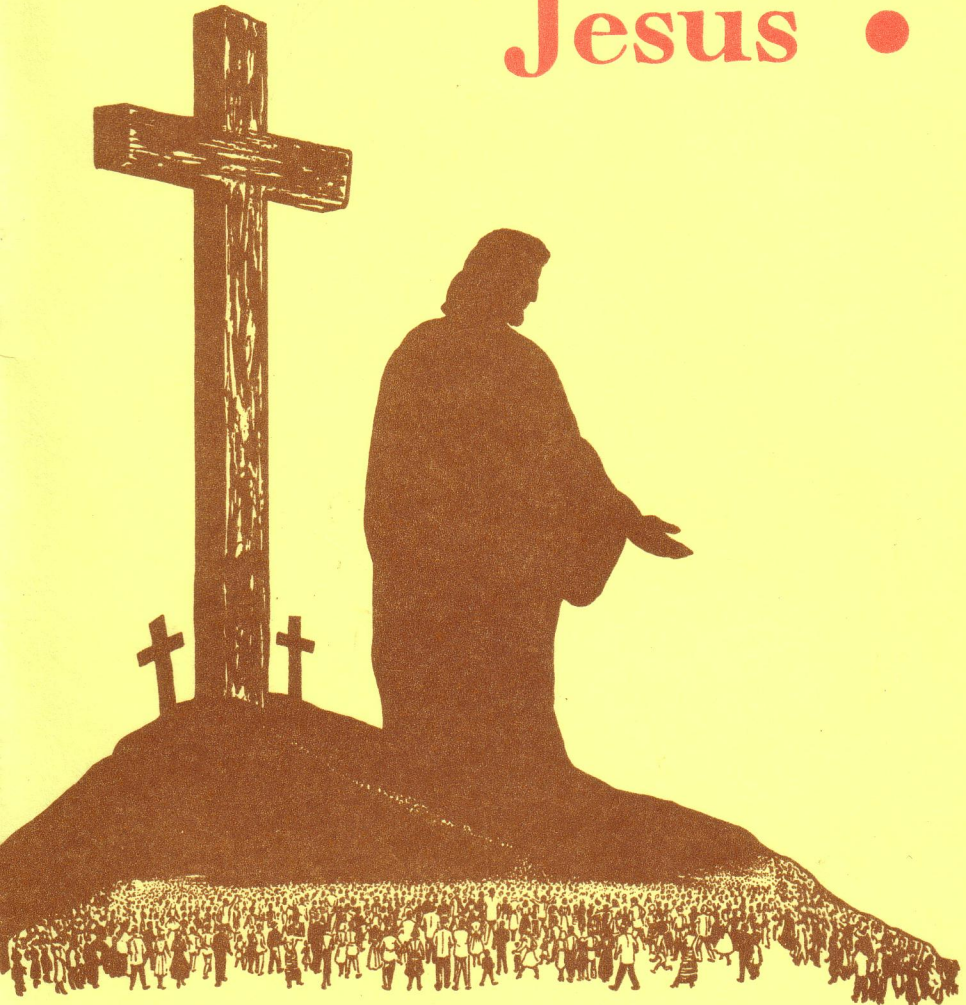


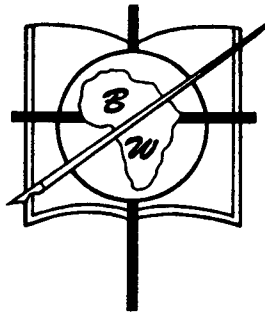
who
is
Jesus ?



by **TOM SMALL**

WHO IS JESUS?

by Tom Small



ISBN 0 86883 023 2

Published by
Bible Way International
Correspondence School
1990

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LESSON	PAGE
General Information and Instructions	3
1 Jesus is the Promised One of the Old Testament	5
2 Jesus is the Son of God	9
3 Jesus is God	12
4 Jesus was Sinless Man	15
5 Jesus is the Word of God	18
6 Jesus is the Lamb of God	21
7 Jesus is Saviour	24
8 Jesus is the One with all Power	27
9 Jesus is the Conqueror of Death	31
10 Jesus is Lord	35
11 Jesus is Judge	38
12 Jesus is God's Gift for all People	41
An Invitation to Accept Jesus Christ	43

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

THE BIBLE WAY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL is designed for those who have had no previous training in Bible study. Yet it is presented in such a way that those who have studied the Bible for years will find help in these lessons.

The purpose of these studies is to present God's plan of salvation, to train in Bible knowledge, and to promote Christian growth in the believer. Any and all are welcome to take this course.

A Bible should always be beside you as you study these lessons. You should read carefully each reference as it is mentioned in the lesson you are studying. If there are words in the Bible or in the lesson which you do not understand, then you should look them up in a good dictionary.

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LESSON ONE

JESUS IS THE PROMISED ONE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Memory Verse:

"To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43).

INTRODUCTION

In these twelve lessons we shall learn some of the great truths concerning Jesus which are taught in God's Word, the Bible. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born the prophets of the Old Testament spoke God's message to the people saying that God would send a Saviour into the world. They not only told that a Saviour would come, but they also told certain things which would happen in his life.

Now let us consider the memory verse, Acts 10:43. As Peter preached to a group of people, he spoke the words found in our memory verse. He reminded them all the prophets had told of Jesus and how salvation from sin could be had through faith in Jesus Christ.

This first lesson will be a study of some of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the promised Saviour. We will look to the New Testament and see how these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. As we do this study, we should also remember this: the prophets of the Old Testament lived and spoke hundreds of years before Jesus was born. They spoke as God instructed them by his Spirit, and the things they said happened just as God had said they would.

THE PLACE OF JESUS' BIRTH WAS FORETOLD

Read Micah 5:2. Micah spoke these words more than 700 years before Jesus was born. Man could not possibly have such knowledge. He could have known this only as the Spirit of God taught him.

Now read Matthew 2:1-6. Yes, Jesus is the one who fulfilled this Old Testament prophecy.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH WAS FORETOLD

Read Isaiah 7:14. In Luke 1:26-35 we read how Mary, who was a virgin, became the mother of Jesus. We know a virgin could never have given birth to a child except by the power of God. This is exactly what did happen.

Although Joseph was known as the earthly father of Jesus, God's Word teaches us clearly that Joseph and Mary did not live together as husband and wife until after Jesus was born. We learn of this in Matthew 1:18-25. The words of Isaiah were not fulfilled for many years. But in the birth of Jesus all was accomplished just as God had promised through the prophet Isaiah.

JESUS BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS FORETOLD

Read Isaiah 42:1. As we read the New Testament we find that this promise made by Isaiah was surely accomplished. Indeed Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is called by the name 'Holy Ghost' or 'Holy Spirit' in the New Testament. Read carefully John 1:32-34, and John 3:34-35.

THE REJECTION OF JESUS WAS FORETOLD

Read Isaiah 53:3. For many years the people of Israel had been looking for a Saviour because of the words of the prophets. However, they had failed to understand the kind of Saviour God was going to send them. They wanted a Saviour who could save them from their earthly enemies and give them great wealth and power. God planned to send Jesus to save all people from their sin. Jesus refused to do what the people expected him to do; he spoke to them concerning their sin and need for repentance. God knew this would cause the people to reject and crucify Jesus. This was spoken of long before it happened so when it happened the people would understand how Jesus had fulfilled this prophecy also. In the New Testament we read how the rulers and religious leaders came to hate Jesus and finally crucified him.

