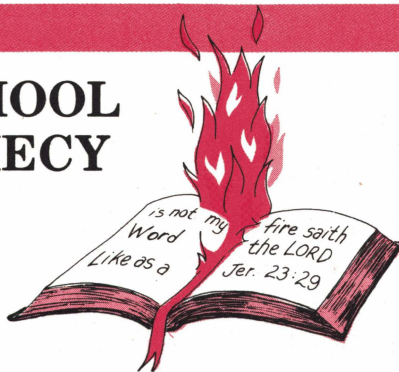


BIBLE STUDY COURSE
LESSON NO. 11
— FROM —

**BIBLE SCHOOL
OF PROPHECY**



"SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS"

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.



Is the seed yet in the barn?

... from this day I will bless you.

Haggai 2:19

APOLOGETICS

The Bible School of Prophecy

Lesson No. 11

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BIBLE LESSON NO. 11

APOLOGETICS

THE FOUNDATION OF TRUE BIBLE CHRISTIANITY

DECLARATION:

Apologetics is a Bible-Oriented Study Course that has to do with the defense and proofs of Christianity. This subjective study sets forth the foundation of true Bible Christianity, that is, the foundation of a Christian's faith in God the Creator, and in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

What are the proofs that the Bible is the true Word of God, and that Jesus Christ lived, died, and arose to save those who receive Him as Saviour and Lord? What proof is there that true Christianity is the only true religion, and that salvation is only possible through believing in Jesus Christ? Many evidences and proofs of these vital facts abound, but alas, they are ignored and scoffed at by earth's masses who are steeped in superstitions, vain philosophies, and false religions.

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." I Tim. 3:16.

Christianity is the world's only true religion — however, there is a counterfeit Christianity to beware of.

INTRODUCTORY SCRIPTURES.

Every Christian's experience and life-style must have a firm foundation — and that Rock, that infallible pillar of a Christian's faith is the Bible, the Word of God.

(1) "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Cor. 3:11.

(2) "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." I Cor. 15:3-4. Jesus is the Word of God! John 1:1, 14.

(3) **Jesus declared:** "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon **this rock** I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. "This Rock" is twofold: Jesus Christ and His Word; and, the confession of a truly penitent sinner — "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." verse 16.

(4) "The Lord adds to His church daily, such as should be saved" — (Acts 2:47).

(5) "For as the body [of Christ] is one, and hath many members, and

all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body [of Christ] is not one member, but many." I Cor. 12:12-14.

(6) "[God] hath put all things under his [Christ's] feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body [Christ's], the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Eph. 1:22-23.

(7) "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; **And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets** [that is, the Old and New Testament scriptures], **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.**" Eph. 2:19-20.

LESSON EXPOSITION.

Proving that there is an Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient God is one thing — to prove that the Holy Scriptures as recorded in the Bible are authentic preservations of manuscripts from antiquity is another. Then again, to prove that these preservations of the Holy Scriptures are in fact the Word of God is quite another problem. **First**, we must agree to this startling fact: Most men are unbelievers, skeptics, agnostics, or atheists concerning belief in the Holy Bible as God's True Word. But why? **Answer:** Their faint hearts, not their brilliant intellects turn them away from the sobering responsibility to the acceptance and acknowledgement of an all-knowing, all-powerful God who demands Obedience to His laws as set forth in His Word, the Holy Bible.

FAITH.

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb. 11:3.

Questions like these have arisen and troubled wise men of all ages: **"Where did God come from?"** — "How was the world (or earth) created?" — "If there really is a God, if eternal justice really rules the world, why is there so much suffering, evil, and sorrow?" — "How could a loving creator make a Devil, and cast people into Hell?"

[Mysteries Unanswered]

There are a thousand mysteries of right and wrong that have baffled the wisest men of all ages. There are depths in the great fundamental questions of the human race that no plummet of philosophy has ever sounded. There are wild cries of honest hunger for truth that seek to pierce the silence beyond the grave, but to them ever echoes back only a repetition of their unanswered cries. To all of us, at times, comes this great note of questioning despair that darkens our horizon and paralyzes our effort: **"If there really is a God like**

the Bible reveals, why is there so much unnecessary pain, sorrow, suffering, and death in the world - why indeed, should there be any?

