

The Foundation of the Lord's Temple

Theme Passage: Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ You are no longer strangers and foreigners,
but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ
Himself being the chief cornerstone,
²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together,
grows into a holy temple in the Lord,
²² in whom you also are being
built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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Lesson 1, Questions: Building Your Own Faith

Read John 4:12-19.

Jesus told details about what part of the Samaritan woman's life?

What did she conclude?

Read John 4:28-29, 39

To whom did the woman go talk?

What did she say to them?

What was the response of "many of the Samaritans"?

(Choose one.) The basis of their faith was

- a. their own investigation b. someone else's report c. a mysterious miracle

Was their faith valid?

Read John 4:40-42

(Choose one.) After two days, how many believed that Jesus is the Savior of the world?

- a. a few b. many c. many more d. the entire city

(Choose one.) The basis of their faith was

- a. their own investigation b. someone else's report c. a mysterious miracle

Which describes a stronger faith, verse 39 or verse 42?

Speculate about what will happen to a Christian who always takes someone else's report as true and never really investigates for himself.

List 5 to 7 religious topics or questions for which we must seek *our own* answers.

Is it right to question what you believe and what you're taught? (Acts 17:11)

Fill in the blanks.

Rom. 10:17 So then _____ comes by _____, and hearing by the _____ of God.

Read Romans 10:8-16.

How do people hear the gospel?

List some modern ways this happens.

What do hearers believe about Jesus?

- a. (verse 9)
b. (verse 9)
c. (verses 12-13)

What do believers obey?

Read Hebrews 10:22; 11:6.

What degree of faith must go with a true heart when we draw near to God?

(Choose one.) Without faith it is _____ to please God.

- a. impossible b. difficult c. necessary

Read Romans 14:22-23; James 1:5-8.

What is a lack of faith regarding our personal conduct called?

What will a lack of faith do to a Christian's prayers?

Lesson 2: God's Prophets

Who were they?

It is impossible to make a complete list of God's prophets for at least two reasons:

- The prophets are not always named or even numbered.

1 Kings 18:4 refers to 100 prophets who were hidden from the enemy, but we don't know their names. And there are rare references to "the sons of the prophets" (1 Kings 20:35; 2 Kings 2:3, etc.) but we don't even know *how many* there were, we don't read about any of their other family members, and we know virtually nothing about these men or their organization (which may have been only a temporary arrangement).

- God sometimes works in unexpected ways through unlikely people.

Although the Old Testament gives most of its attention to the Israelites, or Jews, God has used non-Israelites (or Gentiles), to carry out His will. The Bible gives little or no detail about these servants of God. This was true for at least one *priest*, Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7), who lived before Jacob was born, so was not even an Israelite, let alone a Levite.

And God has even used *wicked* individuals and nations to accomplish His will at various times. This was true for at least one *prophet*, Balaam (Numbers 22 - 24).

We may also be surprised at times to learn that certain godly people prophesied. For instance, we know that Enoch (another non-Israelite) walked with God and escaped death by God's special blessing (Gen. 5:21-24; Heb. 11:5), but it's not until Jude 1:14-15 that we learn that he had prophesied. There may well have been prophets who lived and spoke for God that are *never mentioned in Scripture*, but God has revealed everything we need to know His will. (Deut. 29:29; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 1:3)

We learn two key points from trying to list all of God's prophets:

- We can't list them all, so **we should focus on their *message and function*, not their names or identities.**
- Most of the prophets we *can* list never knew each other. They lived their lives over an extremely long span of time in many different places, and some, like Balaam, actually wanted to *curse* God's people. so **no one could accuse them of conspiring together.**

How were they chosen?

God never set down qualifications for the prophets, they didn't inherit the work, they weren't voted in, no one cast lots to select them, and they didn't volunteer. God *personally and directly* selected His prophets. Because they did not ask for the job, **no one could accuse them of having their own message to spread.**

Amos 7:14 Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit. ¹⁵ Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

The prophets came from all walks of life. Some were priests, shepherds, farmers, and even political officials. But once God selected a man to be a prophet, he had a *new* job. In spite of feelings of *deep inadequacy* there was a *strong compulsion* to speak for the Lord and powerful help from God to accomplish the mission. (Isaiah 6)

What role did they play?

The Bible shows us the relationship between God and a prophet. In this case, the roles are changed, and Moses is in the position of God, and Aaron is his prophet.

Exodus 4:15 "Now you [Moses] shall speak to [Aaron] and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶ "So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God."

Exodus 7:1 So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet."

So we have a simple Bible **definition of a prophet:**

A SPOKESMAN, OR MOUTHPIECE, FOR GOD.

Prophets did not try to *interpret* God's message (as the Greek prophets of false gods and goddesses did), they simply *spoke* it. While priests were appointed to offer the people's sacrifices (and their own) to God, prophets were selected *to deliver God's words to the people*.