THE ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM WAS FORETOLD

Read Zechariah 9:9. This prophecy accurately tells how Jesus would make his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, as a lowly person riding upon a donkey.

Now read Matthew 21:1-9. This also happened in the life of Jesus just as the prophets of long ago had promised.

THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS WAS FORETOLD

Read Psalm 41:9. This verse tells us the betrayer of Jesus would be someone who was very close to him. Judas Iscariot was that man. He lived as one of Jesus' disciples for three years. He even preached. But his heart was not right with God. In John 12:4-6 we learn Judas had been stealing money. Because of his love for money he agreed to betray Jesus. In doing this he fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 41:9. Read of its fulfillment in Matthew 26:14-16 and 20-25.

THE DEATH OF JESUS WAS FORETOLD

There are many prophecies in the Old Testament which tell of Jesus' death. We cannot study them all in this short lesson, but we will consider a few. First, read the account of Jesus' crucifixion in Matthew 27:27-50. Now let us look at some of the prophecies in the Old Testament which foretold exact incidents which happened in the death of Jesus.

1. He remained silent at his trial (Isaiah 53:7 and Matthew 27:12-14).
2. They gambled for his clothes (Psalm 22:18 and Matthew 27:35).
3. He was numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12 and Mark 15:27, 28).
4. The people mocked and despised him (Psalm 22:6-8 and Matthew 27:39-43).
5. His hands and feet were pierced (Psalm 22:16 and John 20:25).
6. He cried to God (Psalm 22:1 and Matthew 27:46).
7. His death on the cross was because of our sins (Isaiah 53:6 and 2 Corinthians 5:21).

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS FORETOLD

Read Psalm 16:10. Now read Acts 2:22-27. As the Apostle Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, he used this Scripture from the Psalms as proof that God had foretold the resurrection of Jesus. When Peter had finished his message many of the people realized how Jesus had fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. They then believed Jesus must surely be the promised Saviour of the Scriptures. That very day about three thousand people repented and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. When they did this, they received forgiveness of sin and life eternal.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Acts 10:43
Isaiah 53:3, 6-7, 12
Psalm 41:9
2 Corinthians 5:21
Acts 2:22-27
Luke 1:26-35
Zechariah 9:9
Psalm 22:1, 6-8, 16, 18
Isaiah 42:1
John 3:34-35
Matthew 26:14-16, 20-25
Psalm 16:10

Micah 5:2
Matthew 2:1-6
Matthew 27:12-14
Matthew 27:27-50
Isaiah 7:14
Matthew 1:18-25
John 12:4-6
Mark 15:27-28
John 1:32-34
Matthew 21:1-9
John 20:25

LESSON TWO

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Memory Verse:

"And lo a voice from heaven, saying 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:17).

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we will study what the Bible teaches concerning Jesus as the Son of God. There are some people who say: "We agree that Jesus is the Son of God. We agree because all people are the sons of God. God has created us all and he is our heavenly Father."

This is not what the Bible teaches concerning Jesus as the Son of God. The Bible teaches Jesus is the Son of God in a very special way. He is the only begotten Son of God. There is not, has never been, and will never be another related to God as Jesus was.

JESUS HAD NO EARTHLY FATHER

Read carefully Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35. From these verses we learn the following things. Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear a child. She said this would be impossible because she was still a virgin. He told her the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the child born to her would be the Son of God. When Joseph learned Mary was pregnant, he planned to break the engagement. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and explained to him how Mary came to be with this child. Then Joseph took Mary as his wife, but they did not live together as husband and wife until after the baby Jesus was born. We see then that Jesus had no earthly father because Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit.

THE ANGEL GABRIEL DECLARED JESUS TO BE THE SON OF GOD

Read again Luke 1:35. Now ask yourself this question, "According to the words of the angel Gabriel, who is Jesus?" We see at once there is only one answer: Jesus is the Son of God. Some people try to be very wise and raise questions concerning the identity of Jesus. The angel from heaven, with knowledge surpassing the knowledge of all people, had no

questions about this. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

JOHN THE BAPTIST TESTIFIED JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD

Turn to John 1:29-34 and study the passage. God had sent John the Baptist to prepare the hearts of the people to receive Jesus, the promised Saviour. John did this by calling the people to repentance. God also told John how he would be able to recognize this promised Saviour when he came. How would he know him? Read verse 33 again. When John saw the Holy Spirit descending and remaining upon Jesus, he knew that Jesus was the promised Saviour. He also testified that Jesus was the Son of God (verse 34).

GOD HIMSELF TESTIFIED JESUS WAS HIS SON

The following verses teach us this very clearly: Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; and Luke 9:34-35.

The disciples understood clearly that the voice they heard was the voice of God. Years later when Peter was writing of the things which happened on the Mount of Transfiguration, he said Jesus received honour and glory from God the Father. They heard the voice saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (2 Peter 1:17-18). God wanted people to understand clearly that Jesus was his Son.

EVIL SPIRITS TESTIFIED JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD

The Bible gives many examples of evil spirits recognizing Jesus and acknowledging him as the Son of God. Let us look at one or two of these examples. Read Luke 8:26-39. In this passage the devils testified that Jesus was the one who had power to destroy them. Now turn to Mark 1:23-27. Here the unclean spirit proclaims Jesus to be the Holy One of God. Notice, Jesus told the unclean spirit to be quiet. He did not want Satan or those filled with the spirit of Satan to preach concerning him. Who should tell about Jesus? Read again Luke 8:39. This man's life had been made right by the power of Jesus. It was this man, and those like him today, whom Jesus wants to give witness concerning him.

THE DISCIPLES TESTIFIED JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD

Read Matthew 16:13-17 and John 6:67-69. The disciples had lived with Jesus for about three years. They had watched his life closely. They had heard him teach the wonderful things of God. They had seen his sin-

less life. They had seen the great miracles which he did. Because of these things they knew that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

JESUS HIMSELF TESTIFIED HE WAS THE SON OF GOD

When Jesus was being tried, the people hearing the case were unable to find witnesses who could prove Jesus was guilty of sin. They then asked Jesus this question, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus gave a very straightforward answer, "I am" (Mark 14:60-62). If Jesus had said he was not the Son of God, perhaps his life would have been spared. He refused to lie about it. He wanted people to understand who he was -- the Son of God.

JESUS' RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD TESTIFIED HE WAS THE SON OF GOD

While Jesus was with his disciples he told them many times he would be put to death and would rise from the grave on the third day. (Read Matthew 16:21; John 2:18-22; John 10:17-18.) The enemies of Jesus had also heard of these words. This is why they did everything possible to prevent the resurrection of Jesus. They had a great stone put at the entrance of the cave where Jesus' body had been buried. They had a seal put on the stone. They had soldiers guarding the entrance. How foolish they were! The strength of man could never stop the work of God. Jesus arose from the dead just as he had said he would. His resurrection proved he spoke the truth. It proved he was indeed the Son of God (Romans 1:4).

