

Lesson 1: God's Plan for Saving Man

Introduction:

The Bible is a collection of 66 books, and although it was written over a period of 1600 years and its writing was completed 1900 years ago, it has a single story or theme. That theme is what we'll study in this lesson: God's plan for saving man. This thirteen lesson series will focus on the eternal plan of God.

We as people are creatures who are controlled by time. But the God that we serve is beyond time – He is infinite! The first four words in the Bible: “In the beginning God...”, show that God existed before He created the heavens and earth and mankind. His ways and His thoughts are beyond our ways and thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

When did God plan man's salvation? Was God caught off guard by man's rebellion against Him? This lesson's scriptures will supply the answers to these and other questions.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

I. GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN (Ephesians 1:3-7; 3:1-13, 21)

God's plan for man's forgiveness was not coincidental. It was not an afterthought. It was planned, it was deliberate, and it was in the mind of God before time began. Praise to God for His love and foresight for us!

1. Where are all spiritual blessings? (1:3)
2. When did God “choose” man? (1:4)
3. Use a Bible dictionary and look up the meaning of “redeem”.
4. How is man redeemed? (1:7)
5. What “mystery” was Paul revealing to the Ephesians? What does he mean by “mystery” in this passage? (3:5-6)
6. God had hidden the “fellowship of the mystery” from the beginning of the ages (Ephesians 3:9). How was the manifold wisdom of God made known? What does Paul say about God's purpose in this matter? (3:10-11)

II. CREATION (Genesis 1:1-3, 26-31; John 1:1-18)

The power of God and how man “crowned” His creation are clearly seen from Genesis chapter 1. God created man with a plan in mind – that man would reflect His image and worship his Creator. He also set in motion the means to redeem man.

1. Who all was involved in creation? (Genesis 1:1, 3; John 1:1, 14)
2. In whose image was man created? (Genesis 1:26-27)
3. What involvement did Jesus have in creation? (John 1:3-4)
4. What was Jesus’ purpose in coming to the earth? (John 1:9-10)
5. How has God been revealed to man? (John 1:14, 18)

III. THE “FULLNESS OF TIME” (Hebrews 1:1-3; I Peter 1:10-12; Titus 1:1-4; I Corinthians 1:18-25; Ephesians 1:8-12; Galatians 4:1-11)

Even though the plan of God was established before the creation of the world, it was only revealed to man in bits and pieces over a long time. The passages in this section tell us that God waited for the “right time” to execute and reveal His plan.

1. How did God talk to man in times past? How has He spoken to us in these last days? (Hebrews 1:1-2)
2. Into what did the prophets and the angels desire to look? (I Peter 1:10-12)
3. What did God promise before time began? How was this communicated? (Titus 1:2-3)
4. What “tool” does God use to save men? (I Corinthians 1:21)
5. Where has God “gathered together in one all things”? When did He do this? (Ephesians 1:10)
6. What did God do in the “fullness of time”? (Galatians 4:4-5)

Lesson 2: Man Needs a Savior

Introduction:

When God had completed His work in creation, He looked and saw that everything was very good (Genesis 1:31). Man was created in God's image, and was therefore without sin at creation. He lived in God's perfect garden, in the presence of God. However, Adam and Eve sinned (thus suffering spiritual death) and were evicted from the garden and sentenced to physical death.

Man separates himself from God when he sins (Isaiah 59:2). Adam and Eve's sins caused their separation from God. God's eternal plan was set in motion based on their sins to deal with the sins of mankind.

This lesson draws our attention to man's need for salvation. We will look at the sin of Adam and Eve to understand temptation and sin. We will then address sin's rewards: physical and spiritual death, and observe the answer that God has supplied for sin.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

I. MAN SINS (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24; James 1:12-15; I John 2:15-17)

God's commands for man were simple and understandable, but he disobeyed. man's disobedience to God's commands had a number of consequences, and set in motion God's plan for man's salvation.

1. What was the commandment of God to the man and woman? (Genesis 2:16-17)
2. Did they understand God's command? (Genesis 3:1-3)
3. What lie did the serpent tell the woman? (Genesis 3:4)
4. What three reasons were given for the woman's disobedience? What reason was given for man's disobedience? (Genesis 3:6)
5. What did Adam and Eve's sin cause them to do when God came through the garden? (Genesis 3:8-9)
6. Who did Adam blame for his sin? Who did Eve blame? (Genesis 3:12-13)
7. What were God's four curses on the serpent? (Genesis 3:14-15)
8. What were God's four curses on the woman? (Genesis 3:16)
9. What were God's four curses on the man? (Genesis 3:17-19)

10. How is man tempted? What is the full-grown fruit of sin? (James 1:14-15)
11. What does the “love of the world” cause us to not have? What are the three things listed that are “in the world? (I John 2:15-16)

APPLICATION: Tell how these passages from questions 10 and 11 (James 1, and I John 2) help explain the sin of Adam and Eve.

II. PHYSICAL DEATH (James 2:26; Hebrews 2:14-16; 9:26-28; I Corinthians 15:20-28, 35-58)

Jesus provides the solution to physical death. Since He has overcome death and lives forever, He provides the way for us to be resurrected.

