Universe, in Genesis 2:1-3, but the Catholic Church, “can claim the honor of having granted man a pause to his work every seven days.”

“CATHOLICISM SPEAKS”

“The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, but he is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under veil of flesh.”

– “The Catholic National,” July, 1895

“If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day. In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church.”

– Albert Smith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal in a letter dated February 10, 1920

“We define that the Holy Apostolic See [the Vatican] and the Roman Pontiff holds the primacy over the whole world.”

– A Decree of the Council of Trent, quoted in Philippe Labbe and Gabriel Cossart, “The Most Holy Councils,” Volume 13, column 1167

“It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest [from the Bible Sabbath] to the Sunday…Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the (Catholic) Church.”

– Monsignor Louis Segur, “Plain Talk about the Protestantism of Today,” page 213

“Protestants…accept Sunday rather than Saturday as the day for public worship after the Catholic Church made the change…but the Protestant mind does not seem to realize that…in observing the Sunday, they are accepting the authority of the spokesman for the Church, the Pope.”

– “Our Sunday Visitor,” February 5, 1950

“We Catholics, then, have precisely the same authority for keeping Sunday holy instead of Saturday as we have for every other article of our creed, namely, the authority of the Church…whereas you who are Protestants have really no authority for it whatever; for there is no authority for it [Sunday Sacredness] in the Bible, and you will not allow that there can be authority for it anywhere else. Both you and we do, in fact, follow tradition in this matter; but we follow it, believing it to be a part of God’s word, and the [Catholic] Church to be its divinely appointed guardian and interpreter; you follow it [the Catholic Church], denouncing it all the time as a fallible and treacherous guide, which often ‘makes the commandments of God of none effect’ quoting Matthew 15:6.”


“The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday. In this matter the Seventh-day Adventist is the only consistent Protestant.”


The Bible Is Our Only Safe Guide
“PROTESTANTISM SPEAKS”

**Baptist:** “There was and is a command to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will however be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament—absolutely not. There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.”

— Dr. E. T. Hiscox, author of the “Baptist Manual”

**Congregationalist:** “It is quite clear that however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath…The Sabbath was founded on specific, divine command. We can plead no such command for the observance of Sunday … There is not a single line in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday.”


**Lutheran Free Church:** “For when there could not be produced one solitary place in the Holy Scriptures which testified that either the Lord Himself or the apostles had ordered such a transfer of the Sabbath to Sunday, then it was not easy to answer the question: Who has transferred the Sabbath, and who has had the right to do it?”

— George Sverdrup, “A New Day”

**Protestant Episcopal:** “The day is now changed from the seventh to the first day… but as we meet with no Scriptural direction for the change, we may conclude that it was done by the authority of the church.”

— “Explanation of Catechism”

**Baptist:** “The Scriptures nowhere call the first day of the week the Sabbath…There is no Scriptural authority for so doing, nor of course, any Scriptural obligation.”

— “The Watchman”

**Presbyterian:** “There is no word, no hint in the New Testament about abstaining from work on Sunday. The observance of Ash Wednesday, or Lent, stands exactly on the same footing as the observance of Sunday. Into the rest of Sunday no Divine Law enters.”

— Canon Eyton, in “The Ten Commandments”

**Anglican:** “And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day.”

— Isaac Williams, “Plain Sermons on the Catechism,” pages 334, 336

**Disciples of Christ:** “There is no direct Scriptural authority for designating the first day ‘The Lord’s Day.’”

— Dr. D. H. Lucas, “Christian Oracle,” January 1890
**Methodist:** “It is true that there is no positive command for infant baptism. Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week. Many believe that Christ changed the Sabbath. But, from His own words, we see that He came for no such purpose. Those who believe that Jesus changed the Sabbath base it only on a supposition.”

– Amos Binney, “Theological Compendium,” pages 180, 181

**Episcopalian:** “We have made the change from the seventh day to the first day, from Saturday to Sunday, on the authority of the one holy, catholic, apostolic church of Christ.”