[No Logical Proof]

Neither philosophy nor religion can give any final satisfactory answer that is capable of logical demonstration, of absolute proof. There is ever, even after the best explanations, a residuum of the unexplained.

At this point in our lives, we must then fall back in the eternal arms of faith, and be wise enough to say, "I will not be disconcerted by these problems of life; I will not permit them to plunge me into doubt, and to cloud my life with vagueness and uncertainty. Man arrogates much to himself when he demands from the Infinite God the full solution of all His mysteries."

[The Answer]

A mere theory of life, that remains a theory, will not help save a man until he makes it practical in his daily life — until that seed of theory (or faith) in his mind blossoms into a thousand flowers of thought and work and act. So it is in Christianity. Upon this life plan, this foundation, this impregnable rock of simple fundamental truth, you may erect your faith in the existence of the Great Creator God:

"This glorious creation with its millions of wondrous phenomena pulsing ever in harmony with eternal law must have a Creator; that Creator must be Omniscient and Omnipotent. But that Creator Himself, in justice, cannot demand of any creature more than the best that that individual can give. Therefore, I will do each day, in every moment, the best I can by the light I have, and I will ever seek more light and perfect illumination of His Truth, and live the best I can in harmony with the Truth as I see it.

"If my pathway then lies in the shadow of trial, sorrow and suffering, I shall have restful peace and the calm strength of one who has done his best, who can look back upon the past with no pang of regret — and who has the heroic courage to face the results, whatever they be, knowing that I could not make them different."

ANTIQUITY.

Bible manuscripts, chronicles of Jewish antiquity, and archaeological discoveries in Bible lands are extant revelations that corroborate Biblical historicity of dates, persons, and locations of Bible events and characters.

There is more evidence that the Bible is true than all the historical artifacts reveal about Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, or any Pharaoh of Egypt — Yet, volumes are written about the lives and

exploits of these historical characters by men who have contempt for God and the Bible, with only a few fragmentary facts of their history. The preservation of Bible manuscripts and other records such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, have proven again and again the authenticity of the Bible. **However, modern scholarship has succeeded where medieval vandalism and the burning of God's Word failed — they have perverted God's Word by countless versions — or, rather, Perversions of the Bible.**

The following dogma will give validity and strength to every true Christian's witness: "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief [i.e., in God, and His Word] make the faith of God without effect: God forbid; yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." Rom. 3:3-4.

THE WHOLE FOUNDATION OF TRUE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

PART I. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

SUMMARIZATION.

Jesus declared, "Search the scriptures [i.e., of the Old Testament]; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39. Also: "And beginning at Moses [i.e., the first five books of the Bible] and all the prophets [all the other books of the Old Testament], he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself [i.e., Christ]." Luke 24:27. Cf. also very carefully verses 44-45.

(1) **Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, according to the prophecies of the Old Testament** — and, even his geneology was foretold by the Old Testament prophets even to the place of His birth, even to the details surrounding His birth. Study Matt. 1:21-23; Isa. 7:14-15; Isa. 9:6; Micah 5:2. These prophecies were fulfilled at Christ's birth.

(2) The character and quality of Christ's ministry were also foretold by the prophets, to wit:

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation: lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." Zech. 9:9. This was fulfilled by Christ as recorded in Matthew 21:4-5. Also study carefully Malachi 3:1-5 for a vividly detailed portrayal of Christ as God's messenger.

(3) The prophecy of Christ's personal profile and sufferings were fulfilled according to the Old Testament records, to wit:

"He [Christ] hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, **there is no beauty that we should desire him.** He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; **he was despised,** and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten of God,** and afflicted. **But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. . . for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for

the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave. . . with the rich in his death. . . Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed [i.e., sons]. . . He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied.” Isaiah 53:2-11.

(4) Were it not for these Old Testament prophecies, the faith we have in Christ as our foundation would be incomplete, to wit:

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles [i.e., the scriptures written by the apostles] and prophets [i.e., the Old Testament], Jesus Christ himself [i.e., His Word] being the chief corner stone.” Eph. 2:19-20.