1. How does James define death? (James 2:26)
2. What did Jesus’ death (and subsequent resurrection) do to Satan and for us? (Hebrews 2:14-15)
3. What are man’s two final appointments? (Hebrews 9:27)
4. “For as in _____ all _____, even so in _____ all shall be _____.” (I Corinthians 15:22)
5. What is the last enemy that will be destroyed? (I Corinthians 15:26)
6. In explaining the resurrection of the dead, a number of examples of “sowing” and “raising” are given. List them in the table below. (I Corinthians 15:42-44)

SOWN	RAISED

7. Compare the first man and the second Man. (I Corinthians 15:45-49)

FIRST MAN	SECOND MAN

8. How do we gain victory over death? (I Corinthians 15:57)

Note: When Adam and Eve sinned, they died physically. They were cut off from the tree of life, and so were like “plucked flowers” – as good as dead, but still with some fleeting life..

III. SPIRITUAL DEATH (I John 3:4; Ephesians 2:1-5; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:12-21)

There is a problem bigger than physical death. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel points out in Ezekiel 18:4 that it is the “soul who sins” that will die. The teaching of scripture is clear: it is our own sin that separates us from our God. Sin condemns us before God! See also Isaiah 59:1-2.

1. What is sin? (I John 3:4)
2. What is our condition when we are in trespasses and sin and are “conducting ourselves in the lusts of our flesh”? (Ephesians 2:1-5)
3. What does sin cause us to do? (Romans 3:23)
4. What are the wages of sin? What is the free gift of God? (Romans 6:23)
5. Romans 5:12-19 describes the end result of sin to man. Answer the following:
 - What entered the world through one man? (v. 12)
 - Why did death spread to all men? (v. 12)
 - What does God’s free gift cause? (v. 16)
 - Who brings life to men? (vv. 17-18)
6. From Matthew 4:1-11, match the temptation put before Jesus with its description from 1 John 2. Be prepared to explain the nature of each temptation.

a. Stones to bread	___ Lust of the Eye
b. Throw yourself down	___ Lust of the Flesh
c. Worship Satan for glories of earth’s kingdoms	___ Pride of Life

Illustration: Take a clean sheet of paper. This represents your soul, given by God when you were born, innocent and pure. Now take a pencil. This represents all your desires, everything you want. Write your name on the paper. You have established your identity before God. If you can think of one single sin that you have committed before God, then use the pencil to poke a hole in the paper, and leave the pencil there. You have defiled your soul, and have destroyed your relationship with God. Now “repent” (change your mind toward your sins) and remove the pencil. You’re not sinning now, but you can’t erase the hole! The good news is, than God is willing to give you a new “sheet of paper” if you will believe that Jesus is His Son, the Savior of the world, and will become His follower. (For this, you must be baptizaed for the forgiveness of your sins. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 22:16, 1 Peter 3:21; etc.)

Lesson 3: An Overview of God's Plan *Five Key Old Testament Passages*

Introduction:

God revealed His plan for saving man through the Old Testament prophets, beginning with Moses and the account of man's first sin.

God chose Abraham to be the father of many nations, ultimately making him the head of the physical family into which Jesus Christ was born. We'll overview the promises made to him in this lesson and review them in depth in our next lesson.

Exodus 20 records the giving of the Law of Moses on Mount Sinai. This records God's covenant that He made with the nation of Israel as His special people. This law served as a tutor to bring them to Christ (Galatians 3:24).

David desired to build a house for God but was prevented. II Samuel 7 gives the account of God's promises for David and his family. Many of these promises can be seen fulfilled in Solomon, but ultimate and complete fulfillment would be in Jesus.

The final passage we'll address in this lesson is from the prophet Jeremiah. In Jeremiah 31, the prophet speaks of a new covenant that God would make with His people. This prophecy's fulfillment in the New Testament will be shown.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

I. THE FIRST PROMISE OF A SAVIOR (Genesis 3:14-15)

This scripture is never directly quoted in the New Testament, but it is alluded to in a number of places.

1. In cursing the serpent, God placed enmity between two sets of individuals. Who were they? (Genesis 3:14)
2. Who would win the "bruise" battle? (Genesis 3:15)
3. Why was the "Son of God manifested"? (I John 3:8)
4. What did God do in "the fullness of time"? (Galatians 4:4)
5. Since we have gained victory through Jesus, what is God going to do with Satan? (Romans 16:20)

II. THE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM (Genesis 12:1-3)

We'll study God's promises to Abraham in detail in the next lesson, so these questions will focus on the spiritual aspect of the promise.

1. Fill in the blanks to complete the three promises God made to Abraham. (Genesis 12:2-3)
 - a) "Get out of _____ ... to a _____ that I will _____."
 - b) "I will _____ a _____."
 - c) "In _____ all _____ of the _____ will be _____."
2. Now we'll focus on the third promise. It is given again in Genesis 22:16-18. From this passage, how would all nations of the earth be blessed?
3. What is the significance of the word "seed" being used instead of "seeds" in the promise to Abraham? (Galatians 3:16)
4. Who did Peter say is the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham? (Acts 3:25-26)

III. THE LAW OF MOSES (Exodus 20)

1. Read Exodus 20:1-17. What is the common title for what is contained in these verses?
2. Was the inheritance promised to Abraham given through the law? (Galatians 3:17-18)
3. Why was the law added? (Galatians 3:19)
4. What did the law do for us? (Galatians 3:23-24)
5. What did Jesus do with the law? (Colossians 2:13-14)

IV. THE PROMISES TO DAVID (II Samuel 7:4-17)

A number of prophecies in the Old Testament have dual meanings. This passage is fulfilled in two ways: by Solomon and by Jesus.

