

BIBLE LESSONS
FOR
THE CHURCH OF GOD
(Seventh Day)

2022

TO BE USED WITH THE BIBLE

Workers are needed, for “The harvest
truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few.”
King James Version

CHURCH OF GOD (Seventh Day)
HEADQUARTERS
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Let all things be done decently and in order. 1 Corinthians 14:40.

The instructor and all members should review the lesson before they come to class.

Always bring your Bible to class. Bible dictionaries, bible encyclopedias, and concordances should be welcomed. Do not bring other books to class.

To start the lesson, the instructor should give an introduction lasting no more than five minutes.

Each question should be answered by only one or two persons.

Each answer should last no more than five minutes.

Questions about the subject should be welcomed.

Do not deviate from the subject.

Do not give your opinion. Answers should be supported by scriptures and biblical concepts.

Two hours should be set aside for the study. The lesson should not last longer than two hours. All questions in the lesson and discussions related to the lesson can be answered in two hours.

At the end of the lesson, the instructor or a member of the class should summarize the lesson. If you cannot summarize the lesson, it was not a successful experience.

Keep in mind that when you are answering questions, that the newer members and visitors are learning from your answers. For their sake, completing the lesson is a priority.

These lessons are based on, and should be used with, the King James Version of the Bible. It is by far the best translation of the Holy Scriptures.

John 21:15-17 was not just written to Peter, it was written to everyone in the church. During every lesson, we are feeding each other.

IN THE BEGINNING, WHAT ELSE WAS CREATED?

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1
Memory Verse: Genesis 2:1-3
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 30:4

January 1, 2022

Introduction: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Scientists and scholars will debate this truth until the Saviour returns. However, what else was created during the first 3 chapters of Genesis?

1. One of the greatest blessings that mankind can experience is the natural world that we live in. The *natural prosperity* of the earth was created when and by whom? Genesis 1:11, 12, 21, 22, 25.
2. Who was this blessing given to? During the first week of creation, was mankind's welfare provided for? Was *prosperity* for mankind created? Does the word *dominion* imply *possession*? v 26, 28-30.
3. Down through the centuries, clever men have created various time-keeping devices. A Dutch inventor, Christiaan Huygens, invented the clock. But, who created *time*? v 14.
4. Who created the seven-day cycle we call a *week*? Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31, Genesis 2:1-3.
5. How do we use time to honor God? Exodus 20:8-11.
6. The first man needed a partner. Genesis 2:18. Does man have a special partner-relationship with any other creature? Genesis 2:19, 20.
7. Where did the first man's partner come from? How was the partner created? How was *marriage* created? v 21-25.
8. The earth is saturated with laws, and new laws are created every year. Whom do we get the concept of *law* from? Whom do we get the concept of *penalty* from? What were the first law and the first penalty? Genesis 2:16, 17.
9. How long did it take for the first law to be broken? Genesis 3:1-11.
10. Lawbreakers must be punished. If not, laws have no strength. Is God carrying out the first *penalty*, the first *punishment*? v 14-19.
11. According to the law, the man and his wife should have died for their transgression. What was the first *substitute* for death? How do we know that this substitute foreshadowed the coming Messiah? Genesis 3:21, John 1:29.
12. Does the story of Adam and Eve imply that *eternal salvation* was created "In the beginning"? Are there other witnesses that support this interpretation? Matthew 25:34, Revelation 13:8.

Conclusion: "In the beginning" there were physical creations. However, there were also *conceptual creations*. God did not put man on a barren rock forcing him to start from zero. God provided mankind with basic concepts to start building his own future.

**JUDGEMENT DAY:
FROM THE SECOND COMING TO THE WHITE THRONE**

Scripture Reading: Revelation 20

January 8, 2022

Memory Verse: Matthew 25:32

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 6:32-35

Introduction: Judgement Day is not a single 24-hour day. It is a period of time that will last for more than 1,000 years.

1. Is it reasonable for someone to think that the day of judgement will only be one day? Matthew 10:15, 2 Peter 2:9, 2 Peter 3:7, 1 John 4:17.

Answer: Yes, it is reasonable, if you do not study beyond a few verses. However, to find *the* truth, and a more accurate interpretation, we need to investigate many scriptures.

2. When does the judgement start? When the righteous Saints are separated from the wicked, is the Judge making a decision? That is to say, is He *judging*? At that time, has a decision already been made? Matthew 24:30, 31, Matthew 25:31-34.

3. Does the judgement continue while the plagues are falling on the earth? Revelation 18:8, Revelation 19:2, 11.

4. Once the kingdom of man has been destroyed, Who will rule the earth? For how long? Psalm 2:6, 9, Revelation 2:27, Revelation 12:5, Revelation 19:15, Revelation 20:4, 6.

5. Who will rule along with the King of kings? Revelation 20:4.

6. While the King is reigning on the earth for 1,000 years, is this also judgement? Isaiah 11:1-5, Psalm 67:4, Psalm 82:8, Psalm 98:8, 9.

7. Will the King judge only according to a law? How will His judgement extend far beyond the law? Choose three words from this passage to describe His judgement. Isaiah 11:1-5.

8. What will be the result of His judgement? During this judgement period, are the people of the earth being taught a lesson? v 6-10.

9. What is the final act of judgement? Revelation 20:7-15.

10. Can this final act of judgement be called judgement day, the great day of judgement, or the great white throne judgement? Jude 1:6, Revelation 20:10, 11.

Answer: Yes, it can. But, based on the scriptures above, Judgement Day, or the day of the Lord, lasts from the coming of Jesus until death and hell are destroyed.

Conclusion: When a criminal is captured, he must be arraigned, there may be hearings, then a trial, the sentencing, and finally, prison. All of these steps in the judicial process are *judgement*. When the people of the earth are judged, there will be *multiple phases* of judgement lasting more than 1,000 years. One 24-hour day of judgement would not be fitting for 6,000 years of rebellion.

ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS A MIRACLE?

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 44

January 15, 2022

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 9:11

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 20:17

Introduction: Every time someone is healed it is not necessarily a miracle. Every time someone gets a check in the mail it is not necessarily a miracle. And, every dream is not necessarily from God.

1. What message did Jeremiah have for the Jews that had escaped from Judah to Egypt? What sins did they commit that led to their punishment? Jeremiah 44:1-3.

2. Why did they burn incense to these gods? Did they think these gods were answering their prayers? Did they think their prosperity was due to the miraculous acts of their idol gods? v 15-18.

3. What they thought was given to them miraculously by idol gods, was taken away from them by whom? v 20-22.

4. Should we expect miracles that are no miracles? Who is the source of these miracles and lying wonders? 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9.

5. If someone works what appears to be a miracle to draw you away from what you know to be true, what should be your response? Does this happen today? Have you seen it happen? Deuteronomy 13:1-4.

6. Many will be deceived. Many are deceived. Can the true Saints be deceived by lying wonders? Matthew 24:24.

Now, the solution:

7. Some very amazing events may happen by random chance. Is prosperity always a miracle? Ecclesiastes 9:11.

8. Not every dream is from God. When Pharaoh had a miraculous dream, how was it *confirmed*? Genesis 41:32.

9. Gideon had received a miraculous word from "an angel of the Lord". How did he *confirm* the angel's words? Judges 6:36-40.

10. When we see a prophet, apostle, or miracle worker performing what appears to be a miracle, how can we confirm his words, actions, and miracles? Isaiah 8:20.

11. When someone does not know the scriptures, they can be deceived. How powerful are lying wonders? How powerful are the scriptures? Which of the two is more powerful? Acts 8:9-12.

Conclusion: Today, it is common to use the word *miracle* to describe very insignificant events that may happen very infrequently. Some people accept healings performed on a television screen as miracles. The only true miracles are those that *confirm* the words of the Bible and help to lead the Saints closer to salvation.

THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT IN DETAIL

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

January 22, 2022

Memory Verse: Exodus 20:8

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 6:9-11

Introduction: This lesson will examine the sabbath commandment in detail. There are a few parts to the commandment, and each part reveals a separate detail relating to the holy day.

1. What is important to one person, may not be important to another. So, the one will remind the other to *remember* what he thinks is important. What is important to God? Exodus 20:8a.

2. If something is important, the one must tell the other the details of the importance of that thing or that task. What is the important detail about the Sabbath Day that God wants us to remember? v 8.

3. To enforce the concept, it is better still to describe the task in even greater detail. What are the details that separate the Sabbath Day from the other six days of the week? *How* are we to keep it holy? v 9, 10.

Note: For the next question, keep in mind that at the time the Ten Commandments were given, the days of the week did not have names, they were simply numbered from 1 to 7.

4. When the boss thinks that a task is very, very important, he will tell his employees *when* it has to be done. What *specific* day of the week should be kept holy? v 10a.

5. Who you will perform a task for determines how diligently you will perform the task. You will use greater care when working for a king or president than for your neighbor. Who is the Sabbath Day for? Exodus 20:10a, Leviticus 23:3, Matthew 12:8.

6. If a task is important enough, others must be involved. Who else must be involved in this task? If all of these should keep the Sabbath Day, must they be *taught* the Sabbath Day? Exodus 20:10.

Note: If servants should rest, shopkeepers should let their employees rest. Also, if cattle should rest, machinery and automation should rest.

7. Why? Why? *Why?* Why do we do what we do? When we know the *history* of a national holiday, we understand the importance of the *observance* of that day. So, why must we keep the Sabbath Day? v 11.

8. When we work six days and rest one day, are we confirming our belief that God created the heaven and the earth in six *literal* days? Are we also honoring God by emulating his actions? Exodus 20:11, Genesis 2:2, 3, Hebrews 4:4.

9. Whose day is it? Who rested? Who blessed and hallowed the day? Is this God's seal on all creation? On His handiwork? v 10a, 11.

Conclusion: All the details in this commandment let us know exactly how important the sabbath commandment is to God. They also let us know how important it should be for every Saint.

A PERSONAL GOD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-22

January 29, 2022

Memory Verse: John 1:14

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 20:28

Introduction: Of the strangest beliefs in the world, some people believe that God is energy, a force, or simply the universe itself. However, the Bible teaches that God is a personal being. The following verses will show just how personal God can get with His creatures.

1. Nothing can be more phenomenal than a personal appearance from a king, queen, or president. Nothing that is, except a personal appearance from the Almighty. Who *appeared* to Abram? How personal was the conversation between them? Genesis 17:1-9.

2. Personal relationships are strengthened through holidays and celebrations. Eating a meal with family, friends, workmates, or others during special occasions will be remembered for a lifetime. How did God get personal with the elders of Israel? Exodus 24:1-11.

3. There are times in our lives when we must get personal with a doctor, lawyer, judge, or some other person whose actions will have an effect on our lives. When God wanted to make an impression on His new nation, what did he do? Exodus 19:11-25, Exodus 20:1-17, 22.

4. Every lawyer knows how important a person's written words can be. Every person knows how important their signature can be. A person's written words and signature are expressions of their thoughts and convictions. How does God express himself to Moses, the elders of Israel, the nation, and to us? Exodus 31:18, Deuteronomy 9:10.

5. Many years ago, before email, and even before telephones, friends and relatives could only communicate by personal letters. If it was written and posted, it must have been important. Has a personal God written any personal letters? Jeremiah 36:2, Revelation 1:11.

6. If you want to get very personal with someone, invite them to *your* house, or ask to visit *their* house. In this chapter, God takes *His* house to visit Ezekiel. Can anyone get more personal? Ezekiel 1:1-28.

7. Who came to earth? How did He interact personally with His disciples and with the Jews? Matthew 5:1-11, Matthew 14:22-33.

8. In the coming years, how personal will our relationship with God the Father and His Son be? Revelation 21:1-3, 7.

Conclusion: These verses do not describe an energy or a force, they describe a person. God is a person who communicates and interacts with His creatures. Through the centuries, He has had personal interactions with His Saints, and in the near future, we will live eternally, on earth, with God the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

LITTLE PROPHECIES FULFILLED

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

February 5, 2022

Memory Verse: Luke 21:33

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 11:31

Introduction: There are a few major prophecies in the scriptures: The four beasts of Daniel 7, the beast with 7 heads of Revelation 13, the Harlot of Revelation 17, and others. These prophecies grab our attention and inspire authors and television evangelists. However, there are also *little* prophecies that may be read in a few seconds and are only casually quoted. These prophecies are just as important as any other.

1. There have been many “messiahs” through the centuries. They have *all* faded into history. *Except* One. He started His church and made what *little* prophecy concerning it? How is this prophecy fulfilled today? Is the fulfillment any less amazing? Matthew 16:18cd.

2. During Jesus’s life, He was only popular for a short time, and only in Judea. He also suffered a shameful death. Who would want to impersonate a relatively unknown person? However, Jesus, knowing the impact His life would have on the world, made what *little* prophecy concerning impersonators? Mark 13:22, 2 Corinthians 11:13, 14.

3. Considering the number of denominations, television evangelists, religious authors, and teachers, are there also “false prophets” in the world? Is it obvious that the intention of many of these false prophets is to “seduce”? Will we be seduced? Mark 13:22, (Proverbs 12:26).

4. Billions of people have lived and died. Their words are lost forever. Most of their words were never written down and were not worthy to be written down. Jesus did not write anything that we know of, except a few words written on the ground. John 8:1-11, 6, 8. What *little* prophecy did He make concerning His words? How many Bibles have been printed through the centuries? Amazing? Luke 21:33.

5. Jesus’s words were so offensive to the Jewish leaders, that they had Him crucified. The Apostles were martyred. Many Saints were martyred, killed during the Dark Ages by the Roman church. Religious wars and conflicts rage even today. All this was based on whose words? What *little* prophecy from Jesus lets us know that these persecutions were expected? Matthew 10:34, (2 Thessalonians 1:4, 5).

6. Since 1917, the nation of Israel has prospered. It has gradually increased its borders and its population. Why are we not surprised? Should we expect this *little* prophecy to be fulfilled? Psalm 102:16.

Conclusion: There are many of these *little* prophecies in the scriptures. Like blocks in a wall, they create a structure that is a visible testimony to the Builder. These prophecies are just as important and just as amazing as any found in the book of Daniel or the book of Revelation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCABULARY

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28
Memory Verse: Matthew 12:36, 37
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 30:6

February 12, 2022

Introduction: When speaking of our beliefs, we need to make certain that we understand the words we speak and the words spoken by others. The words defined below should be a part of every Saint's vocabulary.

1. A common belief in the bible-believing world is the idea of life after death. That is, a dead man's spirit leaves his body and he lives on in a spirit world. However, the truth can be found in the definition of the word *resurrection*. The word is translated from the Greek word *anastasis*, which means to cause to stand or rise up. This is exactly how it is used in Matthew 27:52, 53. These Saints *slept in death*, then *arose*, and then *walked*. It is also what happened to Jesus in Matthew 28:1-6.

2. Some translations of the Bible will use the word *command* instead of the word *commandment*. The suffix *ment* changes a word to a noun. This suffix changes a *temporary* command to a *permanent* commandment. We know that the Ten Commandments are permanent because Jesus is still referring to them in Matthew 19:16-19, about 1500 years after they were given on Mount Sinai. Deuteronomy 4:40.