(5) The Visions and Revelations of Mohammed, Buddha, Mary Baker Eddy, Mary Ellen White, Judge Rutherford, Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon, or the Angel Maroni’s professed visions are not valid or believable because they are contrary to the Holy Bible, God’s true Word. **All visions and revelations claiming to be from God must corroborate with the Holy Scriptures or be rejected and held in contempt.** To wit: “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, **that we may do all the words of this law.**” Deut. 29:29: Study also Gal. 1:6-12 very carefully.

Jesus’s defense of His Messiahship that He constantly affirmed before Satan and His human adversaries was prefaced by, “It is written. . .,” meaning, the prophetic scriptures of the Old Testament. Cf. Matt. 4:4, 7; Luke 4:4, 8, 10, 12, 17; Rom. 15:4.

DECLARATION.

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures [i.e., Old Testament Scriptures] might have hope.” Rom. 15:4. The New Testament (N.T.) apostles and ministers of Christ’s first church preached and taught from the Old Testament (O.T.). “If our foundations [in the O.T.] be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psa. 11:3). The greatest exploits produced thru faith in God are recorded in the Old Testament, and these are a part of our foundation and heritage as present day Christians. Cf. Heb. 11.

PART II. IN THE BEGINNING — GOD!

DISCUSSION.

God has always been — He is Eternally existent! What is more foolish than finite man attempting to understand or be able to explain God's Eternal power, existence, and Godhead! **How can a natural man understand God who is a spirit?** John 4:24. There is no real contest here even though vain men try to solve the insoluble, delve into the indiscernible, and scrutinize the inscrutable, and perceive the imperceptible.

Bear this wise declaration in your consciousness: "The fool said in his heart, There is no God." Psalm 14:1. Why should God's Word declare this harsh truism? Answer: "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." I Cor. 1:21.

A. God Revealed Through Nature.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge [i.e., God's knowledge]. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun." Psa. 19:1-4.

B. The Creation of Man.

Cf. Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7. Man, created by God and in His image, is an anomaly among God's creative acts.

David exclaimed, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14.

Evolutionary processes may have changed the face of the earth, but no Evolutionary doctrine can explain how the marvelous creation of a body, a mind, a spirit, and a soul into a unit of meta-physical creation can function as a man with self-consciousness, setting him apart from the animal species, his understudies to which there is no missing link in evolutionary heredity.

C. The Invisible World Is Revealed Thru The Visible.

"That which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. **For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made [created], even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.**" Rom. 1:19-20.

SUMMARY.

The invisible world around us far eclipses and surpasses the glory and activity of the visible world of which we are conscious. In all Nature the wonders of the "seen" are dwarfed into insignificance when compared with the majesty and glory of the "unseen." All

the forces of Nature — heat, light, electricity and gravitation — are silent and invisible. We never see them; we only know that they exist by seeing the effects they produce.

Christ declared: “No man hath seen God at any time,” (John 1:18). Also: “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, **invisible**, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” I Tim. 1:17.

God is invisible, but we know that “He is” because of the effects that His omnipresence produces!

D. An Example In Nature.

God created Nature! Exempting man, the Sun is perhaps the greatest miracle in nature. However, as a comparison, the sun orb is some 93 million miles away from the earth, but its presence is felt by the effect it produces everywhere! God is in heaven, but his presence is everywhere. Cf. Psa. 139:1-16.

PART III. NEW TESTAMENT RECORDS.

SUMMARIZATION.

The preservations of Bible manuscripts in the Hebrew and Greek languages pose no problem of credibility nor reliability for a true Christian. The 5 Real manuscripts, authentic preservations of the Word of God, were translated out of the original tongues in which they were written or copied from older manuscripts, by some 56 scholars of Hebrew and Greek into a volume we call the King James Version of the Bible, completed in 1611. This treasured legacy not only has survived the fire of the medieval vandals, but the “scholarship” and the pens of modern vandals who have paraphrased and revised God’s True Word into some 55 Perverted Bibles.

The New Testament was translated from manuscripts written in Greek, but we need not know Greek to have ready accessibility to God’s True Word — You need only to have a grammar school knowledge of English to hear and understand God’s message of Life Eternal he offers to you!

A. Christ In Life: The Only Begotten Son of God.

SUMMARY.