Yes, the Bible speaks very plainly concerning Jesus. He was and is the Son of God. To deny this is to deny the Word of God. Let us accept the truth of who Jesus is and trust him always as Son of God and Saviour of all who believe on him.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Matthew 3:16-17
Matthew 17:5
Matthew 16:13-17, 21
Mark 14:60-62
Matthew 1:18-25
Mark 9:7
Mark 1:23-27
John 2:18-22

Luke 1:26-35
Luke 9:34-35
Luke 8:26-39
John 10:17-18
John 1:29-34
2 Peter 1:17-18
John 6:67-69
Romans 1:4

LESSON THREE

JESUS IS GOD

Memory Verse:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

INTRODUCTION

We learned in the last lesson that Jesus is the Son of God. In this lesson we shall see that Jesus is also God himself. Perhaps you are asking, "I do not understand this. How can Jesus be the Son of God and also be God?" At the very beginning of this study we must understand the following truth clearly: God is greater than our understanding. We know about God because God has chosen to reveal himself to us. We do not know God because of our own cleverness. In 1 Corinthians 1:21 we read these words, "... the world did not know God through wisdom..." It is our purpose in these lessons to learn what God teaches us in the Bible concerning Jesus. We shall see the Bible teaches very clearly that Jesus is God.

WE ARE TOLD PLAINLY JESUS IS GOD

Let us find two verses which tell us this. The first is John 1:1, which is our memory verse for this lesson. When John refers to "the Word," he is referring to Jesus Christ. This verse tells us, "...and the Word was God." To deny that God and the Word (Jesus) are the same is to deny the truth of the Bible itself.

The second verse we need to read is Romans 9:5. This verse is talking about the children of Israel and how they received the law and the promises of God. It goes on to tell how, according to the flesh, Jesus was born of their nation. In other words, in the eyes of men, Jesus would be considered an Israelite. But, so all would understand the true nature of Jesus, it was added concerning the Christ that he is God over all, blessed forever. (Also read Phillipians 2:9-11).

The truth that Jesus is God is not found in these verses alone. We will study others which also make his true nature very clear to us.

JESUS' POWER TO FORGIVE SIN SHOWS HE IS GOD

All sin is against God. Long ago King David prayed to God and said, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned" (Psalm 51:4). The only person who can forgive sin is the one who has been sinned against. We shall see that Jesus had power to forgive sin (Mark 2:1-12). From this Scripture we learn many things. Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven. The enemies of Jesus said only God could forgive sin. They were right about that. Then they accused Jesus of doing evil because he was claiming authority which belonged to God alone. Jesus then healed the man that he might prove to the people he did possess the power to forgive sins.

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

JESUS CLAIMED EQUAL HONOUR WITH GOD

Jesus makes it clear that men are to honour him as they honour the Father (John 5:23). If you begin reading from verse 17, you will find the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. They said he was teaching he was equal with God (John 5:18). If Jesus had not been equal with God, he would certainly have corrected their mistaken idea. He would have assured them they had misunderstood and that he did not claim to be equal with God. Did he do this? No. Instead, Jesus told them, "All may honour the Son, even as they honour the Father" (verse 23).

Again, Jesus' equality with God is taught very clearly in Philipplians 2:6. This verse tells us Jesus was in the form of God before he came to earth. Jesus did not think it was taking something which did not belong to him when he claimed equality with God.

JESUS ACCEPTED WORSHIP AS GOD

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

should have done.

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

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

GOD WAS IN CHRIST

Sometimes people do not want to honour Jesus as they honour the Father. They mockingly say, "If Jesus is God, that means that God died upon the Cross." Actually, this is exactly what the Bible teaches us. In 2 Corinthians 5:19, we are told this, "...God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself."

We also read concerning this in Acts 20:28. Paul was talking to the elders from the church at Ephesus. He told them how they must care for the church of God which he obtained with his own blood. As you read this passage carefully you will see that Paul is talking about God.

There are many things our minds do not understand. When we look about us in the world we see so many things which are beyond our understanding. If we cannot understand these things which have been created by God, how foolish we are to demand to understand fully the deep things of God. However, we can believe the things which God teaches us. We have seen that the Bible definitely teaches Jesus is God. We may not understand all about it, but we can believe it because God came to earth in flesh, lived among men, and died for their sins that they might have life eternal through faith in him.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

1 Corinthians 1:21
Romans 9:5
Psalm 51:4
John 5:17-23
Revelation 19:10
2 Corinthians 5:19

John 1:1
Philippians 2:9-11
Mark 2:1-12
Acts 14:8-18
Acts 20:28
John 20:27-29

LESSON FOUR

JESUS WAS SINLESS MAN

Memory Verse:

"For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

INTRODUCTION

In lessons two and three we learned about the deity of Jesus. We saw that he was the Son of God and also God. In this lesson we will learn what the Bible teaches concerning the humanity of Jesus. We shall see Jesus was man in every way like ourselves except he was without sin. If we are to begin to understand the true nature of Jesus, we must understand he was both God and man (John 10:30, Philippians 2:5-8).

Let us think about it in this way. A man may hold a coin in his hand. He knows it is one coin. He also knows the one coin has two sides. The nature of Jesus can be compared to this. The nature of Jesus was one, but this one nature possessed two sides -- the divine side and the human side.

As we study the humanity of Jesus, let us also keep clearly in our minds that Jesus is God.

JESUS WAS MAN

In our previous study we saw the Bible teaches Jesus was God. Now let us consider some of the things the Bible tells us about Jesus which cause us to know he was also man.

1. Jesus was born of woman just as we are. Although God was his father, he was conceived in the womb of Mary. He developed and was born as are all other babies (Galatians 4:4). Also read Luke 1:31; 2:6-7.
2. The body of Jesus was like ours.
 - (a) He grew from childhood to manhood as all other people do (Luke 2:52).
 - (b) He felt hunger and thirst as all other people do (Matthew 4:2; John 19:28).
 - (c) He became tired just as all other people do (John 4:6).

3. The emotions of Jesus were like our emotions:
- (a) He felt such great sorrow upon the death of a friend that he wept (John 11:34-36).
 - (b) He felt compassion because of the sufferings of others (Matthew 9:35,36).
 - (c) He felt grief and anger because of the sinfulness of people (Mark 3:5).

AS A MAN, JESUS WAS TEMPTED JUST AS WE ARE TEMPTED

Jesus is called our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-15). The passage goes on to say he was tempted in every respect as we are tempted. We must not think that the only time Jesus was tempted was when Satan came to him after he had fasted for forty days and nights. Jesus was tempted many different times in many different ways. Although he was tempted he never yielded to temptation and therefore never sinned.

At one time Satan even tempted Jesus through Simon Peter, one of the disciples. When Jesus told the disciples how he must soon suffer and die, Peter rebuked him. Peter told Jesus that such a thing should never happen to him. Satan was using Peter to tempt Jesus to avoid dying on the cross. If Satan could have persuaded Jesus to avoid dying on the cross, there would have been no salvation for mankind. Jesus understood exactly what Satan was attempting to do through Peter. That is why he spoke to Peter as he did. (Read Matthew 16:21-23). All of us should understand this. There are times when Satan will tempt us through our friends in order to get us to turn aside from the will of God.

