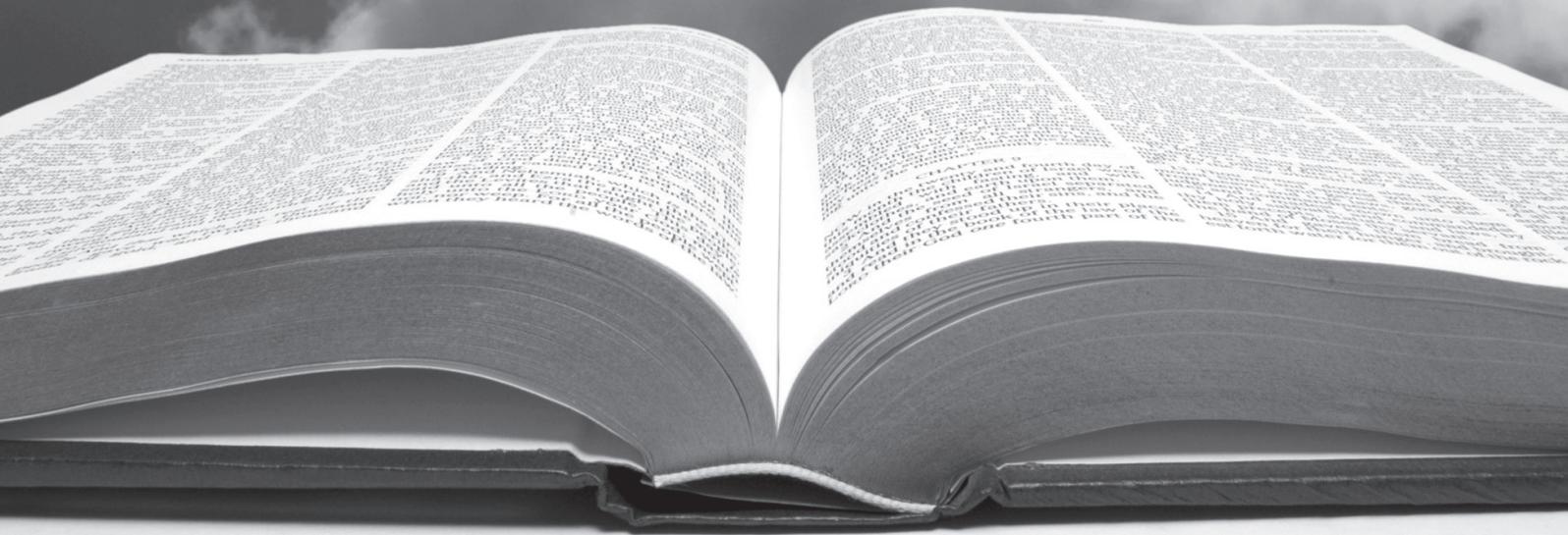


READ • MARK • LEARN • SHARE

BIBLE MARKING

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.
Psalm 119:105

32
TOPICS



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INTRODUCTION

READ | MARK | LEARN | SHARE

The Bible is God’s great revelation to mankind (2 Timothy 3:16). While God still speaks through creation, our personal experience and the community of faith, it is Scripture that is the ultimate revelation, and test of all faith and practice. To know the principles and teachings of the Bible is to know God’s will, but importantly, it also has the potential to transform our lives.

The Apostle Paul challenges the church at Rome to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is” (Romans 12:2). Filling your heart and mind with the teachings of Scripture has transformational power. In fact Jesus said that His words “are spirit and they are life” (John 6:63). Getting to know the Bible is the great privilege of every believer in Christ. But more than that, when a non-believer studies the Bible, faith is established in their life. Romans 10:17 tells us “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

It is hoped that the following set of Bible studies will have a profound impact on your personal walk with God. I pray that this is only the beginning of a life-long journey where you meet with Jesus through His word every day. And above all I pray that you will not keep these great truths to yourself, but will share them with everyone who seeks to learn more.



Pastor Justin Lawman

HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES

Bible Marking

An explanation of how to use these studies can be found on the following page. These Bible studies are designed as a “chain reference” Bible marking series. This means that each study focuses on one theme or teaching, and then explores the topic through a variety of Bible verses. Bible marking is a good way to learn the Bible, and is also known as the “proof text method.” Jesus used proof texts when the devil tempted him in the wilderness. He said, “It is written...” and used texts from the Old Testament to prove his position. Paul, Matthew and other biblical writers also used this method.

Bible Studies

The Bible marking series is also an evangelistic series of Bible studies or sermons that have been used to people for many years. The good news is that you don’t have to be a pastor to give a Bible study — anyone can do it. It’s just helpful if you’re a believer and are able to read.

The best people to study with are those who are spiritual seekers. God often places people in our lives who desire to find Him — friends, relatives and others. If they are interested in having Bible studies, why not offer to study with them? You can use this study set with them. Simply print each study on your home computer and printer, and give a copy to each student. Study a new topic each week.

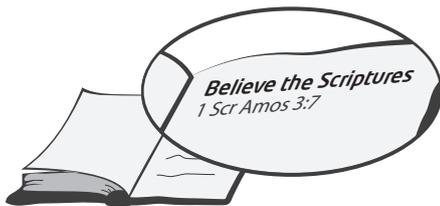
A simple Bible study format is to open with prayer, introduce the lesson, conduct the study (around 40 minutes at most) and use the simple appeal question at the end of each study for the student to respond to, before closing with a commitment prayer.

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Write the heading in the back of your Bible.



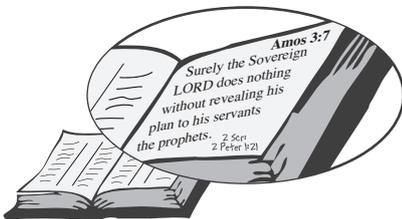
2 Under the heading, write the first scripture in the study guide.



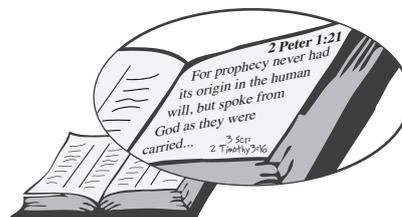
3 Turn to the first scripture. If your Bible has room to write notes, you can write the comment next to the passage of scripture to remind you what it's about.



4 Next to the first scripture, write down the next scripture in the list. This shows you what passage to turn to next.



5 Turn to the second scripture. Next to the second scripture write down the third scripture in the list. Repeat this process through the entire study.



1 | BELIEVE THE SCRIPTURES

It was written over a period of 1500 years by 44 different authors. It is the most popular book in the history of the world and changed the life of millions. We call it the Bible. What makes it so special? And can I trust it as the word of God?

The Bible Has a Divine Origin

1 Scr Amos 3:7	God has revealed His plans/secrets to the prophets.
<i>How did God reveal His secrets or plans to the prophets?</i>	
2 Scr 2 Peter 1:21	The Bible is different from any other book. The Holy Spirit breathed it into life.
<i>How much of the Bible was inspired by God?</i>	
3 Scr 2 Timothy 3:16	Some people only read the New Testament but all Scripture is inspired by God.

God's Word is Eternal

4 Scr 1 Peter 1:24-25	Many have tried to destroy the Bible but God has promised that it would always remain.
5 Scr Matthew 24:35	Jesus said the earth would pass away before His words would pass away or fail.

The Purpose of the Bible

6 Scr Romans 15:4	One of the purposes of the Scriptures is to give us hope.
7 Scr 2 Timothy 3:15-16	The Bible gives us knowledge and understanding of salvation and is the source of all doctrine or teaching.
8 Scr John 5:39	The Scripture reveals Jesus as Savior.
9 Scr John 17:17	The Scripture is the source of truth.