3. A man and woman can be legally *united* in marriage. Even through the bickering, abuse, and adultery, they are united. Two others who are faithful to each other and diligently nurture their relationship are in *accord* with each other. A very powerful and descriptive word. Notice how Luke uses the word *accord* to describe the church in Acts 2:1.

4. The word *Christian* only implies membership. The Saints were called Christians by those outside of the church. Acts 11:26, James 2:7. Luke and James let us know that they were *called* Christian, but do not say they were calling *themselves* Christians. James even implies that the word can be blasphemy. The word *saint* is taken from the word *sanctify*, which means to set apart. Notice how the Sabbath Day relates to sanctification and being a Saint? Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:12.

5. The word *monogamy* does not appear in the scriptures. I have heard homosexuals use the word to describe their relationships, in an attempt to legitimize their behavior. Instead of relying on one word, the Bible uses many descriptions of acceptable and unacceptable relationships. I will not list all the passages on the topic. 1 Corinthians 7 is a sufficient example of the detail used in the Bible to describe human sexual relationships that are acceptable to the Creator.

Conclusion: Words are tools used to proclaim and persuade. An excellent workman knows his tools well, and adds tools when needed. Using tools skillfully leads to a successful result.

THE AMAZING FAITH OF RAHAB

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2
Memory Verse: James 2:25
Weekly Proverb: Romans 1:17

February 19, 2022

Introduction: Rahab is truly one of the heroes of faith. Upon her first meeting with two spies of the children of Israel, she rejects her people, her city, and her gods, for a new life based on a God of power. Such an act takes amazing faith.

1. What was Rahab's first act of faith? Considering kings execute judgement, their own judgement, immediate judgement, what risk was she taking by acting on her faith and defying the king? Joshua 2:3-7.

2. Faith is not just an act; it is also spoken. How do the words of Rahab demonstrate her faith? How do the words "I know" show her faith? Whom does she say has given Israel the land? v 8, 9.

3. We cannot always base our faith on what we see. Faith may have to be based on what we have heard or read. What events did Rahab hear about that helped to build her faith? Joshua 2:10, 11, John 20:29.

Question: We have not seen or touched. So, nearly 2000 years after the last apostle, what is our faith based on?

4. The primary god of the Canaanites was Baal. They had others. When it was time to swear an oath, which God, whose God, did Rahab want the spies to swear by? Did she understand that if God is the Almighty that he could destroy as well as save? Joshua 2:12, 13.

5. In this verse, the spies are God's spokesmen. What was the result of Rahab's request? v 14.

6. Soon after her great act of faith, what great catastrophic act of judgement came upon the city of Jericho? (Joshua 6).

7. Did the spies keep their word? Did Joshua honor the words of the spies? Did God honor the words of the spies and the faith Rahab? Joshua 6:16, 17, 23, 25.

8. Biblical scholars, ministers, and evangelist debate whether salvation is by works or by faith. However, salvation is by faith, justified by our works. James agrees and uses Rahab as an example. James 2:14-26.

Conclusion: Rahab suddenly and completely abandoned the gods of Jericho. Christianity has *not* completely abandoned those same gods. They still worship them today, every Sunday, Christmas, and Easter.

Bonus: Did you see the Passover type in Joshua 2? In verse 14, Rahab is promised life for life, just as Jesus gave His life for many. In verses 16 and 22, the spies hide themselves for three days, just as Jesus was in the tomb for three days. In verses 18 and 21, the scarlet thread streamed from her window, just as the blood flowed from the side of Jesus. And, finally, verse 23: The words "passed over". Amen.

A LITTLE PROVERB OF JESUS

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:11-35

February 26, 2022

Memory Verse: Luke 7:35

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 10:12

Introduction: The meaning of some biblical passages are not always obvious. We are about to study one of those passages. What did Jesus mean when He said “wisdom is justified of all her children”?

Definition: The word *justify* means to show or prove to be right or reasonable. The way the word is used in Luke 7, it means to *accept* as right or reasonable. Notice how the word is used in Matthew 12:37.

1. While in the city of Nain, what amazing miracle was performed in front of “much people”? Luke 7:11-15.

2. What affect did this miracle have on the people, and the city, and Judea, and “throughout all the region round about”? v 16, 17.

3. Whose disciples saw this event? Did they think they should report this news to the man of God they were following? v 18.

4. John was expecting a Messiah. He had already baptized Jesus and proclaimed Him “the Lamb of God”. Even so, he is not sure that Jesus is the Messiah. What question of confirmation did John send to Jesus by way of two of his disciples? v 19, 20.

5. Sometimes words are not enough. Sometimes examples are needed. Sometimes you have to demonstrate your thoughts to make a point.

How did Jesus choose to answer John’s questions? v 21.

6. After an hour of miracles, Jesus was ready to give a verbal answer. What demonstrations did Jesus refer to when verbally answering John’s questions? Were these miracles performed for this very purpose? v 22.

7. After all this, was it possible that some would not accept Him as the Messiah? (Who might these doubters be?) v 23.

8. Without mentioning the Pharisees directly, how did Jesus compare John to the Pharisees? v 24-28, 25c-f.

9. After Jesus had thus said, who did the people justify (or accept)? (Did they also justify and accept John and Jesus?) v 29.

10. The people accepted Jesus. Who rejected Jesus? v 30, (25c-f).

11. What excuses were given for not accepting the teaching of John and the miracles of Jesus? Are they rejecting wisdom? v 31-34.

12. Are the words of Jesus *wisdom*? Proverbs 2:6, Proverbs 4:5, (7), 11. Can the word *justify* mean to accept? Matthew 12:37. Are the disciples of Jesus compared to *children*? Mark 10:15, 24.

13. Therefore, the proverb “wisdom is justified of all her children” means, that the words of Jesus (and His apostles and prophets) are accepted by His followers. Luke 7:35.

Conclusion: If you are studying this lesson, and accept the words of the Bible as the words of God, you are a child of God.

SPIRITUAL ABUSE OF POWER IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Scripture Reading: John 9
Memory Verse: John 12:42, 43
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 14:25

March 5, 2022

Introduction: When people come together in cities and countries, leaders are chosen and authority is delegated. The same is true for smaller groups, such as churches. At the time of the Apostles, how were the authority and the power of the synagogues used?

1. The Saints are expected to meet every Sabbath Day. Where did the practicing Jews meet every Sabbath Day? Who took advantage of the opportunity? What did He do in the Synagogues? Mark 1:21.

2. As Jesus traveled from one synagogue to another, teaching in every one, what message did He preach? (What other great works were done for those in attendance?) Matthew 4:23, Matthew 9:35.

3. Was a sabbath synagogue visit unusual for Jesus? Luke 4:16.

4. How were the synagogues misused by some? What was the purpose of their grand presentations? Matthew 6:1-5, Matthew 23:1-6.

5. Many people gathered in the synagogues. Of course, the *rulers* would have been overseeing the meetings. So, what did Jesus prophesy would happen in these meeting places? Matthew 23:29abc, 34.

6. Jesus took full advantage of the people gathering in the synagogue. How should the persecuted Saints do the same? Luke 12:11, 12.

7. At that time, in Jerusalem, there was the synagogue of the Libertines (among others). What great (and unfortunate) opportunity fell to Stephen? How did the synagogue use their power? Acts 6:8-10, 11-14.

8. Stephen took this opportunity to fulfill Jesus's prophecy from Luke 12:12. *He preached*. What was the result? Acts 7:(1-50), 51-60.

9. There is a certain prestige that comes with attending the largest church in the city. No doubt, the same was true in Jerusalem in the first century concerning synagogues. How was this prestige used as a tool? Is this *power*? John 9:22, (1-23), John 12:42, (37-42), (John 16:2).

10. One man usually cannot act on his own authority. Where did Paul, the pharisee, get the power to persecute the Saints? Where were his judgements carried out? Acts 9:1, 2, Acts 22:19, Acts 26:11.

11. After Paul was converted and became Saul, how did he use the same synagogues to his advantage? Acts 9:20, Acts 13:5, 14-16.

Conclusion: The New Testament church does not meet in synagogues, but in church buildings or our homes. Church leaders should not abuse their authority as the Pharisees did. The church must be an orderly place for worship. 1 Corinthians 14:40. So, yes, the ministers must exercise godly authority. Moreover, we must always remember that the mission of the church is teaching, preaching, and praise.

MERCY FOR WHOM?

Scripture Reading: Psalm 103
Memory Verse: Titus 3:5ab
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 22:29

March 12, 2022

Introduction: God is abundant in mercy. That does not mean everyone receives a full measure of the mercy God has to offer. There are certain conditions placed on His mercy. This chapter gives us an excellent summary of the *conditions* we must meet to receive God's mercy.

1. God has stored abundant blessings for us. What are some of these mercies? Are these temporary mercies? Psalm 103:1-3.
2. Yes, God has temporary mercies for a temporary life. What do we receive in the future? Are these permanent mercies? v 4, 5.
3. Persecutions toward the Saints have been documented in the Old Testament, the New Testament, through the lives of the Apostles and martyrs, through the Dark Ages, and even until now. What mercies are in store for these Saints? What condition is needed for this judgement? (When will this judgement take place?) v 6.
4. Permanent mercy is not for everyone. It is through a family. It was given to what family? How do we receive mercy through that family? Psalm 103:7, Romans 11:17, John 4:22, Romans 9:4.
5. God's attributes are limitless. How much mercy does He have to offer? Is there plenty for the whole world? What condition does Jesus place on God's mercy? Psalm 103:8, John 3:16, 17.
6. How does God manifest His mercy? Psalm 103:9, 10, 12, 14.
7. Now, the subject of this lesson: God's mercy is for whom? Is fear a condition? Is fear the same as honor and respect? v 11, 13.
8. Man's temporary state is compared to what? How frail is grass? How permanent is God's mercy? (Does this imply that God's mercy will change our human state from mortal to immortal?) v 15-17.
9. Again, the subject of this lesson: His mercy is for whom? v 17, 18.

Bonus: Read verses 19-22. The last four verses of this chapter seem to diverge from the topic of mercy. But, they *do not*. Verses 17 and 18 refers to God's mercy and His covenant with man, which is the Ten Commandments. Verse 20 refers to the angels who keep the same commandments. Verse 19 says that God "ruleth over all", which includes heaven and earth. And verse 22 refers to "all his works in all places of his dominion", again, which includes heaven and earth. The subtle message being, that men in this life, who keep the Ten Commandments, have access to the same kingdom and same benefits as the angels. And *that* is everlasting life and everlasting mercy.

Conclusion: God's mercy is for those that fear Him. If a Saint fears God, he will keep His commandments and His covenant. The rewards and the inheritance, of His covenant and testament, are eternal life.

CLEAN AND UNCLEAN MEATS

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 11:1-23

March 19, 2022

Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:17

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 15:28

Introduction: The law of clean and unclean meats is not found in many scriptures throughout the Bible. However, it is a significant topic and should be understood and practiced by every Saint. Let us review.

1. What important law did God give to Moses, Aaron, and to His nation? If this law is coming from God, do you think that it is for our benefit? Leviticus 11:1, 2.

2. What is the first type of creatures given in this chapter that we can eat? What physical traits do these animals have? Does this include cattle, sheep, goats, and deer? (Are there others in this type?) v 3.

3. This law includes many animals. What types of animals are excluded? Does this law exclude swine, pigs, hogs? What other animals in this type are excluded? v 4-7.

4. What is the second type of creatures that we can eat? What physical traits do these fish have? Do cod, salmon, and tuna have these traits? (What other fish in your local area are included?) v 9.

5. What types of creatures that live in the waters are excluded? (What types of creatures that live in the oceans are excluded? What types of creatures that live in lakes and rivers are excluded?) v 10-12.

6. Now, the third type. This law does not tell us what type of flying creatures *can* be eaten, but it does tell us which *cannot* be eaten. What type of birds are the eagle, ossifrage, and ospray? v 13.

Answer: They are all raptors, carnivores, and birds of prey.

7. What other types of birds cannot be eaten? Are these all raptors, water fowl, and flying mammals that cannot be eaten? v 14-19.

8. Can a duck be eaten? No. It is a water fowl.

9. Can guinea fowl be eaten? Yes. It is not a raptor or a water fowl.

10. And, the fourth type. As a general rule, can we eat flying creeping things? Bugs and insects? v 20.

11. What is the exception to this rule? What are the traits of the insects that can be eaten? Name the three examples given? v 21, 22.

12. In this prophecy of the last days, what is still forbidden for the New Testament Saints? Isaiah 66:(8-24), 17.

13. Many years after Jesus had been crucified, what subtle reminder was given to the Apostle John? Revelation 18:2.

Conclusion: What makes this topic so significant? Why should it be understood and practiced by every Saint? The answer is Isaiah 66:17. This one scripture lets us know that, in this New Testament age, and after the nation of Israel has been reborn, those who eat unclean meats will be *consumed*. *Not saved*. *Consumed*. *Destroyed*. *Obliterated*.

EYEWITNESSES OF THE RESURRECTED JESUS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28

March 26, 2022

Memory Verse: John 20:29

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 24:8

Introduction: If a spectacular event has truly occurred, you would expect there to be witnesses. The greater the event, the greater the number of witnesses. After a crucifixion, and then a resurrection, you would *expect* many witnesses. You should *demand* many witnesses.

1. The four gospels are collections of the experiences of many people. Those experiences were written down by the gospel writers. Luke says that his words are whose words? Luke 1:1-4, 2.

2. A good witness should be as close to the event as possible. Who was the first witness of the resurrected Jesus? How soon after the resurrection did she see the living Jesus? How long did it take her to relay the good news to other Saints? John 20:1, 2, 11-18.

3. One witness is not enough: we want many. How many other female witnesses are mentioned by name? Matthew 28:1, 5, 8-10, Mark 16:1.

4. What special proof did Jesus have for the twelve Apostles? What special proof did He have for Thomas? John 20:19-29.

5. If Jesus had been seen by one person, on one day, you might question the credibility of that one witness. How many saw Him and for how many days did they see Him? Acts 1:1-3.

6. What was the last encounter that the eleven Apostles and other witnesses had with Jesus? v 6-9.

7. Jesus meets Paul on his way to Damascus and gives him his mission. Afterward, what experience did the Apostle Paul have with the resurrected Jesus in Arabia? Acts 26:11-18, Galatians 1:11-17.

8. In the year 96AD, where was the Apostle John? (What day of the week was it?) What glorious vision did he see? How does this appearance prove resurrection, eternal life, God's power, and prophecy? Revelation 1:9-20.

9. How many witnesses saw Jesus at once? 1 Corinthians 15:(3-8), 6.

10. Another witness was Cleopas. What did he experience as a witness? Would you expect a truly resurrected person to walk, talk, teach, and to eat? Luke 24:13-31.

Conclusion: Jesus was not simply resurrected and never seen again. That would prove nothing. He was resurrected, walked, ate, spoke, and interacted with many Saints for forty days. If Jesus spoke of His own resurrection, it is proof that Jesus has the ability to prophesy of future events. Since He spoke of our resurrection, this is also proof that we can have the same eternal life.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS?