Let us understand another thing concerning the temptations of Jesus. He refused to use his own power to make his temptations lighter. When he was hungry, Satan tempted him to turn the stones into bread. Jesus had the power to do this. Jesus refused to use his power to lighten the temptations put upon him by Satan. Why? If he had done this he would not have been tempted as we are tempted. He could not truly have been our representative. For instance, a hungry man who robbed or stole might try to excuse himself by saying, "Yes, when Jesus was hungry he turned stones into bread. I cannot do this, but I will satisfy my hunger by robbing or stealing." Because Jesus endured the full force of Satan's temptations, he can fully understand and sympathize with our temptations. If we will depend upon him he will give us power to overcome Satan just as he did.

JESUS LIVED A LIFE WITHOUT SIN

Read the following Bible verses: Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1

Peter 2:22. This is the one way in which Jesus, as a man, was different from all of mankind. All people have sinned, but Jesus never sinned.

Many people fail to realize that there are two ways in which a person can sin. The first way is by doing that which he knows to be evil. The Bible tells us certain things God does not want us to do. When a person refuses God's will and does these things he is sinning against God. We see, then, it is sin to do a thing which we know to be wrong.

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

When we say Jesus was without sin, we mean he never did anything which was evil in the eyes of God. He never did evil. He never failed to do good.

THE IMPORTANCE OF JESUS BEING THE SINLESS MAN

In 2 Corinthians 5:21, we learn that Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Jesus. If Jesus had sinned, he could not have died in the place of sinful humanity. He would have had to bear the punishment of his own sin.

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

Jesus, as sinless man, never committed any sin. He did not have to suffer on account of sin. That is why, as sinless man, he was able to suffer in our place.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Hebrews 4:14-15

Philippians 2:5-8

Luke 1:31

Luke 2:6-7, 52

John 19:28

John 11:34-36

Mark 3:5

2 Corinthians 5:21

John 10:30

Galatians 4:4

James 4:17

Matthew 4:2

John 4:6

Matthew 9:35-36

Matthew 16:21-23

1 Peter 2:22

LESSON FIVE

JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD

Memory Verse:

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

INTRODUCTION

As we study John 1:1-14 we read about the Word. Perhaps the question comes to your mind, "Who is the Word?" Our memory verse will give us the answer to this. We read that "the Word" became flesh and dwelt among us. We know for certain then, the Word is Jesus. But why is Jesus called the Word? Let us think about it in this way. Suppose you are thinking a certain thing in your heart. How are you going to make known to your friends the thing which you are thinking? You must tell them. You will use words to cause your friends to know the thing you want them to know.

God sent Jesus, the Word, to make his message known to mankind. It is Jesus who causes us to know those things which are in the very heart of God himself. Jesus makes God's message known by his teachings and by his actions. That is why Jesus is called the Word. He is God's Word to all mankind for all time. "The Word" is one of the many names or titles of Jesus. Let us now see some of the great truths about God which Jesus, the Word of God, reveals to us.

JESUS REVEALS THE TRUE CHARACTER OF GOD

Jesus said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Many people have asked in their hearts, "What is the true character of God?" It is impossible to describe accurately the character of someone whom we have never seen, especially when that one is God. We need to see a person in order to know him. That is exactly what happened with Jesus. God let us see himself in Jesus Christ. The prophets of the Old Testament tried in many different ways to tell the people about the true character of God. What they said was true, but they were never able to tell everything about God, because they had never seen him. Man came to see and understand much more about God after they had seen our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, Jesus was God's Word to man to enable man to begin

to know the character of God.

JESUS REVEALS GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

People around the world feel a need for God in their hearts. They know they have sinned against God. They know sin causes things to be wrong between them and God. They begin to think, "How can I make things right between myself and God?" In their effort to make things right they do many different things. Some worship ancestral spirits. Some worship idols. Some offer living sacrifices. Some follow the teachings of man. None of these things is right. If a person wants God's salvation, he must not follow his own thinking or the thinking of another person. He must learn and follow the plan of God.

Jesus is God's Word to man concerning the true way of salvation. Any plan of salvation which differs from the plan which God has given in Jesus Christ is a false plan. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

JESUS REVEALS THE WILL OF GOD FOR THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS

We have already seen Jesus is God's Word to man and reveals God's plan of salvation to man. Jesus is also God's Word to the person who has been saved, so that the saved person may know how he should live. The Christian should read the Bible carefully. He should study the life of Jesus. In the life of Jesus the will of God mattered more than anything else. When Jesus thought of the great suffering which would be his upon the cross, he prayed to God, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). If there was a way to escape the suffering of the cross, Jesus wanted to escape it. But greater than his desire to avoid the approaching suffering was his desire to do the will of God. Because Jesus put the will of God before his own wishes, there is a way of salvation for us today.

We must also remember this: Jesus was God's Word to mankind. He not only told people they should obey God; he showed them how they could obey God. They do it by putting God's will above all else in their lives.

JESUS REVEALED THE TRUTH CONCERNING LIFE AFTER DEATH

Read John 14:1-6. In these verses Jesus told his followers about God's plan for life after death. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (verse 6).

We shall be studying more about life after death in Lesson Eleven of this course. In the meantime, let us keep clearly in mind that Jesus is God's Word to us. If we truly want to understand about life after death, then we must hear him.

JESUS IS GOD'S FINAL WORD TO MAN

When the full truth has been told, there is no need for anything else to be added. In Jesus Christ, God told the full truth about himself, salvation and Christian living. In Colossians 1:15 we read concerning Jesus, "He is the image of the invisible God." God is perfectly revealed in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, if a person wants to know the truth about God, he must learn this truth from Jesus Christ. Other people come and say, "But God has told us more about himself than is written in the Bible. We have the Bible and we have additional truth." This is a lie. God's revelation of himself was completed in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit interprets it and leads us into all truth.

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

God has spoken very clearly about those who seek to change the Bible in any way. The last book of the Bible clearly says anyone who comes with "extras", has not come from God. "I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if any one adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book" (Revelation 22:18,19).

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

**John 1:1-14
Matthew 26:39
Revelation 22:18-19**

**John 14:1-6, 9
Colossians 1:15**

LESSON SIX

JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD

Memory Verse:

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

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we will be learning about Jesus, who is called the Lamb of God. In the days of the Old Testament, a lamb was used as a sacrifice for sin. God had given the people definite instructions about sacrifices. Therefore, when John the Baptist spoke of Jesus as "the Lamb of God", the words had great meaning to the people who listened. If these words describing Jesus are to have the same meaning for us, we must learn about the sacrificial lambs of the Old Testament. As we understand the meaning of the sacrificial lambs of the Old Testament, we will understand in a better way concerning who Jesus was and what he has done for us.

THE NEED FOR A LAMB

God gave his people many commandments in the Old Testament. There were certain things they were told not to do. There were other things they should do. When a person knows God's will and refuses to do it, he sins against God. Sin is refusing the will of God so we may do our own will (Isaiah 53:6).

Now let us imagine the case of a man who lived in the days of the Old Testament. This man had sinned against God. After he had committed sin he became very sorry and began to think, "What can I do?" He went to the priest and said, "I have sinned against God. What must I do?"

The priest would explain to him that sin is very serious in the eyes of God. Sin must be punished. The sinner must either suffer the punishment for his sin or another must suffer the punishment in his place. The priest would go on to tell him God had made a plan for a lamb to be sacrificed because of his sin. In other words, the lamb would suffer the punishment for sin in the place of the one who sinned. Then the sin could be forgiven. Read Leviticus 4:32-35.