Evidence to Believe the Bible

10 Scr Isaiah 46:9-10	God has proved His existence by revealing the future thousands of years ahead of time.
<i>What did God Predict Thousands of Years Ago?</i>	
11 Scr Isaiah 13:19-20	When Babylon was the greatest city in the ancient world God declared it would be destroyed and never be rebuilt. 2500 years later it is still true.
12 Scr Ezekiel 26:3,12-14	God said Tyre would be dumped into the ocean and never be rebuilt; this has been fulfilled completely through Alexander the Great. And remains so today.
13 Scr Ezekiel 29:14-15	Egypt was not to be destroyed but the nation that once buried its dead in gold coffins was to become a lowly nation. 2500 years later it is still true.

Is it clear that God has spoken to us through the Bible? Would you like to keep studying the Bible together?

NOTE: SCR= SCRIPTURE

2 | GOD: WHAT IS HE LIKE?

There are many different ideas about God, but what is He really like?

God is Eternal, All-Powerful and All-Knowing

Where did God come from if He is God?

1 God
Psalms 90:2 God is eternal, from everlasting to everlasting. There never was a time that He was not in existence.

2 God
Daniel 2:20-21 God is wise and all-powerful. He controls the destiny of nations.

3 God
Isaiah 45:21 God's ability to reveal the future proves His divine nature.

God is the Creator, and Therefore the Rightful Owner, of the Universe

4 God
Psalms 33:6,9 God is able to create by His word through the breath of His mouth.

5 God
Psalms 24:1 God is the rightful owner of the world, and therefore everyone who lives in it.

6 God
Psalms 19:1-2 God's glory is revealed through the majesty of the starry heavens.

God is a Loving, Merciful and Forgiving God

7 God
Exodus 34:6, 7 God is compassionate and gracious, and is always quick to forgive us when we sincerely seek Him.

8 God
Jeremiah 31:3 God reaches out to us with His loving kindness.

9 God
Psalms 103:10-14 God does not treat us as we deserve, but forgives us according to His great mercy.

God Promises to Help Us in Every Situation

10 God
Isaiah 41:10 God has promised to strengthen us and help us with His right hand.

11 God
Isaiah 49:15-16 God will not forget us. His love for us is greater than that of a parent. He has engraved us on the palms of His hands.

12 God
Hebrews 13:5 God will never leave you.

Is it clear that God is a God of love? Do you want to get to know God better?

3 | THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

God is loving. The logical question then comes: why is there so much suffering in the world? If God is good why is there so much evil in His creation?

Evil Began in Heaven

1 Evil
Revelation 12:7-8 Heaven, the place of perfection, is where evil began.

Why Would God Create a Devil?

2 Evil
Ezekiel 28:14-15 God did not create the Devil, but a mighty angel who had a free will.

3 Evil
Isaiah 14:12-14 The Devil became envious of God's position and desired to overtake Him.

4 Evil
Genesis 3:1-7 The Devil convinced mankind to share in his rebellion, and thus evil spread to earth.

The Character of the Devil

5 Evil
John 8:44 Jesus said the Devil is murderer and a liar.

6 Evil
John 13:2 The Devil incites men to sin.

7 Evil
Zechariah 3:1 The Devil accuses God's people.

8 Evil
2 Corinthians 11:13-14 He masquerades as an angel of light.

The Cost of Evil

9 Evil
Luke 4:5-6 The Devil claims the dominion of the earth after man shared in his rebellion.

10 Evil
Romans 5:12 The entire human race has been plunged into sin.

11 Evil
Psalms 51:5 The nature of the human race has changed as a result of mankind's disobedience.

A Rescue Plan

12 Evil
Hebrews 2:14-17 Jesus became one of us so He could defeat the Devil and pay the price for our sin.

13 Evil
1 Peter 5:8-9 We must resist the Devil, knowing that Jesus has conquered him.

14 Evil
James 4:7-8 We resist the Devil by drawing near to God.

Do you want to draw near to God today, so the Devil can have no place in your life?

4 | WHO IS JESUS?

One of the most provable facts of ancient history is that Jesus Christ lived. But who is Jesus, and what made Him so special and unique?

Predictions About Who Jesus Would Be

1 Jesus Matthew 1:23	Isaiah predicted that Jesus would be called "Immanuel" or "God with us."
2 Jesus Isaiah 9:6	Jesus was described as the eternal God who shared the nature of His Father.
3 Jesus Micah 5:2	Jesus was to be the ruler of Israel and has always existed.

What Jesus Said About Himself

4 Jesus John 17:5	Jesus said He existed with the Father before the world began.
5 Jesus John 8:57-58	Jesus said that He was the "I Am," the self-existent one who existed before Abraham.
6 Jesus John 14:6	Jesus made the amazing claim that He was the only way to the Father.
7 Jesus Revelation 1:18	Jesus is the living One, who conquered death and now lives forever more.
8 Jesus John 11:25	Jesus said He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Other Claims the Bible Makes About Jesus

9 Jesus John 20:28	Thomas called Jesus both Lord and God.
10 Jesus Colossians 2:9	Jesus makes up part of the eternal Godhead.

What Jesus Did While on Earth

11 Jesus Luke 5:20-24	Jesus forgave sinners while He was on earth.
12 Jesus John 9:37-39	Jesus received worship when no angel or creature could (see Revelation 19:10).
13 Jesus Philippians 2:6-8	Jesus willingly gave up His place in heaven and died for our sins.

Is it clear that Jesus is the Divine Son of God? Would you like to commit your life into His hands today?

5 | WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Everyone is seeking a happy, fulfilling life, but where can it be found? How does mankind find true meaning? The Bible says that salvation from sin will provide ultimate happiness and purpose.

The Sin Problem

1 Sal Genesis 1:27-28, 31	God created a perfect world. Adam and Eve were sinless and at peace with the universe.
2 Sal Genesis 3:8	Sin destroyed our fellowship with God and we run from His presence.
3 Sal Romans 3:23	Everyone has sinned and shared in the rebellion against God.
4 Sal Romans 6:23	The cost of this rebellion against God is eternal destruction or death.
5 Sal Romans 7:17-18	As a result of sin, humanity has a fallen nature that is bent toward evil.

The Cure for Sin

6 Sal Jeremiah 13:23	We are unable to change our sinful nature or save ourselves from the penalty of death.
7 Sal Romans 5:18-19	Adam brought sin and death; Jesus brought life.
8 Sal Romans 5:21	Jesus was punished for our sins so we could be redeemed and restored back to God.
9 Sal Ephesians 2:8-9	We are saved from the penalty and power of sin by an act of grace. We can contribute nothing toward our salvation.

Taking Hold of Christ

10 Sal Acts 16:30-31	We must believe, or put our trust, in Jesus Christ's free gift of salvation and not in ourselves.
11 Sal Acts 2:37-38	Repentance is turning away from sin and returning to Jesus, putting our trust in Him.
12 Sal 1 John 1:9	We must confess our sins and acknowledge our wrongdoing.
13 Sal 1 John 5:11-13	We can know we have eternal life when we trust in Jesus.

Is it clear that Jesus died for our sins – that He is the only way to be saved? Would you like to accept Jesus' free offer to forgive and cleanse you?

6 | HOW TO PRAY

Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God. But is there a right way or wrong way to pray? Does the Bible give us any insight into prayer, and how our prayers can become effective? In this study we will look at the secrets of prayer.

We Can Learn How To Pray

1 P Luke 11:1	The Disciples knew that Jesus had a special relationship with His father through prayer.
2 P Luke 11:2-4	Jesus said to pray to the Father and to ask for His will to be done, for our needs to be met, for forgiveness and for victory over temptation.
3 P John 16:26-27	We have been instructed to ask the Father in Jesus' name. Jesus is our authority.

Prayer is to be Secret and Specific

4 P Matthew 6:5-6	Prayer time is to be secret and never a source of pride.
5 P Matthew 6:7-8	Our prayers do not need to be long.
6 P Psalms 95:6-7	We are to have a reverent attitude toward God in prayer.

Principles for Having Prayer Answered

7 P Mark 11:24	We are always to ask in faith, believing that God will answer our prayers.
8 P 1 John 5:14	We must ask according to God's will.
9 P Mark 11:25	We must forgive others for their sins if our prayers are to be heard.
10 P Proverbs 28:9	Submission to God's law is fundamental to God hearing our prayers.
11 P Philippians 4:6	Thankfulness for God's blessings is another key to praying with reverence and humility.