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15

April 2, 2022

Memory Verse: John 11:25

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 20:1

Introduction: There are many miraculous events in the Bible. They all speak to us of God's power and His ability to command the rulers of this world and the elements of our environment. However, the one miracle that is most important is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This miracle proves that promises made can be kept.

1. What prophecy did Jesus make concerning Himself?

Matthew 16:21, Matthew 17:22, 23, Matthew 20:17-19.

2. What promise for the future did Jesus make to the Saints?

Luke 14:12-15, John 5:(21-27), 28, 29.

3. Jesus had been crucified, buried, and resurrected. The Apostles had also been given their commission. What was it that they were ordained to preach? What "must" they preach? Acts 1:22.

4. Did they preach the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Being an Old Testament prophet, did David preach the resurrection? Acts 2:29-32.

5. What did Peter want the Jews to know about their prophesied King? Was this fact about Jesus dependent on His resurrection? v 33-36.

6. What did the Apostles preach to the people? What was it that grieved the Sadducees? What did they preach to the church? Was the Holy Spirit their ally? (Acts 4, Matthew 22:23), Acts 4:1, 2, 33, 31.

7. Astronomers need proof. Biologists need proof. Physicists need proof. As disciples of Jesus, who claims to be God's Son, we need proof. What is our proof that Jesus is the Son of God? Romans 1:4.

8. Jesus was resurrected. We will also be resurrected in the future. How important are the correct interpretations of these doctrines? What is the result if they are misinterpreted? 2 Timothy 2:18.

9. Our faith must be based on something. Our hope must be based on something. According to Peter, what concepts of our faith depend on Jesus and His resurrection? 1 Peter 1:3-5.

10. How are baptism and resurrection related? Can someone be saved without being baptized? 1 Peter 3:21, Mark 16:16, Romans 6:4, 5.

Note: If we are not baptized, we will not be resurrected. Our resurrection depends on our baptism.

Conclusion: Through the gospels, many witnesses testified that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. His resurrection proves that He has fulfilled His prophecy that He would be resurrected after crucifixion. Therefore, proving that He can also keep His promise to resurrect the faithful Saints.

PASSOVER

2022

Begins at sunset on
Thursday Evening, April 14

Matthew 26:2

Ye know that after two days is *the feast of* the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

GOD OF GODS

Scripture Reading: Psalm 104
Memory Verse: 2 Chronicles 2:5
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 21:21

April 9, 2022

Introduction: There have been many gods throughout the last few thousand years. Many have come and gone. (Many still remain.) They were gods *among* other gods. Only one is a God *of* gods. In this lesson, we will review a few of these gods and their limited power.

1. The earth and the heaven were created. You can read about the creation in Genesis 1. Who created all things? Who created the very foundations of the earth? Genesis 1:1, Psalm 104:1, 5.

2. Sol Invictus was the Roman sun god: the Unconquered Sun. Diana was their moon god. According to this psalm, who is the God over all of heaven, including the sun and moon? Psalm 104:1, 2, 19-22.

3. Theoi Ouranioi were the Greek gods of the sky and weather. Whose God also claims to rule the skies? v 1-3.

4. Neptune was the Roman god of the sea. The Greeks called the same god Poseidon. Who claims to reign over the heavens, the sky, and *even* the waters? v 5-13, 24-26.

5. To the Canaanites, Baal was the god responsible for rain and dew. To the Vikings, Thor was the god responsible for thunder. And, to the Greeks, Zeus was responsible for thunder. Who uses His thunder as a voice to command His creation? v 7.

6. Many ancient cultures had gods for everything, including nature. The Romans had a god called Bacchus, who was the god of agriculture and wine. Who else claims this same title? v 14, 15.

7. Silvanus was a Roman god, the god of the woods. According to the Romans, he was the protector of trees and forests. This psalm makes a different claim. Who owns the trees? Who planted them? What is God's purpose for the trees? v 16, 17.

8. Pan was the Greek god of the wilderness, and of shepherds and flocks. Since our God has laid claim to everything else, is He also the God of everything claimed by Pan? v 14, 18, 21, 22.

9. Who is God over all these things? And, who is *God* over all these *gods*? Is He truly a God *of* gods? v 24-30.

10. Considering His creation and that He is the God of all these things, is He worthy of our praise, our psalms, and our meditation? v 31-34.

11. Again, considering His creation and that He is the God of all these things, even mankind, why should we worship Him? v 35.

Conclusion: Many ancient gods had *limited* power. Many of these gods warred among themselves. Many of them are no longer worshipped. And, most importantly, they are all powerless idols. There is only one God of gods who will be worshipped up to the consummation of this age, and beyond.

THE MILLENNIAL PSALMS

Scripture Reading: Psalm 67
Memory Verse: Psalm 102:22
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 19:27

April 16, 2022

Introduction: The 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ is not a new teaching found in the book of Revelation. Let us read from a few psalms.

1. What happens just before the beginning of the 1000 year reign of Jesus? What plans are the heathen making? Psalm 2:1-3.
2. Are they rejecting Jesus as the coming king of the earth? v 3.
3. How does God respond to this challenge? Does it prevent the kingdom from coming to earth? v 4-6.
4. What prophetic decree has already been proclaimed, and at that future time will be fulfilled? v 7-9.
5. What wise advice is given to the kings of the earth? Do you think they will take this advice? v 10-12.
6. If the kings of the earth accept (or, even if they do not accept) to be ruled by our King, what will be the outcome? Psalm 67:1-7.
7. During His 1000 year reign, how complete will be Jesus's dominion over the earth? Psalm 22:26-29a, Psalm 96.
8. Will Jesus eventually be accepted by the people of the earth? Psalm 96:1, 3, 7-10a.
9. What will be the benefit to all mankind when Jesus is reigning over the earth? v 13.
10. How awesome will the glorious sight of the King be? What visible spectacle can *we* expect to experience? Will the heathen see the same sights? Psalm 97:1-6.
11. Today, many reject God's salvation, many others misinterpret His salvation, and very few accept the truth that determines salvation. What will be obvious to all the earth while Jesus reigns? Psalm 98:2, 3.
12. This is another millennial psalm. Psalm 99. In this psalm of the future, He speaks of the past, Moses and Aaron. What are these testimonies? Psalm 99:7, Psalm 119:2, Psalm 25:10.
13. At first sight, Psalm 100 may not appear to be a millennial psalm. *But*. When do we enter into His gates? When do we enter into His courts? This can only happen in the future. Psalm 100:4.
14. Psalm 101 start with the words of a Saint. (v 1-4.) It ends with the words of the King. (v 5-8.) In this millennial psalm, what is the significance of the words, "him will I cut off", "shall not dwell within my house", "may dwell with me" and "shall serve me"? Psalm 101:5-7.
15. What is prepared for the end of the 1000 years? Psalm 104:35.

Conclusion: The reign of Jesus Christ was determined from the foundation of the world.

HOW IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD?

Scripture Reading: Revelation 1

April 23, 2022

Memory Verse: Exodus 31:18

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 29:5

Introduction: The Bible was inspired, spoken, and written over many centuries. But what is the source of these 66 books?

1. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. His words are the foundation for all the writers that came after him. So, who is the foundation for his words? Are Moses's words coming from the source? Exodus 4:10-12, Exodus 17:14, Exodus 34:27.

2. The entire Bible is the inspired words of God. And, some are the very spoken words of God. What important words were personally spoken by God to Israel? Exodus 19:9, Exodus 20:1-19.

3. These words were so important that God wanted to impress upon His nation that they were permanent words. How did God demonstrate that these words were to be kept forever? Are these commandments from the source? Exodus 31:18, Deuteronomy 9:10.

4. Many of the prophecies that have been fulfilled, and that will be fulfilled, come from the four major prophets. What was their source? Is this why they are reliable prophecies? Jeremiah 1:1-4, Ezekiel 1:3, Isaiah 1:1, 2, Daniel 10:1-11, 21a.

5. The most controversial prophecies come from the book of Revelation. Have they been fulfilled? How? Is this because they came from the source? Revelation 1:1, 2.

6. While Jesus, the Son of God, was on earth, he taught many throughout Judea. Were these words lost forever? Did Matthew write words from the source? Matthew 4:23-25, Matthew 5:1, 2, (3-11).

7. Whom did Jesus teach personally? Since Paul was personally called by Jesus, and personally taught by Jesus, and personally sent by Jesus, does this make Paul's words Jesus's words? Galatians 1:15-17.

8. Does God speak by His prophets and His written word? When we read the Bible, are we reading words that have come from the source? Romans 1:1, 2, Hebrews 1:1, Hebrews 4:4.

9. If there are words in the Bible that are not prefixed with the words "God said," does that mean that they are not scripture and therefore not the words of God? 2 Timothy 3:16,17.

10. Considering that these are God's words, and they were written many centuries ago, are they still relevant today? Isaiah 46:10, 11.

11. Is this prophecy still relevant? Daniel 2:44, 45.

Conclusion: The Bible is the word of God, because God is the source for all scripture. Some written by God, some spoken by God, some dictated by God, some taught by God, and some inspired by God.

TEACH US TO PRAY
(The Lord's Prayer)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:1-18

April 30, 2022

Memory Verse: Psalm 6:9

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 15:29

Introduction: There are examples of prayer throughout the scriptures. However, Jesus gives us one simple prayer that can be used as our guide for how we should pray. It is not a long prayer, but it is *complete*, with all that is needed for a sincere request.

1. Hypocrisy is not simply not practicing what you preach. It is to put on an act, a show, a demonstration. It is also a total lack of *sincerity*.

What does Jesus teach concerning sincerity in alms? Matthew 6:1-4.

2. A lack of sincerity is not restricted to giving alms. What appears to be a common practice during the time of Jesus's ministry? What is the reward for hypocrisy in prayer? v 5.

3. Where does a sincere Saint choose to pray? What is the reward for his sincerity in prayer? v 6.

4. What other terrible practice should be avoided? v 7, 8.

5. Jesus gives the Apostles an example of prayer. In this example, what two words are used to show humility? What four words are used to show respect for our Creator? v 9, 9b, 9c.

6. In this verse, Jesus gives us an example of something we should pray for. He is praying for God's will to be done. Is it God's will that future prophecies are fulfilled? That the kingdom comes to earth? Should we continue to pray that future prophecies are fulfilled? v 10.

7. We can accomplish many things with wealth and power. But, what does Jesus teach us to pray for? Is Jesus teaching us to *not* pray for wealth and power? Is He also teaching humility? v 11.

8. We all want the grace of God: we want His forgiveness that leads to eternal life. However, our forgiveness of others is linked to whose forgiveness of us? Are our prayers dependent on our actions? v 12.

9. Many people want, want, want. They want things. Instead of praying for possessions, should we want and pray for our own righteousness, integrity, virtue, protection, deliverance, security, and a peaceful life? v 13ab, (19-21).

10. The book of Psalms is full of the praises of our God. Should our praises be limited to psalms and hymns? Should our prayers also praise God? v 9bc, 13c-g.

Conclusion: What have we learned? First, prayer should be sincere. Second, we should practice humility and respect in our prayers. Third, we should pray for our needs and not our wants. And, finally, our prayers should contain praises for God our Creator.

PAUL'S MISSION, DUTY, AND DESIRE

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-15

May 7, 2022

Memory Verse: Romans 1:9

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 27:1

Introduction: Many work because they want the money. After many years they come to love their jobs: it becomes their desire. This lesson answers the question, whether or not Paul loved his job as an Apostle.

1. How did Paul become an Apostle? Who called him to be an Apostle? As an Apostle (one who is sent), for what purpose was he “separated” from his old life? Acts 9:1-8, Romans 1:1.

2. As a missionary, what was he to preach? Who was he to preach? Romans 1:1c, 3, 4.

3. Again, who ordained Paul to be an Apostle? Who was he to be an Apostle to? That is to say, who was he to preach to? Did this include the people of the city of Rome? v 5, 6.

4. Paul fulfills his *duty*, by preaching to many, including the church at Rome. Does Paul’s salutation sound as if he feels he is only fulfilling a requirement? Is his *duty* also his *desire*? v 7.

Answer: Paul calls the Romans “beloved of God”. These are not *religious customers* he is writing to. They are his fellow “saints”.

5. How does he show pride in the people of this church? v 8.

6. Paul does not explicitly say what his desire for this church is. Through what action does he express this desire? How often does he do this? (Is this *commitment*?) v 9.

7. Was he simply maintaining a long distance relationship? v 10.

8. Was the church at Rome just another stop on his missionary journey? Does this sound like his job or his desire? v 11a.

9. What could this gift be? As an Apostle, what gift could he possible give to them that would *establish* them? v 11.

10. Strong bonds are formed when two or more people have something in common – and desire is created. What does Paul have in common with the church at Rome? v 1, 6, 7, 12.

Definition: The word *let* can mean to *hinder temporarily*.

11. How many times did Paul make an attempt to visit the church at Rome? He *desired* to visit, so he could satisfy what other *desire*? v 13.

12. Yes, this was Paul’s desire. Based on this verse, was it *also* his job and his duty and his responsibility? v 14.

13. Did Paul accept his mission and his duty? v 15.

Conclusion: Paul, the Apostle, was zealous toward God before his conversion. Acts 22:3, Galatians 1:14. That zeal continued as he performed his duties to Jesus Christ. It was his mission and duty, yet he had a desire for preaching and those he was preaching to.

THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-21

May 14, 2022

Memory Verse: Acts 2:22

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 6:12, 13

Introduction: The book of John tells a very interesting story based on the miracles of Jesus. Let us study the role that miracles played in the life of Jesus, and also in His death, and even after His death.

1. When Jesus needed disciples, He called 12 men to be His 12 Apostles. Yes, they followed Him, but what was needed to strengthen His relationship with them? John 2:(1-10), 11.

2. The miracles performed by Jesus had a life-changing effect on His disciples. Who else was so affected? John 2:11, 23.

3. One notable Rabbi, Nicodemus, was so moved by what he had seen, what statement did he make to Jesus? John 3:1, 2.

4. Such a statement led to what wonderful conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus? Did those miracles lead to this conversation, which would lead someone to the knowledge of life, which would lead to that person's conversion, and finally to his eternal life? v 3-21.

5. On a certain day, why were so many following Jesus? Jesus feeds five thousand men; according to those that were fed, what great position is a miracle-worker worthy of? John 6:(1-15), 1, 2, 5ab, 14, 15.

6. What division did these powerful signs create among the Jews? Were these miracles a sign that He was the Christ? Considering that the people wanted to make Him king, is this a power-struggle by the Pharisees? Are they fighting against these miracles? John 7:31, 32, 30.

7. After Jesus works a miracle on the Sabbath, how do the Pharisees, the lawyers, use the law to fight their rival? Was this battle a victory for the lawyers? How powerful are these miracles? John 9:(1-15), 16.

8. Jesus's friend, Lazarus, is raised from the dead. Such a miracle caused many more Jews to believe. But, what report did the Pharisee receive, and how did they respond? John 11:(1-44), 45-53.