– Bishop Symour, “Why We keep Sunday”

**Southern Baptist:** “The sacred name of the seventh day is Sabbath. This fact is too clear to require argument (Exodus 20:10 quoted)...On this point the plain teaching of the Word has been admitted in all ages...Not once did the disciples apply the Sabbath law to the first day of the week—that folly was left for a later age, nor did they pretend that the first day supplanted the seventh.”

– Joseph Judson Taylor, “The Sabbath Question,” pages 14-17, 41

**American Congregationalist:** “The current notion that Christ and His apostles authoritatively substituted the first day for the seventh, is absolutely without any authority in the New Testament.”

– Dr. Layman Abbot, in the “Christian Union,” June 26, 1890

**Christian Church:** “Now there is no testimony in all the oracles of heaven that the Sabbath is changed, or that the Lord’s Day came in the room of it.”

– Alexander Campbell, in “The Reporter,” October 8, 1921

**Baptist:** “To me it seems unaccountable that Jesus, during the three years’ discussion with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question, discussing it in some of its various aspects, freeing it from its false (Jewish traditional) glosses, never alluded to any transference of the day; also, that during the forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated. Nor, so far as we know, did the Spirit, which was given to bring to their remembrance all things whatsoever that He had said unto them, deal with this question. Nor yet did the inspired apostles, in preaching the gospel, founding churches, counseling and instructing those founded, discuss or approach the subject.

“Of course I quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources. But what a pity that it comes branded with the mark of Paganism, and christened with the name of the sun-god, then adopted and sanctified by the Papal apostacy, and bequeathed as a sacred legacy to Protestantism”

– Dr. E. T. Hiscox, report of his sermon at the Baptist Ministers’ Convention, in “New York Examiner,” November 16, 1893

**Sunday Sacredness Is not Commanded or Practiced in the Bible**
Question: What challenge do Catholics give to Protestants concerning Sunday?
Answer: “The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by rite of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ. The Protestant, claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday.”

Question: Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?
Answer: “Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.”

“You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we (Catholics) never sanctify.”

Think it through:
“Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”
–Mark 7:7-9
Is Baptism Necessary?

Note: The English word “baptize” is from the Greek “baptizo,” meaning “to immerse.” In the Bible it means “to bury beneath the water.”

According to Jesus, how important is Baptism?

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” John 3:5

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” Mark 16:16

Who was first to administer baptism in the New Testament?

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand…. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan. And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.” Matthew 3:1-6

Why was John baptizing in the wilderness?

“And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.” John 3:23

Note: John needed “much water” to baptize. The practice of sprinkling or pouring for baptism crept into the church during the twelfth century AD. History preserves this record: “For several centuries after the establishment of Christianity, baptism was usually conferred by immersion; but since the twelfth century, the practice of baptism by infusion (pouring) has prevailed in the Catholic Church, as this manner is attended with less inconvenience than baptism by immersion. The Church exercises her discretion in adapting the most convenient modes, according to the circumstances of time and place.” James Cardinal Gibbons, Faith of Our Fathers, 94th edition, page 277 (emphasis supplied).

How do we know that Jesus was baptized by immersion?

“And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the spirit like a dove descending upon him.” Mark 1:10

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be baptized?

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.” Matthew 3:13-15
Note: “Jesus did not receive baptism as a confession of guilt on His own account. He identified Himself with sinners, taking the steps that we are to take, and doing the work that we must do. His life of suffering and patient endurance after His baptism was also an example to us.” E. G. White, “The Desire of Ages,” page 111.

**Bible Conditions For Baptism:**

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 2:38

“And the eunuch answered Philip, and said…what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Acts 8:34-37

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19, 20

**Peter preached Jesus as “Christ” on the Day of Pentecost. How did the people respond?**

“No they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Acts 2:41
What instruction was given to Paul after he understood the Plan of Salvation?

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” — Acts 22:16

What spiritual lessons are experienced in baptism?

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” — Romans 6:3-6

Note: By baptism we declare our faith in our Saviour’s death, burial and resurrection. Being baptized into His death, we die to our sins. Being buried with Him by baptism, we bury our past sinful life. Finally, we are raised to new spiritual life “in the likeness of His resurrection.”

Thought Promises:

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” — Galatians 3:27

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.” — Jude 24, 25
For what good reason did Jesus reprove the Sadducees and teachers of His day?