Would you like to develop your relationship with Jesus through regular prayer time?

7 | THE MORAL LAW

Controversy is raging today over moral values. God's Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) have always been the original standard and, as we will see, are still the standard for Christians today.

We are Saved Apart from the Law

1 Law
Ephesians 2:8-10
We are saved by an act of grace. Good works contribute nothing to what Jesus did for us. We are not saved *by* good works, but we have been saved *for* good works.

God's Law is Perfect

2 Law
Psalms 19:7
The Bible describes the Law of God as perfect. Something that is perfect can't be improved.

3 Law
Romans 7:12
The Ten Commandments are holy, righteous and good.

4 Law
Romans 3:20
The Law's great purpose is shared with the Holy Spirit, to make us conscious of sin (see John 16:8).

Was the Law Done Away With?

5 Law
Matthew 5:17-19
Jesus never intended to do away with the Law. Heaven and earth would vanish first.

6 Law
Romans 3:31
It is hard to find a clearer verse on a Christian's responsibility to the law. "We uphold the law."

7 Law
Romans 6:14-16
God has removed the condemnation of the law through the death of His Son. We no longer live in slavery to sin, but are slaves to righteousness.

8 Law
1 Corinthians 7:19
Paul makes a distinction between ceremonial law and the commandments of God. God's command is what counts.

9 Law
Revelation 14:12
The last test over the mark of the beast will not overcome those who keep God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

10 Law
Hebrews 8:10
Under the new covenant, the Law is to be written on our hearts.

11 Law
1 John 2:3-4
Anyone living in defiance to God's command does not truly know God.

12 Law
1 John 5:2-3
The greatest expression of love we can show God is through obedience.

God in His love gave us the Ten Commandments. Do you want to show your love for Him by obeying His commandments?

8 | REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY

The one commandment that begins with the word “remember” is the one that has been most forgotten. Many Christians have become too busy for God. Through this commandment, Jesus Christ is calling us to pause and worship the true God.

Worship God the Creator

1 Sab Revelation 4:11	God alone is worthy to be worshiped because He created all things.
2 Sab Exodus 20:8-11	We worship God as the Creator by keeping the seventh day Sabbath.
3 Sab Genesis 2:1-3	The Sabbath existed before sin. God set the seventh day of creation apart by resting, blessing it and making it holy.

Jesus and the Sabbath

4 Sab Mark 2:27, 28	The Sabbath was not just given to Israel. Thousands of years before the Jews existed, it was given to all mankind.
5 Sab Luke 4:16	Jesus was a habitual Sabbath-keeper, according to the Bible.
6 Sab Matthew 12:11-12	Jesus taught how the Sabbath was to be kept, liberating those with false ideas regarding the Sabbath.
7 Sab Matthew 24:20	Jesus said the Sabbath would be kept until He returns.

The Sabbath after the Cross

8 Sab Luke 23:54-24:1	Jesus died on Friday, rested on the Sabbath and rose on Sunday. The Disciples kept Sabbath even after Jesus' death.
9 Sab Acts 17:2	Like Jesus, it was Paul's custom to keep the Sabbath.
10 Sab Acts 16:13	Even without a Jewish synagogue, Paul used the Sabbath as a time of worship and prayer.
11 Sab Revelation 1:10	The only possible day that could be the Lord's day is the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8, Luke 6:5). At the end of the first century, the Lord still has a special day.
12 Sab Isaiah 66:22,23	In the new earth, we will meet to worship God on the Sabbath.

God wants us to receive a blessing by taking a day out away from the work and toil of life. Do you want to experience the blessing of the Sabbath and keep it as a day of rest and worship?

9 | SUNDAY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The majority of Christians have Sunday as the day of worship in remembrance of Jesus' resurrection. Does the Bible endorse this custom? Has Sunday replaced the seventh day Sabbath?

The Seventh Day Sabbath

1 Sun
Genesis 2:2-3 God set aside the seventh day of the creation week as a holy day of rest.

2 Sun
Luke 4:16 Jesus observed the Sabbath during His time on earth.

3 Sun
Luke 23:56 The Disciples kept the Sabbath and would not embalm Jesus' body on the Sabbath.

Eight References to Sunday in New Testament

4 Sun
Luke 24:1 The women came to the tomb to embalm Jesus' body on Sunday morning.

5 Sun
Matthew 28:1 Matthew agrees with Luke about the women being first to the tomb.

6 Sun
Mark 16:2 Mark agrees with Matthew and Luke about the women being first to the tomb.

7 Sun
Mark 16:9 Jesus rose again and appeared to Mary.

8 Sun
John 20:1 John confirms the events of that Sunday morning. None of these verses can support Sunday worship as the people did not know Jesus had risen.

Just Three Verses Refer to Sunday Worship

9 Sun
John 20:19 The Disciples were gathering not for worship, but for fear of the Jews. The Disciples did not even believe that Jesus had risen.

10 Sun
Acts 20:7-8 Paul is preaching during the dark part of the first day of the week. The New English Bible calls this "Saturday night". This verse cannot overthrow the fourth commandment.

11 Sun
1 Corinthians 16:2 Paul instructs them to "set aside" some money at the beginning of each week. It appears not even to be a worship service, but something they did at home.

12 Sun
Mark 7:6-8 We need to be careful to follow God's commandments rather than human tradition.

Is it clear that God's day of worship is the seventh day Sabbath? Do you want to obey God's Word and keep His Sabbath?

10 | THE NATURE OF FAITH

One of Jesus' constant lessons was the lesson of faith. It is hard to over-emphasise the importance of faith in the Christian experience. How do I increase my faith? What is true saving faith and why is it so necessary for me to achieve anything in God's kingdom?

The Necessity of Faith

1 F Hebrews 11:6	Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
2 F Romans 12:3	A measure of faith is given to every man. Faith is not given to a few, but to all.
3 F Galatians 2:20	Paul says that he no longer lives his old life, but he lives by faith in the Son of God.

The Nature of Faith

4 F Hebrews 11:1	The entire Christian experience is based on faith. We believe in Jesus even though we have not seen Him.
5 F 1 John 5:14	Faith gives us confidence in approaching God, knowing that He hears us.
6 F Mark 11:24	Faith trust that God hears us, even when it seems impossible.
7 F Romans 10:17	True faith is not blind, but a conviction that arises out of the message of the Bible.
8 F Luke 5:20	Faith can be seen by what we do.
9 F James 2:17-18	Faith is always linked to actions. Our actions are the ultimate evidence of our faith.

The Power of Faith

10 F Matthew 17:20	Even a small amount of faith can be a powerful faith when it trusts in God.
11 F Hebrews 6:12	Through faith, we inherit the promises of God.
12 F Ephesians 2:8	We are saved by grace through faith.
13 F Romans 1:5	Through faith, we can live an obedient life.
14 F 1 John 5:4	We overcome the world through faith.

Do you want to increase your faith in Jesus by continuing to study the Bible together?

11 | THE SECOND COMING

Without doubt the most exciting promise that Jesus made was His promise to return to earth. What will that day be like? Is His return a secret event that you will hear about after it has happened? How can we know when He comes?

Jesus Promised to Return

1 SC
John 14:1-3 While He was on earth, Jesus promised His Disciples He would soon return. There are more than 1500 prophecies of Jesus' second coming in the Bible.

Jesus' Return will be Literal, Visible and Audible

2 SC
Acts 1:9-11 Jesus will return in the same manner that He left. This was a literal event, not a spiritual one.

3 SC
Matthew 24:26-27 Jesus' return will not be secret, but as visible and audible as lightning flashing across the night sky.

4 SC
Revelation 1:7 Every eye will see Jesus return.

5 SC
1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 The dead in Christ will be called to life at the second coming with an audible shout and trumpet.

Jesus' Return will be Glorious

6 SC
Matthew 25:31 The first time Jesus came to earth, He was born in a stable. How different it will be the second time.