9. Raising Lazarus from the dead had a lasting effect on the people in and around Jerusalem. Was this miracle used to set up Jesus's destiny at the soon coming Passover? John 12:1, 12, 13, 18.

10. According to the Pharisees themselves, how popular had these miracles made Jesus? Not only the Jews, but who else was drawn to Jesus? At the height of His popularity, what time had arrived? v 19-23.

11. What final miracle was performed by God, on His Son? Why was it done, and for whom? John 20:1-8, (9-29), 30, 31.

Conclusion: Throughout the book of John, we see that miracles are used to draw people to Jesus, creating opportunities to teach the Jews, to interact with the Pharisees, and to draw witnesses to His crucifixion. And the final miracle, His resurrection, is used to inspire written accounts of His life for all Saints down through the centuries.

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, SUMMARIZED
(An Interpretation)

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

May 21, 2022

Memory Verse: John 1:18

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 8:14

Introduction: The gospel of John, that is, the good news concerning Jesus Christ, taught by John, starts off with an excellent summary of who Christ is and what He has to offer mankind.

1. John 1:1, 2. From the beginning, Jesus was the Word of God, His *spokesman*, His *representative*. Jesus is not God, but exercises all the power of God. For that reason, He has the *title* of God. This is exactly how Jesus can be *with* God and also *is* God. (Revelation 19:11-14).

2. v 3. In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew word for God is *Elohim*, the plural for *God*. In John 1:1, 2, John clarifies by letting us know who the other person of this plural God is: Jesus. By doing so, he lets us know Jesus was indeed with God, and actually created all things.

3. v 4, 5. In these verses, John is implying that Jesus is the source of eternal life, and that while He was on earth (darkness), he gave mankind a glimpse of that life. However, that life was rejected by mankind.

4. v 6-8. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. He introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God. And, as Jesus began to preach, and after his job was complete, John the Baptist was taken away. (Matthew 3:1-3).

5. v 9, 10. Jesus came into the world to give every person an opportunity to have eternal life. Salvation is a free gift to anyone who wants it. However, the world as a whole has rejected the offer.

6. v 11. The Jewish nation even rejected Him. Then and now.

7. v 12, 13. Those that receive Him and have faith in Him (and do His will) become the sons of God. Not by their works, but by God's gift.

8. v 14. Jesus took on *human flesh*. Even so, His *heavenly glory* was evident to all through His teaching, actions, miracles, and His glorious appearance after His resurrection, proving that He was the Son of God.

9. v 15. John proclaims the preeminence of Christ. Jesus was born after John, but John says that He was before him, referring to Jesus's preexistence before the world.

10. v 16, 17. "grace for grace" is a little difficult to interpret. What he is saying is that Jesus has given us a New Testament grace in place of the Old Testament grace of Moses. See 2 Corinthians 3:7-18.

11. v 18. The best way to interpret this verse is to say, no man has seen God the Father at any time, but He has declared His Son to be His *representative*. Jesus is God *by declaration*.

Conclusion: The eternal Son of God took on mortal flesh, and has eternal life for those that believe in Him.

ROUTINE RELIGION

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 1
Memory Verse: Matthew 6:7
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 10:32

May 28, 2022

Introduction: Most religion today is *routine ritual*. Go to a building, pray a prayer, sing a song, read a chapter, go home, and forget the morality that should have been learned. Isaiah 1 is God's commentary on the routine religion of ancient Israel *and* today's churches. Today, we will learn and understand the routine, so we can break the routine.

1. From the time that Israel was brought out of Egypt, until king Hezekiah, what had God done for Israel? Isaiah 1:1-2f.
2. How did Israel respond to God's care for them? v 2g, 3, 4.
3. What was the condition of the people of Israel after many years of punishment from their Caretaker? v 5, 6.
4. What was the condition of the land of Israel? v 7, 8.
5. In their desolation, was the Caretaker still watching over them? v 9.
6. Over many years, the nation had debased themselves until they were comparable to Sodom and Gomorrah. In this condition, what remained of the laws that they learned from Moses? Is this only the routine rituals of religion with the morality removed? v 10, 11.
7. What does God think of the sacrifices, sabbaths, and assemblies of a wicked nation? What does He think of *routine religion*? v 13, 14.
8. The nation was as wicked as Sodom, but they sacrificed and performed their *routine rituals* faithfully. How does this affect their relationship with God? How does this affect their prayers? v 15.
9. What parts of the law did they reject? Do you think the morality was the most important part of the law? v 16, 17.
10. In the wicked condition they were in, only practicing a *routine religion*, were they completely forsaken by God? Was God willing to accept their repentance? Was He willing to completely forget their wicked lives? Was He willing to bless them if they repented? v 18, 19.
11. What was spoken against them if they did not? v 20.
12. How far had the righteous nation fallen? v 21-23.
13. Not expecting the princes and judges to change themselves, what does their God prophesy over them? Will He force a change? v 24-27.
14. How will this change be accomplished? v 28-31.

Conclusion: Routine religion is a cover for wickedness. It is an act to give the appearance of a righteous life, a show designed to convince the spectators to admire the players, and a performance by the leaders to justify their position. There is no salvation in routine religion. There is salvation through repentance and sincerity. Through God's patience, anyone caught in the routine can break the cycle and start a new life.

MARY

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-56

June 4, 2022

Memory Verse: Luke 1:47

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 23:12

Introduction: Mary is adored by many throughout the world, promoted to be divine. However, the scriptures only portray her as another biblical character. Her role is not minor, and it is also not powerful, such as a prophet or apostle. This lesson will examine Mary's role to determine if there is any reason to adore her above any other Saint.

1. When Gabriel appears to Mary, does he, an angel, worship her? Or, does he simply give her an assignment? Luke 1:26, 27, 31.

2. This verse does not demote women in any way. However, does Gabriel say Mary is blessed among apostles, prophets, or saints? How can being blessed among women imply divinity? v 28, (42).

3. There are many Saints throughout the scriptures that are favored. Is Mary any different from them? v 28, 30.

4. Who is the true object of the angel's visit? v 31-33.

5. What lowly description does Mary give herself? Was Mary agreeable (and obedient) with the message delivered to her? v 38.

6. Does Mary receive praise *from* Jesus, or does she give praise *to* Jesus? Is she a savior or does she need *the* Saviour? v 46, 47.

7. Again, what subordinate position does Mary proclaim for herself? Are handmaids adored, worshipped, and served? Or, do they serve others? Is Mary stating that she serves Jesus? v 48.

8. "He", "He", "He". In this passage, who worships who? v 49-55.

9. In the book of Matthew, each of these verses mentions Mary. But, who is the true object of each verse? Is it obvious that Mary has only been assigned the role of mother? Matthew 1:16, 18, 20, Matthew 2:11.

10. Does Luke agree that Mary has been assigned the role of mother to the Saviour? Luke 2:5, 16, 34.

11. This is the only mention of Mary in the book of Mark. Mark 6:3.

12. At Jesus's death, does Mary cease to be a mother? John 19:25-27.

13. After Jesus was raised, the Apostles continued to associate with each other. Whom were the principal brothers mentioned? Whom were the lesser disciples mentioned? How is Mary described? Acts 1:13, 14.

Conclusion: Mary's role in the scriptures was to be the mother of Jesus. She was the conduit by which Jesus entered the world. There is no scripture that indicates that she is any different from any other Saint in the church. And, above all, there is no scripture that gives us the impression that Mary should be worshipped or even adored.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS A SPECIAL LAW

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:1-22

June 11, 2022

Memory Verse: James 2:8

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 16:18

Introduction: The Ten Commandments is a special law. In this lesson, we will see how God sets this special law apart from all others.

1. There are various passages in the Bible where God speaks to one or more people, but only one place where God *spoke* to an entire nation. What words does He speak to them? Do the smoke, fire, trumpet, thunder, and lightning demonstrate how special the Ten Commandments are? Exodus 19:9-11, 17-19, Exodus 20:1-18.

2. Throughout the Bible, God's prophets wrote down His words by inspiration or by dictation. Only once did God *write* something permanently, which was to be kept by His people. What was it, and does this make that writing special? Exodus 31:18, Exodus 34:28.

3. If you write it in the dirt, it is insignificant. If you write it on paper, you may want to keep it. If you write it on *stone*, you want it to be remembered and read for generations to come. Is this implied in these verses? Deuteronomy 4:13, 2 Chronicles 5:7, 10, Revelation 11:19.

4. Marriage vows are used as a covenant to bind a man and a woman together for life. What was used as a *covenant* to bind the nation of Israel to their God? Exodus 34:27, 28, 2 Chronicles 6:11.

5. What *special container* was built for the Ten Commandments. Does this make them a special law? Exodus 25:10-21.

6. The ark of the covenant was made of gold, had a mercy seat above, with two cherubims on top. Who *dwelt* between the cherubims, above the ark, above the covenant, and above the Ten Commandments? Exodus 25:22, Numbers 7:89, 2 Kings 19:15.

7. How do we know that the covenant, the testament, the Ten Commandments are forever? How special is a law that is *written in heaven*? Deuteronomy 7:9, Revelation 11:19.

8. The Ten Commandments themselves are eternal and will be in the future kingdom. What determines if we, as Saints, will be in the future kingdom? If *salvation is dependent* on this law, does that make this law special? Is it superior to all other laws? Matthew 19:16-19.

Bonus: How are the Ten Commandments *linked to the creation*? Does this make the Sabbath the *first law* that God lived by *ensample*? Does this connection make the Sabbath Day and the Ten Commandments special? Does this connection make the Sabbath Day and the Ten Commandments special? Exodus 20:8-11.

Conclusion: No other law in the Bible is set apart like the Ten Commandments. According to James, it is the *royal law*. According to Jesus, our salvation depends on it.

FOUR PROPHETIC SYMBOLS

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2, Revelation 3

June 18, 2022

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:1

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 24:19, 20

Introduction: The book of Revelation is a book of signs and symbols. That is to say, the book is *signified*. Many of these signs have to be interpreted based on history and not on our speculation of the future. In the light of history, we will discover the meaning of these symbols.

1. God gave the Revelation to Jesus, who gave it to an angel, who gave it to John. How did the angel deliver it to John? Revelation 1:1.

2. The book is *signified*, or presented in a series of *signs*. What are some examples of the major signs in this book? Revelation 12:1, Revelation 13:1, Revelation 17:1. The scripture reading above, the seven letters to the seven churches, is understood to represent seven church ages from the Apostles to the return of Jesus. We will examine four symbols within these letters.

3. What does a woman symbolize in prophecy? In these letters, does *Jezebel* represent a church? Over many centuries, which church has taught that we should commit *spiritual fornication* and worship idols? Lamentation 2:1, Zephaniah 3:14. Revelation 2:20.

4. A very similar symbol is *Balaam*, the Old Testament prophet. What were the deeds of Balaam? How was the church at Pergamos infected? Are there other organizations that follow the leadership of Jezebel? What message does Jesus have for those who hold to the doctrine of Jezebel and Balaam? Revelation 2:12a, 14.

5. Another symbol is the name *Nicolaitanes*. The name means “conqueror of people.” Down through the Dark Ages, which church ruled over many people and countries? What does Jesus think of their deeds and their doctrine? Do they still rule over many people today? Revelation 2:6, 15.

6. The fourth symbol is *Antipas*. He probably was a real person, and a martyr, but his name is the symbol we are interested in. *Antipas* means “against the fathers.” Should the Church of God have fathers? Which church has fathers? Using Antipas as an example, should we be against the doctrine of the fathers? Matthew 23:9, Revelation 2:13.

7. What message does Jesus have for the church at Pergamos, but also for Jezebel, Balaam, the Nicolaitanes, and for the fathers? Is this message for anyone with wayward beliefs? Revelation 2:16.

Conclusion: History is filled with the fulfillment of many prophecies. These symbols had very little meaning to the Saints during the days of the Apostles. Today, looking back through history, the interpretation is clear: avoid the prophetic Jezebel, avoid the fathers.

REWARD

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

June 25, 2022

Memory Verse: Revelation 22:12

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 25:14

Introduction: Salvation is not by grace alone. Salvation is by grace, through our faith. Ephesians 2:8. And, faith leads to works. James 2:17, 18, 20. And, as we will see, works lead to our reward.

1. The *man* in this parable is Jesus Christ. The *far country* is heaven: Jesus is in heaven until He returns at the end of this age. Until His return, who has He given these responsibilities to? (Are these servants ministers only, or everyone in the church?) Matthew 25:14, 15.

2. A reward is not wages. A reward is a *gift* based on achievement. Two of the Master's servants *achieved* what was expected of them. Does that mean they *worked*? v 16, 17, 20, 22.

3. Did all servants in this parable work? v 18.

4. Their rewards were based on their works. What did the first servant receive as a reward? What did the second servant receive? v 21, 23.

5. Again, their rewards are based on their works. If they had no works, they should receive no reward. What did the third servant receive as a reward? v 24-29.

6. What was taken from the unprofitable servant? To be fair, this servant did receive a reward. What was it? v 28-30.

7. What simple change in character is needed to become an excellent servant, and to qualify for our reward? 1 Peter 5:6, 5g, James 4:10.

8. Since we have not seen the Master, and since He has not been on earth for more than 1900 years, how important is belief and faith as a servant? Can we work without these tools? Hebrews 11:6, James 2:20.

9. We work for the Master. No one else. When we work for someone else, we receive wages from them. What are the wages paid by the men of this world? Are these wages worth our labor? Matthew 6:1, 2, 24, (Jeremiah 17:5).

10. Our reward is based on our works. Can these works be feigned? Can we deceive God in any way? Jeremiah 17:9, 10.

11. What is expected of an excellent servant? Is this fruit the reward he should see in this life? Should he continually produce? v 7, 8.

12. How did Paul continually produce? Philippians 3:13, 14.

13. Is it possible for a Saint to be deceived and to lose their reward? 2 John 1:8, Revelation 3:11.

14. What is the reward that we can expect? Can that full reward be found in the scriptures? 1 Corinthians 2:9, (10, 12).

15. In the last book of the Bible, in the last chapter of that book, what message does Jesus have for every Saint? Revelation 22:12.

Conclusion: Reward follows works. Matthew 25:14-30 uses the word *servant* for a reason. This parable teaches that reward follows works.

WHO IS OUR TEACHER?

Scripture Reading: Psalm 25
Memory Verse: Psalm 25:4
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 3:31

July 2, 2022

Introduction: We are students in the classroom of the Almighty God. What does it take to be His student? What does the student receive after he has completed his studies? Above all, what is the subject?

1. As a student, disciple, and follower, we should put our souls in whose hands? And should we trust this person? Psalm 25:1, 2ab.

2. What does the writer of this psalm ask for? If we are God's disciples, should we ask for the same? v 4.

3. Why do we want to be taught by God? What does He have to offer His students? v 5.

4. Are God's teachings for the righteous only? For the saints, prophets, and apostles only? Who else needs to be taught by God? v 8.

5. Yes, sinners need to be taught. Some may reject His teachings. Others may choose to debate His teachings. What type of sinners make good students? v 9.

6. Occasionally, students must be corrected, paddled, or expelled. These rebels cannot be tolerated. What type of students remain in the classroom? v 12.