Although God *spoke to* many people (for example, the patriarchs) in the same way that He spoke to His prophets, God *spoke through* only certain chosen ones.

What authority did they have?

God had tried to speak to the people directly at Mt. Sinai, but the people were afraid and asked Moses to hear God's words and then pass them on to the people. God considered this to be a good arrangement and spoke to the people through a prophet in every period of time.

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me [Moses] from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, ¹⁶ "according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' ¹⁷ "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. ¹⁸ 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ 'And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

The prophets had to speak only God's words. If they did, then the people were accountable to God to obey. A vivid illustration of this authority is seen in **1 Kings 20:35-43**. As a testimony to their authority from God, many of the prophets were able to perform miracles (from helping with day to day tasks to raising the dead).

Their prophesying often led them to rebuke sinners, whether kings, rulers, corrupt priests or simply the common people. However, wherever and to whomever they spoke, they spoke as God's mouthpiece, so their words were God's words backed by God's power.

How were they received?

In spite of their calling, their mission and their authority from God, God did not always shield them from harm. The prophets were often persecuted, but kept on speaking because of the power of the truth and the power of God's calling. (Jeremiah 20:7-10) Numerous New Testament passages summarize the rejection of God's prophets by His people. (Matt. 21:33-46; 23:29-37; Acts 7:51-53, etc.)

No one could accuse the prophets of preaching for personal gain or fame.

Lesson 2, Questions: God's Prophets

List several prophets from the Old Testament whose messages were written down.

List two or three Old Testament prophets who don't have Bible books named for them.

List some people who prophesied by the Holy Spirit in Luke chapters 1 and 2.

How many children did Philip the evangelist have who prophesied? (Acts 21:9)

Did Moses and Samuel know each other?

Was Balaam an Israelite? (Numbers 22)

Tell at least one thing Balaam prophesied. (Num. 23:7-10,18-24; 24:3-9; 15-24)

What was Amos' occupation before he became a prophet?

In what sense was Aaron the prophet of Moses?

Did God ever speak directly to Abraham?

Was Abraham a prophet?

Read James 5:16-18.

How does verse 16 describe Elijah?

How does verse 17 describe him?

What did God do at Elijah's request?

What miracle did Elisha perform in

2 Kings 4:8-37?

2 Kings 4:38-41?

2 Kings 4:42-44?

2 Kings 5:1-14?

2 Kings 5:27?

2 Kings 6:1-7?

2 Kings 6:18?

2 Kings 13:20-21?

What happened to Jonah when he tried to avoid responsibility as God's prophet? (Jonah 1)

When Jonah finally went and prophesied, what was the people's response? (Jonah 3:5-10)

How were most of God's prophets received?

Lesson 3: Their Prophecies

How did God's prophets know what to say?

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets . . .

God varied His methods for revealing His message from prophet to prophet.

Numbers 12:6 Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. ⁸ I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD.

Even though many of the prophets were given the exact words to say, they did not always completely understand what God was saying through them.

1 Peter 1:10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things which angels desire to look into.

If the prophets had been asked to interpret their messages, they might have failed. But God simply expected them to be His mouthpiece (as studied in the previous lesson.)

What did God say to them?

Remember that a prophet was a *forth*-teller, not always a *fore*-teller. Sometimes they spoke of the past (usually summarizing God's workings in the nation of Israel), sometimes of the present (for example, Isaiah 7), and sometimes they spoke about the future. They shared a vision of a glorious time when all nations would be blessed by God, as God had promised Abraham. All nations would come to the mountain of God to worship and would be at peace with each other. They spoke of the coming destruction of kings and nations (as in Ezekiel chapters 25-32), exaltation of the Christ and eventual peace in the church. They all had a focus on serious, godly living which usually involved a call to repentance. Sometimes their message was quite personal, intended only for an individual (e.g., 2 Kings 1:16), and at other times they preached to an entire city or nation. Some prophets appear on the pages of the Bible only long enough to deliver a single short message, while others (like Samuel) spent their entire lives prophesying.

Even though most of the prophets did not know each other, they all spoke with a unified voice. They never contradicted each other in any point or detail, even when extremely unusual or even miraculous events were required to bring all the prophets' messages to pass. The unity of the prophets' message is one of the strongest proofs that *God* was, in fact, the author of every book in the Bible. Only a single author whose foresight and existence could span the centuries could be responsible for the themes that run through all the prophets' messages, and only God could bring to pass the extraordinary and wonderful predictions that were made.

Acts 3:18 "Those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. ²² "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from

your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. ²³ 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' ²⁴ "Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days."

What did they write down?

Not all of the prophets wrote, and some of the prophets had others do the actual writing for them. They were usually preachers first, delivering God's message by mouth to the intended audience, and they simply did not write down everything that God ever said to them. They delivered their messages in various ways, sometimes working miracles, sometimes illustrating their message, and sometimes even acting out God's message in their own lives.