7 SC
1 Corinthians 15:51-52 What a day it will be when we are remade with new imperishable and immortal bodies.

8 SC
Matthew 24:30-31 The angels will gather God's people up and take them to heaven.

Jesus' Return will be Final

9 SC
Revelation 6:12-17 The wicked are terrified by the sight of Jesus' return, as they are not ready to meet Him.

10 SC
2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 The wicked will be punished and destroyed at the second coming.

11 SC
2 Peter 3:10 The earth as we know it will be destroyed at the second coming. This is as final as it gets.

12 SC
2 Peter 3:13-14 The second coming will mean sin will no longer rule in our world. Hallelujah!

Is it clear that no one will miss Jesus' second coming? Do you want to be ready when He comes?

12 | SIGNS OF THE SECOND COMING

Every other year there seems to be someone saying that Jesus is coming back this year or in the next six months. So far, they have all been wrong! What does the Bible say about the timing of Jesus' return? Can we know when it is going to happen?

Signs, Not Dates

1 SSC Matthew 24:36	Jesus said we can never set a date for His return. We should ignore those who do.
2 SSC Matthew 24:32-33	When we see the signs being fulfilled, we can know that Jesus' return is near, right at the door.

Jesus Explains Signs

3 SSC Matthew 24:1-3	Jesus' answer addresses both the time of the temple's destruction, and signs indicating His second coming and the end of this age.
4 SSC Matthew 24:4-5	False teachers and false teachings would characterise the last days of earth's history (also see verses 11 and 24 in Matthew 24).
5 SSC Matthew 24:6-8	Wars, famines, earthquakes and natural disasters are not signs of the end, but their increasing frequency and intensity is a sign of the end.
6 SSC Matthew 24:12	Increasing wickedness would cause people's hearts to grow hardened and unloving.
7 SSC Matthew 24:14	The greatest sign Jesus gave was the gospel being preached in all the world.
8 SSC Matthew 24:15-22	A great attack will be launched upon God's people as explained in Daniel 7, 11 and Revelation 13.

Other Signs of the End

9 SSC 2 Timothy 3:1-4	The last days will be godless and morals will be in complete decay.
10 SSC 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3	The second coming will happen unexpectedly as the nations seek peace.
11 SSC James 5:1-3	Accumulated wealth will be worth nothing. An economic collapse can be expected.
12 SSC Luke 21:28	Jesus said these different signs should be signs of hope and announce good news.

We live in exciting times, do you want to be ready when Jesus returns? Is there anything holding you back from committing your life to Him today?

13 | STATE OF THE DEAD

Popular belief says that when someone dies, they either go straight to heaven or straight to hell. But why is there a resurrection of the dead if they are already in heaven or hell? This seems illogical. Is it possible that the popular belief is in conflict with the Bible?

The Nature of Man

1 D Genesis 2:7	God created man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Ruach). These two combined made a living being or soul (Nephesh).
2 D Ecclesiastes 12:7	At death the creation process is simply reversed — the dust to the ground and the spirit (Ruach) to God who gave it. We are not conscious before life and we can't be conscious after life.
3 D Romans 2:7	We seek immortality. The Bible uses the word soul (Ruach) 1600 times, but never once uses immortal soul.
4 D 1 Timothy 6:15-16	God alone has immortality, according to the Bible. Adam and Eve's experience show we can only keep the gift of immortality in relationship to God.

Man is Unconscious in Death

5 D Ecclesiastes 9:5	The dead do not know anything.
6 D Psalm 115:17	Those who are dead cannot praise God — they are in silence.
7 D Psalm 6:5	No one remembers God when they are dead and in the grave.

Death is a Sleep

8 D Job 14:10-12	The dead will not awake from sleep until the heavens are no more.
9 D Daniel 12:13	Daniel was to rest and then arise at the end of days.
10 D John 11:11-13	Jesus clearly views death as a sleep for His friend Lazarus.
11 D 1 Thessalonians 4:13	Paul also saw death as a sleep. It was not to cause overwhelming grief for the Christian who believes in the resurrection.

Final Reward

12 D 2 Timothy 4:7-8	Paul knew that he would receive his reward not at death, but at the appearing of Jesus' second coming.
13 D 1 Corinthians 15:51-53	We receive immortality when Jesus comes again.

Is it clear that death is sleep from which we will wake? Do you want to accept Jesus' offer of eternal life?

13A | DEATH: COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does Paul mean by the expression “absent from the body and present with the Lord?” (2 Corinthians 5:6, 8)

In 2 Corinthians 5:1-11, Paul contrasts the earthly, perishable body — subject to sickness, diseases, and death — with the glorious, eternal, immortal body which God has prepared for us in the heavens. The expression “absent from the body” means absent from the mortal body with its earthly infirmities. The expression “present with the Lord” means present in the glorious immortal body received at Jesus’ second coming. 2 Corinthians 5:4 gives us a clue when the apostle longs for “mortality to be swallowed up of life.” These words echo the words Paul wrote earlier in 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 — “we shall put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality.” In 2 Corinthians 5, as well as 1 Corinthians 15, Paul longs for the immortality bestowed at Jesus’ second coming (see also 2 Timothy 4:6-8).

If the dead are asleep, how could the Witch of Endor bring the prophet Samuel back from the dead to speak to King Saul? (1 Samuel 28:15)

1. God’s clear command through the entire Old Testament period was that spiritualists be driven out of the land of Israel and to be put to death. The word of God unmaskes all spiritualism as the work of demonic, satanic forces (see Deuteronomy 18:10-15, Isaiah 47:13, 14).
2. Saul had already rejected the prophet Samuel’s counsel. He had inquired of God and received no answer (1 Samuel 28:6). The specific reason Saul sought out the Witch of Endor was because he received no answer from the Lord. What Saul saw was not Samuel. Notice carefully the Bible declares the witch saw a “spirit coming up out of the ground” (verse 13), and Saul perceived that he saw Samuel (1 Samuel 28:14). Since the dead know nothing (Ecclesiastes 9:5), Satan masquerades in the form of dead loved ones, imitating both their form and voice (Revelation 16:14).
3. The ultimate result of Saul’s visit to the Witch of Endor was not repentance, confession of sin and life. Instead, it was despair, discouragement and death (1 Samuel 28:16, 20, 21; 31:3, 4, 9, 10). Deceived by Satan, he surrendered his soul to demons.

14 | DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED

The claim that God is a loving God seems to be in conflict with the teaching of eternal torture in hell for all those who reject Jesus' offer of Salvation. Is this really what the Bible teaches? Would a loving God do this to those who reject Him?

Destruction Awaits the Wicked

1 Hell
2 Peter 3:9 God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Hell
Malachi 4:1-3 Sinners will ultimately be burned and turned to ash.

3 Hell
Matthew 10:28 God will destroy both the body and the soul in hell.

Eternal Destruction

4 Hell
Matthew 25:46 Jesus said the goats (wicked) will go away to eternal punishment.

5 Hell
2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 The wicked will be punished with everlasting destruction a permanent and irreversible destruction.

6 Hell
Psalm 92:7 Evildoers will be forever destroyed.

Eternal Fire

7 Hell
Revelation 14:10-11 A most serious picture is given by God to show what the fires of hell will be like. The smoke rises forever and ever.

8 Hell
Isaiah 34:9-10 Edom was destroyed thousands of years ago and this text says the smoke from the fires will rise forever. However, the fires were not permanent.

9 Hell
Jude 1:7 Sodom and Gomorrah are examples of those who will be punished with eternal fire. Note those fires are not still burning today. Eternal fire actually means permanent destruction.

10 Hell
Jeremiah 17:27 Jerusalem was destroyed with an unquenchable fire and is not burning today. In Mark 9:43 Jesus said the fires of hell will not be quenched.

Devil Destroyed in Hell

11 Hell
Revelation 20:10 The Devil is not in control of hell. He will be destroyed in the lake of fire with the rest of the wicked.

12 Hell
Ezekiel 28:18 The Devil will be reduced to ashes on the ground by God.

Are you glad today that God is love and has compassion on the lost?