7. While he receives his lessons, and finally, after years of education, the student must put his knowledge to work. So it is with God's students. Sinners cannot remain sinners. After their education, after being led by the Teacher, what is expected of them? v 10.

8. Not every student has the patience. Not every student will do the necessary work. Not every student will pay the price. For those students that endure until the end, what is their reward? v 13.

9. Those that fear the Lord may enter the classroom. They will endure the days of study. What subject will they learn? v 14.

10. The subject, which is a closely guarded secret, is the covenant. Yes, it is hidden, but where can it be found? (Should anyone looking for this secret be able to find it? Has the Teacher provided the book that contains the secret?) Exodus 34:28, (Exodus 20:1-17.)

Conclusion: God teaches His covenant, the Ten Commandments, to those that fear Him. His lessons on the Ten Commandments lead to salvation. These lessons can be found in the text book, the Bible, which He has given to everyone.

If you are not looking for a hidden treasure, you will never find it. If you are looking, asking, and reading the map that leads to the secret location, you will certainly find unimaginable treasure. We have been given the map that leads to this treasure described in Revelation 21.

MICAH'S MILLENNIUM PROPHECY
(An Interpretation)

Scripture Reading: Micah 4:1-7

July 9, 2022

Memory Verse: Micah 4:2

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 28:6

Introduction: Micah paints a descriptive picture of Israel's future, our future, and the earth's future. This is an interpretation of that picture.

1. Micah 4:1. In scripture, a mountain is sometimes a symbol of a nation. In the last days, these days, God's kingdom will be exalted above every other kingdom and country. This will happen at the coming of Jesus Christ, as we will see in the next verse. With Jesus ruling in Jerusalem, the people of the world will look to Him.

2. v 2. They want something from the King, they want what He has to teach them, they want to know of His ways. And, Jesus will be teaching the law. It should be obvious that He will be teaching the Ten Commandments and other laws that are obvious to this church.

3. v 3. Jesus Christ will be the Judge *on* earth, the Judge *of* the earth. As a result, weapons of war will be abolished, the knowledge of war will be abolished. All mankind will have time to focus on their welfare.

4. v 4. Sitting under a fig tree does not mean that everyone will have leisure time to spare. It does mean that the world will not be ruled by international politics and intrigue: everyman will be minding his own business. When this happens, these worries will vanish.

5. v 5. Notice the two spellings of the word *god* in this verse. One is spelled with a lowercase g, the other with an uppercase G. Will there be people still worshiping other gods? Or, at least not following Jesus? According to this verse, *yes*. However, according to verses 1 and 2, it appears that the majority will be worshiping Jesus, and His Father.

6. v 6. Her that "halteth", and "is driven out", and is "afflicted" is the nation of Israel. God's people, will still be a nation during the 1000 year reign of Jesus. They still have not been abandoned by their God.

7. v 7. With Jesus ruling His nation, the nation should have dominion over all others. This thought is found previously in verses 1 and 2. This verse, and many verses throughout the Psalms, state that Jesus will be ruling Israel, from Jerusalem, and ruling over the entire earth.

8. The book of Micah was written while Judah was a much weaker nation than in the days of David and Solomon. What promise is made to the weak nation that would soon go into captivity? v 8.

9. Long before this dominion would be given to them, where would they be sent? v 10, 10g.

Conclusion: This picture describes the King in Jerusalem, His nation, His people worshiping Him, and the nations of the earth ruled by Him.

INTROSPECTION

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:39-49

July 16, 2022

Memory Verse: Luke 6:41, 42

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 7:1-3

Introduction: Yes, there are times when we must judge others. Far better, there are times when we must judge ourselves. Since every person lives with their self for 24 hours every day, we have many opportunities to judge ourselves and improve our character. Below are a few questions to help provoke our self-judgement and *introspection*.

Definition: *Introspection* is to examine one's own actions, decisions, thoughts, feelings, and character. Self-analysis, soul-searching.

1. What message does Paul have for the church at Corinth? Is self-examination the same as introspection? Does the phrase, "prove your own selves" demand introspection? 2 Corinthians 13:5.

2. These two verses must be read very carefully. Take a little time to do so. If you are following a person who has no direction in life, where will you end up? How can the student achieve any more than his teacher? (Is your guide the Holy Scriptures?) Luke 6:39, 40.

3. Just as a beam in this man's eye would be evident to all, our *faults* are evident to all. Our *failures* are evident to all. Our *sins* are evident to all. For those seeking to teach, should they have the *moral* qualifications to do so? If we want to spread the word of God, should we exhibit the character of Jesus's representatives? (Is introspection needed to see the beam that is in our own eye?) v 41, 42.

4. If we cannot put our faults, failures, and sins behind us, what will be the result of our labors? Can we ever be worthy laborers? Worse still, will we pass our faults, failures, and sins on to others? v 43-45.

5. A new birth is needed for salvation. A new mind is needed for a new birth. Is a new mind dependent on introspection? Romans 12:2, 3.

6. Did this letter from Paul trigger sorrow in the Corinthians? Did that sorrow lead to introspection, *then* repentance? 2 Corinthians 7:9, 10.

Answer: The phrase "sorrow worketh repentance" indicates that they contemplated their actions and that introspection led to change.

7. *Before* we gather for this coming Passover, what is expected of every Saint? 1 Corinthians 11:(23-27), 28, (29).

Conclusion: To exercise introspection, we have to be completely honest with ourselves. We must honestly desire to change and to make improvements and to repent. Then, by studying the scriptures, and comparing our lives to the scriptures, we know what changes have to be made. Knowledge of the scriptures, with no introspection, leads to a head full of facts, with no desire to change. The Pharisees were excellent examples of the lack of introspection.

A PARABLE ABOUT FORGIVENESS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:23-35

July 23, 2022

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 15:15

Introduction: When we are forgiven of our sins by Jesus Christ and God the Father, we are not simply forgiven of a few memorable sins. We are forgiven of all sins, a lifetime of sins, sins too numerable to count. What lesson should we learn from God's forgiveness?

1. This parable about forgiveness is very important to every Saint because it is about the kingdom of heaven. Who is the "certain king" and who are His "servants"? Matthew 18:23.

2. This king, Jesus, is also the judge. The talents, that is, the money, represents the sins of the servant being judged, Jesus's servant. Does such a great amount of money represent the sins of a lifetime? v 24.

3. Debts must be repaid. Must we pay for our sins? Must we pay for our sins with our lives and with all that we have? v 25.

4. Every Saint has a debt of ten thousand talents. We may want to repay that debt, but there is no possible way it can be repaid. If we ask with a heart of repentance, can that debt be *forgiven*? v 26, 27.

5. The natural man does not expect the king to forgive such a large debt. Yet, the king does forgive him. Now, what does he expect from his debtors? After having his unpayable debt forgiven, how adamant is he with regard to a few pennies owed to him? Matthew 18:28.

6. Did this servant learn anything from the king? (Was he truly the king's servant, if he does not forgive his fellow servant? If we love from the heart, would we not want the same for others?) v 29, 30.

7. All Saints are servants of the same king. We want the same for each and every other Saint. When a Saint is not behaving as expected, who do we report the offense to? Whom do we *pray* to? v 31.

8. What did the king remind the servant of? Should he have learned a lesson when he was forgiven? Does the king expect a lesson to be learned, taken to heart, and practiced? v 32, 33.

9. This servant failed to learn the lesson taught by the king, so what happened to his forgiveness?

Answer: His forgiveness was taken back. How is a lifetime of debt repaid? Is it repaid with a life? v 34.

10. If we do not forgive, just as this servant did not, what can we expect from our heavenly Father? v 35.

Conclusion: God has forgiven us of all our sins. However, if we do not do the same for others, God will remember those sins, and we will be held accountable for them. There is no possible way that we can repay such a debt, except with our lives. When we do not forgive, Jesus does not forgive, and we lose our eternal life as a penalty.

TAKE THE KINGDOM

Scripture Reading: Psalm 149

July 30, 2022

Memory Verse: Revelation 11:15

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 16:23

Introduction: The Saints have been reaped. The plagues have fallen. It is now time to take the kingdom. This psalm adds detail to the beginning of the 1000 year reign of Jesus, the Messiah, the King.

1. After the Saints have been reaped, we will be together above the earth on the sea of glass. During this time, what will be our occupation? What is this new song we sing? (Note: There are two songs referred to in Revelation 15:3.) Psalm 149:1, Revelation 15:2, 3.

2. What can be expected from God's nation? What is the reason for their celebration? Psalm 149:2, 3, 4a, Romans 11:26, Jeremiah 23:6, Isaiah 45:17, Zechariah 14:3, 9.

3. As for the Saints, what does it mean to "beautify the meek with salvation"? How can the Saints be "joyful in glory"? Do these words have anything to do with our eternal bodies? Will our bodies be like Jesus's body? What does His body look like now? Psalm 149:4, 5, Philippians 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, Revelation 1:13-15.

4. As we praise God, what are these two-edged swords? How is the sword of the King used? Psalm 149:6, 7, Revelation 19:15, 21.

Answer: These two passages are metaphors. The swords represent the words of God, the Bible. Those remaining on earth will be judged by the words of God, and slain by that judgement.

5. Are all the heathen killed at once? What happens to the kings and the noblemen? (Are they held and imprisoned to witness the King, the Saints, and the kingdom?) Psalm 149:7, 8.

Answer: Based on verses 6-8, the kings and noblemen seem to be treated differently than others. Yes, it is possible that their judgement is delayed so that they will witness God's judgement.

6. (Will these kings and noblemen be shown the fulfillment of prophecies from ages past?) Is this judgement, executed by the Saints, part of our inheritance, part of our reward? v 9, 9b.

7. And now, who has taken the kingdom, and who possesses the kingdom? Psalm 149:9, Obadiah 1:21.

Conclusion: Verse 9 speaks of "the judgement written". This judgement is not only written in the book of Revelation, it is also written in the Psalms, and in other books of the Bible. All these prophecies must be fulfilled.

MAN VERSUS GOD

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:18-32

August 6, 2022

Memory Verse: Romans 1:22

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 28:8

Introduction: It may seem impossible, but yes, man has challenged God many times. And, the outcome is always the same.

1. Kings can get drunk on their own power. Once intoxicated, they can make grave errors in judgement. What did Belshazzar do that challenged God's sovereignty? Is he offending God? Daniel 5:1-4.
2. Was God offended? Did God accept the challenge? How did God get Belshazzar's attention? v 5-7.
3. Should the king have known better? v 18-22.
4. When Belshazzar challenged God, who was the victor? v 30.
5. Kings like being king. The thought of another king taking their throne is considered a threat. What happened that troubled Herod, king of Judea? Whom did he think was a threat to him? Matthew 2:1-4.
6. What was Herod's offensive tactic? v 16.
7. What was God's defensive maneuver? v 13-15.
8. How did this story *end* for Herod? v 19a.
9. How did this story *progress* for Jesus, the King? Matthew 2:23, Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:1-6, Acts 1:9.
10. When Herod challenged God, who was the victor? Colossians 2:(12-14), 15.
11. Yes, in this example, God versus man. Exodus 3:(1-9), 10.
12. Kings give commands. They do not take them. Moses delivers God's command to Pharaoh. Does he know that this message is from God? How does he respond? Exodus 5:1-9.
13. When Pharaoh defied God, who was the victor? Exodus 12:29.
14. Man has not ceased to challenge God. They will defy God to the very end. What is prophesied for the end of this age? Psalm 2:1-3.
15. Are the kings of the earth a threat to the Almighty? v 4.
16. When these kings challenge God, who will be the victor? v 8-11.
17. How has all mankind challenged God? Is mankind aware of God's sovereignty and His laws? Can they claim that they have no knowledge of God? Romans 1:18-20.
18. What did they do with their knowledge of God? v 21-23.
19. They know the judgement of God, but what do they do? v 32.
20. In the end, who will be the victor? Revelation 22:14, 15.

Conclusion: There are many examples in the Bible of man challenging God: God always wins. Today, the world continues to challenge God by ignoring His Ten Commandments and His scriptures. In the end, the righteous will be victors alongside their Saviour.

A FEW REMINDERS FOR THE HEBREWS

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13
Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:14
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 25:21, 22

August 13, 2022

Introduction: The writer of the book of Hebrews closes his letter with a few spiritual *reminders*. These words of exhortation were good for the Hebrews then: they are good for the Saints today.

1. In this letter, what is the writer's first reminder? Does true love fade over the years? We may have to work at it, but how long should it last? How long does the love of Jesus last? Hebrews 13:1, 8.

2. Should we be cordial and amiable to our brothers only? Are there other sabbath-keepers in this world? Are there others that may potentially be sabbath-keepers in the future? v 2.

3. Paul in his bonds before King Agrippa did not forget his apostolic duty: he was reaching out to potential Saints. Should we forget those that may be imprisoned for the word of God? Or, those that have been hospitalized or bedridden? v 3.

4. Paul lived the single-life for the benefit of the gospel and the church. For those that are not as spiritual as Paul, and for the sake of purity, what should *most* Saints consider? v 4, 4ab.

5. The unfortunate conversation of television evangelist and mega-church preachers focuses on what sinful passion? Should we avoid this passion *and* conversation about it? v 5.

6. Do not forget your spiritual father or mother: that person that led you through your first few years in the church. Do not forget the pastor and ministers that faithfully shepherd your flock. Just as we respect our physical parents, should we respect our spiritual leaders? v 7, 17.

7. There are many strange doctrines taught by many strange organizations. As long as we focus our attention on the words of the Apostles, we will not stray from the straight and narrow path. v 9a.

8. Will anything in this world continue into the kingdom of Jesus Christ? How long will the Saviour's kingdom continue? v 14.

9. These verses let us know that animal sacrifices have been abolished. They were never truly pleasing to Him that received them. What sacrifices should be offered and are truly pleasing? v (10-13), 15, 16.

Definition: The word *suffer*, can sometimes mean to *allow*.

10. Exhortation is to teach and to preach. Let the pastor and ministers teach. Let the church teach newer members. *Exhort.* v 22.

Conclusion: Why *remind* someone of anything? Because it is important to you, and you want it to be important to them. After teaching 12 amazing chapters, the writer *also* reminds us to remember these other important teachings that he did not have space to elaborate.

SABBATH MERCY

Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:1-14

August 20, 2022

Memory Verse: Matthew 12:7

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 1:25-31

Introduction: The Sabbath is not a day to afflict our souls. The Sabbath is truly a delight for the Saints. We can make it a delight to everyone by demonstrating mercy on that day. So says the Creator.

1. On a particular Sabbath, hungry and in need of a meal, how much work did Jesus's disciples do? How much work is plucking and rubbing with the hands? Insignificant? Matthew 12:1, Luke 6:1.

Note: This does not mean that we should not prepare for the Sabbath. Someone should not use these verses to justify their lack of preparation.

2. At that time, what did the Jews, and especially the Pharisees, think of that much work being done on the Sabbath? Matthew 12:2.

3. Jesus, the Teacher, uses the scriptures to teach a lesson to the Pharisees, the teachers. Would they have respect for the actions of David? Would they have respect for the actions of the priests of David's generation? How could they deny the actions of David and the priests? Is a man's welfare greater than Old Testament rituals? v 3, 4.