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.” Gal. 4:4-5.

According to the first promise of God concerning the coming of Christ, Jesus came — born of the seed of woman, not man!

“And I will put enmity between thee [Satan or Serpent] and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou [Satan] shalt bruise his [Christ’s] heel.” Gen. 3:15.

(1) Born of A Virgin.

The angel’s annunciation to Joseph was: “And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. **Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matt. 1:21-23. Old Testament prophecy, about 800 years old, was fulfilled! Cf. Isa. 7:14. Note carefully: “That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” Matt. 1:20.

(2) Christ’s Life: A Revelation of the Father.

a. [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.” Col. 1:15.

b. “Who [Christ] being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of

his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high." Heb. 1:3. This divine revelation also declares: "God hath appointed Christ heir of all things, **by whom he also made the worlds.**" (Heb. 1:1-2).

c. "Jesus said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." (John 5:18). Christ did not declare himself to be God the Father, but that God the Father had granted him equality.

"For as the Father hath life in himself: so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also." John 5:26-27.

d. **Christ — In the Beginning, The Word!**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1. Also: "And the Word was made flesh [i.e., Jesus Christ], and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

"So also Christ glorified not himself, but he that said unto him [i.e., God the Father], **Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.**" Heb. 5:5.

DECLARATION.

Christ was not the Son of God in Eternity with the Father — He was the Word of God — and the Word became flesh, that is, Jesus Christ the Son of God. **He was begotten of natural birth as we are, yet without sin, and the Son by God's decree:** "I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; *this day* have I begotten thee." Psa. 2:7.

Jesus proclaimed: "If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, **but he sent me.**" John 8:42. Also: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." John 14:9. Also: "**I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**" John 20:17. My, what a revelation — God is Christ's Father and Christ's God! **Also:** "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, **I will be to him a Father, and he will be to me a Son... But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne O God, is for ever and ever:** a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom." Heb. 1:5, 8. Here God the Father decreed equality to the Son, even addresses Christ as, "O God!"

e. **Christ Was Sent By God the Father.**

1. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, **and believeth on him that sent me,** hath everlasting life." John 5:24.

2. "**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**" John 17:3.

f.] Christ's Life — The Miraculous!

SUMMARY.

Christ protested the unbelief He encountered by:

“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of **my Father**, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works; that ye may know, and believe, **that the Father is in me, and I in him.**” John 10:36-38. Also:

“I seek not mine own will, but the will of **the Father which hath sent me**. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness he witnesseth of me is true. . . But I have a greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that **the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me.**” John 5:30-37. Christ's life and ministry was filled with the many miracles He performed — a living testimony to His Deity and Sonship, well pleasing to God His Father.

1. “And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.” John 6:2.

2. “But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him.” John 12:37.

3. Simon Peter, Christ's Apostle, an eyewitness to Christ's life-style and miracles, exclaimed, after His resurrection: “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know. . . Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, **that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.**” Acts 2:22, 36.

4. Also: “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you, the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of his majesty. **For he received from God the Father** honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” II Peter 1:16-17. Here's an incredible eyewitness account of two miraculous events in the life of Christ!

Supplementary Scriptures For Further Study:

John 4:25-26

John 9:54-58

Mark 1:10-11

Matt. 17:5

John 5:30

John 10:29-36

John 8:27-28

John 11:25-26

John 6:38

John 12:49-50

John 15:23-27

John 2:11

B. Christ in Death.

SUMMARIZATION.

Christ did not come into this world to start another religion, nor to demonstrate against the injustices in the social order of His day. **Christianity is not just another religion.** Christ came to die as a lamb for the sins of the world. He came to save men from hell — to buy them back from the slave market of the devil. Jesus came to invite lost men into the Kingdom of God upon the conditions he proclaimed: **“Ye must repent and be born again, or perish.”**

[The Blood of Christ]

Christ shed His precious blood for the remission of our sins because God the Father demanded a blood sacrifice (i.e., death) as an atonement for the soul of man. Under the law or Old Testament order, God warned: **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood [i.e., of a lamb, etc.] that maketh atonement for the soul.”** Lev. 17:11.