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

Matthew 22:29

Then, if we want to know the truth about the subject of death, to what reliable source should we turn?

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

Isaiah 8:19, 20

What does the Bible say happens to a person at death?

“Then shall the dust return to earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

Ecclesiastes 12:7

This simple statement of Scripture agrees fully with the Genesis record. At the creation of humanity, what two elements did God combine to make Adam a living soul?

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Genesis 2:7

Note: Here are the same two elements mentioned in Ecclesiastes 12:7. The “dust of the ground” is the body, and the “breath of life” is the “spirit” that comes from God. God did not put a living soul in Adam! Adam became a living soul after God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. A light bulb cannot turn on without electricity. The light turns on only when the light bulb and electricity unite. When the electricity is turned off, the light ceases to exist. According to the Bible, when the breath departs from the body, the soul ceases to exist. Here is the simple equation:

\[
DUST + SPIRIT = LIVING SOUL \\
DUST - SPIRIT = DEAD PERSON
\]
Can we be sure that the Scripture expressions “breath of life” and “spirit” mean the same?

“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils.”

Job 27:3

Note: Here is the equation once more:

\[
\text{DUST} + \text{BREATH (or spirit)} = \text{LIVING SOUL} \\
\text{DUST} - \text{BREATH (or spirit)} = \text{DEAD PERSON}
\]

What the Bible Says About the Human Condition in Death

There is no thought:

“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”

Psalm 146:4

There is no knowledge:

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.”

Ecclesiastes 9:5

There is no emotion:

“Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 9:6
There is no activity:

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”
Ecclesiastes 9:10

There is no praise to God:

“The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.”
Psalm 115:17

“For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?”
Psalm 6:5

How did Jesus explain “death” to His disciples?

“Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.”
John 11:11-14

When did Martha expect her brother, Lazarus, to live again?

“Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha said unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”
John 11:23, 24

Note: Martha was a close friend and follower of Jesus. She had listened attentively to what He taught about death, and she believed the dead would be raised in the Resurrection at the last day as Christ promised.

When can we expect the resurrection of all those who have died believing in Jesus?

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”
1 Corinthians 15:22, 23

According to the Bible, whose voice will the dead hear before their resurrection?

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”
John 5:28, 29
According to Paul, when are the saints resurrected and taken to heaven?

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

At the resurrection, how will our bodies be changed?

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

Philippians 3:20, 21

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples. Did He, as many suppose, have a “spirit body”?

“Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”

Luke 24:36-39

Note: Even though the resurrected body of Jesus was made up of “flesh and bones,” the disciples still did not believe Him. “And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them.” Luke 24:41-43

Thought Promise:

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

Revelation 1:18
1,000 YEARS OF PEACE

Note: The phrase “one thousand years” appears six times in Revelation chapter 20. This “one thousand year” period is often referred to as the millennium from the Latin mille and annus, meaning one thousand years.

How many resurrections did Jesus say would take place?

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

John 5:28, 29

When will the resurrection of the righteous dead take place?

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16

Note: It is at the Second Coming of Jesus that the resurrection of the righteous takes place.

What does the book of Revelation call this resurrection of the righteous?

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

Revelation 20:6

What happens to the “living righteous” when Jesus comes?

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:17

What happens to the “living wicked” when Jesus comes?

Old Testament Prophecy:

“And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.”

Jeremiah 25:33

New Testament Prophecy:

“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

2 Thessalonians 2:8
How do we know the “wicked dead” (the unsaved of ages past) will not be disturbed or resurrected at the Second Coming of Jesus?

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” Revelation 20:5

**Note:** The 1,000-year period of peace begins immediately following the Second Coming of Jesus. These 1,000 years are bounded by two resurrections: 1) the resurrection of the righteous which occurs at the beginning of the 1,000 years when Jesus comes again, and 2) the resurrection of the wicked which occurs at the end of the 1,000 years. Examine the chart carefully that accompanies this study; it will simplify these Bible events.

What will the righteous (the redeemed of all ages) be doing in heaven during the 1,000 years?