4. On the Sabbath, some types of work still had to be done: the priests had to perform their duties, the porters and singers also had to perform their duties. When working on the Sabbath, how guilty are the priests, porters, singers, and all other sabbath helpers? v 5.

5. This lesson is being taught by whom? Answer: The Creator, Saviour, Judge, and future King. Is He the authority when it comes to what work can be done on the Sabbath Day? John 1:1-3, John 3:16, 17, 2 Timothy 4:1, Revelation 17:14, Matthew 12:8.

6. How does the Teacher summarize this sabbath-work concept? Exactly how important is mercy, when compared to sacrifice? Do you think that the priests, those in charge of the sacrifices, would hold to the same belief? Would they dare teach such a thing? Matthew 12:7, 14.

7. Does Jesus have the authority to proclaim, "I will have mercy, and not sacrifice" for the seventh-day Sabbath? John 1:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11, Matthew 12:8.

Answer: Yes. He is the Creator. Therefore, it was He who rested on the first Sabbath, and sanctified it. By extension, it is therefore His commandment in Exodus 20. And that is why He is Lord of the Sabbath Day and has the authority to proclaim *sabbath-mercy*.

8. That same Sabbath, how was Jesus's lesson on mercy tested by the Jews (Pharisees)? Why were they testing Him? Matthew 12:9, 10.

9. How did Jesus *demonstrate* His answer? v 11-13.

Conclusion: The Sabbath is a day to perform *works of mercy*.

AS THE LEADER, SO HIS FOLLOWERS

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 21:1-16

August 27, 2022

Memory Verse: Proverbs 29:12

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 13:21

Introduction: Leaders can be very persuasive. That is why many of them are leaders. However, it is the followers' duty to choose and support the right leader. When a leader strays from the path that God has ordained for man and for the church, what will most followers do?

1. You have just read the story of Ahab, his wife, Jezebel, and his neighbor, Naboth. After Ahab's request is rejected by Naboth, what does Ahab do? 1 Kings 21:1-4.

2. Ahab's reaction lets us know exactly how strong his desire was for Naboth's plot of land. Jezebel detected that same strong desire and reaction. What was her solution to Naboth's rejection? v 5-10.

3. Ahab was the king. His wife was his queen and counselor. Were his followers obedient to their request? Would they have done such a thing without his request? Did they follow their leader? v 11-14.

4. After Solomon's death, the kingdom of Israel was split in two: Judah and Israel. The northern kingdom of Israel was ruled by Jeroboam. What was Jeroboam's fear? 1 Kings 12:26, 27.

5. Jeroboam did not want the people of Israel, the northern kingdom, to go back to Rehoboam, the king of Judah. What was his solution? What was the bait he used to draw their desire? v 28, 29.

6. Was he successful? Did the people follow their leader? v 30.

7. What other enticements did he offer the people? (Were these enticements a violation of God's laws? Which?) v 31-33.

8. Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead: a mighty miracle. The Pharisees were offended. John 11:47, 48. What suggestion was made by their leader, Caiaphas, the High Priest? v 49, 50.

9. Did their leader advise against God and against His Son? Did the Pharisees follow their leader? v 53, 57.

10. While on the isle of Patmos, what did the Apostle John see? (This woman, the great whore, represents a church.) Revelation 17:1.

11. What is implied by the words GREAT and MOTHER? Is she a leader with many followers? Not just with many people following, but with many other organizations following? Churches following? v 5.

12. What is the result of her leadership? v 2, 12-14, 17, 18.

Conclusion: The question in the introduction was, when a leader strays from the path that God has ordained, what will most followers do?

Surprisingly, the answer is, they will follow the leader. The overwhelming number of people in the world are followers and not leaders. Followers must understand that leaders can lead them down the wrong path. When their leadership does not follow the path that God has chosen, they have to abandon that leader and that path.

PENTECOST

Scripture Reading: Acts 2

September 3, 2022

Memory Verse: Acts 2:4

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 14:32

Introduction: The purpose of Pentecost should be obvious. It was to spread the gospel of Jesus, resurrection, and the future kingdom. This lesson will review the events of that Pentecost and how it created a great opportunity for growth to the church.

1. What little prophecy by Jesus was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost? John 17:11, 21-23, Acts 2:1.

2. What prophecy of John the Baptist was fulfilled at Pentecost? How did this baptism with fire affect the Saints? Luke 3:16, Acts 2:2-4.

3. Pentecost is a very important Jewish feast. Who were gathered together for this Jewish feast? What was their character? Acts 2:5.

4. These devout Jews, out of every nation, spoke many different languages. However, the baptism of fire by the Holy Spirit upon the Saints created what opportunity for the visiting Jews? v 6-8.

5. With so many Galilaeans speaking in a variety foreign languages, what was the obvious question the visitors asked? v 12.

6. How did Peter take advantage of the opportunity? v 14.

7. How did he explain this phenomenon? Would the Jews be familiar with this prophecy from the book of Joel? Joel 2:28-30, Acts 2:14-21.

8. And now, the purpose of Pentecost: Jesus had recently been crucified, the Jews were gathered from various parts of the world, and the gospel was ready for an audience of devout Jews who were very familiar with the scriptures. What message did Peter preach to those gathered for Pentecost? Acts 2:22-24.

9. The Old Testament contained many prophecies of a future resurrection. (Psalm 49:10, 15.) The Jews would have been familiar with those passages. Would they have understood that Peter was speaking of the resurrection of the body? v 25-35.

10. After such a vicious and public death, then resurrected, being the first born of the dead, Jesus is proven to be who? v 36.

11. What did these truly devout men ask of Peter? v 37.

12. And the purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ: What was Peter's answer to them? v 38, 39.

13. The Apostles were sent to all the world to baptize, but the world came to them, and what happened? Matthew 28:19, 20, Acts 2:41, 42.

Conclusion: It would have taken the Apostles years to travel to the many countries represented at Pentecost. Fifty days after Jesus's crucifixion, the gospel was spread to much of the known world. Yes, there was more work to be done. That work continues even today.

THE FOURTH BEAST (An Interpretation)

Scripture Reading: Revelation 13:1-8

September 10, 2022

Memory Verse: Revelation 13:18

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 21:21

Introduction: The seven-headed beast of the book of Revelation is the fourth beast of the book of Daniel. The beast has been identified: it is not a secret. The beast is the Roman empire and the Holy Roman empire, both of which have corrupted the worship of the true God.

1. Revelation 13:1. The beast represents the Roman empire. In the third century, led by Constantine the Great, the empire started its false conversion toward corrupt “Christianity.” Therefore, “upon his heads the name of blasphemy” symbolizes the corrupt religious system.

2. v 2. The symbols of the leopard, bear, and lion, indicate that this empire was built on the foundation of the three empires before it. This empire receives its power and authority from the dragon, Satan.

3. v 3. After a few centuries, the Roman empire collapsed. It was soon reborn as the Holy Roman empire, with its power and influence extending throughout Europe and even around the world.

4. v 4. The beast’s followers are not worshipping Jesus Christ. By accepting the false doctrine taught by the beast, they worship the dragon and the beast above Jesus Christ. They chose to worship the *powerful* beast instead of the *crucified* Saviour.

5. v 5. Through the centuries, the Pope rose to power above all other bishops throughout Europe. He became their spokesman and leader. He became “a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies”. His blasphemies are his teachings: Sunday, Easter, Christmas, Trinity, Mary worship, and Purgatory. The list contains many *created* doctrines.

6. v 6. That organization speaks “against” God. How? They seek to take the place of God as the vicar (and vicars) of Christ.

7. v 7. Their goal is to overcome the Saints, not to overcome them by the spoken word of their doctrine, but by violence. This was done over centuries when that church killed millions of believers who did not accept the false doctrines that were being forced upon the world.

8. v 8. Who is it that accepts their doctrines? All that are *not* saved by the Lamb. Some may fear death by the beast. Some may admire the majesty of the beast. Some may enjoy the holidays. Whatever the reason, they have rejected Jesus Christ in favor of a false religion.

Conclusion: The beast and the “mouth” of the beast have hijacked the teachings of the Bible. The world has accepted the beast-religion over the Bible. The only way that the teachings of Jesus Christ can be found, are through the Bible, God’s Holy word, the map to eternal salvation.

REPUTATION

Scripture Reading: Job 1:1, Numbers 12:3

September 17, 2022

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 7:1a

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 18:24

Introduction: When we are not present, we are still *visible*. For those we have not meet, they have still seen *our image*. Our *reputation* goes before us and can be seen by thousands who do not know us.

1. What is one of the most precious possessions a person can have? How does it compare to all other possessions we can accumulate?

Proverbs 22:1a, Ecclesiastes 7:1a.

2. An excellent reputation leads to favor, which leads to opportunities, and finally success and accomplishment. How was Epaphroditus's reputation used by Paul? What opportunity did Paul create for him based on his excellent reputation? Proverbs 22:1, Philippians 2:24-30.

3. Paul also recommended Phebe to the church at Rome. What was Phebe's reputation? Was it a key that opened a door for her? Does a person's reputation go before them? Romans 16:1, 2.

4. What choice was made in the early church based on reputation? Which two outstanding Saints were chosen in this group? Acts 6:1-6, 3.

5. When performing your acts of charity, can reputation be taken into account? (Are you more likely to receive acts of charity based on your reputation?) 1 Timothy 5:(1-9), 10, (11-15).

6. How did Paul protect his reputation? Should this be the goal of every Saint? Acts 24:16, (Proverbs 3:4).

7. Our reputation extends beyond our families, friends, and even beyond those within the church. Our reputations speak to whom outside the church? 1 Peter 2:11-15, 12, Matthew 5:16.

8. And, as representatives of the church, how should ministers protect their reputation and the reputation of the church? 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

9. Does reputation travel? Does it have legs, wings even? What did Paul hear concerning the Colossians? Colossians 1:3, 4, 7, 8.

10. Every Saint has a memory of someone from the past. Some of those memories have been passed to us from generations ago. Is this *reputation*? Proverbs 10:7.

Conclusion: Our reputation is that image that we create of ourselves through our good works and our faithfulness to our beliefs. When we live our lives according to the scriptures, our reputation is built. As we strengthen our reputation through the years, it will travel to distant lands, and even into the future.

LORD, LORD?

Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:21-23

September 24, 2022

Memory Verse: Matthew 7:21

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 20:2

Introduction: Many years ago, a television evangelist said that when Jesus returns, at least 50 percent of all people would be saved. His reason was that if less than 50 percent of all people were saved, then Jesus would lose the battle with Satan. What does the Bible say?

1. If you ask the average person that believes that the Bible is the word of God, if they will be in the future kingdom, they will say, yes. Many of these people do not lead lives any different from their neighbors. Because someone wants to enter that kingdom, does that mean they will? Matthew 7:21abcd.

2. The doctrines of the Bible are there for a reason. We are expected to read them, understand them, practice them, and even teach them. This is the will of the Father, and of His Son. For those who *do not* live by these doctrines, what can they expect at Jesus's coming? For those who *do*, what can they expect? v 21.

3. Many prophesy. Many teach. Many interpret. And, all is done in the name of Jesus Christ. When the world is judged, will these people use their skills to bargain for salvation? v 22abcd.

4. Exorcism was once a popular practice in various parts of the world. Some evangelists still practice it on occasion. There are still many healings taking place throughout the world. There have even been some who have rebuked hurricanes. Will these spiritual power warriors use their skills to bargain for salvation? v 22e.

5. Churches, and their members, spend money for hospitals, clinics, schools, daycare centers, pantries, and kitchens to feed the homeless. These are excellent endeavors for any church. Will these works of charity be used to bargain for salvation? v 22f.

6. Jesus will listen to their pleas. A decision will be made. What is the first phrase they will hear? (When they were performing these wonderful acts, did Jesus know them then? *Did He ever?*) v 23ab.

7. What is the second phrase they will hear? Will they be granted entrance into the kingdom? (Where will they be sent?) v 23c.

8. What is the third phrase they will hear? (For the many years they prophesied, cast out devils, and performed great works of charity, were any of those works considered to be righteous acts? Did any of those works get them closer to the future kingdom?) v 23d.

Conclusion: Will many be saved? No. Many will think that they will be saved. Many will plead their case before the Judge. Many will be judged to be wicked. And, finally, many will be condemned.

RIGHTEOUSNESS DEFINED

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:1-21, Deuteronomy 6:1-6, 25

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:25

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 31:3

October 1, 2022

Introduction: Occasionally, familiar words must be redefined to clarify their meaning. *Righteousness* is one of those words. To some, it may mean to be a good person. However, a dictionary's definition is deeper than that. And, the Bible's definition is deeper still.

Definition: According to a dictionary, *righteousness* is to be morally right or justifiably right. That is to say, you must be able to justify your actions according to a law. As we have seen in the scripture reading above, righteousness means to be right according to God's law.

1. In Genesis, we find the first mention of *righteousness*. How does Abraham's action define righteousness? Genesis 15:1-6, James 2:23.

2. In the scripture reading, Deuteronomy 5, we have just read the Ten Commandments. Then, in Deuteronomy 6, we read a very simple definition of righteousness. What is righteousness? (If someone does not believe God, will he keep His commandments?) Genesis 6:25.

3. A better definition of righteousness is to believe God *and* to keep His laws, especially the Ten Commandments. How does the psalmist express these two components of righteousness? Are his heartfelt beliefs expressed in these words? Psalm 119:138, 142, 144, 160, 172.

4. Does righteousness mean enforcing the law? How does Phinehas show his righteousness? Who praised Phinehas and declared his righteousness? (Numbers 25), Numbers 25:6-13, Psalm 106:28-31.

Note: In this New Testament age, we do not enforce the law by death. Enforcement will be done by Jesus and the Saints during the reign of Jesus as King on earth, from the New Jerusalem.

5. Once we know God's laws and His desires, how does it affect our lives? How do we go beyond the laws of "Thou shalt not"? Is this a far superior definition of righteousness? Deuteronomy 24:12, 13.

6. How does this *superior definition* and *superior righteousness* go beyond "Thou shalt not steal"? Exodus 20:15, Psalm 37:21.

7. According to the commandment, we should not lie, but how does a righteous man feel about lying? Is this superior to the simple commandment? Exodus 20:16, Proverbs 13:5a.

Conclusion: What is our definition of righteousness? First, we must believe that God is and we must have faith that He is able to perform His word, just as Abraham did. Then, we must keep God's laws, the Ten Commandments, and all other laws He has commanded for mankind. And, finally, we must exercise His laws beyond the *letter* of the law. We must keep them in the *spirit* of the law.

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Scripture Reading: Romans 3

October 8, 2022

Memory Verse: Romans 3:22a

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 2:6

Introduction: Any nation can create their own laws. And, they should. And, yes, we can and should be judged by those laws in this life. However, God's laws and His righteousness are for a future judgement.

1. As the Creator, God created the heaven and the earth. He also created concepts, such as marriage, laws, and the penalties to enforce them. As the Creator, He owns these things. They are His to command. What else does He own? Daniel 9:7ab.