[Salvation]

In the New Testament, atonement, or redemption is set forth thusly: **“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”** I Peter 1:18-19. **Also:** **“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”** Rom. 5:8-9.

And: **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”** Eph. 1:7.

(1) The Purpose of Christ’s Death.

DECLARATION.

There is adequate proof that Jesus Christ was born into this world, lived 33 years, was put to death by crucifixion, after 3 days arose from the dead, and then ascended up to heaven — all according to the prophetic scriptures of the Old Testament. Cf. I Cor. 15:1-5. The Prophet Isaiah foretold the purpose of Christ’s sufferings and death: **“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him [Christ] the iniquity of us all.”** Isaiah 53:5-6.

a. Reconciliation.

“For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the

death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Rom. 5:10.

Reconcile means: "To make friendly again; to settle a quarrel; to bring into harmony with; to make submissive to." There would have been no reconciling of sinful and rebellious men to God had not Christ come and died — that is, shed his blood!

To wit: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one [i.e., Jew and Gentile], and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh [i.e., on the Cross] the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man [i.e., a new nature], so making peace; And that he might **reconcile** both unto God in one body by the CROSS, having slain the enmity thereby." Eph. 2:13-16.

[Remission of Sins]

DECLARATION.

There could be no reconciliation back to God until men's sins were remitted — for sin had separated men from God and Eternal Life. Jesus declared at the Last Supper: "**This is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**" Matt. 26:28.

Also: "Being justified freely by his grace through **the redemption** that is in Christ Jesus; Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the **remission of sins that are past**, through the forbearance of God . . . that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:24-26. Cf. Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8-10!

b. Atonement.

"But we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we now have received the **atonement.**" Rom. 5:11.

"It is the blood that maketh **an atonement** for the soul." Lev. 17:11.

Also: "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]." Heb. 9:22.

To ATONE means: "To make amends or reparation for wrongdoing or for a wrongdoer; to bring into agreement; to reconcile."

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Col. 1:20

Lev. 4:31, 35

Lev. 25:9

Neh. 10:33

Lev. 1:4

Lev. 19:22

Num. 31:50

II Chron. 29:34

Lev. 4:20, 26

Lev. 23:27-28

Ex. 30:15

Gal. 1:4

c. Redemption.

“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place [i.e., heaven], having obtained eternal REDEMPTION for us.” Heb. 9:11-12.

Also: “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and REDEMPTION.” I Cor. 1:30.

to REDEEM means: “To buy back; to get back or recover; to pay off a mortgage or note; **to set free by paying a ransom.**” Cf. Rev. 5:9; Col. 1:14; Rom. 3:24-25.

d. JESUS — A RANSOM.

Jesus Himself declared of Himself: “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a RANSOM for many [i.e., to every one who receives Him as Lord and Master].” Matt. 20:28.

Also: “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a RANSOM for all, to be testified in due time.” I Tim. 2:5-6.

e. Jesus Came to Sanctify His People.

“By the which will we are **sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all . . . But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God . . . For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are **sanctified.**” Heb. 10:10-14.

Also: “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might SANCTIFY the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate [i.e., outside Jerusalem on a cross].” Heb. 13:12. Cf. I John 1:7; Heb. 9:14; Rev. 1:5; Heb. 13:20.

To SANCTIFY means: “To be set apart for a holy purpose; to cleanse, purify, and to be made holy unto the Lord; an experience into God’s grace that makes man’s carnal nature inoperative and breaks the propensity to sin in a true Christian.”

f. Jesus Came to Purchase the Church of God!

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood.**” Acts 20:28.

Also: “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through SANCTIFICATION of the Spirit, unto obedience and

sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." I Peter 1:2. Cf. Also Heb. 12:23-24.

(2) Jesus Defeated Satan In His Death!

SUMMARY.

Jesus defeated Satan in his life — and, he defeated him in death. But where did Jesus' spirit and soul go when he died? Answer: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matt. 12:40. Jesus went to Sheol in his death. Now, Sheol or Hades is Hell — but, there were two divisions in Hell before Jesus' Resurrection — a place of Torment and Paradise. Luke 16:19-24. Jesus went to Paradise! To wit: On the cross Jesus answered the pleading petition of the penitent, dying thief, "**Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**" Luke 23:43.