Suppose the man then asked, "But, sir, let me confess my sin to you and perhaps God will forgive my sin." The priest would have to reply, "No.

According to the plan of God, where there is sin, there must be a death to pay the penalty of sin."

Perhaps the man would then say, "But, sir, if I promise I will never sin again, could not this sin be forgiven without the sacrificing of my lamb?" The priest would have to answer, "No, your sin has already been committed. And according to the plan of God, if there is to be forgiveness of sin, there must be the shedding of blood." (Read Hebrews 9:22). At last the man would realize that if he was to receive forgiveness for his sin, he must follow God's plan. This plan called for the sacrificing of a lamb, and the result would be the forgiveness of sin.

THE KIND OF LAMB REQUIRED

God also makes it very clear in the Bible that the lamb must be a perfect lamb. A lamb that was sick or injured or imperfect in any way would not be acceptable to God. When the lamb was brought, the priest would examine it very carefully to be sure that it met all the requirements given in the Old Testament.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, was perfect. He was without sin. God himself examined Jesus and said of him, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Therefore, Jesus, the perfect and sinless one, met God's requirements so that he could be our sacrificial lamb.

THE DEATH OF THE LAMB ON BEHALF OF THE SINNER

After the man returned with the lamb, the priest would inspect it carefully. If the lamb was approved by the priest, two things would happen. First, the man would put his hands upon the head of the lamb and confess his sin. This was a symbol that the sin confessed was being removed from the man and put upon the lamb.

Second, the lamb, which had now taken the sin and guilt of the man upon itself, must die. The priest took the lamb and killed it according to the instructions given by God. The innocent lamb had died for the guilty man.

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

In the Old Testament a lamb had to be killed each time a person needed forgiveness of sin. This is because the sacrificial lamb was a symbol which pointed to the perfect sacrifice. Now, the sacrifice Christ made is different. He was the perfect Lamb of God. Therefore, he made the per-

fect sacrifice for all people of all time. Read Hebrews 7:27 and 1 Peter 3:18.

THE WAY OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN

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

1. He must realize he has sinned against God (Read Romans 3:23).
2. He must feel true sorrow in his heart because of sin and desire to leave all his sin. God will not accept a sacrifice unless there is true repentance (Read Psalm 51:17).

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

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

John 1:29

Leviticus 4:32-35

2 Corinthians 5:21

Hebrews 7:27

Romans 3:23

Psalm 51:17

Isaiah 53:6

Hebrews 9:22

Matthew 3:17

1 Peter 3:18

LESSON SEVEN

JESUS IS SAVIOUR

Memory Verse:

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)

INTRODUCTION

In lesson six we studied what Jesus did in order that he might save us. He died as the Lamb of God because of our sins. This is why we call him 'Saviour'. In this lesson we will learn about Jesus as Saviour and the salvation he freely gives to all who repent of their sins and trust him.

JESUS IS THE ONLY SAVIOUR

Many times the question is asked, "If a person is of another religion such as Islam, Hinduism, etc., will not that person be saved?" According to the Bible the answer is "No. Jesus, the Son of God, is the only one who can save."

Let us suppose that a man wants to go on a journey. There is only one road which will take him where he wants to go. The man becomes confused as he prepares to begin his journey. In his confusion he chooses the wrong road. He mistakenly takes the road which goes in the opposite direction to that which he wanted to take. He is very sincere in believing that he is traveling the correct road. Although he is sincere, he will never arrive at his destination. Many people are like that man; they are sincere, but they are wrong. In Proverbs 14:12 we read these words: "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Jesus makes it very clear that no man can come to God except through him. (Read John 14:6).

In Acts 4:12 we read: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

This verse teaches us if anyone is trusting in any other than Jesus Christ for salvation, that person has missed the way.

JESUS SAVES US FROM SIN

The next thing we need to understand about Jesus as Saviour is that Jesus saves from sin. Some people seem to believe that they will be saved from all illness and trouble if they become Christians. Then when sickness or trouble comes to them they feel that Jesus has failed to do for them all the things which he should do. This is because they have misunderstood the kind of Saviour Jesus is. When we read in the Bible about the lives of the disciples of Jesus we see they suffered many troubles. Some were beaten. Some were put in prison. Some were even killed. These things happened to them because they were following Jesus well, not because they had done any evil. They did not complain. They knew Jesus had saved them from their sins and they had an eternal home in heaven with him. Now let us think together concerning this salvation from sin.

1. **Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin.** Read Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15. In these passages we learn of the place of eternal torment for those who refuse God's way and continue to live in their sins. This eternal punishment is the wages, or the penalty, of sin. Jesus died on the cross and suffered in our place so that we would not have to bear the penalty of our sins. We see then that Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin.
2. **Jesus saves us from the power of sin.** People who try to remove sin from their lives soon learn sin has great power. They find they do not have the strength to put away their sins. When a person becomes a Christian, Jesus Christ saves him from the power of sin. Jesus puts his Holy Spirit into the heart of the Christian. Then the Christian is able to overcome sin because of the indwelling power of Jesus (Philippians 4:13).
3. **Jesus saves us from the presence of sin.** The person who is not a Christian loves sin. He seeks ways of sinning. Perhaps he loves the beer halls. Perhaps he loves gambling, adultery, or some other sin. If there were no opportunity for sin, the lost man would be very unhappy. But the Christian is different. He has a new heart. He wants the will of God done in his life. Therefore, the presence of sin is a great trouble to him. But one day Jesus shall save his people from all the troubles which sin brings. Jesus will take the Christians to live with him in heaven for all time. In heaven there will be no sickness, sorrow, death, hunger, nor trouble. Read Revelation chapters 21 and 22. All will be joy and happiness in the place God has prepared for

his children to live. (Read John 14:1-3).

JESUS SAVES US FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE TO GOD

As Saviour, Jesus does more than save us from sin. He saves us for a purpose -- that we will live lives pleasing to God. One day a minister was talking with some people about a sin which was very common among them. It was a sin they had practised for a long time. They did not feel that it was so very bad in the eyes of God. The minister explained to them the seriousness of this sin. When he had finished speaking, one of the men said to the minister, "But we would have to have new hearts before we could do as you are teaching."

That is exactly what Jesus does for a person when he saves him. He gives him a new life and heart. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we find these words: "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

When a person possesses this new heart he will want to do the will of God. In a certain town there was a man who was a great sinner. He did many evil things and when he walked down the street, many of the people feared him. One night this man went to church and gave his heart to Jesus. He trusted Jesus for salvation. He left his evil friends and evil manner of living. He began to tell others about Jesus and how they could be saved. God used that man in a wonderful way when he came to know Jesus as Saviour.

Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth and said this to them: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

2 Corinthians 5:17

John 14:1-3, 6

Matthew 25:46

Revelation 20:11-15

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Revelation, chapters 21 & 22

Proverbs 14:12

Acts 4:12

Luke 16:19-31

Philippians 4:13

Matthew 1:21

LESSON EIGHT

JESUS IS THE ONE WITH ALL POWER

Memory Verse:

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'" (Matthew 28:18).