2. If God owns the concept of righteousness, what has He defined righteousness to be? (Deuteronomy 5:1-21), Deuteronomy 6:25.

3. If righteousness is defined by God, is there any law that can be made by mankind that can exceed it? Deuteronomy 4:8.

4. God has defined righteousness. He has proclaimed it to His people. Through the Bible, which has been distributed far and wide for centuries, His righteousness has reached how many? Is His righteousness hidden? (Exodus 19, Exodus 20:1-17), Psalm 98:2.

5. Since righteousness is defined by the law, how shall we be judged? Psalm 9:8, Psalm 7:8, Psalm 103:6, Psalm 19:9.

6. It is God's righteousness, His law, and His judgement. How closely intertwined is God and His righteousness? Exodus 9:27, 27e, Lamentations 1:18a, Psalm 129:4a, Psalm 145:17a.

7. If God is righteousness, what is our righteousness? Jeremiah 23:6, Jeremiah 33:16.

8. How is God our righteousness? Romans 3:22a.

9. At what time is God's righteousness needed?

Revelation 19:7-9, 11-21, 8, 11d, Revelation 22:11.

Conclusion: Since God is the Creator, He can create whatever law that seems appropriate, and He has created a set of laws that benefits mankind. These laws have proven themselves throughout history. They are still relevant today. These laws *define* righteousness. These laws *are* righteousness. These laws are part of the character of the Creator. We will be judged by these laws. That is to say, we will be judged whether or not we have the same character as God. If we do, we will be given the same physical characteristics of God at His appearance, when the Saints are reaped from the earth.

A RIGHTEOUS MAN DEFINED

Scripture Reading: Psalm 7

October 15, 2022

Memory Verse: James 3:18

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 4:26

Introduction: There are many righteous men described in the Bible. There are many scriptures describing the characteristics of a righteous man. Together they create an excellent definition of what it means to be righteous. However, we cannot study all these men and women, and we cannot study all scriptures related to the subject. Here are a few.

1. It is not God's desire that anyone should perish. He wants the best for every one of His creatures. (Matthew 18:11-14.) How does God exercise His desire that no one is lost? Psalm 23:3b.

2. How does God lead us in the paths of righteousness? (Deuteronomy 5:1-21), Deuteronomy 6:(1-6), 25. Now that we are on the path of righteousness, how should a righteous person live his life? The following questions define a righteous person.

3. Everyone has needs. For most people, meeting someone else's needs means, favor for favor or dollar for dollar. How does a righteous man handle the needs of others? Psalm 37:21.

4. Many industrious people have jobs: Carpenters, mechanics, clerks, cashiers. Others work to deceive, to mislead, or to corrupt. What does Solomon say about the work of the Saints? Does this mean that a righteous man works for the benefit of others? Proverbs 10:16a.

5. For the Saint that wants the truth, what will he do? For the Saint that wants to build his faith, what will he do? For the Saint who wants to spread the truth, what will he do? Proverbs 15:28.

6. The heart is a wicked organ. It deceives the person who puts his trust in it. Genesis 6:5, Psalm 10:3, 13, Psalm 28:3, Jeremiah 17:9. What does a righteous man hold in his heart? Isaiah 51:7abc.

7. What good things pour from the mouth of a righteous man? Is this a reflection of what is in his heart? Psalm 37:30, Matthew 12:34.

8. In summary, what is the desire of the righteous? Proverbs 11:23a.

9. What is the reward of the Saints, the righteous? Psalm 37:29.

10. Our righteousness is our ticket to enter what great event?

Psalm 118:19, 20, Revelation 21:2, 10-13, Revelation 19:7-9.

Conclusion: As we have seen in other lessons, righteousness begins with the God-given law. God's law is the definition of what is right and what is evil. A righteous man knows the law and seeks to keep the law. A righteous man also will go beyond the letter of the law, not just to avoid theft, but to also give. He will also seek more truth and knowledge, just as you are doing now. His every desire will be God's will. And his reward will be God's reward for mankind.

OUR TOOL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Scripture Reading: Acts 6, Acts 7

October 22, 2022

Memory Verse: Romans 10:10

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 5:22

Introduction: Here is a riddle for you. What do you call a carpenter who owns no tools? Answer: *Unemployed*. As laborers, we need tools and we need to put them to work. This lesson focuses our attention on only one of our tools: one that we carry with us every where we go.

1. We are labourers in the Master's vineyard. Various tools are needed to perform our tasks. What is one of the main tools we need to accomplish the tasks assigned to us? (Matthew 9:37, 38), Psalm 35:28.

2. Tools must be used: we should not leave them in a storage shed. Does a carpenter leave his tools in storage? When we open our mouths, who else benefits from our tool of righteousness? Psalm 40:9, 10.

3. If we are to use our tongues and our mouths as tools, how are we to use them. What exactly should they be used for? What are the words that we should speak using our mouths? Psalm 119:172.

4. Our tools cannot be used for two different jobs: we have one Master. Whose righteousness *only* do we speak of? Can we speak of any wickedness? James 3:11, 12, Psalm 71:16, Proverbs 8:8.

5. The Judge will speak the Final Decision at the end of the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, while living this life, how do we use our mouths as judges? Proverbs 31:9, Proverbs 10:32a.

6. How does the use of our mouths result in our salvation? What is the connection between the two? Romans 10:10.

7. How can this be? How can our mouths be a "well of life"? Can you make the connection between our mouths and the salvation of others? Proverbs 10:11a. Hint: Water of life. John 4:14.

8. The Heavenly Father is our Master. We owe Him all the respect that a Creator, Lawgiver, Saviour, and Judge deserves. How do we use our mouths to honor our Master? Psalm 140:13, Psalm 33:1.

9. What is one specific way we can praise the Author of Righteousness? Psalm 71:15a, 24a.

10. What is another way of praising Him? Psalm 51:14d.

11. For those who have parents in the church, what is one way we can fulfill the fifth commandment? Exodus 20:12, Proverbs 23:24.

Bonus: How can we use our mouths to fulfill the words of Jesus spoken in this verse? Matthew 5:20.

Conclusion: The mouth is the main tool of every Saint. We are commissioned to preach the word. Matthew 28:19, 20. We cannot fulfill our commission unless we use the tool we were born with. As a faithful laborer, do not leave home without this very important tool.

PERVERTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 59

October 29, 2022

Memory Verse: Exodus 23:8

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 14:26a

Introduction: Every judge has the duty to enforce the law. That is his job and his commission. However, there are law makers and judges who have perverted the laws of their countries and the laws of God.

1. In many countries, through the centuries, judgement and righteousness have been perverted. What is the first step toward *perverted righteousness*? Romans 10:3.

2. As the wicked attempt to establish their own righteousness, what is the second step toward perversion? What has to happen to the truth? Does it have to be thrown out as trash? (Does this mean that old laws have to be ignored, or changed, or abolished?) Isaiah 59:14.

3. A righteous man seeks righteousness: he has a desire for it. If the judges are not righteous men, then who are they? Who is sitting in the seats of judgement and perverting judgement? Ecclesiastes 3:16.

4. A single bad apple does not spoil the whole bushel. Neither can one wicked judge spoil a country. However, what happens when the majority of judges are wicked? Habakkuk 1:4.

5. Perverted righteousness is a vicious beast. Every beast needs food to survive. What is the food, the energy, the driving force that keeps this beast alive? (If the beast is not feed, will it die?) Exodus 23:8.

6. How do bribes *and* gifts *and* favors affect our bodies? That is, how do they affect those parts of our bodies that are used for judgement? Should we eat the same food as this beast? Deuteronomy 16:19.

7. How do honorific titles, political positions, and corporate positions affect judgement? Can these men be just as guilty as the street criminal? More so? Proverbs 18:5.

8. Criminals are easy to recognize. They commit crimes, they are arrested, they serve time in jail and in prison, and they repeat the process. How can we recognize the perverted judge? What disguise do they wear? Even though they are well cloaked in their disguises, how can we identify them? Matthew 23:25-29, Matthew 7:16, 20.

9. During the time of the kings of Israel (and Judah), judgement and righteousness were forsaken. What was the punishment of Israel for years of perverted righteousness? Amos 5:7, 3.

10. What should be our response to perverted righteousness? What is our reward for rebuking perverted righteousness? Proverbs 24:24, 25.

Conclusion: Everyone has a right to fair judgement and a righteous decision from a judge. Just as God punished the nations of Israel and Judah, this world will be punished for perverting God's righteousness.

RIGHTEOUSNESS'S PROGRESSION

Scripture Reading: Romans 6
Memory Verse: Romans 6:18
Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 23:22

November 5, 2022

Introduction: No one becomes a Saint in a day. We have to hear the truth, understand it, and make changes in our lives. That change is symbolized by baptism, which does happen in a single day. However, the progression from sinner to righteous Saint takes time.

1. When someone first hears the words of God's righteousness, they are living a life of sin. What are the first questions that they have to ask their self? What should be their answer? Romans 6:1, 2.

2. What is the first ordinance that they must perform? What does this ordinance symbolize? What change must the new Saint make? v 3-6.

3. When someone dies, the old body returns to the dust. At the resurrection, it is replaced with a new body. Baptism, being a type of death and resurrection, symbolizes the death of what? v 5-7.

4. Symbolically, when the old body was alive, it was a servant of sin. When it is replaced with the new body, after baptism, it becomes a servant of whom? v 7-11.

5. So what is it that we have left behind? Whose servants, whose instruments, were we in our past life? Whose servants, whose instruments, are we after we have been raised from the water? v 12, 13.

6. As God's servants, obeying His laws, which define righteousness, we are now instruments of righteousness. We have heard the words of righteousness, we have accepted, we have been baptized, and now we must perform as instruments of righteousness. *Progression.* v 13.

7. Is God's grace and forgiveness a reason to revert back to the passions of our old lives? If we did, would we still be the servants of God and servants of righteousness? Would that be progress? v 14-16.

8. Every Saint should be able to read and proclaim these three verses. These verses should be a description of our new lives. v 17-19, 18.

9. What are the fruits of unrighteousness? v 20, 21, 23a.

10. What are the fruits of righteousness? v 22, 23.

11. The righteous person is compared to what? Are these trees born full grown? How long does it take them to reach adulthood? Is the Saint born in a day? When do they bear fruit? Psalm 92:12, 14.

12. What message of progression did Paul have for the Ephesians and for us? Ephesians 2:21, Ephesians 4:15.

Conclusion: To be a Saint, we have to decide to abandon our old sinful life, be baptized, and make the change within our minds to continue in righteousness. This change does not take a day. It may take years. The prize is for those who endure to the end.

THE SABBATH DAY ENFORCED

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 13

November 12, 2022

Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:23

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 11:27

Introduction: God's laws are for our benefit. Nehemiah 9:13. That includes the Sabbath Day. Even so, the Sabbath Day was not accepted from mount Sinai. While in the wilderness, it was *forced* on the Hebrews for 40 years, by feeding them manna six days a week, but not on the seventh day. After entering Canaan, and over a few centuries, they had to be continually reminded to keep God's law. How did God enforce the Sabbath upon His nation?

1. God created the earth in six days and blessed the seventh day, the first Sabbath Day. He then commanded the Sabbath Day from mount Sinai. All this was done for man's benefit. However, what had to be enforced? What was the penalty? Exodus 31:13-16, 14c.

2. Did God expect the Hebrews to enforce the commandment? Did He tell them to enforce the commandment? Numbers 15:32-36.

3. The Hebrews had many generations to learn the wonderful sabbath relationship they could have had with their Deliverer. Isaiah 58:13, 14. However, after many kings, what is their desire? Amos 8:4-6, (7).

4. Their desire is not to keep the Sabbath, but to abolish it, so they can dive deeper into sin. What is God's answer to their desire? What is the reward? What is the penalty? Jeremiah 17:21-27.

5. They did not accept the reward: they had to be given the penalty. Where were they sent? What did God promise to take away? What *did* He take away? Micah 4:10, Hosea 2:11, Lamentations 2:6.

Note: They did not keep the Sabbath, so it was taken away.

6. After 70 years in Babylon, they returned to Jerusalem. What lesson did they learn? *Any at all?* Nehemiah 13:15, 16.

7. What did Nehemiah have to remind them of? v 17, 18.

8. After Nehemiah's reminder, did the Jews choose to keep the Sabbath willingly? How did Nehemiah *enforce* the Sabbath? v 19-22.

9. Today, very few keep the Sabbath Day. Many, many more observe Sunday instead of the Sabbath Day. The Sabbath is violated weekly. However, in the near future, what can we expect concerning this heaven and this earth? What will be enforced on all flesh, all peoples? What will happen to the rebels? Isaiah 66:22-24.

Conclusion: God's laws have not been accepted throughout the earth. They only have been accepted by a few Saints. God's laws have had to be enforced on His people, and the lesson was still not learned. At the second coming of Jesus, the Sabbath law will be enforced worldwide. The entire world will have no choice, but to accept God's law.

THE SEVEN BLESSINGS OF REVELATION

Scripture Reading: Revelation 21

November 19, 2022

Memory Verse: Revelation 22:14

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 14:15

Introduction: The number seven occurs many times in the book of Revelation. And, sometimes something may occur seven times, such as the seven blessings we are about to study. Of course, all of these blessings are for the Saints. So, let us study these blessings, so we can determine what they are and how we can receive them.

1. The book of Revelation is full of prophecies that denounce world empires and world religions. It also teaches that we should avoid the influence of one particular religion. To understand these prophecies and receive the first blessing, what must we do? Revelation 1:3.

2. This blessing is for those that die *in the Lord*. That is to say, those that die as Saints of God and of Jesus Christ. It is for those who labor for the Savior and they perform *works*. What are the works and the labor that they do for the Creator? Revelation 14:13, 12.

3. This next blessing has nothing to do with clothing. Clothing, robes, garments, and linen, are used as symbols. What is it that covers our *spiritual* nakedness? If we are arrayed in it, then how do we keep our garments? Revelation 16:15, Revelation 19:8, (Revelation 19:14).

4. After all of our study of these prophecies, after all of our works and labor, after all of our acts of righteousness, what is the special blessing at the end of this age? Revelation 19:5-9, 9c.

5. Resurrection, another blessing, is just the beginning of our eternal journey. The marriage supper of the Lamb will soon follow. What is the next blessing in store for the Saints and how long does it last? Revelation 20:6, 6cd.

6. Again, what are we reminded of? How important is it that we study this book and the prophecies contained in it? Does the word *keepeth* imply constant study? Revelation 1:3, Revelation 22:6, 7.

7. Are these blessings only for a privileged few? Revelation 22:7, 10.

Answer: This book is *not* sealed. These seven blessings are for anyone who keeps the sayings of these prophecies. *Salvation for all*.

8. This blessing is for those who keep what laws? Through these laws, we gain access to what? (Exodus 20:1-17), Revelation 22:14.

9. How does John describe the blessing of the city? (Revelation 21).

Conclusion: These blessings are for those who read the book of Revelation, its prophecies, and keep them in their minds. They are for the Saints who keep the Ten Commandments and seek righteousness. They are for anyone who is willing to accept what is offered to all mankind.