[The Purpose]

- a. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, **that he might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: **By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison**; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a-preparing." I Peter 3:18-20.
- b. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.**" Heb. 2:14.

What did Jesus accomplish in death? He, himself assured us thusly: "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen; and have the keys of hell and death." Rev. 1:18.

Jesus now has the keys of Death, Hell, and the Grave!

This speaks of a direct way into heaven, right into the presence of God when a saint dies — no more by-pass into Sheol or Hades for a real Christian! To wit: "**We are confident, I say, and willing rather than to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**" II Cor. 5:8.

(3) Christ's Resurrection.

DECLARATION.

If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is not Christ risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. . . For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. . . If in

this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept [or died in Christ]." I Cor. 15:13-20.

Also: ". . . If we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered [i.e., up to die] for our offences, and raised again for our justification." Rom. 4:24-25.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Christianity.

Mohammed, Buddha, and other self-styled Messiahs claimed to be Anointed of God, but only Jesus Christ arose from the dead to justify His claims of Sonship, Lordship, and Deity.

THE TESTIMONY OF CHRIST'S DISCIPLES.

SUMMARY.

Upon the first day of the week, very early, certain women of Christ's disciples came to the sepulchre where Jesus had been buried, and to their dismay, found the great stone rolled away from the door, and the body of Jesus gone. But an angel approached them and said, "Fear not ye: for I know ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples that he is risen from the dead; and behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." Matt. 28:1-7.

Also: After His resurrection, "He shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them [i.e., by the apostles and disciples] forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Acts 1:2-3.

And: John the Apostle declared, "We have heard . . . We have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life [i.e., Jesus]; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness)." I John 1:1-2.

There were many eyewitnesses, possessing credibility, who have taken the witness stand and attested to Christ's Resurrection.

a. The Apostle Peter.

"Him [Christ] being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. . .

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witness." Acts 2:23-24, 32. Study also Acts 3:14-15; 4:10; I Peter 1:21; Esp. Acts 10:38-43.

b. The Apostle John.

"This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. . . **This is that disciple which**

testifieth of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.” John 21:14, 24. Also Cf. Rev. 1:11-18.

c. The Apostle Paul.

“But God raised him [Christ] from the dead; **And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.**” Acts 13:30-31.

Also: “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man [Christ] whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. **And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead,** (1) some mocked: and others said, (2) We will hear thee again of this matter. . . (3) Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed.” Acts 17:31-34. These 3 responses are still the results of the preaching of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Also Cf. Acts 26:22-23; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12-15; Eph. 1:19-20; II Cor. 4:14; I Thess. 1:10; Heb. 9:24-28; I Pet. 1:3.

d. Above 500 Brethren.

“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures [i.e., of the Old Testament]; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures; And that he was seen of Cephas [i.e., Peter], then of the twelve; **After that he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once. . . After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also [i.e., Apostle Paul], as of one born out of due time.**” I Cor. 15:3-8. Cf. also Acts 7:51-53.

e. Jesus Himself Testifies.

“And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them [His apostles], The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: **And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again.**” Matt. 17:22-23.

Also: Jesus said unto His disciples, “Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, **And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.**” Matt. 20:18-19.

[The Greatest Witness]

In Jesus’ first appearance to His Apostles after His resurrection, He challenged their doubts with these words: **“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have.”** Luke 24:39.

Here Christ both proved and demonstrated the Resurrection of a mortal body that had died physically! Also: Cf. Matt. 12:40; 16:21; Mark 9:31; Luke 18:31-33; Esp. Luke 24:46.

(4) Christ's Ascension.

DECLARATION.

"It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, **who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.**" Rom. 8:34.

Also: "But this man [Christ], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**" Heb. 7:24-25.

Christ ascended into heaven after His resurrection and right **now**, He sits at the right hand of God as an high priest and intercessor, or mediator.

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." I Tim. 2:5.

a. Angels' Testimony.

To Christ's apostles, eyewitnesses to His ascension, two angels appeared bearing tidings of joy, to wit: "While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven**, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11.

b. Apostle Peter's Testimony.

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. **Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted**, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord [i.e., God the Father] said unto my Lord [i.e., Jesus Christ], **Sit on my right hand**, until I make thy foes thy footstool." Acts 2:32-35.