INTRODUCTION

Jesus had been crucified. On the third day he had risen from the dead. For a period of forty days he had met with his disciples at various times. These disciples knew with certainty the crucified and buried Jesus was alive from the dead. They had seen him. They had talked with him. They had touched him with their hands. At the end of the forty days Jesus called the disciples together. As he talked with them he spoke the words we find in the memory verse for this lesson, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." He wanted them to understand clearly concerning his power. When he had finished speaking to the disciples, he ascended into heaven. They stood and watched as he disappeared into the clouds.

Christians do not worship a dead and buried Saviour. They worship the risen, living, all-powerful Son of God. While Jesus was living on earth he showed his power in many ways at different times. In this lesson we will study some of the ways in which Jesus showed his power.

JESUS HAS POWER OVER NATURE

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

1. We know this as we see his power to command the wind and the sea (Matthew 8:23-27).
2. We know this as we see his power to multiply five loaves of bread and two small fish to feed 5,000 men. Then, after all had eaten sufficient, there remained enough food to fill twelve baskets. Jesus had not only fed 5,000 men with these two fishes

and five loaves, but more food remained than there had been in the beginning (John 6:5-14).

JESUS HAS POWER OVER EVIL SPIRITS

The Bible teaches there are evil spirits which obey the commands of Satan. The Bible also teaches us the power of Jesus Christ is far greater than the power of these spirits. The person who is kept by the power of Jesus can be victorious over all the evil forces of Satan.

Many places in the New Testament show us the power of Jesus is greater than that of Satan and his evil spirits. Let us look at one of these passages. Read carefully Luke 8:26-39. This event clearly shows the work of Satan. His work is to destroy. He is against God and all that is pleasing to God. When Satan's devils were in the heart of this man they were working to destroy him. Jesus cast them out by his power. They then entered into some pigs feeding nearby. They caused the pigs to destroy themselves by running into the sea in which they drowned. Yes, the power of Satan always works to destroy that which is good.

On the other hand, the power of Jesus is always ready to help those who truly want to receive his help. Because the power of Jesus is greater than all the powers of Satan, we can receive the help which we need.

JESUS HAS POWER OVER DISEASE

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

1. Leprosy was a disease which was considered incurable in the days of Jesus. In Mark 1:40-45 we read of a leper who came to Jesus for help. Jesus healed him with a touch of his hand.
2. In Mark 5:25-34 we read of a woman who had been ill for twelve years. She had been to many doctors and she had spent all her money seeking to be cured. No one could help her. But when she touched the garment of Jesus she was healed immediately.

There are many other cases where Jesus healed the sick but we will not read of these in this lesson. We do want to keep one thing clearly in mind. There was never a sickness which Jesus could not heal. He had complete power over all disease.

JESUS HAS POWER TO FORGIVE SIN

The question is often asked, "How can I receive forgiveness for my sins?" Some people try to find forgiveness by confessing their sins to a priest. Others hope to find forgiveness simply by joining a church. There are others who hope to receive forgiveness by being baptized. The Bible teaches us that none of these things has the power to forgive sin. Baptism follows forgiveness. It is a witness that the person baptized is already a believer.

It is Jesus who has the power to forgive sin. Read Mark 2:1-12. Give special attention to verse 10. Jesus not only said he had the power to forgive sins, but he proved he had this power. He healed the man who had been brought to him.

If you are seeking the forgiveness of sin, be assured that there is forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 1:7; Acts 4:12; and Acts 10:43).

JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH

Read the following verses: Matthew 9:23-26; Luke 7:11-17; and John 11:1-46. In each of these passages we read how Jesus gave life to someone who was dead. They had not just fainted. In the case of the young girl, she had been dead long enough for friends to gather at the house and mourn with the family. They were taking the widow's son to the place of burial to put his body in the grave. Lazarus had been dead for four days and had already been buried. His sister said his flesh had already begun to rot. Jesus showed his power over death by restoring life to all of these.

In lesson nine we will study further concerning Jesus' power over death. We will see he had power to take up his own life. We will learn he also has power to give life to all who die.

Let us who are Christians rejoice. We trust and follow One who is more than a great teacher or prophet. He is the living Son of God and he has all power in heaven and on earth.

**BE SURE YOU HAVE READ
THESE BIBLE VERSES**

Colossians 1:16-17

Matthew 8:23-27

John 6:5-14

Luke 8:26-39

Mark 5:25-34

Ephesians 1:7

Acts 10:43

Luke 7:11-17

Matthew 28:18

John 11:1-46

Mark 1:40-45

Mark 2:1-12

Acts 4:12

Matthew 9:23-26

LESSON NINE

JESUS IS THE CONQUEROR OF DEATH

Memory Verse:

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

INTRODUCTION

From the beginning of time men have regarded death as an enemy could not be conquered. People have attempted to avoid death in many ways, but there always comes a time when they must die, and death is the victor.

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

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

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

1. In Matthew 9:18-19 and 23-26 we learn of a young girl who died. Friends had gathered at the home of her parents to mourn with them. When Jesus told them that the little girl was not dead but sleeping, they laughed at him. They had seen the body of the little girl. They knew she was dead. Jesus went into the room where the child lay. He took her by the hand and restored her to life. Just as we would wake a child from sleep, Jesus was able to call this child from death.
2. In Luke 7:11-17 we read how Jesus met a group who were going to bury a man. This man had been the only son of a widow. Now the poor mother was left alone. Jesus had pity on her. Jesus commanded the dead man to arise, and he obeyed. Imagine the surprise and joy all the people must have felt!

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

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

JESUS PROMISED HE WOULD CONQUER DEATH

Jesus knew he was going to be put to death long before it ever happened. He also knew he would rise from the dead on the third day. Read Matthew 16:21; Matthew 26:32; and Mark 8:31; Mark 9:31 and Mark 10:33-34.

Jesus told these things to his disciples before they happened, so that when he fulfilled his promise and arose from the dead, the disciples would believe more strongly in him. (Read John 14:29).

JESUS TRULY DIED

If we are to appreciate Jesus' victory over death fully, then we must understand that Jesus truly died. He did not just faint or act as though he were dead. Let us examine the following verses. Read carefully Luke 23:32-56; Luke 24:1-53; John 19:16-42; John 20:1-31 and John 21:1-25.

1. Jesus died in the presence of many people. He did not die in some secret place, where there were no witnesses or only a few. Almost all the people of Jerusalem had come out to watch the crucifixion. There was no doubt in the minds of these people. They knew Jesus had died on the cross.
2. There were three groups present who were sure Jesus had truly died.
 - (a) First, there were the soldiers. These men were trained to kill. They knew death when they saw it. They knew Jesus was dead. One of the soldiers even pierced Jesus' side with his spear.

When he did this, blood and water came out. This showed Jesus had truly died.

- (b) Second, the enemies of Jesus were there to be sure he was dead. They would never have allowed Jesus to be taken from the cross if they had not been certain he was dead.
- (c) Third, there were those who loved Jesus. They also were sure he was dead. If their loving hands had felt the smallest sign of life as they prepared him for burial and carried him to the grave, they would never have buried him. There can be no doubt that Jesus had truly died.

JESUS AROSE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY

The enemies of Jesus did all they could to prevent his rising from the dead. A great stone was placed over the entrance of the tomb and a seal was placed upon it. Soldiers were put there to guard the tomb and be sure that the body was not stolen.