But the fact that some of it *was* written down teaches several lessons:

- They were confident about their message, knowing Who told it to them. They all claimed to be speaking for God and were willing to endure the consequences of being God's mouthpiece.
- They were willing for their message to be examined and studied. The Jews in Berea used the Old Testament Scriptures to verify Paul's preaching about Jesus. (Acts 17:11)
- God wanted His message to survive, unchanged, across many generations. Remember that even the *latest* Old Testament prophet, Malachi, prophesied over 400 years before Jesus was even born! Some predictions and messages from God remained written but *unfulfilled* for 1,500 to 2,000 years!

What happened to the written message?

The simple answer is, it stayed written. It was copied faithfully, distributed and preserved down through time. God's will cannot be undone by man or Satan or anyone or anything else. His word survives in spite of all blasphemy and contradiction, and His will is accomplished in spite of all opposition. (Acts 4:25-28) Truly, "The word of the Lord endures forever."

Now notice that the quotation, "The word of the Lord endures forever." was written by Isaiah (Isaiah 40:8) around 700 B.C. and survived for Peter to quote from it in 1 Peter 1:25 during the first century A.D.. Then read Isaiah 40:8 in its context. Hezekiah had been healed by God from a fatal illness, thanks to God answering Hezekiah's prayer. Along with all the other signs and wonders that Isaiah had seen, Isaiah was the one to witness the sign from God that Hezekiah would recover and to have a hand in the healing of Hezekiah. (Isaiah 38; 2 Kings 20:1-11.) Isaiah later predicted disaster to Hezekiah (Babylonian captivity which would last for 70 years - Isaiah 39). In chapter 40, Isaiah, who had predicted so many future events, looks *beyond* the captivity and speaks of the coming of John and even the Messiah. In this context he comments on the everlasting nature of God's word.

Then consider the fact that we are reading from a translation of Peter's writing that is almost 2,000 years old itself and you will begin to understand how God, who spans time and controls the affairs of men, also protects and preserves His word (even in written form) for His people.

Notice two interesting examples of God preserving His word in spite of human failure and attempts to destroy it: 1) The 10 commandments were written on stone. Moses broke the stones, so God re-wrote the same message. 2) The scribe, Baruch, wrote a message for the prophet Jeremiah containing God's warnings to Judah. The evil king Jehoiakim cut and burned the paper, so God had Baruch re-write the same message for Jeremiah, elaborating on it and adding a curse against Jehoiakim. (Jer. 36:20-32)

Lesson 3, Questions: Their Prophecies

- 1) True or false? God always spoke in the same way to all His prophets.
(Give a verse to support your answer.)

Read Numbers 12:6-8.

- 2) Describe how God spoke to Moses.
3) Describe how God spoke to other prophets.

Read 2 Peter 1:21.

- 4) "Holy men of God _____ as they were _____ by the _____."

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12.

- 5) What did the prophets prophesy about?
6) What did they *not understand* about their message?
7) **Isaiah 1:2-9** is a prophecy about the
a. past b. present c. future
8) **Isaiah 1:24-31** is a prophecy about the
a. past b. present c. future
9) **Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12** is written in past tense ("He was oppressed . . ." 53:7), present tense ("He is despised" 53:3), and future tense ("He shall be exalted" 52:13). The prophecy is actually about someone in the
a. past b. present c. future (Compare Acts 8:32-35.)

- 10) "The word of the Lord endures forever." List two Scriptures that make that statement.
a.
b.

- 11) What did Moses do with the stone copies of the 10 commandments in Exodus 32:19?
12) How did God respond in Exodus 34:1?

- 13) Who cut and burned the written word of God in Jeremiah 36?
14) How did God respond?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

- 15) "All _____ is given by _____ of _____ . . . "
16) Define the word "inspiration."

Lesson 4: False Prophets

God condemns false prophets

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

So we must test all prophets

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

A two-fold test

1. Predictions must come to pass

Deuteronomy 18:21 "If you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' -- ²² "when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

Bible examples include:

Micaiah versus Zedekiah - **1 Kings 22:1-40**. As you read the account, notice the number of false prophets and the tactics they used to try to sway Micaiah and change his prophecy.

Jeremiah versus Hananiah - **Jeremiah 28**. As you read the account, notice the predictions of the two men. Also think about how long it would have taken to know who was speaking for God.

Modern examples include:

Joseph Smith (Mormon church founder) predicting details about the Civil War.
Numerous "Jehovah's Witnesses" predictions of the end of the world.

2. The message must fit with God's revelation

Deuteronomy 13:1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, ² "and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' -- which you have not known -- 'and let us serve them,' ³ "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. ⁵ "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

Bible example: **A man of God - 1 Kings 13**

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

See also Deuteronomy 18:20; 1 John 4:2-3.