15 | THE MILLENNIUM

What is going to happen on the earth after Jesus returns? Will He rule the nations with 1000 years of peace, or can we expect something different? Why would God even define a 1000-year period in the Bible if we have all eternity? Let's go to the Bible for the answer.

Satan Bound

1 Mill Revelation 20:1-3	Revelation uses symbolic language to describe literal events. Satan will be bound from deceiving the nations for 1000 years.
2 Mill 2 Peter 3:10	At the second coming the earth will be laid bare. There will be nothing left on earth. All will be burned up.
3 Mill Genesis 1:2	The Greek word for deep in Genesis 1:2 is the same for "Abyss" in Revelation 20:1. The earth will be formless and void after the second coming, with no life as before creation.

The Saved Live in Heaven

4 Mill Revelation 20:4	The 1000 years begins with the first resurrection at the second coming of Jesus.
5 Mill 1 Corinthians 6:1-3	The Saved will go over the books (Revelation 20:12), helping them to understand the outcome of God's judgment.
6 Mill John 5:28-29	Jesus said there will be two resurrections — the resurrection of life and the resurrection of condemnation.
7 Mill Revelation 20:5	The resurrection of the wicked does not happen until the 1000 years are over.

The End of Sin

8 Mill Revelation 20:7-10	At the end of the 1000 years, the Devil will be destroyed by God.
9 Mill Revelation 20:11-12	God will conclude the final phase of His judgment which will bring to a close the sad record of sin forever.
10 Mill Revelation 20:15	The only possible way to get through the final great white throne judgement is to have your name written in the Lamb's book of life.
11 Mill Revelation 21:1-4	What a glorious world will exist for us at the end of all the great struggles we face now.

Do you want to be part of this new earth that has no more suffering and sin? Would you like to accept Jesus' offer of forgiveness and have your name written in the Lamb's book of life?

16 | PERSONAL PEACE

Mankind is on an endless quest for peace. Summits are held and wars are even fought in an endless quest for peace. Peace is something that starts in our heart and, as we will see, is something that God wants to establish in our lives.

The God of Peace

1 Pea Isaiah 9:6	The Bible describes Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace. Where ever Jesus reigns, there will be peace.
2 Pea 2 Thessalonians 3:16	Paul calls Jesus the Lord of Peace, and says that Jesus can give us peace at all times and in every way.
3 Pea John 14:27	Jesus' peace is different from that which the world gives. The world attempts external peace. Jesus gives internal peace.
4 Pea John 16:33	Jesus' peace is an internal peace that exists even in the midst of trouble.

Finding Peace

5 Pea Romans 5:1	The first fruit of being justified (or forgiven) by God is having peace with God.
6 Pea Isaiah 26:3	Perfect peace is promised to those who put their trust in God.
7 Pea Galatians 5:22	Paul listed peace as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
8 Pea Phil 4:6-7	Taking our anxieties and worries to God in prayer with a thankful heart will provide peace.
9 Pea Psalm 119:165	Loving God's law and ordering our life in accordance with it will bring us great peace.

The Godless Have No Peace

10 Pea Luke 19:42	Those who reject Jesus' saving message will not know peace. It will be hidden from their eyes.
11 Pea 1 Thessalonians 5:3	The world will be on an unending search for peace and safety.

Do you desire peace in your life? Would you like to accept Jesus' offer of peace?

17 | HOW TO TEST A PROPHET

As every wind of doctrine blows through the church, we need to be able to discern the true teacher from the false teacher. What tests have been laid down in the Bible by which we can test a teacher or someone claiming to be a prophet?

The Source of Authority

1 Test
1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
The Bible says we should be open to the Spirit's leading but this is always to be done in the light of testing the spirit that is leading.

2 Test
Isaiah 8:19-20
Isaiah told the people to consult God. They did this by turning to the Law (first five books of the Bible) and the Testimony (the Testimony of the prophets are the other Bible writers).

3 Test
Acts 17:11
The Bereans were of a noble character because they did not take Paul's word for it. They checked it out in the Scripture for themselves.

Prediction Tests

4 Test
Isaiah 46:9-10
God has made the future known through the Scripture with unquestionable accuracy.

5 Test
Deuteronomy 18:21-22
A prophet who makes a prediction that does not come to pass should be avoided and not taken seriously.

The Fruit Test

6 Test
Matthew 7:15-16
The conduct of someone's life is the ultimate test. We would expect the Fruit of the Spirit to be present in God's servants (Galatians 5:22).

7 Test
1 Samuel 12:3-4
At the end of his ministry Samuel the prophet could call the people to hold his life to account regarding greed and corruption.

The Jesus Test

8 Test
1 John 4:1-3
A true teacher or prophet will acknowledge the unique place of Jesus in God's revelation and salvation of man.

9 Test
1 Corinthians 12:3
Paul's view of a teacher's worth is measured by what they do with Jesus, confessing Him as Lord, and therefore Saviour.

The Obedience Test

10 Test
Deuteronomy 13:1-4
Obedience to God should always be the purpose of any true messenger. Therefore, a true teacher will call others to obey God and put God first.

Are you glad today that God has given us the safety of Scripture?

18 | BAPTISM

Baptism is an outward expression of faith about an inward experience with Jesus. Does everyone need to be baptised? When is someone ready to be baptised?

The Necessity of Baptism

1 Bapt Matthew 28:19,20	Jesus said the purpose of the church is to make disciples. This is to be done through baptising and teaching.
2 Bapt Mark 16:16	These words spoken by Jesus clearly link baptism with salvation. Baptism is not an optional extra.
3 Bapt John 3:5	Being born of water that Jesus spoke about is being baptised. Baptism symbolises being born again.
4 Bapt Matthew 3:13-15	John rightly points out that Jesus did not need to be baptised. Jesus never sinned, but was baptised as our example and for those who never got the chance (e.g. the thief on the cross).

The Meaning of Baptism

5 Bapt Romans 6:3-4	Through the act of baptism, we share in three historical events — Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. This is why we must be buried under water and rise out again.
6 Bapt Galatians 3:27	Through the act of baptism we put on Christ. Being baptised is an act of faith, therefore we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ.
7 Bapt 1 Corinthians 12:13	We are baptised into the body, which is the church. Baptism is the entrance into the church.

The Method of Baptism

8 Bapt Acts 8:38-39	When Philip baptised the eunuch, they both went down into the water. To sprinkle or christen the eunuch, Philip would not have needed to go down into the water.
9 Bapt Ephesians 4:5	There is only one type of baptism in the Bible and anyone being baptised should be baptised the biblical way.

Baptism is the Beginning

10 Bapt Acts 2:37-38	As soon as the people hear what they have done, they are instructed to repent or turn away from their sins and be baptised.
11 Bapt Luke 3:7-8	John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance and expected those being baptised to be repentant or to turn away from their sinful life.
12 Bapt Acts 22:12-16	Paul was baptised at the beginning of his walk with Jesus, not at the end.

What are you waiting for? Would you like to be baptised as Jesus instructed?

19 | HOW TO MAINTAIN MY WALK

Having a relationship with God is the most important relationship we can ever have. But how can this happen? How do I maintain my relationship once established? Let's look at what the Bible has to say.

Commitment

1 Walk
Hebrews 8:10 What was the last commitment you made to the Lord?

Trust His Promises

2 Walk
Proverbs 3:5, 6 His promises are like blank cheques waiting to be cashed. Do we test God more that we trust Him?

Be Alert & Self-Controlled

3 Walk
1 Peter 5:8 We have a real enemy who is a deceiver. His best tactic is discouragement.

Remember Past Victories

4 Walk
Psalm 77:11, 12 Keep a record of God's involvement in you life. Count your blessings one by one.

Know Jesus Personally

5 Walk
John 17:3 Do you know Jesus or just about Him? Most people know how to do the Lord's work, but very few people know the Lord.

Practice Obedience

6 Walk
Acts 5:32 Cherished sin is like a boulder tied around your neck. One day it will drown you.

Meet Continuously

7 Walk
Hebrews 10:25 The first Christian church met daily to encourage and learn. Be a part of a fellowship group.

Work to Save Others

8 Walk
Matthew 9:36 The Lord came to seek and save those who are lost. His followers have the same passion.

Extend Grace & Forgiveness

9 Walk
Luke 11:4 Don't harbour bitterness and resentment in your heart. As Christ extended you grace, do the same too.

Would you like to have a closer walk with Jesus? Would you like to ask Christ to forgive your sins right now?