All of their efforts were useless. On the third day the tomb was empty. Jesus had risen. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared many times to his disciples. They talked with him. They touched him with their hands. They knew it was Jesus and he was alive from the dead. Jesus had died. He had been buried. He had conquered death. Now he was alive for evermore.

THE MEANING OF JESUS' VICTORY OVER DEATH

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

1. The resurrection proves Jesus to be the living Son of God. We read of this in Romans 1:4, "...and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord."
2. Jesus, who has power over death, will raise all people from the grave at the last day. More details about what will happen at this time of resurrection will be found in later lessons. (Read John 5:28,29).

Let us rejoice that we can worship and serve a Saviour who conquered death. He can save us from our sins, raise us from the dead, and

take us to live with him eternally. Let us learn this message well and let us share it with those who have not heard or who do not understand.

**BE SURE YOU HAVE READ
THESE BIBLE VERSES**

Revelation 1:18

Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26

Matthew 16:21

Mark 8:31

Mark 10:33-34

Luke 23:32-56

John 19:16-42

John 21:1-25

John 5:28-29

Luke 7:11-17

John 11:1-46

Matthew 26:32

Mark 9:31

John 14:29

Luke 24:1-53

John 20:1-31

Romans 1:4

LESSON TEN

JESUS IS LORD

Memory Verse:

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

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we will study another great truth concerning Jesus. We will see that Jesus is Lord. The Bible teaches a person cannot accept Jesus as Saviour unless he is also willing to accept him as Lord. Jesus himself said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus spoke these words so those who were thinking of following him would understand that to be a follower of Jesus is not always easy. Sometimes the followers of Jesus face hardships. Sometimes the followers of Jesus face great danger. Jesus himself faced all these things and, in the end, death itself, in the cruellest way possible -- crucifixion. As followers of Jesus, we must be willing to walk in the way of our Lord and do his will regardless of the cost.

THE MEANING OF THE WORD 'LORD'

In the Bible the word 'Lord' has a strong meaning. It is more than just a title which a person might inherit. As the Bible uses the word 'Lord', it means when a person is lord of something, that thing belongs to him and he has complete authority over it. He can do with it as he wishes.

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

JESUS IS LORD OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

We want to call attention to two reasons why Jesus is the Lord of every Christian.

1. Jesus is the Lord of every Christian because he paid the price to redeem every Christian from sin and its eternal punishment. In 1

Corinthians 6:19-20 we read these words, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price." Again we read about this in 1 Peter 1:18-19, "You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." Therefore Jesus has authority over the life of every Christian because he has purchased that one through his death on the cross.

2. Jesus is the Lord of every Christian because every person who repents and accepts Jesus as Saviour also accepts him as Lord. One of the things required of Christians in the days of the New Testament was to confess Christ as their Lord. (Read Romans 10:9.) We also see that all Christians realize the lordship of Jesus when we read 1 Corinthians 8:6, "...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

CHRISTIANS SHOULD OBEY JESUS AS THEIR LORD

Some people want to confess Jesus as Lord with their mouth only. Jesus does not accept this. In Luke 6:46 Jesus asked a question, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" Jesus spoke again concerning this in Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

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

1. Jesus wants the Christian to confess him as Saviour and Lord. The Christian should not be ashamed of Jesus. Read Matthew 10:32-33.
2. Jesus wants the life of the Christian to be lived in such a way that people will glorify God. Read Matthew 5:14-16.
3. The work a Christian does and the games he plays should be according to the will of God. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.
4. Jesus has a plan for the Christian's marriage and how he should live in the home. The Christian should read the Bible and learn of this and follow it. Begin by reading Ephesians 5:22-33; and 6:1-4.
5. Jesus should be Lord of a Christian's money. A title of the Christian's

money should be given for the work of God. Read Matthew 23:23 and Malachi 3:8-10. The remaining money should be spent in ways which will be pleasing to God.

6. Jesus should be Lord of a Christian's time. The Christian should not get so busy that he cannot find time to read the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15), pray (Matthew 26:41), and attend church (Hebrews 10:25). All of the Christian's time should be used wisely in ways that will honour God.
7. Jesus wants each Christian to tell others about him and the way of salvation. Read Matthew 28:19-20.
8. Jesus wants each Christian to be baptized and find his place in the church. Read in Acts 2:37-47 how those who were saved did this in the days of the New Testament.

AT THE LAST DAY ALL PEOPLE SHALL CONFESS JESUS AS LORD

Many people refuse to receive Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. Some even laugh at the Christian who is living according to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. One day these people will learn how wrong they have been. Read Philippians 2:5-11. When they appear before Jesus at the judgment and they see Jesus sitting upon the throne ready to judge them, then they shall know of their great mistake. But the time of repentance will have passed.

At the last day the Lord Jesus will receive only those who received him as Saviour and Lord while they lived upon the earth.

BE SURE YOU HAVE READ THESE BIBLE VERSES

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 9:23

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Romans 10:9

Luke 6:46

2 Timothy 2:15

Matthew 10:32-33

1 Corinthians 10:31

Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4

Acts 2:36-47

1 Peter 1:18-19

Matthew 28:19-20

1 Corinthians 8:6

Matthew 7:21

Malachi 3:8-10

Matthew 5:14-16

Matthew 23:23

Matthew 26:41

Hebrews 10:25

LESSON ELEVEN

JESUS IS JUDGE

Memory Verse:

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

INTRODUCTION

Many people would be very surprised to know that they are acting as judges these days. It is true though. Every day people are hearing about Jesus Christ. They are hearing how Jesus died for them and how they must repent and accept him as Saviour and Lord. As they decide what they will do, they act as judges of Jesus. Some judge that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died for their sins, and they repent and trust him. Others judge against Jesus. They reject him.

In the Bible we read about a man who judged Jesus. His name was Pontius Pilate. He heard the case of Jesus. He then asked, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" When the angry crowd cried that Jesus should be crucified, Pilate agreed and allowed Jesus to be put to death. He made the mistake of letting the enemies of Jesus decide how he should judge the Son of God.

Although people are judging Jesus these days, the Bible tells us that the day is coming when Jesus will judge all people. Let us see what the Bible teaches us concerning Jesus as judge. As we study, questions may come to our minds concerning the judgment. We must realize that the Bible does not give us all the details of the coming judgment. That is not its purpose. The Bible tells us of the coming judgment so that we can prepare for it. The most important thing is to know the way of preparation for the judgment and not the details about when it shall be and so forth.

JESUS SHALL RAISE ALL PEOPLE ON THE LAST DAY

Read carefully John 5:26-30. Now let us consider some truths which this passage teaches us:

1. God has given to Jesus the authority to judge. (John 5:27)
2. The judgment of Jesus will be just. (John 5:30)
3. All people will be raised from the dead that they may appear in the

judgment. The great and the small will be there. The rich and the poor will be there. The good and the evil will be there. The people of all tribes will be there. The Bible says, "All who are in the tombs will ... come forth" (John 5:28-29).