1. What was God going to do for Israel? (II Samuel 7:10)
2. What was God going to do for David? (II Samuel 7:11)
3. What was David's seed going to do? (II Samuel 7:12-13)
4. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, who did he say is on the throne of David now? (Acts 2:30-31)
5. Who are the two people who fulfill the promise of a son to David? (II Samuel 7:14; I Kings 2:1-4; Matthew 1:1)

V. A NEW COVENANT (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:7-13)

1. What days were coming? (Jeremiah 31:31)
2. What would the covenant God was making with Israel be like? (Jeremiah 31:33)
3. Why will no man teach his brother or neighbor? (Jeremiah 31:34)
4. What was true about the first covenant? (Hebrews 8:7)
5. What would happen to the old covenant? (Hebrews 8:13)

Lesson 4: God's Promises to Abraham

Introduction:

We introduced in the last lesson the promises God made to Abraham in Genesis, focusing on the ultimate fulfillment of the third of those promises in the New Testament. This lesson will address all three of the promises in detail, and show how and when they were fulfilled. In showing the fulfillment of the first two promises to Abraham in the Old Testament, we will answer some false notions that many in the religious teach.

The promises of God to Abraham were made before he left Ur of the Chaldees in Genesis 12 and are repeated in some form in Genesis 13, 15, 17, and 22. Three basic elements were included in the promise: that Abraham would be made a great nation, that his descendants would be given a land, and that through him and his descendants (seed) all people on earth would be blessed.

The first of these promises was fulfilled in Egypt. Abraham's family (Jacob and his sons) were seventy in number when they went to Egypt. When they left about 400 years later, there were a nation of about 600,000 men, not counting women and children (Exodus 12:37).

The land promise received significant attention in the book of Genesis. You may recall that Genesis was written by Moses, and would have been written right before the conquest of the land of Canaan. This would have been a very significant idea in the mind of the children of Israel.

The most significant of these promises is the seed promise through which all nations on earth were blessed. It is through that promise that we are heirs of Abraham, even though we are Gentiles. We are part of the "all families of the earth" that will be blessed.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

I. THE PROMISE OF A GREAT NATION (Genesis 12:2; 15:1-6; 17:4-7)

1. "I will make you a _____." (Genesis 12:2)
2. When Abraham was childless, what did God promise him about his heir and his descendants? (Genesis 15:4-5)
3. Why was Abram's name changed? (Genesis 17:4-5)
4. How many were in the family of Jacob that moved to Egypt? (Genesis 46:26-27) (See if you can explain the difference in the numbers in v. 26 and v. 27.)
5. What happened to the children of Israel after the death of Joseph? (Exodus 1:7)
6. How many children of Israel left Egypt? (Exodus 12:37-39)
7. What special relationships did the children of Israel have with God that are described in Exodus 19:5-6?

II. THE PROMISE OF A LAND (Genesis 12:1, 6-7; 13:14-18; 15:12-21)

“God kept His promise to Abraham. His promises were repeated to Isaac, then Jacob. Jacob’s sons ended up in Egypt, just as God had declared. When their descendants became Egyptian slaves, God delivered them through Moses. Moses took them out of Egypt to Sinai, to the edge of the promised land, where His leadership passed to Joshua. Under Joshua, the Israelites conquered and inhabited the land (Joshua 21:43-45), just as God had promised.

Some today still look for a future fulfillment of this land promise. They claim the land was never fully received and that God promised a future return to the land. Yet, the testimony we have confirms that the land was received when Joshua and the Israelites inhabited it. Joshua claimed that all God promised had come to pass (Joshua 23:14-15). Later testimony confirms this (Nehemiah 9:8; Psalm 105:42-44).”
Quote from Christianity Magazine, March/April 1999, “The Beginning of Abrahamic Promises”, Matt Qualls, p.3/4-26.

1. “Get out of _____ to a _____ that I will _____.”
(Genesis 12:1)
2. What land did God promise to Abraham’s descendants? (Genesis 12:5-7)
3. When would Abraham’s descendants receive the land? (Genesis 15:13-16)
4. What are the boundaries of the land that God promised to Abraham? (Genesis 15:18-21)
5. Before the children of Israel conquered the land of Canaan, how did God describe the land that they were to go in and possess? (Deuteronomy 1:8)
6. What does Joshua say that the Lord gave to Israel? (Josh. 21:43)
7. How much of what the Lord promised was fulfilled? (Josh. 21:45; 23:14)
8. What was required for Israel to lose the land that God had promised? (Josh. 23:15-16)
9. What were the boundaries of the land that Solomon ruled? (I Kings 4:21) How do these boundaries compare to what God promised to Abraham? (Genesis 15:18)

III. THE SEED PROMISE (Genesis 12:2-3; 22:16-18)

1. “In _____ all _____ of the _____ will be _____.”
(Genesis 12:3)
2. “In _____ all the _____ of the _____ shall be _____.” (Genesis 22:18)

3. When Zacharias finally spoke after the birth of John, he indicated that God was in the process of fulfilling prophecy. What did he say that God was remembering at that time? (Luke 1:72-73)

4. Who besides the Jews would receive the blessing of Abraham? How would this blessing be received? (Galatians 3:14)

5. Who specifically is “Abraham’s seed”? (Galatians 3:16)

6. Read Galatians 3:26-29 and tell how we can become Abraham’s seed.

7. How does Paul say that God fulfilled the “promise made to the fathers”? (Acts 13:32-33)

8. How did Peter say that the promise for all nations of the earth to be blessed was fulfilled? (Acts 3:24-26)

Lesson 5: The Law of Moses

Introduction:

In this lesson we'll look at the purpose of the Law of Moses in God's plan for saving man. We'll see its origin and note how God fulfilled it and took it out of the way, and we'll review its purpose.