Also: "By the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, **and is on the right hand of God**; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." I Peter 3:21-22.

c. Apostle Paul's Testimony.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, **where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**" Col. 3:1.

Also: "According to the working of his [God's] mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, **and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.**" Eph. 1:19-20.

And: “But this man [i.e., Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down on the right hand of God.**” Heb. 10:12. Study carefully also Heb. 4:14-16; 1:3, 13; 8:1; 12:2; Eph. 4:9-10.

d. Apostle John’s Testimony.

Jesus declared to him: “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, **and am set down with my Father in his throne.**” Rev. 3:21.

Where Is Jesus Right Now and Where Has He Been For Over 1900 Years?

Answer: At God the Father’s right hand (and God the Father is a person), **and, He ever liveth to make intercession for Christians; and He is a Mediator between God and sinners who call on Him for mercy!**

e. Stephen, Christ’s First Martyr Testifies.

“But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, **and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, **and the Son of man [Christ] standing on the right hand of God [the Father]...** And they stoned Stephen calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Acts 7:55-59. Here, on such an occasion, Jesus stood up to welcome His dying saint to glory!

Note Again Soberly: “There is one God [i.e., the Father], and one mediator [at the Father’s right hand] between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (I Tim. 2:5); and Jesus left this warning to great and small: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto [God] the Father, but by me.**” John 14:6.

Our Foundation. Jesus declared and revealed what true salvation really is: “**And this is life eternal,** that they might know thee the only true God [i.e., God the Father], and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3. The scriptures reveal vividly that Eternal Life consists of “Repentance toward God [the Father], and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” Acts 20:21.

“How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word,” as the old hymn of the Church expresses so succinctly.

f. Christ’s Testimony.

Jesus declared to Pilate the night of his trial: “**Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.**” Luke 22:69. Cf. also Rev. 5:1-8.

(5) Christ's Return To Earth.

DECLARATION.

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear **the second time** without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

Also: "Behold, he [Christ] cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." Rev. 1:7.

When Christ returns suddenly as the Great Tribulation reaches its mighty crescendo, all scoffers and all enemies of Christ and of God will hide themselves in the dens and among the rocks of the mountains as a mighty earthquake devastates the earth the sun will also become black, and the moon will be turned into blood. Cf. Rev. 6:12-17; Acts 2:20. Every eye shall see Him! "I shall return!" assured Christ to His grief-stricken disciples.

a. Physical Signs of Christ's Return.

DISCUSSION.

Christ, the Old Testament prophets, and Christ's Apostles predicted global distresses of nations as a weathervane of the end-time and of His imminent return to earth. These indicators that point a prophetic finger upon the generation of Christ's return are being fulfilled in this present generation at a magnitude never before realized.

Can we be the generation of Christ's return?

Answer: Yes!

[Christ's Prophecy — Distress of Nations.]

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon and in the stars, and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring [a symbol of unrest and revolution]; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And **then** shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your [i.e., Christians] heads; **for your redemption draweth nigh** . . . Verily I say unto you, This generation [i.e., the one that sees all these signs fulfilled] shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." Luke 21:25-32.

The populace of the 1980's qualifies to be in the generation of Christ's return. A generation is approximately 40 years!

[Christ's Prophecy — Wars and Natural Disasters.]

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not

yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: **and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.**" Matt. 24:6-8; Cf. Mark 13:1-8.

b. Metaphysical Signs of Christ's Return.

SUMMARY.

Religious and spiritual signs will accompany the natural disasters and commotions that will engulf this "last day" society, so predicted Christ and His chosen successors, the Apostles.

- Antichrists and False Prophets will arise, deceiving many.
- True Christians will experience severe persecution.
- Rebellion against God's Word will be universal.
- Natural affection will degenerate into unnatural lust and sex perversion.
- The break-up of the home amid widespread divorce and immorality.
- An epidemic of exotic pleasure.
- The Antichrist and False Prophet will arise.
- Intemperate eating and drinking, buying and selling will be carried on by millions in the days preceding Christ's return.

c. The Blessed Hope.

The Return of Jesus Christ is the Blessed Hope of all Christians.