God condemns fortune tellers

Only God knows the future. But there have always been people seeking to know the future without God's help. Such people have always been condemned.

Moses said,

Deuteronomy 18:10 "There shall not be found among . . . one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. ¹² "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. ¹³ "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. ¹⁴ "For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you. ¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet . . . Him you shall hear."

²⁰ 'But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

Bible example: Saul and **the witch of En Dor - 1 Samuel 28:3-25**. As you read the account, realize that Samuel knew the future because he was, even after death, God's prophet. Do *not* assume that all who have died can see the future.

Lesson 4, Questions: False Prophets

- 1) What does God think of false prophets? How does God deal with them?
- 2) What verse says that false prophets will continue to be a (modern) problem?
- 3) What verse says we must test the spirits?
- 4) Name two tests that prophets must pass.
 - a.
 - b.
- 5) What should we think of someone when his prediction doesn't come true?
- 6) Could a false prophet ever perform a sign or wonder that *would come to pass*?
- 7) In 1 Kings 22, how many false prophets were there?
- 8) How did *they* say the battle would turn out? (see verses 6, 11, 12)
- 9) How many true prophets were there?
Name them.
- 10) How did *God* say the battle would turn out?
- 11) In Jer. 28, what did Hananiah predict?
- 12) How long did Jeremiah predict that captivity would last? (See Jer. 29:10)
- 13) What did Jeremiah say would happen to Hananiah?
- 14) How long after Hananiah's prophecy did he die?
- 15) In 1 Kings 13, was the old liar really a prophet of God?
- 16) How should the young man have known he was being lied to?
- 17) In Gal. 1:8, who is "we"?
- 18) What kinds of ungodly people tried to predict the future in the Old Testament?
- 19) List some modern examples of people who try to tell the future without God.
- 20) From 1 Sam. 28, describe the ritual that the woman performed.
- 21) What did Saul want to know? (See verse 15.)
- 22) How *should* Saul have gotten the information he was seeking?

Review, Questions: Prophets and Prophecy

Write out **2 Peter 1:20-21**. (Maybe use the back of this page.)

Choose the Biblical definition "a prophet," then pick a verse that supports your choice.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| a. interpreter/translator | ___ Exodus 4:15; 7:1 |
| b. writer/editor | ___ Deut. 18:15 |
| c. mouthpiece/spokesman | ___ Heb. 1:1 |
| d. fortune-teller/one who knows the future | ___ 2 Pet. 1:20-21 |

Tell two lessons that can be learned from trying to list all of God's prophets.

- a.
- b.

List some ways that God spoke to His prophets. (**Hint:** Num. 12:6)

What special qualifications, background or experience did all the prophets share?

On what themes did all the prophets speak? (**Hint:** Acts 3:18-24)

Tell a passage showing that prophets did not always fully understand their message.
(**Hint:** Early in 1 Peter.)

How long did it take for some prophecies to be fulfilled?
(Try to give examples from each extreme.)

Explain "The word of the Lord endures forever" from Isaiah 40:8/1 Peter 1:25.

Give three examples of God preserving His written word.

- a.
- b.
- c.

Fill in the blanks: (**2 Tim. 3:16**) "All _____ is given by _____ of _____ . . ."

Define the word "inspiration."

How is "inspiration" different from "inspiration of God"?

Which verse(s) say(s) that there will be false teachers among us?

- a. 2 Tim. 3:1-9 b. 2 Pet. 2:1 c. 1 John 4:1

Tell two tests which every prophecy must pass. (**Hint:** Deut. 13:1-5; 18:21-22)

- a.
- b.

What gives us the right to question what preachers and spiritual leaders say?

Which passage(s) condemn(s) the modern psychics?

- a. Deut. 18:10-12
- b. 1 Sam. 28:3-10
- c. None, because they advertise "for entertainment only."

Lesson 5: The End of Prophecy

GOD PREDICTED THE END OF ALL PROPHECY.

Zechariah 13:1 "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. ² It shall be in that day," says the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land. ³ "It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.'"

1 Corinthians 13:8 Whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

(Prophecies "failing" refers to the *supply* of prophecies running out, not the words themselves being false. The idea is the same as tongues "ceasing" and knowledge "vanishing away.")

WHEN WOULD ALL PROPHECY END?

When we understand the background of the two passages above, we can begin to pinpoint the time that God would cause prophets (and unclean spirits) to depart from the land.

Zechariah lived around 400 B.C. and spoke of a "day" in the future when a fountain would be opened for sin and uncleanness. This refers to the death of the Messiah, Jesus, who was the only person able to take away our sin. (See all of Zech. 12 and 13; Compare Isaiah 53.)