God set up His covenant with Israel. He chose them as a special people and a separate nation. Their ultimate purpose as a nation was to prepare and preserve the family of Jesus Christ.

One of the most significant events was the giving of the law at Mount Sinai. Imagine the amazement of the children of Israel as they observed the very presence of God on the mountain and made a national covenant (agreement between two parties) with God. God set conditions for Israel in this covenant: if they kept the covenant He would bless them; if they broke the covenant He would curse them. When this covenant had done what it was intended to do, it was "taken out of the way, nailed to the cross." (Colossians 2:14)

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

I. THE GIVING OF THE LAW (Exodus 19-24)

1. How would Israel be a "special treasure" to God? (Exodus 19:5)
2. What did the children of Israel agree to do? (Exodus 19:8)
3. List the ten commandments:
(Exodus 20:3) - 1: (Exodus 20:13) - 6:
(Exodus 20:4) - 2: (Exodus 20:14) - 7:
(Exodus 20:7) - 3: (Exodus 20:15) - 8:
(Exodus 20:8) - 4: (Exodus 20:16) - 9:
(Exodus 20:12) - 5: (Exodus 20:17) - 10:
4. God gave not only the ten commandments to Israel, but also presented a number of regulations to guide their behavior (Exodus 21-23). What did the children of Israel agree to do after they heard all the words of the Lord? (Exodus 24:3)
5. How was the covenant with Israel "dedicated"? (Exodus 24:5-8; Hebrews 9:18)

II. ISRAEL BREAKS GOD'S COVENANT

1. While Moses was still on the mountain, Israel violated at least one of the ten commandments. Which? (Exodus 32:2-6; Deuteronomy 9:16)
2. How did Moses save Israel from destruction at this time? (Exodus 32:9-14)
3. Where else did Israel provoke God? How had they acted as long as Moses knew them? (Deuteronomy 9:22-24)

4. What did Israel do with God's statutes and judgments? (Ezekiel 20:13,21)

5. What did Israel do to their covenant with God? (Jeremiah 31:31-32)

III. THE LAW'S PURPOSE (Galatians 3)

1. Is anyone justified by keeping the law? (3:11)

2. What did Christ redeem us from? (3:13)

3. Was the inheritance God promised based on law or promise? (3:17-18)

4. Why was the law added? (3:19)

5. Could the law give life? (3:21)

6. What is the purpose of the law according to Galatians 3:22-24?

7. What purpose did Paul say the "things written before" serve? (Romans 15:4)

8. What purpose did the examples of disobedience being recorded serve for the Corinthians and for us? (I Corinthians 10:11)

IV. THE LAW'S FULFILLMENT

1. Based on the change of priesthood, what else had to change? (Hebrews 7:11-12)

2. What did Jesus come to do with the first covenant? (Hebrews 10:8-9)

3. How does II Corinthians 3:7 describe the law?

4. What did Jesus come to do to the Law and the Prophets? What would be required for any part of the Law to pass away? (Matthew 5:17-18)

5. What did Jesus abolish in His flesh? What did this do for Jew and Gentile? (Ephesians 2:14-16)

6. What did Jesus do to the "handwriting of requirements" which was against them? (Colossians 2:13-14)

Lesson 6: The Nation of Israel

Introduction:

What was God's purpose when He told Abraham that He would bless all people through His seed? How does the nation of Israel fit into this promise? What brought Judah back into the land and made Israel disappear as a separate nation?

This lesson will trace the seed promise from Abraham through his immediate heirs and their families, end up with Jacob and his family entering Egypt. We'll look at the children of Israel from their desert wanderings until they arrived in the land of Canaan. We'll see how Israel dealt with God from the period of the judges through the carrying of Judah into Babylonian captivity, and how God used this nation for His purpose. More than just a history lesson, we'll see that God cared and preserved a nation even though the nation rejected Him.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 1:3-6.

I. THE EARLY DAYS OF A PEOPLE

A. *The Promise to Isaac (Genesis 25:19-34)*

1. For what did Isaac plead with the Lord? (v. 21)
2. Which of the two children to be born to Isaac and Rebekah would be stronger? What was the name of this child? (vv. 23-26)
3. What did Esau do with his birthright? (vv. 31,34)

B. *The Promise to Jacob (Genesis 28, 32, 49)*

1. How did Isaac bless Jacob? (28:3-4)
2. How numerous did God say Jacob's descendants would be? (28:14)
3. What was Jacob's name changed to when he wrestled an unidentified man? Why? (32:27-28)
4. When Jacob blessed his sons, to which son did he say his other sons would bow? (49:8)
5. "The _____ shall not depart from _____, nor a _____ from between his feet, until _____ comes." (49:10)

II. ISRAEL'S DISOBEDIENCE

A. *Before Entering Canaan*

1. What did the children of Israel do immediately after God delivered them from Pharaoh? (Exodus 15:22-26)

2. In another incident relating to water, what did Israel do? How did God provide for them? (Exodus 17:1-7)
3. Later in their wilderness wandering, the children of Israel complained about something else. What was it and how did God resolve this problem? (Numbers 11:4-15, 31-35)
4. As a “crowning achievement” in their rebellion against God, Israel stopped short of entering Canaan based on the advice of ten of the twelve spies. What did they want to do? What was their punishment? (Numbers 14:1-4, 11-19, 26-32)