ALL SHALL BE GATHERED BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT

Read carefully Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-15. Once again the Scriptures make it very plain to us that all must appear at this time of judging. None shall escape. Let us see some of the things which will happen at that time:

1. A separation will be made. (Read Matthew 25:32-33.) This separation will be made on the basis of what people are spiritually. In the Bible, sheep are used as a symbol of the Christians; goats are used as a symbol of the unsaved. They are separated before any word is spoken concerning their good or bad works. They are put into one group or the other because of what they are. Christ then calls attention to the works of these two groups. Their works reveal their lost or saved condition. Their actions, not their words, prove their true spiritual condition.

In Revelation 20:11-15, we are told again that there will be a separation. This time a different figure of speech is used to teach the same truth. The unsaved will learn that all their works have been written in a book and they will be judged according to their works. Christians will learn that their names have been written in the book of Life.

There is one thing we should understand before we go further. No mistakes will be made at this judgment. All facts of the case will be known. Jesus himself will be the Judge.

2. Christians will be received to life eternal. Jesus makes it very clear that his sheep, those who have their names written in the book of Life, will enter into everlasting life with him. Those who have accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord while they were living upon the earth will be accepted by Jesus at that day.
3. Those who are not Christians will be judged according to their works and cast into the lake of fire. Some Bible passages teach us a person is condemned because he has failed to believe in the name of Jesus. (Read John 3:18.) Let us think about it in this way. Suppose a person commits a crime. He is arrested and taken before the judge. The judge hears the case and finds the person guilty. He says the person

must pay a fine or go to jail. Now suppose a friend of the guilty person comes and says that he will pay the fine. But the guilty person refuses to allow anyone to pay the fine for him.

The judge will then say, "Very well, if you refuse help, you must go to jail." The person is then put in jail. One person telling about the case could say the person was put in jail because of the crime he had done. Another could say the person was put in jail because he refused the help which another offered to him. Both would have spoken the truth. The person was condemned because of his crime. He remained under this condemnation because he refused the help offered him.

It is the same with the lost person. He is condemned because of his sins. Jesus paid the penalty for the lost person's sins by dying on the cross for him. If a person refuses the salvation Jesus offers him, then that person remains under condemnation because he has refused Jesus. There is no other help or hope for the person who refuses the salvation which Jesus offers.

The person who refuses Jesus while living here on earth will one day stand before Jesus. Jesus will then be his Judge. If he has refused all that Jesus has done for him, then Jesus, the Righteous Judge, shall refuse him in that day. He will be cast into the lake of fire -- a place of everlasting punishment.

**BE SURE YOU HAVE READ
THESE BIBLE VERSES**

**John 5:22, 26-30
Matthew 25:31-46**

**John 3:18
Revelation 20:11-15**

LESSON TWELVE

JESUS IS GOD'S GIFT FOR ALL PEOPLE

Memory Verse:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

INTRODUCTION

In the very beginning Satan led Adam and Eve into sin through a lie. Adam and Eve themselves were responsible for their own sin, because they chose to believe the lie of Satan rather than the truth of God. Satan is still leading people into sin with his lies. One of the great lies which Satan is telling in Africa during these days is this: "Jesus is a God for the white man, not for blacks." Those who listen to and follow this lie will be lost eternally.

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

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

THE PROPHETS SAID THAT JESUS WAS FOR ALL PEOPLE

Read Genesis 22:18 and Galatians 3:16. The verse in Genesis teaches us it was God's plan to bless all the peoples of the earth through the descendant of Abraham. The verse in Galatians refers to this promise which we have just read in Genesis. It is made clear to us that the de-

scendant which is to bless all the peoples of the earth is Jesus Christ. God has made it plain in the Old Testament that the promised Saviour is to be for all the world.

In the 49th chapter of Isaiah we read of a prophecy concerning the promised Saviour. We find these words concerning this promised One in the last part of verse 6, "... I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6). Jesus said he was the light of the world. There can be no doubt about this. God planned for Jesus to be a light showing the way of salvation to all the peoples of the earth.

THE ANGELS SAID THAT JESUS WAS FOR ALL PEOPLE

Read Luke 2:10-11. The angels came declaring the message which God had given them. In their message from God they stated clearly that Jesus is the Saviour for everybody.

JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID JESUS WAS FOR ALL PEOPLE

When John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus, he spoke of Jesus with these words, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). John the Baptist understood Jesus had not come to save one race of people. God had caused him to know Jesus would be the Saviour of all who would repent and trust him.

JESUS SAID THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION WAS FOR ALL PEOPLE

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

GOD HAS ONLY ONE PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ALL PEOPLE

Let us consider our memory verse for this lesson, John 3:16. From it we learn God loves all people. We also learn God gave Jesus, his only Son, so anyone who would trust Jesus might not perish, but have eternal life.

Satan may try to make people believe Jesus loves one race of people only, but this is a lie against the truth which God teaches. God makes it very clear in his Word that Jesus is the Saviour of all people. Every person

who repents and trusts Jesus will have life eternal. Let us not be deceived by the lies of Satan. Let us believe God.

IMPORTANT!

**PLEASE READ THE NEXT SECTION
"AN INVITATION TO ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST"
VERY CAREFULLY AND PRAYERFULLY!**

**BE SURE YOU HAVE READ
THESE BIBLE VERSES**

John 3:16

Galatians 3:16

Luke 2:10-11

Matthew 28:19

Genesis 22:18

Isaiah 49:6

John 1:29

AN INVITATION TO ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST

*"All that the Father gives me will
come to me; and him who comes to
me I will not cast out"
(John 6:37)*

You have just completed a study of twelve lessons concerning Jesus Christ. You have learned from the Bible who Jesus is. You have learned he is the Son of God and he died to save you from your sins.

Perhaps you are thinking in your heart, "Yes, I know who Jesus is and what he has done for me. But how do I receive him as my own Saviour?" Let me tell you.

First of all, you should understand Jesus loves you. He wants to save you. That is why he died for you. Today he knows all that is in your heart. He knows all about your sins. He also knows whether you really want to leave your sins and receive him as Lord and Saviour.

Now you must truly repent of your sins. This means you admit that you are a sinner, there is true sorrow in your heart because of your sins and you want to leave all your sins and follow Jesus. You want the will of Jesus for your life more than you want your own will.

If this is true, then Jesus is ready to receive you and to save you from

your sins. In John 6:37, Jesus gives the following promise: "All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out."

It is God who sends the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. It is God's Holy Spirit who puts the desire in your heart to turn from sin and come to Jesus. When you obey the voice of the Holy Spirit as he speaks to your heart, and come to Jesus, Jesus will receive you.

Will you kneel and pray this prayer to Jesus?

"Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned against you many times. I know that I am lost because of my sins. I do not have the power to save myself. I also know that you died to save me from sin. I want to follow you. I want your way to be my way. I am trusting you to save me, just as you have promised to do. I pray that you will forgive me of all my sins. Now give me strength that I may do your will forever. Truly, you are my Saviour and Lord. Amen."

If you have prayed the above prayer and have accepted Jesus as your Saviour, we would like you to let us know of your decision to become a Christian. Please fill in the form on the next page, cut it off, and post it to us with your examination questions.

It is not necessary to fill in this decision form in order to pass the course and receive the certificate.

MY DECISION FOR CHRIST

This course of Bible study has helped me to receive Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord. I want you to know of this decision which I have made in my heart.

Name Age

Postal Address

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