1 Corinthians was written by Paul about 20 years after the death of Jesus. Paul himself, like all the apostles, was a prophet and lived during the time of miracles, prophecy and unclean spirits. (See Acts 16:16-18; 19:11-12.) The time for such things to depart from the land was still in the future, but the time was drawing near. While Zechariah spoke from centuries *before* the time, Paul lived on the *threshold* of the end of prophecy. (For a more detailed study of 1 Corinthians 13:8, see the page titled, "**That which is in part will be done away.**")

HOW WOULD ALL PROPHECY END?

God can work in any way He sees fit, and we do not always understand His methods. (Isaiah 55:8-9; Rom. 11:33) We might have expected all prophets to suddenly die or that God would have simply stopped speaking to man altogether.

But what actually happened was that God *phased out* prophecy by

- 1) replacing a *line* of prophets with one *ultimate* prophet, Jesus, and
- 2) gradually replacing spoken words with written words.

GOD'S ULTIMATE PROPHET

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

Notice that 1) Jesus stands out above the prophets who went before Him, and 2) the other prophets knew the Messiah would be a special messenger. (Deut. 18:15-19; Acts 3:19-22)

At least one modern religion (popularly known as the Mormon church) teaches that God still intends to have living prophets and that Jesus was simply *one* in a long, continuing line of prophets. They leave room for God to add to the Bible, and so introduce the Book of Mormon. But their ideas contradict Hebrews 1:1 and do not make sense with such passages as 2 Peter 1:3 and Jude 3 which teach that God "has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" and that the faith "was once for all delivered to the saints." (Both statements were made in New Testament times!) Mormon teachings are also inconsistent. They teach that God will always have a line of prophets (in other

words, that prophecy will never end) and that God will yet reveal things concerning His kingdom. This not only makes room for the Book of Mormon (from the 1830s), but leaves room for future prophecies as well. But then they interpret passages (such as Ezekiel 37:15-28) as if the Bible and the Book of Mormon are the *only* written prophecies that will ever be.

And there are other popular religions which see no end of prophecy. The Roman Catholic church teaches that God is still revealing new truths from time to time through the pope. Many "Pentecostal" churches believe in modern miracles, tongue-speaking, demon possession and prophecy. On the day of Pentecost, such things existed, but since that time, Paul predicted the end of prophecy, the end of tongue speaking and the end of all miraculous spiritual gifts.

THE WRITTEN WORD

Paul wrote,

Ephesians 3:3 By revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, ⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.

In the Old Testament, there were always more prophets down through time, because God was still unfolding His plan for the Christ and the church. Once the mystery of Christ was revealed to the apostles, there was only so much more that needed to be said to guide the church for all time, and brethren could understand God's will by *reading* what was written by the apostles. In other words, God selected certain prophecies to be preserved for all time, and once they were all written, there was *no more need* for them to be said.

Revelation 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Warnings against adding to God's words appear several times in the Bible. But God has always reserved the right to add to *His own words*, and that's why more was said and written after Deuteronomy 4:2 and Proverbs 30:6. But after Jesus came, He has expressed *no plan* and *no need* to add to His word, so none was added after the final warning in Revelation 22:18-19.

To understand the power of the written word, and how written words could replace miracle workers such as prophets and apostles, consider the following:

Jesus' signs were written down so that the readers "may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (**John 20:30-31**) People in the first century did not have to witness Jesus' signs personally or even hear the apostles preach - - they could read letters from the apostles!

The book of 1 John was written so that believers "may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." (**1 John 5:13**) The written word not only brings us to faith (Romans 10:17), it helps us maintain our faith.

Instead of sending a miracle to the rich man's brothers, Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." Moses and the prophets were long since dead, but the man's brothers could *read* what Moses and the prophets had *written*. Abraham went on to say that even resurrection of someone from the dead would not convince people to obey God any more than the *written word* could! (**Luke 16:29-31**) After all, think how many people saw Jesus and the apostles perform miracles but did not believe!

(See the page titled, "**The Purpose of Miracles.**")

Lesson 5, Questions: The End of Prophecy

Several churches believe in continuing revelation, in other words, that prophecy has NOT ceased. For example, the Catholic Church, the Mormon church and many Pentecostal groups all claim to be speaking by direct revelation or prophecy from God.

Notice how different all these groups are.

Put them to the two tests mentioned.

For any supposed new revelation, ask yourself (or ask the person who believes in it),
“Why do we need this new revelation?”

What did Jesus promise that the apostles would be guided into? (John 16:13)

What did Peter (in the first century A.D., 2 Peter 1:3) say that God “has given”?

Lesson 6: The Apostles

1. A simple definition

An “apostle” is “someone sent on a mission.” The Father selected Jesus and gave Him a special mission, so Jesus was God’s “apostle.” (Heb. 3:1). The Holy Spirit selected Barnabas, calling him to a special work (Acts 13:2), so Barnabas was an “apostle” of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 14:14) Jesus, also selected several men to go on a special mission for Him.