B. In Canaan

1. After the death of Joshua, what happened to the children of Israel? (Judges 2:11-15)
2. When God raised up judges, what happened to the people? What happened when the judge died? (Judges 2:16-20)
3. When Israel later asked for a king, who did Samuel think the people had rejected? Who had they actually rejected? (I Samuel 8:4-8)
4. What did Samuel warn the people about regarding a king? (I Samuel 8:10-18)
5. Why did the nation of Israel divide after the death of Solomon? (I Kings 12:6-17)
6. Eventually the northern tribes (Israel) were taken into captivity by the Assyrians (II Kings 17). This was in fulfillment of prophecy in Hosea 1:4-5. What did Hosea prophesy about the kingdom of Israel?
7. Was Judah (the southern tribes) more righteous than Israel? (Jeremiah 3:6-11)

Thought Question

Why was Judah preserved?
 Use the following scriptures to help answer this question.
 (II Samuel 7:12; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:1, 18-25)

Dates of Important OT Events

1445 BC	Giving of Law of Moses at Matthew Sinai
1405 BC	Beginning of Conquering Canaan
1050 BC	Saul Becomes King
1010 BC	David Becomes King
970 BC	Solomon Becomes King
930 BC	Divided Kingdom
722 BC	Assyrians Take Israel Captive
586 BC	Fall of Jerusalem
536 BC	First Group of Babylonian Captives Returns to Judah
520-516 BC	Rebuilding of Temple
444 BC	Walls of Jerusalem Rebuilt

Lesson 7: Jesus: The ULTIMATE Prophet, Priest, and King

Introduction:

In this lesson we will observe how Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecy in filling the three very significant religious and national roles of prophet, priest, and king.

Prophets were very significant in the Old Testament story, beginning with Moses and ending with Malachi. The Pharisees in Jesus' day said that they respected the prophets, but Jesus showed them by their actions that they really didn't and were hypocrites. They said they were looking for the Prophet that Moses had promised, but when Jesus came, He was rejected. Jesus is the ultimate prophet, through whom God speaks to us today.

The role of priest in the national life of Israel in offering sacrifices and teaching the law was vital, beginning with the priesthood of Aaron and continuing through the time of Ezra. Jesus is now our High Priest, and we'll look at how He serves as High Priest and what He does for us.

Even more than that, Jesus is now king of kings and lord of lords! On at least one occasion, the Jewish people who received Jesus gladly wanted to set Him up as an earthly king. But this was not His mission: His kingdom is not of this world. He is, however, "the King of the Jews," as Pilate correctly testified at the cross, over the objections of the Jewish leaders. We'll look at passages that teach that Jesus is now reigning – we're not looking for a future earthly reign.

The new memory work is **EPHESIANS 3:8-12**.

I. JESUS THE ULTIMATE PROPHET

1. Read Exodus 7:1 and Exodus 4:14-16. These passages teach that Aaron served as Moses' "prophet." Explain from these two verses what the primary purpose of a prophet is.
2. When God agreed to speak to the people through a prophet, rather than speak directly to them, who was the prophet He used? To whom would the future Prophet be compared? (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)
3. For whom was a prophet supposed to speak? What was a prophet not supposed to do? (Deuteronomy 18:19-22)
4. When Peter quotes this prediction from Deuteronomy, he says that all the holy prophets had "foretold" the days of the apostles. Who played the role of "a prophet like Moses?" (Acts 3:19-26)
5. By whom did God speak to the fathers in times past? By whom does He speak to us now? (Hebrews 1:1-2)

II. JESUS THE ULTIMATE PRIEST

1. Describe the difference between a priest and a High Priest. (Hebrews 9:6-7)
2. Who is our Great High Priest who has passed through the heavens? (Hebrews 4:14-16)
3. What was a priest required to do under the old law? (Hebrews 5:1-4)
4. Jesus was prophesied to be a priest according to what order? (Hebrews 5:5-6; Psalm 110:1-4)
5. Did Melchizedek live before or after Aaron? What two offices did Melchizedek hold? (Genesis 14:18)
6. Jesus (as the prophesied “Branch”) was going to serve as a priest from what position? (Zechariah 6:12-13)
7. Why could Jesus not serve as a priest under the Law of Moses? What happened to allow Him to serve as priest? (Hebrews 7:11-19)
8. Where is Jesus presently serving as our High Priest? (Hebrews 8:1-4)
9. What sacrifice has Jesus already offered as our High Priest? (Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:12)
10. List some things our High Priest is currently doing for us. (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16; 7:25)

III. JESUS THE ULTIMATE KING

1. After warning the people about the qualifications and duties of any king that the children of Israel would set up, to what does God say the king should look for guidance? (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)
2. Whom did God set as a His king on His holy hill of Zion? (Psalm 2:4-9)
3. From whose throne would the Christ reign? (Acts 2:30)
4. According to Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, where is Jesus now and what position does He hold? (Acts 2:33-36)

5. What amount of authority does Jesus have, and what is the realm in which He has that authority? (Matthew 28:18-20)
6. For how long will Jesus reign? (I Corinthians 15:20-28)
7. What has God done for Jesus? What will all men eventually do before Jesus? (Philippians 2:9-11)
8. Who does the writer of Revelation tell us that Jesus is ruler over? (Revelation 1:5)
9. Jesus is “the blessed and only _____, the _____ of _____ and _____ of _____.” (I Timothy 6:15)