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years….Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4, 6

“Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?” 1 Corinthians 6:2
The Biblical Millennium

We live in the last days of history. Life as people now know it is nearly ended. Soon Jesus will return. We only have one period of probation—and that is during our present life. The Millennium will not be a thousand years of glory and peace here on earth! And it will not be an age of technological progress or a “second chance” for the wicked. All humanity will not be converted before it, during it, or after it! And neither Christ nor His redeemed ones will be on the earth during that thousand years.

Here is the truth about the Millennium and the events that mark its beginning and end:

Jesus is going to return for His people: He promised us that He would (John 14:1-3), and so we can know that He will.

There are four identifying marks of His second advent that cannot be counterfeited by false christs: (1) He will come so that all alive on the earth at that time can see Him return (Revelation 1:7; Acts 1:9; Matthew 24:30, 23-27). (2) He will come so all can hear Him as He returns (Matthew 24:31 Thessalonians 4:16). (3) He will come in majestic glory—His own glory, His Father’s glory, and the glory of millions of angels that will come with Him (Luke 9:26; Matthew 28:2-4; Matthew 25:31; Revelation 6:14-17). (4) He will come unexpectedly (Matthew 24:44; 24:36).

His second coming will mark the beginning of the Millennium. Six events will take place: (1) He will raise the righteous dead (1 Thessalonians 4:16). (2) He will catch up the righteous living together with the resurrected righteous dead—to meet Him in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:17). (3) He will change their vile bodies to be like unto His glorious body (Philippians 3:20, 21) and translate them (1 Corinthians 15:51-55; Isaiah 25:9). (4) Having gathered all the righteous (1 Thessalonians 4:17, 18; Matthew 25:34-40; 24:30, 31), He will take His redeemed ones to heaven (John 14:1-3; 17:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). (5) He will destroy the living wicked with the brightness of His coming (Luke 17:26-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:8). (6) He will bind Satan to this earth for a thousand years (Revelation 20:2-3).

During the Millennium, the earth will be desolate (Revelation 20:3; Jeremiah 4:23-26; Isaiah 24:1, 3). The wicked will be dead (2 Thessalonians 2:8). There will be no one left (Isaiah 24:20-22; Jeremiah 4:25, 26; 25:31-33). Satan will be bound on a desolate earth (Revelation 20:1-3). The righteous will be in heaven (Revelation 20:4, 6; Daniel 7:22) engaged in a work of judgment (Revelation 20:4; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3; Acts 24:25; Jude 6).

At the close of the Millennium, the Holy City will descend from heaven (Revelation 20:9; 21:1-5; Zechariah 14:4, 9); the wicked will be raised in the “second resurrection” (Revelation 20:5, first part). Satan will be thus loosed to deceive them again (Revelation 20:7, 8). Satan and the wicked will surround the Holy City to take it (Revelation 20:8, 9). All of the wicked will be destroyed (Revelation 20:9), and this earth will be made new (Revelation 21:1-5; 2 Peter 3:10-14).
What will be the condition of the earth during the 1,000 years?

**Old Testament Prophecy:**

“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.”

Jeremiah 4:23-27

**New Testament Prophecy:**

“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great...and the cities of the nations fell...And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”

Revelation 16:17-20

What happens to Satan during the 1,000 years?

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

Revelation 20:1-3

**Note:** “For a thousand years, Satan will wander to and fro in the desolate earth to behold the results of his rebellion against the Law of God. During this time his sufferings are intense. Since his fall, his life of unceasing activity has banished reflection; but he is now deprived of his power and left to contemplate the part which he has acted since first he rebelled against the government of heaven, and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for the sins that he has caused to be committed.” The Great Controversy, page 660.

When will the second resurrection (for the wicked) take place?

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”

Revelation 20:5

When will Satan be released from his prison?

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.”

Revelation 20:7
When Satan is released, what act will reveal that he has not changed but remains a rebel against God?

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”

Revelation 20:7, 8

What will happen to Satan and his resurrected, wicked followers, as they attempt to take the city of God?

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them….And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:9, 14, 15

When the fire from God has completed its cleansing work, what has God promised to do for the redeemed?

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

2 Peter 3:13
What and Where Is Hell?

When will a “harvest,” or separation between the wicked and the righteous take place?