2. The apostles’ selection

Jesus hand picked 12 men for the special work of spreading the gospel and granted them special powers. (Matthew 10:1-4; 2 Cor. 12:12) However, Jesus knowingly picked one man who would eventually betray Him. (John 6:70) After Judas committed suicide, there were 11 apostles for about a month. Then Matthias was chosen to replace him, and we learn 1) that there were special qualifications for being an apostle, and 2) that there were more men *qualified* to serve as apostles than were ever chosen (Acts 1:15-26). Notice that Jesus only predicted *one* traitor among the apostles (John 13:21), and that his being replaced was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

Besides this special circumstance, no other apostle was replaced when he died. (For example, James was not replaced after he was executed in Acts 12.) Jesus never made any provision for replacements. However, Jesus made one exception to the qualifications stated in Acts 1. Paul was made an apostle of Jesus (Acts 9:15-16) even though he had not been with Jesus during His earthly ministry. Paul was, however, a special witness of the resurrection of Jesus after Jesus had ascended to heaven (Acts 9), so Paul referred to himself as being someone who was “untimely born.” (1 Cor. 15:8) Notice that the number of apostles was 13 once Paul was chosen (James was still alive in Acts 9), so Paul was not a replacement for anyone else, and Jesus never made this type of special exception or selection again.

Not only was the *timing* of Paul’s selection unexpected, the *choice* of Paul himself was unexpected. In fact, Paul had been a key player in persecuting (to the death) Christians and trying to stamp out Christianity altogether (Acts 22:4), but he later regretted this and repented. (1 Tim. 1:12-15) Paul was belittled by some brethren and spends much of the book of 2 Cor. defending his apostleship. He was one of the most effective preachers for the Lord that we read about, and most of the book of Acts revolves around Paul’s travels and preaching.

3. Their background and training

We don’t know much about the apostles’ personal lives before they followed Jesus. As far as jobs they held, at least four were fishermen and one was a tax collector working for the Romans. (Luke 5:1-11, 27-28) In terms of politics, one was a Zealot. We know that some were married, but we know very little about their families. (Mark 1:30; 1 Cor. 9:5) Religiously, we know that some had been followers of John the Baptist. (John 1:35-42)

Although Jesus showed no favoritism, three of the disciples (Peter, James and John) were closer to Him than the others, accompanying Him to the Mount of Transfiguration and deeper into the Garden of Gethsemane. (Matt. 17:1-2; 26:36-37) Peter had a strong personality, but he was never given any leadership over the other apostles. In fact, *John* was referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” (John 19:26)

The first 12 apostles lived with Jesus and accompanied Him on His travels around Palestine, witnessing Jesus’ miracles and (slowly) learning from His teachings. They spent the better part of three years in His presence, and this training was, in part, what qualified them for apostleship. (John 15:27; Acts 1:21-22) But in spite of their good intentions, they scattered and forsook Jesus (in fulfillment of prophecy) when Jesus was arrested. (Matt. 26:56) They had numerous *other* human weaknesses including pride, a desire for greatness, lack of faith and lack of understanding.

4. Their persecution and faith

In their service as eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection, the apostles underwent harsh and deadly persecution which Jesus had predicted. (John 15:14-20; Acts 9:16) In order to get a feeling for the types of problems that the apostles endured in order to carry out their mission, read about the trials of Paul in 2 Cor. 11:23-28. We also read in Acts that apostles were jailed, beaten, and whipped at various times for their teachings. James was killed by Herod and Peter *almost* was. (Acts 12:1-3) In fact, history (not in the Bible) tells us that *all* the apostles died martyr's deaths except John. In light of the persecution they endured, it is immensely important to notice that *none* of the apostles ever changed his belief or teaching. The power of their experiences with Jesus and through the working of the Holy Spirit was simply too awesome to ignore or forsake.

5. Their purpose and end

The apostles served as mouthpieces ("prophets") for Jesus as well as preachers. They were not sinless men. The Holy Spirit never tried to live their lives for them or override their moral choices. (See, for example, Gal. 2:11-14.) But the Holy Spirit guided their teachings to be God's words. (John 16:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Pet. 3:15-16, etc.)

The apostles had a limited time to be guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth, serving as eyewitnesses of the resurrection until their teachings could be written down. Once they wrote down the words that the Holy Spirit guided them and moved them to say, there was no more need for living apostles. Once we've added the foundation of the apostles, why keep adding more foundation?

Unfortunately, in modern times, there is a church that claims to have living apostles of Jesus. They don't just have 12 though. They have 12, plus three more who are supposedly special because Peter, James and John were closer to Jesus than the others. The same lessons apply here that we studied about the end of prophecy and the purpose of miracles.

Lesson 6, Questions: The Apostles

Questions:

A) List 12 apostles of Jesus using **Matthew 10:1-4**.