Warning:

“Every soul who will not hear the Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.” – Acts 3:23

Is Jesus your High Priest, or do you reject His sacrifice? (Hebrews 10:26-39)

“Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.” (Psalm 2:12)

Lesson 8: The Life of Christ

Introduction:

As we observed in the last lesson, Jesus is now KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS! We looked at passages that show how Jesus is now serving as prophet, priest, and king. This lesson will be an overview of the life of Jesus, focusing on His perfect life and sacrifice.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 3:8-12.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE LIFE OF JESUS

Copies of: “THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST” and a chart that outlines the Life of Christ are supplied for your use in your personal study. Use these pages to answer the following:

1. List the nine major periods of the life of Christ from the scripture outline below.
2. List the three major periods of the life of Christ from the chart.
3. List the three major periods of the public ministry of Jesus.
4. How many Passovers did Jesus’ public ministry cover?

II. WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH?

1. What was the Son who fulfilled prophecy supposed to do for His people ? (Matthew 1:21)
2. Who did Jesus come to earth to call to repentance? (Matthew 9:10-13)
3. What did Jesus say was the purpose of His coming in Matthew 20:27-28 (also Mark 10:45)?
4. What did Jesus say the Son of Man came to do? (Luke 19:10)
5. What did Jesus (the true Light) give to “as many as received Him”? (John 1:10-13)
6. According to John 3:14-17, why did God send His Son to the earth?
7. For what purpose did Jesus say He came in John 10:10?
8. How did Jesus say we can come to the Father? (John 14:5-7)

9. Jesus willingly gave His life as a sacrifice on the cross. From the following passages, tell what Jesus knew about His death before the fact.

• Matthew 20:18-19 -

• John 10:17-18 -

• Matthew 12:39-40 -

III. JESUS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

1. How do we obtain the forgiveness of sins? What did God do in this arrangement? What must man do? (Matthew 26:28; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:7)
2. What type of example did Jesus provide for us? Why is He able to bear our sins? (I Peter 2:21-25)
3. With what are we redeemed? (I Peter 1:17-19)
4. What comparison does the writer of Hebrews draw between the blood of the Old Testament sacrifices and the blood of Jesus? (Hebrews 9:12-14)
5. What does Jesus, as the Mediator of the New Covenant, offer? (Hebrews 9:15)
6. What could the blood of bulls and goats not do? (Hebrews 10:4)
7. How have we been sanctified? (Hebrews 10:10-14)
8. What three words does Paul use to describe our condition without Christ? (Romans 5:6, 8, 10)
9. How have we been justified and reconciled to God? (Romans 5:9-11)

Lesson 9: Establishing the Church

Introduction:

What is the church? When did God plan the church? What did He intend when He established the church?

Church is a term that everybody knows and has a mental picture of what it means. The average person thinks about a religious structure (building). The word “church” actually comes from a Greek word that means “called out” or “assembly.” The church is people! The church that God designed is a vital part of His plan (which is clearly seen when you look at Ephesians).

Many in the religious world believe the church was an afterthought or a workaround that God devised when Jesus was rejected on earth. They believe that Jesus has not set up His kingdom and will set up kingdom on earth and rule from Jerusalem. A clear understanding of this lesson on the purpose of the church in God’s eternal plan will help combat a number of religious errors.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 3:8-12.

I. THE CHURCH - PROPHECY AND FULFILLMENT

1. What was going to happen in the latter days? (Isaiah 2:2)
2. From where were the law and the word going to come forth? (Isaiah 2:3)
3. What was God going to establish in the “days of these kings”? (Daniel 2:44)
4. What was going to be true of the kingdom God was going to establish? (Daniel 2:44)
5. On whom all did God say He was going to pour out His Spirit in “those days”? (Joel 2:28-29)
6. Who was going to be saved? Where would there be deliverance? Whom would the Lord call? (Joel 2:32)
7. In what city were the apostles gathered on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2?
8. What nation was the world ruler at this time?
9. What prophet did Peter say was being fulfilled as he preached? (Acts 2:14-16)

II. THE CHURCH IN GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE (Ephesians 3)

1. What was the mystery revealed to Paul? (3:4-6; especially v. 6)
2. How has the manifold wisdom of God been revealed? (3:10)
3. Use Ephesians 3:11 to show that the church was not an “afterthought” by God or a “backup plan”?
4. Where is God glorified? (3:21)

III. THE CHURCH DESCRIBED

1. How is the church described in Ephesians 1:22-23?
2. How is the church described in Ephesians 2:19?
3. To whom is the church to be subject? (Ephesians 5:22-23)
4. When Jesus promised to build His church, what term did He further use to describe it? (Matthew 16:18-19)
5. List two descriptions of the church found in I Timothy 3:15. (Hebrews 9:15)

IV. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

1. How do we get into the body of Christ? (I Corinthians 12:13)
2. How do we get into Christ? (Galatians 3:26-27)
3. Who is added to the church? (Acts. 2:47, 38, 41)
4. Who adds people to the church? (Acts. 2:47)

Lesson 10: Miraculous Spiritual Gifts

Introduction:

The growth of the church in the New Testament is an amazing story. A small group of Jesus' believers (around 120) whose leader had been murdered became a group numbering in the thousands in a few months. What caused their growth?