THE TRINITY DISPROVEN IN ONE VERSE

Scripture Reading: John 17

November 26, 2022

Memory Verse: John 17:21

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 15:33

Introduction: Many years of councils, conferences, and debates have taken place to prove that there *is* a Trinity. However, the Bible, in one verse, John 17:21, teaches us that there is *no* Trinity.

1. First, let us lay a little foundation. Whom is Jesus praying for in this prayer? Is He praying for the twelve (or eleven) Apostles only, or is He praying for all Saints? Including the Saints of today? John 17:20.

2. In this verse, Jesus prays that the Saints will be *one*. How many? *One*. Considering verse 20 and the words “they all” in verse 21a, is it clear that He is praying for *all* Saints for *all* time? v (20), 21a.

3. Jesus continues, by praying that we are one just as what other two beings are one? Is it obvious that He is praying that we become one, just as the Father and the Son are one? v 21a-e.

4. Jesus dives deeper still. He prays that the Father, the Son, and the Saints become how many? (Is this possible?) v 21f.

Note: Yes, Jesus is praying that *we all* become one, the Father, the Son, and all the Saints, *one*. If there is such a thing as a Trinity, the two phrases “That they all (the Saints) may be one; as thou, Father, art in me” and “that they (the Saints) also may be one in us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)” would be an invitation to join the Trinity.

5. Is this *oneness* Jesus is speaking of for the distant future, for after the resurrection, for the one thousand-year reign of the Saints? v 21g.

Answer: We know that He is praying for this *oneness* now, because He says He wants to use it as proof to the world that the Father has sent the Son. For that to be true, the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Apostles would all have to become one being at that time, during the lives of the Apostles, during the days of their preaching. Since they did not become one being, we have to conclude that the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the Saints are not, and never will be, one being. And, since Jesus was praying for the Saints to be joined to the Father and Son, just as they are one being, therefore the Father and Son cannot be one being. The *Trinity disproven* by one verse, John 17:21.

6. What is this *glory* that makes them *one*? The Holy Spirit? v 22.

7. Does the Holy Spirit lead to perfection and *oneness*? v 23.

8. How were the Apostles and other disciples *one*? Acts 2:1.

9. How was this *oneness* reinforced by the Holy Spirit? v 2-4, (5-21).

Conclusion: There is *no* Trinity. The Father and Son *agree* and are in one *accord*. John 5:19. And, so also the Saints. Acts 2:1.

RELICS

Scripture Reading: Number 21:4-9

December 3, 2022

Memory Verse: Matthew 24:1, 2

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 9:13-18

Introduction: For some churches, and one church in particular, relics are an important part of their worship. Does the Bible support the worship of relics, or even the veneration of relics?

1. The people of Israel journeyed through the wilderness after leaving Egypt. Eventually, they grew weary of the journey, and with the manna God gave them to eat. What words did they speak against Moses, their deliverer, and against God, their Deliverer? Numbers 21:4, 5.

2. After such a great deliverance from Egypt, followed by this rebellion of the people, how did God punish the rebels? v 6.

3. How were the people delivered from God's punishment? What was the *physical object* of their deliverance? Who made the object? v 7-9.

4. Such an object cannot be simply disposed of: after many years, the brass serpent became a *relic*. What did the children of Israel do with the relic? What did Hezekiah do with it? 2 Kings 18:1-4.

5. Since Hezekiah did "that which was right in the sight of the Lord", was he justified in his action? By the Holy Spirit testifying through this scripture, did God agree that the *relic* should be destroyed? v 3.

6. In the days after the judges, who were the priests in Israel? What was their common practice? 1 Samuel 1:3, 1 Samuel 2:12-17.

7. At that time, what happened to the army of Israel? 1 Samuel 4:1, 2.

8. What was their remedy for this defeat from the Philistines? What was the *physical object* that they chose for their retaliation? v 3, 4.

9. What was the result of their retaliation? In the hands of the two wicked priests, Hophni and Phinehas, was the ark nothing but a *relic*? (Is the power of deliverance in a relic or is it from God?) v (5-10), 11.

10. For the Jews, and for the modern day Sunday-keepers, what would have been the greatest relic of all? Matthew 24:1, 2.

11. In 70AD, what happened to the temple, potentially the greatest relic of all? What happened to the contents of the temple? What is the significance of the phrase "of which we cannot now speak particularly"? Matthew 24:1, 2, 15, Hebrews 9:1-11, 5b.

Answer: The temple was destroyed in 70AD, and all the valuable contents were stolen. The valuables that could potentially become relics have *vanished* into history. God has *destroyed* the relics.

Conclusion: Relics are not taught by the Bible. *They are destroyed.* What is the significance of the tomb Jesus was buried in? None. The significance of the shroud He was buried in? None. There is no significance in any relic. *They have no spiritual value.*

THE MINISTRATION OF DEATH (An Interpretation)

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 3

December 10, 2022

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:6

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 11:2

Introduction: In an effort to abolish the Ten Commandments, Sunday-keepers will quote 2 Corinthians 3:7-9. There is a misunderstanding of these verses, and your understanding of them, is critical for your salvation and, potentially, for theirs.

1. 2 Corinthians 3:1-3. This chapter starts off with an example. Paul uses the Corinthians themselves as examples of where the Ten Commandments should be written. He speaks of them as his epistles, or letters, of commendation. Not because someone has put ink to parchment, but because the truth is written in their hearts, and their behavior can be read by all.

2. v 3d, 6abc. We know that he is speaking of the Ten Commandments because of the phrases, “not in tables of stone” and “ministers of the new testament”.

3. v 6. He makes it clear that he, his companions, and we today, are ministers of the New Testament, the Ten Commandments. *But*, not of the letter of the law, but of the spirit of the law.

4. v 6. Paul says the letter of that law killeth. Leviticus 24:10-16, 23, is an excellent example, also, Numbers 15:32-36. In both examples, someone was stoned to death for breaking one of the commandments.

5. v 7. Paul calls this, “the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones”. And, yes, the Ten Commandments were written on two tables of stones. Exodus 24:12, Deuteronomy 4:13. Finally, in this verse, he says that law was done away, the Ten Commandments was done away. That is to say, the Ten Commandments *written in stone*, the letter of the law, was done away. (But, not the spirit of the law.)

6. v 7-9. However, the purpose of Paul’s message is to teach the spirit of the law. He states that the letter of the law, written on stones was glorious, such that Moses’s face shone or radiated light.

Exodus 34:29, 30. Then he continues by saying that the spirit of the law *exceeds* the letter of the law in glory.

7. v 10, 11. He again repeats the concept, emphasizing that the *letter of the law* was done away, and the spirit of the law *remains*. The word *remains* is very important. It lets us know that something of that old law continues into the New Testament age. And, what remains is the spirit of the law.

Conclusion: What was abolished? The Ten Commandments written in stone. What remains? The Ten Commandments written in our hearts.

BIBLE DICTIONARY

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8

December 17, 2022

Memory Verse: Revelation 1:3

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 21:17

Introduction: Often the King James Version of the Bible is criticized for containing difficult words: words that may be too advanced for children. However, of those words that are advanced, are they really a problem for them? This lesson uses the KJV's built-in bible dictionary to define a few words that may be considered challenging for children.

1. This verse repeats the same concept five times. One of the words used may be considered archaic. However, using the context of the entire verse, what is the definition of the word *sottish*? Jeremiah 4:22.

2. The word *cogitation* is not archaic. However, it might not be known by many younger readers. Based on the context of the verse, (Daniel was troubled, his countenance changed in him, and he kept the matter in his heart), so what are *cogitations*? Daniel 7:28.

3. Here is a case of repetition. This simple word should be understood by most students. However, it is an excellent example. The word *ignorance* is immediately followed by the words "without the knowledge of". So what does *ignorance* mean? Is the redundancy the definition? Numbers 15:24.

4. Now another case of repetition, and a word that may not be understood by younger students. Based on the context alone, what does the word *feign* mean? 1 Kings 14:1-6.

5. The word *gainsay* is archaic. Study the context of these verses. To gainsay is something that *adversaries* do. Gainsay is also a synonym of the words *resist* and *disobedient*. So what does gainsay mean? Once the Bible defines the word, is it now obvious that gainsayers must be convinced? Luke 21:15, Romans 10:21, Titus 1:9.

6. What is a *chariot man*? Comparing the books of Chronicles and Kings, which are very similar accounts of the histories of Israel and Judah, how are the two words defined? That is to say, how does one book clarify the other? 2 Chronicles 18:33, 1 Kings 22:34.

7. *Mete* is an unfamiliar word. However, this verse well defines the word for the reader. What does *mete* mean? Luke 6:38.

8. Sometimes there are so many examples of a word being used in the Bible that the multitude of examples become the definition. What is an oblation? Leviticus 2:4, 2 Chronicles 31:14, Leviticus 3:1, Isaiah 1:13ab, Isaiah 19:21, Daniel 9:27.

9. What does it mean to stand aloof? Psalm 38:11.

Conclusion: By studying the Bible, most biblical words are defined within the Bible. Reading the Bible builds your bible vocabulary. Even young readers can use the Bible's built-in dictionary to find the definition of unfamiliar words.

SIMPLE SABBATH SCRIPTURES

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 56:1-8

December 24, 2022

Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:23

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 19:6

Introduction: These sabbath scriptures are not difficult to understand. They teach simple concepts about the Sabbath Day. For anyone with a mind open to the truth, they can be understood in a few minutes.

1. The heavens and earth were created in six days. After the creation, what else was created? What was blessed? What phrase in this passage indicates that the Sabbath Day is God's seal on creation? Gen 2:1-3.

2. The Bible is full of God's commandments, statutes, and judgements. If God commands it, we know it is His will. Is the Sabbath Day God's will? It is included in which well-known law? Exodus 20:8.

3. According to this well-known law, the Ten Commandments, how should the Sabbath Day be observed? v 9-11.

4. According to Moses, when does the Sabbath Day start and when does it end? Leviticus 23:32, 32d.

5. According to Nehemiah, what is one of the rules for keeping the Sabbath Day? Nehemiah 10:31ab.

6. Is the Sabbath Day for the Jews only? Is it for anyone? Is there a blessing attached to observing the day? Isaiah 56:2-8, 2ac.

7. In this sabbath paragraph, what is the significance of the words "the things that please me", also, "my salvation", "an everlasting name", and "them will I bring to my holy mountain"? Is God pleased with those who keep the Sabbath Day? Do they receive eternal salvation? v 2-8.

8. Do we honor God by observing the Sabbath Day? Do we honor Him by taking delight in the day He has ordained? Isaiah 58:13, 14.

9. Is the Sabbath Day a part of our relationship with God? Is it a symbol of and a reminder of our relationship? Ezekiel 20:12, 20.

10. Jesus could have chosen to observed another day. Possibly Sunday. Did Jesus observe the Sabbath Day? Luke 4:16.

11. Jesus could have taught that the day was abolished? Did He? What is Jesus's teaching on the Sabbath Day? Matthew 12:12.

12. The Sabbath Day was ordained at creation, commanded after the deliverance from Egypt, taught by the prophets, and taught by Jesus Himself. When will it end? Will it be taught and observed into the future kingdom of Jesus Christ here on earth? Isaiah 66:22, 23.

Conclusion: The Sabbath Day is taught by a few simple scriptures. These sabbath concepts are individually simple. The Bible does not teach any other day. Therefore, the acceptance of the Sabbath Day should be simple.

THE FINAL COMMISSION

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22

December 31, 2022

Memory Verse: Revelation 22:7

Weekly Proverb: Proverbs 17:4

Introduction: A commission is a written authorization to take *action*. It is written *authority*. The person who accepts the commission is now the *agent* of the one who gives the commission, and has the *duty* to perform tasks entrusted to him. This last chapter of the book of Revelation is Jesus's final commission to the Saints.

1. The book of Revelation is a message to the Saints. It is a prophecy of what things? (Down through the centuries, are these prophecies progressively being fulfilled? That is, being done?) Revelation 22:6.

2. God has many blessings to bestow upon His Saints. One of them is attached to this book. What is that blessing? Does this imply that we must read and understand this book? Revelation 1:3, Revelation 22:7.

3. As we fight our spiritual battles, are we left alone? Who are our fellow warriors who keep these same words? Revelation 22:(8), 9.

4. The book of Daniel was sealed. This book of *revelation* is not sealed. It is a book to be *revealed*. Does this imply that the book must be read, interpreted, spoken, taught, printed, and preached? v 10.

5. Should this book, or any doctrine, be forced upon our neighbors? (Does this imply that any and all doctrine must be accepted willingly?) Matthew 10:11-14, Revelation 22:11.

6. When we preach and teach, what reward can we expect for our labors? (Revelation 21, Revelation 22:1-5), Revelation 22:12.

7. The very foundation of this reward is what? Are the Ten Commandments our ticket into the city and access to the tree of life? (Does this include the sabbath commandment?) Revelation 22:14.

8. Who is left out of the city? v 15.

9. The book of Revelation is a book of signs and symbols that must be interpreted. It is only beneficial if interpreted correctly. We cannot add words or interpretations. We cannot subtract words or interpretations. What is the penalty for inaccurate interpretations, and especially for intentional mis-interpretations? v 18, 19.

Conclusion: In this final chapter of the book of Revelation, Jesus gives us this commission: 1) We are to preach the book of Revelation, 2) We must interpret it correctly, 3) We cannot seal the book, keeping it to ourselves, 4) We should preach it to those who are willing to accept it, 5) The reward is part of this book, and should also be preached, 6) That reward is based on the Ten Commandments, 7) All this must be done faithfully, without adding to or subtracting from the intent of the Author, Jesus Christ.

PASSOVER

2023

Begins at sunset on
Wednesday Evening, April 4

Matthew 27:64

Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Notation

This page is a primer on the notation used for scripture references. Every combination of books, chapters, and verses cannot be discussed here. These are only the common types of references you will find in this booklet.

Hebrews	The book of Hebrews.
Hebrews 11	The 11th chapter of the book of Hebrews.
Hebrews 11:6	The 6th verse of the 11th chapter.
Hebrews 11:1, 5	The 1st verse <i>and</i> the 5th verse.
Hebrews 11:6-12	The 6th verse <i>through</i> the 12th verse.
Hebrews 11:6, 11-15	The 6th verse, and verses 11 through 15.
Hebrews 11:6, (11-15)	Parenthesis usually means that the reading is optional. It can also mean that the reading is too large to be read during the class and should be read before coming to class.
v 2	Verse 2, within the same chapter as the last reference.
(Lot fled Sodom.)	A statement, question, or reference not directly related to the question.

Occasionally, fractions of verses have to be quoted. A fraction of a verse is a series of words separated by a punctuation mark. The punctuation marks that create fractions are these: period, comma, colon, semicolon, exclamation mark, and question mark. (. , ; ! ?).

Hebrews 12:1a	All the text up to the first punctuation mark. The first fraction.
Hebrews 12:1abc	All the text up to the third punctuation mark. The first three fractions.
v 2c	The third fraction.
v 2c-e	The third through the fifth fraction.

2 Timothy 2:15

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

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