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 1. | 6. | 11. |
| 2. | 7. | 12. |
| 3. | 8. | 13. |
| 4. | 9. | 14. |
| 5. | 10. | |

B) Define the word "apostle." (Hint: Use a dictionary. . . You know, like Webster's.)

C) Did God expect any trouble from any of the apostles?

Read Acts 1:15-20

D) What Old Testament passage does Peter quote from which also answers question B)?

E) Why did the eleven need a new comrade?

F) What were the basic qualifications for an apostle? (**Acts 1:21-22**)

What was their basic mission? (See also **Matthew 4:18-22**)

Now read Acts 1:23-26.

G) How many men met those qualifications?

H) Who chose the new apostle? [Now add Matthias to the list under question A).]

I) Choose one chapter in Acts which tells of Saul's selection as an apostle. 6? 8? 9?
[Notice that "Saul" is later called "Paul." (Acts 13:9) Now add him to the list under A).]

J) Which of the "basic qualifications" did Paul not meet?

K) Choose one passage in Acts which tells of the death of the first apostle.
7:54-60? 12:2? 29:3-7?

L) Was he ever replaced? If so, which chapter in Acts mentions it? 6? 9? 13?

M) What special abilities did an apostle have? (See 2 Cor. 12:12)

N) List at least 3 New Testament books which the apostles did not write.

List at least 3 Old Testament books which the apostles did not write.

O) Find one example of an apostle sinning in the following list.

Acts 2:13 (" . . . They are drunk with new wine"?)

Acts 8:18-19 (When Simon tried to buy the power of the Holy Spirit.)

Galatians 2:11-13 (When Barnabas acted like a hypocrite.)

P) What types of sacrifices did the apostles have to make to follow Jesus? (See Luke 5:27-28)

Q) What reward did they, like any other disciple, have coming? (See Luke 18:28-30)

Lesson 7: The Apostles' Message

1. Their mission

When Jesus called them with the simple command, "Follow me," they left jobs and families and became Jesus' "disciples" (meaning "followers" or "learners"). The 12 are often referred to during their training period simply as Jesus' disciples whose "job" was to follow and learn from Jesus and occasionally to perform limited miracles such as casting out demons. **(John 15:16)**

After Jesus' resurrection, these disciples were "sent on a mission." Their new job as apostles was to witness concerning Jesus, spreading the good news of salvation. Jesus had outlined their duties before His arrest **(John 14-16)**, then before His ascension, Jesus

. . . commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

(Acts 1:4-8; See also Mark 16:15-18; Matthew 28:18-20)

These men were eye- and ear-witnesses **(1 John 1:1-3)** who received inspiration and guidance from the Holy Spirit and thus accomplished their mission. (Notice that by the time Colossians was written, the gospel had reached "all the world." **Col. 1:5-6**) The apostles became the first to establish churches in many areas, and were leaders in the church. Another dimension to their witnessing concerning Jesus came when they started writing the truth as revealed by God. **(See Eph. 3:3-5)** The message from the apostles, like the other prophets' message before them, became the foundation for the household of God. **(Eph. 2:19-22)**

2. Their Message

The main text in the Bible that teaches us about the authority and special characteristics associated with the apostles is **John chapters 14-16**. Notice that Judas had gone out before Jesus said these things to the faithful **11. (13:21-31)**

It was *Jesus' apostles*, and not the other disciples of Jesus, who were given the promises in **John 14-16**. They would be led into all truth and would be guided by the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1, the apostles, and not the other disciples of Jesus, are promised power from the Holy Spirit. **(1:2-8)** Later in Acts 1, the apostles are with about 120 fellow disciples of Jesus. **(1:15)** In **Acts 2:4**, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit" The important question is, "Were 'they' the apostles only, or all 120 disciples?" Let's follow the pronouns.

1:26 "[Matthias] was numbered with the eleven apostles. 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." ² "They" were sitting. ³ Divided tongues "appeared to them" and "sat upon each of them" . . . ⁴ "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" ⁶ "They" were all speaking ⁷ "They" are all Galileans ¹¹ "They" were still speaking ¹³ "They" were ridiculed. ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said . . . ¹⁵ "These are not drunk. . ."

It was the apostles who preached on the Day of Pentecost **(Acts 2)** and led the new Christians into God's will. **(Acts 2:42)** When problems arose in the church, the 12 summoned the multitude of the disciples **(Acts 6:2)**. When persecution arose, the apostles were primary targets. **(Acts 3 - 5; Acts 12)** When the disciples were scattered, the 12 stayed together in Jerusalem. It was an apostle who first preached the gospel to the Gentiles and defended the inclusion of the Gentiles publicly as being in keeping with God's will. **(Acts 10 - 11)** When a doctrinal question arose, it was taken to the apostles in Jerusalem to be settled. **(Acts 15)**

3. Their special ability

The apostles warned that false apostles would try to deceive people. **(2 Cor. 11:12-15)** They also warned against any of the apostles trying to change the gospel message. **(Galatians 1:6-10)** So, *how*

could people recognize a true apostle? One part of the answer is that an apostle could work miracles. ("Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds." **2 Corinthians 12:12; Also, Acts 5:12**) So, If a person could NOT perform a miracle or sign or wonder, he was NOT an apostle.