In just a few short years this "sect of the Jews" (as they were called by some) had expanded beyond the land and nation of Israel to Gentiles and throughout the known world. What caused this expansion?

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 3:8-12.

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS PROMISED

1. What did Jesus say would happen to the twelve? Why would it happen? (Matthew 10:16-18)
2. How would the apostles (v. 5) be able to answer their accusers? (Matthew 10:19-20)
3. What signs would "follow those who believe"? (Mark 16:17-18)
4. What was the purpose of these signs? (Mark 16:20)
5. Immediately before His ascension, what did Jesus promise His apostles? (Acts 1:5)
6. What was going to "come upon" the apostles and what would they do? (Acts 1:8)

II. MIRACULOUS SPIRITUAL GIFTS RECEIVED AND USED

1. On the Day of Pentecost, what did the apostles (1:26) receive? What did it cause them to do? (Acts 2:1-4)
2. What was Peter able to do in the name of Jesus for the lame man in Acts 3?
3. What did the Holy Spirit allow Peter to do before the Sanhedrin? (Acts 4:8-12)

4. What did the Sanhedrin observe about Peter and John during their time before them? (Acts 4:13)
5. How were signs and wonders performed among the people? (Acts 5:12)
6. Who all came to be healed by the apostles? (Acts 5:15-16)
7. What caused Elymas the sorcerer to go blind? (Acts 13:6-11)
8. Who did Paul heal in Lystra? (Acts 14:8-10)
9. What type of unusual miracles did God work through Paul? (Acts 19:11-12)
10. Look at Acts 9:36-43 and Acts 20:9-10. What similar miracle were Peter and Paul able to perform in these passages?

III. HOW WERE SPIRITUAL GIFTS GIVEN?

1. How were the apostles able to perform miracles? (Acts 2:4; 3:8; 13:9)
2. How was the Holy Spirit given to the saints in Samaria? (Acts 8:17-19)
3. How did Timothy receive the gift of God? (II Timothy 1:6)

IV. MIRACULOUS SPIRITUAL GIFTS WERE TEMPORARY

1. Why were Peter and John sent to Samaria by the other apostles? (Acts 8:14-16)
2. Why were different gifts given? (I Corinthians 12:7)
3. List the gifts found in I Corinthians 12:8-10.
4. What fails? What never fails? (I Corinthians 13:8)
5. When will “that which is in part” be done away? (I Corinthians 13:9-10)

Lesson 11: The Spread of the Gospel

Introduction:

The growth of the church in the New Testament is an amazing story. A small group of Jesus' believers (around 120) whose leader had been murdered became a group numbering in the thousands in a few months. What caused their growth?

In just a few short years this "sect of the Jews" (as they were called by some) had expanded beyond the land and nation of Israel to Gentiles and throughout the known world. What caused this expansion?

Finally, consider our situation today. What does God desire from us, His people, today? Let's look at the spread of the gospel in the New Testament and how we can learn from these examples.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 3:8-12.

I. THE GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:4-8)

1. Read all four of these accounts. Who was Jesus talking to in these passages?
2. Who has all authority? Where does this authority exist?
3. By combining the accounts, what all did Jesus tell the apostles that man needed to do to be saved?
4. Where would these men need to wait before carrying out Jesus' command and why?
5. For what promise were the apostles supposed to wait? (*Hint: This promise contained a reference to John the Baptist*).
6. Where would the apostles serve as witnesses of Jesus?

II. IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA

1. Who obeyed the gospel on the Day of Pentecost? What did they do? How many were there that obeyed the gospel? (Acts 2:38-41)
2. What did these early disciples “continue in steadfastly”? (Acts 2:42)
3. What were some of the things that these early disciples did for each other and together? (Acts 2:44-47)
4. What attitude did the church display in Acts 4:32-37?
5. How did the people of Jerusalem view the believers? How did their number grow? (Acts 5:12-14)
6. When the apostles were beaten for preaching the gospel, what did they do? (Acts 5:40-42)
7. What happened when great persecution arose against the church? (Acts 8:1-4)
8. What happened when the people of Samaria heard the preaching of Philip? (Acts 8:12-13)

III. TO THE END OF THE EARTH

1. Who was the first Gentile converted to Jesus Christ? (Acts 10)
2. Where all were the disciples scattered after the persecution that arose after the death of Stephen? (Acts 11:19)
3. What did the believers preach? What did belief in those who were taught cause? (Acts 11:20-21)
4. What did the word of God do? (Acts 12:24) What do you think this means?
5. Where did Paul generally go first when he went into a new city to preach? (Acts 13:5, 14; 14:1; 16:13; 17:1-2; etc.)
6. In what two ways were the churches increasing in Acts 16:4-5?

7. What did the word of God do in Acts 19:20?
8. Even when Paul was imprisoned, what did he continue to do? (Acts 22-26)
9. When Paul was under house arrest in Rome, what did he continue to do?
(Acts 28:30-31)

Thought Question: How would you compare the spread of the gospel in New Testament times and today? What lessons can we learn from them?

Lesson 12: The End of the Plan**Introduction:**

When is Jesus coming again? What events will surround His return? These are questions about which many theories and ideas have developed over the years. What does the Bible say about this subject? This lesson will look at the second coming of Jesus and the judgment.