(1) **"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us."** Titus 2:13-14.

(2) **"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as he [Christ] is pure."** I John 3:2-3.

FOR FURTHER STUDY.

Psalm 102:16	Acts 1:11	I Tim. 6:14	Col. 3:4
I Thess. 2:19	I Cor. 15:51-55	Phil. 3:10-12	Rev. 19:11-16
I Thess. 4:13-18	Acts 3:20-21	I Peter 1:7	Matt. 25:31-46

d. Vindication of a Christian's Faith.

Every sign of Christ's Return will be fulfilled — and, by His Return, the Resurrection of His dead saints and the Translation of the living saints, Christ's Word will be vindicated, and every Christian who put

their faith and trust in Him will be vindicated.

Why Don't Most Men Believe God's Record?

Answer: They just choose not to do so! The same men who doubt or scoff at God's Word (the Bible) will laud the historical records of Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Alexander the Great, Antiochus Epiphanes, Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and Ghengis Khan in full faith. However, there is much more valid historicity to corroborate the Bible record of Jesus Christ and His Word than all the true historical evidence of these other characters that men honor.

[A Changed Life]

The most logical proof of a person being a real Christian is in the changed life resulting from being converted to Christ. A college student once listened to an atheistic professor lecture his college class on the errors, inconsistencies, and contradictions of the Bible, deriding all Christians as weak-minded, fearful, or in quest of a Utopian life after death. After his diatribe against the Bible, the professor gave an opportunity for discussion to which the young Christian student responded with this questioning reply: "Sir, I know a man in the city I'm from who was a drunk. He gambled away his paycheck each weekend or spent it on liquor. He mistreated his wife and children constantly until a few months ago when his life was suddenly changed.

One night he attended a tent revival meeting which you ridiculed as "being on the other side of the tracks" for the weak, the poor, and the feebleminded. The preacher preached the Word of God, gave an altar call for sinners to come and receive Christ as their Saviour and Lord, to which invitation this former town drunk responded. Professor, he got saved and quit his gambling and drinking. He came home the next Friday night with his paycheck, started treating his wife and children with love and affection, bought them clothes and groceries, and started taking them to church every Sunday. Now tell me professor, what happened to that man for him to make such a wonderful and sudden change?" The Professor dropped his head and replied, "I don't know." Well, I do! And all real Christians also know!

God's Word gives the answer unequivocally:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. A holy life style is still the best proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

[Believe God's Record or Perish!]

"For this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; **he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that**

God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:9-12.

[A Warning] Just a momentary lapse in faith — faith in resurrection of the dead — can send a Christian in a tailspin — for the bedrock of a Christian's foundation is faith in God's assurance of the resurrection of the Christian's body.

Job declared: "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Job 19:26. Also see Job 14:14. "My flesh shall rest in hope," said the great Psalmist David, Acts 2:26.

PART IV. MEMORIZATION.

The following verses of scripture are very important to every Christian and should be memorized.

Matt. 24:44	Luke 24:39	II Cor. 5:17	Heb. 9:28
Matt. 4:4	John 17:3	Acts 3:20-21	I John 3:1-3
John 1:18	Rom. 8:34	II Tim. 2:15	I Cor. 15:1-4
Deut. 29:29	Acts 7:55-56	Col. 3:1	II Tim. 3:16
Isa. 53:5-6	Rom. 3:3-4	Eph. 2:19-20	Rom. 15:4
I Peter 1:18-19	Heb. 1:1-3	Col. 1:15	Heb. 5:5

NOTES;

Lesson No. 11

The Bible School of Prophecy

THE TRUE PURPOSE OF MAN'S CREATION

We we were not made
That our souls in sin should rust —
And God's purpose forever miss,
Not made to be buried in the dust
But to rise to the heights of bliss;
Made to walk and commune with God Himself,
And with Him forever be,
Not made for the trifling things of time,
But for Eternity.

TRUTH

TRUTH forever on the scaffold,
Wrong forever on the throng —
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadows
Keeping watch above his own.

— Anon.

This Lesson Prepared For
BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY
P.O. Box 26446, Jacksonville, FL 32226

U.S.A

Mailed from Jacksonville, Fla.

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