“The enemy that sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire: so shall it be in the end of this world.” Matthew 13:39, 40

Can we be certain that no person, righteous or wicked, will receive any reward or punishment before the Second Coming of Jesus?

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Matthew 16:27

Note: Bible statements regarding the judgment and punishment of the wicked and the eternal reward of the righteous are numerous and clear. They plainly reveal that the wicked are not now “burning in hell” nor yet have the righteous received their reward! Notice these typical Scripture declarations:

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” 2 Peter 2:9

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:12

Will God find pleasure in the death of the wicked?

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die…” Ezekiel 33:11

Is it God’s plan that anyone should perish?

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9 (New King James Version)

For whom will God prepare the final fire of judgment?

New Testament Prophecy:

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:41
Old Testament Prophecy:

“Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.”

Ezekiel 28:18

How utterly complete will be the destruction of Satan and those wicked ones who have refused salvation?

Of Satan:

“All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”

Ezekiel 28:19

Of The Wicked:

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”

Malachi 4:1

Note: See how plainly the Bible describes the utter destruction of the wicked:

a. “The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.”
Psalm 145:20

b. “The wicked shall perish...they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.”
Psalm 37:20

c. “The Lord shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.”
Psalm 21:9

d. “They shall be as though they had not been.”
Obadiah 16

After the destruction of the wicked is completed, how much fire will remain?

“Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.”

Isaiah 47:14

What does the Bible call the death that is the final punishment of the wicked?

“The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Revelation 21:8
How clearly did Jesus indicate that the “second death” judgment will destroy both body and soul?

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Matthew 10:28

Note: The expression “hell” is actually translated from the original language meaning “grave.” While some believe a soul cannot die or be destroyed, the Bible plainly declares, “the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” Ezekiel 18:4.

What kind of fire will God use to ultimately cleanse the earth of sin?

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

Jude 7

Note: This “eternal” fire is not burning today! It is the effect of the fire that is eternal, and not the fire itself.

Is there another example of “eternal” or “unquenchable” fire in the Bible?

“But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the Sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.”

Jeremiah 17:27
Note: Ancient Jerusalem was burned with a fire that could not be quenched (Jeremiah 52:12, 13). It burned the city to the ground, but it is not burning today!

Doesn’t the Bible contradict itself? Doesn’t the Bible speak of Judgment Fire that burns for ever and ever?

“And the devil that received them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Revelation 20:10

Note: At first glance it may appear that the Bible is contradicting itself. But Scripture must be compared with Scripture. For example, the previous verse in Revelation (20:9) declares: “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Revelation 20:9. “Fire from God devours them!” God does not burn human beings for millions of years because they lived wickedly for 60, 70 or 80 years here on earth. This is not consistent with God’s love or character or the whole of Scripture on the subject. The results of the fire are eternal, not the fire itself!

Are there other examples of “for ever” used in Scripture that can clarify this matter?

“His master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him for ever.” Exodus 21:6

Note: “For ever” must necessarily mean for as long as the servant remained alive.

“But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and there abide for ever.... For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord.” 1 Samuel 1:22, 27, 28

God’s Promise To The Righteous:

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4
What is God’s wish for everyone?

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health.”

3 John 2

What has God promised to do for His people if they will obey Him?

“And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.”

Exodus 23:25

As our Creator, what does God claim as His property?

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

What warning has God issued regarding the care of the body?

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

1 Corinthians 3:16, 17
Note: The Christian should avoid any and all harmful substances. Tobacco contains nicotine, a deadly poison. Recent scientific findings establish the fact that the use of tobacco often shortens the lifespan by as much as one-third. This violates God’s commandment against killing (Exodus 20:13). Most people are aware of the harmful effects of tobacco, but what about debilitating beverages? “Tests clearly showed that the pharmacologic effects of coffee were due to its caffeine content. It is reasonable to classify the coffee-drinking, or caffeine habit with the other drug habits—opiates, alcohol, barbiturates, and nicotine. The popular cola drinks get their appeal from their caffeine content; should not “cola” addiction be classed with drug addiction? There are tea addicts, too.” New England Medical Journal, May 13, 1954.