Many “signs” are given by Jesus in Matthew 24/Mark 13, and He describes a great tribulation, with people fleeing for their lives. Notice, though, that He was referring to the end of the temple (Matthew 24:1-3), and that those things were going to happen during that generation. (verse 34) The temple was destroyed when the Roman army besieged and conquered Jerusalem in A.D. 70, during the lifetime of Jesus’ audience. If these chapters were referring to the end of the world, then fleeing to the mountains, and praying that it wouldn’t happen in the winter time or on a Sabbath would have been pointless. (verses 16-20)

The book of Revelation also describes a time of great distress and tribulation, and those passages are difficult to understand. Remember two points: 1) The events in the book of Revelation were going to happen SOON – so soon that the readers in the first century were told not to even close the book! (Revelation 1:3; 22:6, 7, 10, 20) Also, 2) whatever those difficult passages mean, they must be consistent with the teachings of clear passages about the end of the world. This lesson looks at those clear passages.

Memory Work: EPHESIANS 3:8-12.**I. THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS****A. *WHEN IS JESUS COMING AGAIN?***

1. To what is the second coming of Jesus compared? (Matthew 25:13)
2. Does any man know the day and hour of the Lord’s coming? (Mark 13:32-33)
3. What warning is given based on Jesus’ coming again? (Mark 13:35-37)

B. *HOW WILL JESUS COME AGAIN?*

1. What did the angels say about Jesus coming again? (Acts 1:9-11)
2. How will the “day of the Lord” come? (II Peter 3:10)
3. What noise will mark Jesus’ return? (I Thessalonians 4:16)
4. What is the “order” of resurrection? (I Thessalonians 4:16-17)
5. A number of religious groups claim that Jesus will return to earth and reign on a throne in Jerusalem. Use I Thessalonians 4:16-17 to show that this claim is not right.

II. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN?

1. Who all will be raised in the final day? (I Thessalonians 4:16-17; John 5:28-29)
2. I Corinthians 15 teaches a number of important lessons about the resurrection. The following questions can be answered from this chapter:
 - a. What evidence did Paul point to that proved the resurrection of Jesus? (vv. 4-8)
 - b. Of what is Christ the “firstfruits”? (vv. 20-23)
 - c. What will Jesus destroy by coming again? (vv. 25-26)
 - d. What kind of body is raised? (vv. 42-44)
 - e. What will happen to all men? (v. 51)
3. What happens after death? (Hebrews 9:27)

III. JUDGMENT

1. Who all will face judgment? (II Corinthians 5:10)
2. Who will judge man? (Acts 17:30-31)
3. What will be the basis of judgment? (John 12:48)
4. Who will give account of himself to God? (Romans 14:12)
5. In the judgment scene presented in Matthew 25:31-46, what two groups are pictured?
6. Why were the sheep welcomed by the Lord? (Matthew 25:34-36), while the goats were sent away (verses 25:42-43)?
7. To what will the good be raised, and to what will the wicked be raised? (John 5:29)

Lesson 13: Review: Take-Home Test**Introduction:**

How much have you learned during this series of classes? Hopefully this take-home test will be a simple refresher that will remind you of the things that we've studied. Complete this test prior to class.

I. MEMORY WORK

*The memory work for Lessons 209-220 has been **EPHESIANS 1:3-6 and 3:8-12**. Answer the following questions related to these memory verses. Also, brush up on these verses prior to class.*

1. Where are all spiritual blessings?
2. When were we chosen in Christ?
3. To what were we predestined?
4. How do we receive redemption?
5. Where is the forgiveness of sins found?
6. What did Paul preach among the Gentiles?
7. How were all things created?
8. What is made known by the church?
9. Where is the eternal purpose of God accomplished?
10. How do we have "boldness and access with confidence"?

II. TRUE OR FALSE

Mark each of the following statements either true or false.

- _____ 1. The scriptures give us information that will allow us to know exactly when Jesus is coming again.
- _____ 2. God came up with a "backup plan" when His primary plan for man failed.
- _____ 3. Eve sinned first, then Adam.
- _____ 4. The first mention of a Savior is in the book of Psalms.
- _____ 5. The "land" and "nation" promises to Abraham were fulfilled in the Old Testament.
- _____ 6. The Old Testament is our spiritual law for today.
- _____ 7. The Old Testament was written for our learning.
- _____ 8. Jesus could be a priest under the Law of Moses.
- _____ 9. God promised Israel a prophet like Moses.

- _____ 10. Jesus is now our High Priest.
- _____ 11. Even though Jesus sinned, He was still our sacrifice for sin.
- _____ 12. The church and the kingdom are two descriptions of the same thing.
- _____ 13. Men add people to the church.
- _____ 14. The giving of spiritual gifts was through the laying on of the hands of the apostles.
- _____ 15. Jesus' command to teach the gospel to all nations was limited to the church in the first century.

III. SHORT ANSWER

1. Why does man need salvation?
2. List the "Five Key Scriptures" from the Old Testament.
3. What were the three promises to Abraham? When was each fulfilled?
4. List some of the purposes of the Law of Moses.
5. Why could Jesus not be priest and king under the Law of Moses? According to what order was Jesus a priest?
6. What are some of the reasons that Jesus is our perfect sacrifice?
7. List the Old Testament prophecies of the establishment of the church.
8. How were spiritual gifts given in the early church? When were spiritual gifts going to "pass away"?
9. From Acts 1:8, identify the locations into which the early church spread.
10. List some events that will happen when Jesus comes again.

IV. SHORT ESSAY

In one or two paragraphs, give your own answer to the following question: Why did Jesus come to earth?