20 | GOD'S DIET PLAN

During the Dark Ages, the Jews of Europe seemed to come through the plagues unharmed in comparison with their neighbors. Their secret advantage was the Old Testament health laws. Let's look at what the Bible says about diet and health.

Body Temple

1 HL
1 Corinthians 3:16-17

The Bible teaches that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. He desires that we care for our body and does not want us to destroy it. This has many implications for our health.

2 HL
Romans 12:1,2

We are to offer our bodies, not just our soul, as a living sacrifice to God.

3 HL
1 Corinthians 10:31

The Bible teaches that even our eating and drinking are to give God glory.

Fit for Food

4 HL
Genesis 1:29

The original diet in the Bible was a vegetarian diet. Science shows this is still best for health and longevity.

5 HL
Genesis 7:2

God made a distinction between clean and unclean before the introduction of the law of Moses. This seems to be for diet reasons.

6 HL
Leviticus 11:1-8

Land animals that are fit for food have both a split hoof and chew their cud.

7 HL
Leviticus 11:9-12

Fish and other water creatures must have both fins and scales to be good to eat.

8 HL
Exodus 15:26

God promised that the Israelites would not suffer from the diseases that the Egyptians had if they followed His commandments.

Jesus Did Not Make All Food Healthy

9 HL
Mark 7:19

Jesus declared all foods clean, but please note that He did not declare them healthy. We avoid these animals not because they are unclean, but unhealthy.

10 HL
Acts 10:9-16,28

Peter explains that the vision applies not to food, but to calling Gentiles unclean. The vision teaches that all barriers between people have been removed (Ephesians 2:14).

11 HL
Phil 4:13

Jesus Christ can strengthen us to follow His pattern of eating.

12 HL
3 John 1:2

It is God's desire that we would have good health, therefore He gives a diet to follow.

Praise God that He is interested in our health. Are there changes you would like to make to have a healthier life?

21 | KEEPING THE SABBATH

We have seen that the seventh-day Sabbath is the true Bible Sabbath that God has set aside for us to observe. But how do I observe the Sabbath? What does the Bible say about Sabbath-keeping?

A Day of Rest

1 SK Genesis 2:2	The Sabbath was intended by God to be a day to rest where we can stop from the rush of life.
2 SK Exodus 20:8-10	It was not God's intention that we should work or labour during the hours of the Sabbath.
3 SK Exodus 16:23	Friday is called the day of preparation (Luke 23:54), and God instructed us to make preparations for the Sabbath on that day.
4 SK Nehemiah 13:15,19-21	The Sabbath is not a day to buy or sell or attend the market. Note the Sabbath began as the sun was setting (verse 19).

A Holy Day, Not a Holiday

5 SK Genesis 2:3	From the beginning, the Sabbath was a holy or sacred day set apart by God.
6 SK Leviticus 23:3	The Sabbath is a day of worship or sacred assemblies. God intended that all His people will gather together for worship.
7 SK Luke 4:16	Jesus worshiped on the Sabbath.
8 SK Isaiah 58:13	The Sabbath is the Lord's holy day and it is a day that we can use to focus on our relationship with God and His people. It is not a day for us to pursue our own wants.

Human Needs Override Sabbath Observance

9 SK Mark 2:23-28	Jesus shows hunger and other human need were more important than Sabbath keeping if we find ourselves in a place where we have to choose between the two.
10 SK Matthew 12:9-14	The Sabbath is also a day on which we are to do good to others and for others. Hospitals and other essential services must still operate.

The Blessing of the Sabbath

11 SK Isaiah 58:13-14	The Sabbath is a blessing that God has given to us. It is promised that this blessing will cause us to have joy in the Lord.
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Would you like to receive the blessing that God has promised through keeping the Sabbath His way?

22 | THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit often seems a mystery to most Christians. He cannot be seen, yet the church teaches that He is the third person of the Godhead. Is He some impersonal power force that I use, or does He use me? Why is the Holy Spirit so important to the Christian life?

The Holy Spirit Promised

1 HS
John 16:7-8 Amazingly, Jesus said it would be for the benefit of the Disciples for Him to leave so He could send the Holy Spirit.

2 HS
Acts 1:8 The Holy Spirit was to be the source of the Christian's power to be a living witness for Christ.

The Nature of the Holy Spirit

3 HS
Matthew 28:19 The Holy Spirit is named separate from both Father and Son. The Holy Spirit is a separate person.

4 HS
1 Corinthians 2:10-11 The Spirit has the ability to search things out.

5 HS
1 Corinthians 12:11 The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit has the power of choice. An impersonal power force cannot determine who receives what gift.

6 HS
Romans 8:27 The Holy Spirit has a mind. Again, this would only be found if the Spirit was a person.

7 HS
2 Corinthians 13:14 We can have fellowship with the Holy Spirit as His presence is felt in our lives.

8 HS
Ephesians 4:30-31 By our conduct we can grieve or upset the Holy Spirit. We should be careful to treat others in love (see also Hebrews 10:29).

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

9 HS
Romans 8:9 Every person who accepts Jesus has the Holy Spirit in their life.

10 HS
Luke 11:11-13 God is willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

11 HS
John 16:13-14 The Spirit will guide us into all truth, and bring Glory to Jesus when He is in our lives.

12 HS
Galatians 5:22-23 The Spirit wants to produce in us the fruits of righteousness that we cannot make without Him.

13 HS
Romans 8:15-16 We receive the spirit of sonship as the Holy Spirit testifies in our life that we are children of God.

Do you want to belong to the family of God? Please pray with me that you will receive the Holy Spirit.

23 | THE GIFT OF TONGUES

The Holy Spirit wants to give gifts to the church that will make us more effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. But the Devil also wants the church to be confused and weakened. He wants us to remain confused regarding the gift of tongues. What does the Bible teach about this gift?

Power to Witness

1 Tong Acts 1:8	The Holy Spirit was to gift the Disciples to witness for Jesus to the ends of the earth.
2 Tong Acts 2:1-4	Pentecost means 50. Fifty days after Passover, God poured the Spirit out upon the church and enabled them to speak in tongues.
3 Tong Acts 2:6-8	The Bible clearly says that the crowd heard the disciples speak in their native language. Note that 15 language groups are mentioned in verses 9-11.

The Sign of Tongues

4 Tong 1 Corinthians 14:21-22	God giving His message in foreign languages was a sign for unbelieving Jews. Isaiah the prophet predicted this would happen in Israel. It was the announcement of doom upon Jerusalem.
5 Tong Isaiah 28:11-12, 14	The idea of Jews hearing about God in another language would be a hard pill to swallow.

Abusing the Gift

6 Tong 1 Corinthians 12:1-3	Chapters 12-14 are a unit that deals with spiritual gifts. Note the introduction gives a test for speaking in the Spirit. There appears to be a problem with people speaking in tongues.
7 Tong 1 Corinthians 14:1-2	Note the great difference to Acts 2 where the people understood what was spoken. In 1 Corinthians, people do not understand it.
8 Tong 1 Corinthians 14:10-12	It appears that people were coming to church and speaking in a foreign language, which was no help to those who did not understand.
9 Tong 1 Corinthians 14:18-19	In church, we should only speak in a language that is understood by the hearers.
10 Tong 1 Corinthians 14:27-28	No-one should speak in a tongue unless there is someone there to interpret what is spoken.
11 Tong 1 Corinthians 14:33	Wherever the Holy Spirit is present, there will be order and harmony — not confusion and disorder.
12 Tong 1 Corinthians 13:1-2	The most important thing is not the gift, but the fruit of the Holy Spirit — love.

Are you glad that God desires to speak with us?

24 | THE JUDGEMENT

The Bible teaches that Christians are saved by grace alone, and not by works. Yet it also teaches that we are judged by our works. Are these two teachings in conflict? How are Christian to relate to judgement?