What is our reasonable service toward God?
“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

Note: God wants us to be healthy. In the Bible we find His guidelines for health and happiness. God will not force us to follow His manual, but failure to follow it will result in poor health. His promise is, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.” Exodus 15:26.

Does the Bible advise against the use of alcoholic beverages?
“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.” Proverbs 20:1

“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.” Proverbs 23:31, 32

“Nor thieves…nor drunkards…shall inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:10

What was God’s original plan for the human diet?
“Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree that has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you.” Genesis 1:29 (New American Standard Version)

Note: God’s original diet for humanity included grains, nuts, fruits and herbs (vegetables). Flesh food was not included in the human diet until after the flood (Genesis 9:1-3). When flesh foods became part of the human diet, the lifespan was greatly shortened!
What distinction or division did God make between the animals when He sent them into Noah's ark?

“Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.”

Genesis 7:2

What is God’s definition of a clean animal?

“And the Lord spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying unto them, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth. Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.”

Leviticus 11:1-3

What are some of the animals God lists as “unclean” and unfit for food?

“However, of those that chew the cud or that have a split hoof completely divided, you may not eat the camel, the rabbit or the coney. Although they chew the cud, they do not have a split hoof; they are ceremonially unclean for you. The pig is also unclean; although it has a split hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses.”

Deuteronomy 14:7, 8 (NIV)

Note: In other words, animals of the field must pass these two tests. Evidently there is something unwholesome about animals that do not pass these tests, or God would not withhold them from us, for “no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

Psalm 84:11.
What about seafood and fish?

“These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat. And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you.”

Leviticus 11:9, 10

Are there “clean” and “unclean” fowl?

“You may eat any clean bird. But these you may not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture, the red kite, the black kite, any kind of falcon, any kind of raven, the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk, the little owl, the great owl, the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey, the cormorant, the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat.”

Deuteronomy 14:11-18 (NIV)

Years after Peter became a Christian, he received a vision from God. In his vision, he saw a great sheet descend from heaven filled with unclean animals and heard a voice saying to him, “Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.” What did Peter reveal about his diet?

“I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.”

Acts 10:14

Note: Peter did NOT change his diet when he became a Christian. He observed the dietary laws of the Old Testament.

What was not clear to Peter after he had received this strange vision?

“Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean.”

Acts 10:17

Two days later, what did Peter finally understand was the meaning of his strange vision?

“God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”

Acts 10:28 (NKJV)

Note: In the eyes of a Jew, a Gentile was an unclean human being, and Jews were taught not to associate with Gentiles. This vision was the means God used to convince Peter that it was now time to take the Gospel message to the Gentiles. Some Christians use chapter 10 of Acts, especially verse 15: “What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common,” as license for eating unclean animals. However, a careful reading of the vision reveals that God told Peter not to treat any human being as unclean or common. The human stomach is the same whether Jew or Gentile! God’s dietary laws have never changed.
A Summary of Bible Principles for Good Health:

1. *Eat at regular intervals and avoid eating between meals.*
   “Eat in due season.” Ecclesiastes 10:17

2. *Eat to live and don’t live to eat.*
   “Put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.” Proverbs 23:2

3. *Rest according to God’s plan.*
   “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work.” Exodus 20:9, 10
   “Come ye yourselves apart…and rest a while.” Mark 6:31
   “It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.” Psalm 127:2

4. *Keep your body clean.*
   “Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh.” 2 Corinthians 7:1

5. *Control yourself.*
   “Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.” 1 Corinthians 9:25
   “Let your moderation be known unto all men.” Philippians 4:5

   “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” Proverbs 17:22

7. *Do not use animal fat or animal blood in any form.*
   “It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings that ye eat neither fat nor blood.” Leviticus 3:17

   “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings....For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.” Proverbs 4:20, 22

9. *Give God the glory in everything that you do.*
   “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31
Bible Teaching 19

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
ABOUT MONEY

Who alone is the rightful owner of this world and everything in it?

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”
Psalm 24:1

What else does God claim?

“For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.”
Psalm 50:10

“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.”
Haggai 2:8

Who gives us the ability to obtain wealth?

“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”
Deuteronomy 8:18

What great danger do we face as we prosper in material goods?

“Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God…lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses…and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied…the Lord thy God…and thou say in thine heart, my power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.”
Deuteronomy 8:11-17

“The love of money is the root of all evil.”
1 Timothy 6:10

As God prospers us, what important question should be foremost in our thoughts?

“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?”
Psalm 116:12

God makes a person a steward, or manager, of His goods in the earth. What part of these possessions does God claim are holy to Him?

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord.”
Leviticus 27:30
Note: Here is an interesting point. God claims as His, one-seventh of our time and one-tenth of our possessions. “Tithe” means tenth. God does not need any of our wealth; He is the one who has everything. However, He shares His wealth with us that we may give back to Him, thus keeping open the springs of unselfishness, appreciation, and gratitude toward Him. If we were to keep everything for ourselves, greed would take over with all its tragic consequences.

The “titthing” system has been observed by God’s people from long ago.

Of Abraham, the Scripture says:
“And he gave tithes of all.” Genesis 14:20

And Jacob vowed to God:
“Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” Genesis 28:22

How does God appropriate the tithe?
“I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.” Numbers 18:21

Note: The Levites were the priests, or full-time ministers, of those days.

Is tithe-paying a valid New Testament principle as well?
“Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.” 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14
What special blessing does God promise to those that faithfully pay tithe?

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.” Malachi 3:10, 11

What warning is given regarding those who keep the tithe for their own use?

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” Malachi 3:8, 9

Note: A tenth of our increase belongs to God. It is His holy tithe, to be used in the work of the ministry and to spread the Gospel of Christ. Those who return a faithful tithe to God are not giving offerings. What we give above the tithe is an offering, or gift, to God.

Think it Through:

Some people reason, “I cannot afford to give God tithes and offerings; I can scarcely pay my bills now.” But specific Bible promises are made to those who trust God and put Him first!

“So why do ye worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:28-33 (New King James Version)

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Luke 6:38

“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” Psalm 37:25
**Feed On God’s Word**

**What spiritual food, according to Jesus and Peter, must believers “eat” if they are to maintain a successful Christian experience?**

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

1 Peter 2:2

**Why and how should the Scriptures be studied?**

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

**Ask God to Direct Your Life**

**What assurance belongs to those who pray?**

“And this is the confidence we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

1 John 5:14, 15

**What exemplary prayer life is recorded of King David, Daniel the prophet, and Jesus?**

**David:**

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.”

Psalm 55:17

**Daniel:**

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”

Daniel 6:10

**Jesus:**

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

Mark 1:35
“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”  
Luke 6:12

What conditions are necessary in order for our Heavenly Father to answer our prayers?

1. **Perseverance.** “Praying...with all perseverance.”  
   Ephesians 6:18

2. **Faith.** “But let him ask in faith.”  
   James 1:6

3. We need to forgive others. “First be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”  
   Matthew 5:24

4. We should not have unconfessed sin in our lives. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”  
   Psalm 66:18

5. We need to keep God’s law. “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”  
   Proverbs 28:9

6. Pray according to God’s will. “If we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.”  
   1 John 5:14

Respect God’s Property

**Especially His Time**

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”  
Exodus 20:8-11
Especially His Tithe

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:8, 10

Put Others Before Yourself

*Jesus said:* “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12

*The Apostle Paul said:* “Let nothing be done through strife or vain-glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” Philippians 2:3, 4

Be Clean in Everything You Do

In Thought

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8

In Conversation

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.” 2 Peter 3:11

In Deportment (behavior)

“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked....And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 2:6; 3:3

In Your Body

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19; 3:17; 6:20

“For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth. Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.” Deuteronomy 14:2, 3
**In Your Dress and Adornment**

“Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments… And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.”

Genesis 35:2, 4

“I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.”

1 Timothy 2:9 (New International Version)

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

1 Peter 3:3, 4

**Be Prudent in Your Finances**

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”

Romans 13:8

**Seek the Fellowship of Believers**

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24, 25 (New International Version)

**Surrender Everything to Christ**

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Luke 9:23

“Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?…And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundrefold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

Matthew 19:27, 29
Share Christ with Others

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Matthew 28:19, 20

Keep God’s Commandments

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22:14

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14
God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love. Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.
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