All Will Be Judged

1 Judg 2 Corinthians 5:10	The Bible teaches that everyone must appear before the judgement seat of Christ.
2 Judg Matthew 12: 36	Jesus spoke of the day of judgement as the day that we that we will give account of what we have done.
3 Judg Acts 24:25	Paul spoke of a future judgement in the context of righteousness and self-control.
4 Judg Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14	During the judgement, nothing will be hidden — whether it is good or evil.

Phase One

5 Judg Daniel 7: 9-10	Phase one of the judgement takes place before the second coming, while the little horn is still in power (see verse 11).
6 Judg Revelation 22:12	When Jesus returns, He'll bring His reward with Him. People's eternal destiny is already decided.

Phase Two

7 Judg Revelation 20:4	During the 1000 years the saved are given authority to judge.
8 Judg 1 Corinthians 6:2-3	The saved will judge the world and even the cases of the fallen angels.

Phase Three

9 Judg Revelation 20:11-12	At the end of the 1000 years, the final phase of the judgement will be executed.
10 Judg Revelation 20:14-14	The lake of fire is the ultimate destiny for anyone not found in the Lamb's book of life.

Getting Through the Judgement

11 Judg Luke 10:20	Jesus told the Disciples to rejoice that their names are written in heaven. This mean their names are in the book of life.
12 Judg John 5:24	If we have found forgiveness in Jesus, we are ready to face the judgement.
13 Judg James 2:12-13	Mercy alone will triumph over judgement. Good works will not save us.

Is it clear that Jesus is the only way to get through the judgement?

25 | THE LITTLE HORN

In order to understand the prophecies of the book of Revelation, we must first understand the prophecies of the book of Daniel. One of the main themes of Daniel's prophecies is the apostasy of the little horn. Identifying this power may hurt some people, but God is identifying a system, not individuals who belong to the system.

The Four Beasts of Daniel 7

1 LH Daniel 7: 1-3	In Daniel's vision, he sees four beasts coming out of the great sea (Mediterranean). These are symbols representing literal events.
2 LH Daniel 7:17, 23	The four beasts are four powers that would arise on the world's scene.
3 LH Daniel 7: 4	The lion represents the kingdoms of Babylon (see Jeremiah 4:7,13; 50:44).
4 LH Daniel 7: 5	The second power is the Medes and the Persians (see 5:28). The three ribs in the mouth represent the three kingdoms it destroyed to come to power.
5 LH Daniel 7:6	The leopard with four heads represents the kingdom of Greece, consisting of Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus.
6 LH Daniel 7:7	The fourth beast is the iron power of Rome.
7 LH Daniel 7:8	The rest of the chapter deals almost exclusively with the identity of the little horn.

Identification of the Little Horn	Fulfilment
A. It arose among the ten horns (verse 8).	The Papacy arose after the breakup of the Roman Empire.
B. It uprooted three of the first horns (verse 8, 20, 24).	The Papacy finally destroyed the Heruli, the Vandals, the Ostrogoths in 538 AD.
C. It had eyes like the eyes of a man (verse 8).	At the head of the Papacy sits a man making decisions that affect millions.
D. Had a mouth that spoke boastfully (verse 8).	The Pope claims infallibility and the power to forgive sins.
E. It waged war against the saints(verse 21, 25).	The Papacy murdered millions during the Dark Ages.
F. It shall try to change set times and laws (verse 25).	The Papacy claims it has power to change God's law.
G. The saints would be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.	A time is a prophetic year of 360 days. Time, times and a half a time is 3 ½ years or 1260 days. 538AD -1798AD.

Please note the Bible has identified a theological system, not any individual belonging to that system. Would you like to follow the truth of the Bible, not man-made traditions?

26 | THE CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS

What happened to the church that Jesus established after He returned to heaven? Revelation 12 traces the church's fortunes from Jesus' day down to the modern era.

The Pure Woman

1 CH Revelation 12:1-2	In symbolic language, God describes a woman clothed with the sun, moon and stars.
2 CH Jeremiah 6:2	The Bible portrays God's covenant people as a woman. See also 2 Corinthians 11:2.
3 CH Genesis 37:9-10	The sun, moon and stars symbolised Jacob, his wife and twelve sons. Clearly the woman of Revelation 12 symbolised God's covenant people.

The Dragon's Hatred of the Woman

4 CH Revelation 12:3-4	The dragon is Satan (verse 9). He swept a third of the Angels from heaven (1:20) and it worked through the Power of Rome to attempt to destroy the baby Jesus (7 heads, 10 horns = Rome).
5 CH Revelation 12:5	This one verse describes the entire victorious and conquering Christ.
6 CH Revelation 12:6	God preserved the woman in the remote places of the earth during the Dark Ages.

The Victorious Christ

7 CH Revelation 12:7-9	The conflict between good and evil originated in heaven, but Michael and His angels were too powerful.
8 CH Revelation 12:10-12	Heaven rejoices about the power of Christ's blood to overcome evil, but announces woe to the earth.

The Dragon Pursued the Woman

9 CH Revelation 12:13-14	God provided remote places in Europe where the woman could hide during the Dark Ages (e.g. Northern Italy and Scotland).
10 CH Revelation 12:15	The Devil attempted to flush the woman out. Water symbolises peoples, multitudes and nations (Revelation 17:15).
11 CH Revelation 12:16	When America was discovered, it provided a safe refuge for persecuted Christians from Europe.
12 CH Revelation 12:17	The dragon now turns his attention to her offspring. They obey God's commandments and hold the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 13 explains how the Devil intends to attack the offspring. Do you want to be part of God's faithful people?

27 | THE TWO BEASTS

The final conflict will involve two great powers, according to Revelation 13. Who are these powers and how will they work together? Let's go to the Bible and find some answers.

The Identifying Marks of the First Beast	Meaning
A. Beast arose from the sea (verse 1).	As in Daniel 7, the beast arose from the sea, symbolising a great population (Rev 17:15).
B. Beast had seven heads and ten horns (verse 1).	The combination of the four beasts in Daniel 7 has seven heads and 10 horns.
C. Beast resembled a leopard, bear and lion (verse 2).	These three beasts are all found in Daniel 7.
D. One of its heads had a fatal wound and the fatal wound was healed (verse 3).	The Papacy received a deadly wound in 1798 by Napoleon's army and was re-established by Mussolini in 1929.
E. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast and worshiped the beast (verses 3,4).	The Papacy has again grown to world-wide prominence.
F. He exercises his authority for 42 months (verse 5).	As in Daniel 7, he reigns for 1260 years (538AD – 1798 AD).
G. He made war against the saints (verse 7).	As in Daniel 7:25, the Papacy was a persecuting power.
H. His number equals 666.	One of the official titles of the Pope is Vicerius Fili Dei, whose numerical value is 666.

The Identifying Marks of the Second Beast	Meaning
A. It arose as the first beast went into captivity (verses 9-11).	As the Papacy went into captivity in 1978, the United States had just become an independent nation.
B. It arose out of the earth (verse 11).	The first beast arose from the sea or populated place (Revelation 17:15). The second beast rose from an unpopulated place.
C. It had two horns like a lamb.	A lamb symbolises Jesus (Revelation 5:6). This is a Christian power.
D. It exercises all the authorities of the first beast (Rev 12).	This would be a world super power.
E. It speaks like a dragon (verse 11).	While it appears as a lamb it acts dragon-like.
F. He makes an image to the first beast (verse 14).	Church and state united with first beast and so will the second beast.
G. It forces all to receive the mark of the beast (verse 16).	The mark of the beast's authority is found in their claim to change God's law (Daniel 7:25). Sunday observance is the mark of the beast's authority.

28 | SHOULD A CHRISTIAN DRINK?

Alcohol was used by God's people throughout the Bible. Many use this as an argument to justify drinking today. But what light has the Bible shed in the use of alcohol? Does the Bible really endorse drinking alcohol?

A loss of Morals

1 Drink Genesis 9:20-24	The first domestic dispute after the flood resulted from the use of alcohol. Note: Noah was not naked when he started drinking.
2 Drink Genesis 19:30-33	Lot would have never acted in such an immoral way if he was sober.
3 Drink Leviticus 10:1,2	Nadab and Abihu came into God's presence with a careless and presumptuous attitude.
4 Drink Leviticus 10:8-10	The reasons Aaron's sons were careless was because they were drunk.
5 Drink 2 Samuel 11:10-13	David knew the power of alcohol to deceive and attempted to get Uriah drunk.

Leads to conflict

6 Drink Proverbs 20:1	The wise should never be led to mocking or brawling through the use of alcohol.
7 Drink Proverbs 23:29-35	Solomon explains well the sad side effects of drinking.

Christian reject

8 Drink Matthew 27:34	Jesus was offered alcohol only once in the Bible, but He refused to drink it after tasting it.
9 Drink 1 Corinthians 6:9-10	No drunkard can be a part of God's kingdom.
10 Drink Ephesians 5:18	Paul contrasts being filled with the Holy Spirit and being drunk. You can only have one.

Alcohol has such a devastating effect on us physically, as well as to society (e.g. domestic disputes, car accidents, violence etc). Do you want to take a stand for social justice and say no to alcohol?

29 | HEAVEN

Does Heaven really exist? Is it a real, tangible city where God lives? Or is it a concept that describes a happy state of mind?

Heaven is a Real Place

1 H John 14:1-3	Heaven is a real place that Jesus has been preparing for the saved.
2 H 2 Peter 3:10-13	God has promised to create a new heaven and a new earth, where we will spend eternity.
3 H Hebrews 11:16	God Himself will build the city and it will be as real and literal as any you have known.
4 H Revelation 21:1-4	The Bible ends how it began. God has face to face fellowship with man.

A Glorious Place

5 H Isaiah 35:5-6	Physical deformities will be cured.
6 H Isaiah 65:21-22	On the new earth, homes are going to be built and gardens planted.
7 H Isaiah 65:25	The animal kingdom will be changed. Animals will no longer kill for food.
8 H Revelation 22:1-2	The Bible says the tree of life will be in heaven. As we eat from this tree, we will be restored to our original state.
9 H Revelation 4:2-4	God's throne is in Heaven and He is surrounded by four living creatures.
10 H Revelation 21:16-18	The new Jerusalem is perfectly square, measuring about 1400 miles around the perimeter.
11 H Phil 3:20-21	We will be given new, glorious bodies.
12 H 1 Corinthians 2:9	Even in our wildest dreams, we cannot comprehend the marvels of God's eternal kingdom.

What a tragedy it would be to miss out on what God has prepared for us. Would you like to accept His invitation to be with Him in Paradise?

30 | THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

The Bible is full of references to angels. The book of Revelation makes more than 70 references to angels. Who are the angels mentioned in the Bible? How are they involved in our lives? What do we need to know about them?

Created Above Mankind

1 Ang Psalm 8:4-5	The Bible says that we are created a little lower than the angels.
2 Ang Matthew 22:30	Angels do not marry, but are a different order of creation that do not procreate as humans do.
3 Ang Acts 12:6-10	Angels break chains, open doors and pass guards unseen.
4 Ang 2 Kings 19:35-36	185,000 men were put to death by a single angel.
5 Ang Daniel 6:22	Daniel was kept alive through the ministry of an angel who kept the lions' mouths closed.

Ministering Spirits

6 Ang Matthew 18:10	Jesus said that we all have an angel who stands in God's presence.
7 Ang Psalm 103:20-21	Angels are obedient to God's every word.
8 Ang Hebrew 1:14	Angels are sent to serve those who will be saved in thousands of different ways and circumstances.
9 Ang Isaiah 6:2-3	Seraphs are a class of angels who have six wings and stand in God's presence.
10 Ang Genesis 3:24	Cherubim are another class of angels who have two wings (Exodus 25:18-20).

Communicate God's Will

11 Ang Luke 1:19	Gabriel came straight from God's presence to speak with Zechariah the priest.
12 Ang Acts 27:22-24	Paul was encouraged by an angel during a violent storm at sea.

Attend Christ at the Second Coming

13 Ang Matthew 25:31	When Jesus returns, the sky will be filled with angels whose presence will bring glory to Christ.
14 Ang Matthew 24:31	Angels will gather God's people from the earth at the second coming so they can meet the Lord in the air.

Are you glad God created the angels? Even though we cannot see them they are with us wherever we go.

31 | SPIRITISM & EVIL SPIRITS

Increasingly, the occult and demonic spirits are being felt in our society and culture. How does Satan work through these powers and how can I avoid their influence in my life? What should I do if I am confronted with such evil?

Based on the First Lie

1 Sp Genesis 3:4-5	Spiritism is based on the first lie that you will not die, and death is just a door to a better and superior existence.
2 Sp Ecclesiastes 9:10	The grave is what awaits the dead. There is no new knowledge or experience, but it is an unconscious sleep.
3 Sp Deuteronomy 18:10-11	God forbade His people from contacting the dead, or using a medium or a spiritist. We must always avoid this and its increasing influence through media.

Our Struggle Against

4 Sp Ephesians 6:12	A Christian's primary battle is not with men, but with spiritual forces of evil.
5 Sp 1 Thessalonians 2:18	Paul recognised that the circumstances that prevent the gospel being preached were not accidental, but part of the spiritual battle.
6 Sp Luke 22:3-4	Judas continued down a path of rejecting Jesus' authority over his life until he was controlled by evil.
7 Sp Acts 5:3	The devil filled the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira, and led them to make wrong choices.
8 Sp Job 2:7-8	The devil was able to afflict Job with sores and bring terrible trouble upon his entire life.
9 Sp Revelation 16:13-14	Evil spirits will increase their influence once we approach the great and final battle.

Jesus' Power Over Evil

10 Sp Colossians 2:15	The forces of evil threw everything they had at Jesus, but failed! Jesus has already won the battle and put down the rebellion.
11 Sp Job 1:9-10	God had put an invisible hedge around everything that belonged to Job.
12 Sp Acts 19:13-15	Having a personal relationship with Jesus is the most important thing of all.
13 Sp Ephesians 6:13-18	The invisible armour of God enables us to withstand anything that the forces of evil attempt.

Do you want to withstand the attacks of the devil by standing in God's armour?

32 | DISCOURAGEMENT

Discouragement is something that can happen to the most godly of people. What should we do when we find ourselves weighed down with discouragement? What is God's counsel to those who want to encourage others?

Happens to the Best of People

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| 1 Disc
1 Kings 19:3-4 | Elijah was one of the greatest prophets, but suffered from severe discouragement to the point that he wanted to die. |
| 2 Disc
Isaiah 6:5 | Isaiah became overwhelmed with his sinfulness when confronted with the righteousness of God. |
| 3 Disc
Matthew 26:37-38 | Even Jesus, as He faced the cross and separation from His Father in Gethsemane, was discouraged and sorrowful to the point of death. |

Spend Time With Godly People

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| 4 Disc
1 Thessalonians 5:11 | We are to encourage each other and build up those who are down or in need. |
| 5 Disc
Acts 14:21-22 | It is vitally important that new believers are strengthened and encouraged. |
| 6 Disc
Mark 14:32-33 | Jesus took His closest friends with Him in His time of discouragement. |

Leave Your Cares at Jesus' Feet

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| 7 Disc
Phil 4: 6-7 | Leaving all your cares with God will always lift your burdens. |
| 8 Disc
Romans 15:4 | The Bible is a great source of encouragement and hope for those who are in need. |

Sing Praises To God

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| 9 Disc
Ephesians 5:19-20 | Singing spiritual songs and psalms are a great encouragement to those who are discouraged. |
| 10 Disc
1 Samuel 16:23 | David made music to encourage Saul and relieve the evil influence that troubled him. |

Dwell on Our Eternal Hope

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| 11 Disc
1 Peter 1:3-6 | We have every reason in the world to be encouraged with what we have. |
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Do you want to leave your troubles with God and be encouraged in Him?