But other Christians could also perform miracles. So, If a person *could* perform a miracle, he *might* be an apostle, but he might not be, either!

The other part of the answer (how to recognize an apostle) lay in the fact that apostles had a *special* ability. They could do something that no one else in the world could do - they could pass on the miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit. Notice in Acts 8 that the evangelist Philip was preaching in Samaria and was performing miracles. (**Acts 8:5-6**) But *apostles* came from Jerusalem and laid hands on the new Christians. Then, and only then, the new Christians received the Holy Spirit (**Acts 8:14-17**) which often gave them the power to speak in tongues and prophesy (**Acts 19:6**) and perform other miracles. (**1 Cor. 12**)

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." (**Acts 8:18-19**)

So, Philip was a miracle worker, but he obviously couldn't impart the gift of the Holy Spirit. Only the apostles could do that, and Simon knew the difference. Not only could apostles *do* miracles, they could give others the ability to do them! This becomes a test for anyone (especially in modern times) who claims to be an apostle.

Lesson 7, Questions: The Apostles' Message

From **John 14**

How was it possible for the apostles to see the Father?

Who was in Jesus, empowering both His words and His works?

Who would be in the apostles, empowering them?

Why would the apostles "live"?

On what day would the apostles understand the oneness between Jesus and the Father?

Besides the relationship between Jesus and the Father, there was also a mutual indwelling between _____ and _____.

What does someone who loves Jesus do with the commandments from Jesus?

From **John 15**

From where does a branch draw its life and power?

To where does a vine send its life and power?

How can we abide in Jesus' love?

What did Jesus make known to His "friends"?

John 15:20 says that the apostles would be treated just like Jesus. They would be persecuted like Him and would be _____ like Him.

From **John chapters 14 - 16**

Find two places in this reading which say that the Holy Spirit would teach the apostles "all things" or everything that Jesus said, or "all truth."

Find three places in this reading which mean "Don't worry" or "Don't be afraid" or "Don't be sad."

Find two places in this reading which say that Jesus was operating under instructions from God.

Find three places in this reading which say that Jesus would answer the apostles' prayers.

What two things did Jesus predict in this reading that was intended for the apostles to think back to at a later time?

How would the Holy Spirit convict the world of sin?

... of righteousness?

... of judgment?

On whose authority would the Holy Spirit speak?

Read **2 Cor. 11:12-15**

Why did some people pretend they were apostles?

Into what does Satan transform himself?

Lesson 8: An Overview of Jesus' Life

To get an idea of what Jesus' life was like, read this poem, "ONE SOLITARY LIFE."

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that one solitary life.

This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons" © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled "Arise Sir Knight!").

Now think about who Jesus was, before He was "Jesus."

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Now follow Jesus to 7 important places He went that summarize His last 3 years on earth.

1) The Waters of Baptism

Matthew 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2) The Wilderness of Temptation

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

3) The House of Worship

Luke 4:16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. (Read verses 17-30)

4) The Streets of Service

Luke 13:26 You taught in our streets.

Mark 1:32 At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

5) The Mountain of Prayer

Mark 6:46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.

Luke 6:12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 9:28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

6) The Garden of Suffering

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face,

and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? (Also read verses 41-46)

7) The Cross of Sacrifice

Matthew 27:35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." 36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. 37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

(The whole context is **Matt. 26:57 - 27:54**)

Because of who Jesus was, the simple fact that Jesus went to each of these "places" has profound meaning. He didn't have to go to *any* of these for His own sake. Each place was important to His mission of seeking and saving *us*, the lost. We should appreciate Him for His willingness to do all this for us, and we should learn from His own example how to live.

Lesson 8, Questions: An Overview of Jesus' Life

Read "One Solitary Life," but don't try to use it to answer all these questions.
Try to give a Bible verse to support your answers.

- 1) Where was Jesus before He was born?
- 2) About how long ago did Jesus live on this earth?
- 3) In what city was Jesus born?
- 4) In what type of building was he born?
- 5) In what city was Jesus raised?
- 6) What was His earthly father's occupation?
- 7) What had Jesus "built" with His heavenly Father?

- 8) What kinds of things would He have built with Joseph?
- 9) Was Jesus' mother married when she became pregnant?

- 10) What type of teasing and ridicule would that have caused among worldly people?

- 11) How old was Jesus when He married?
- 12) How old was He when He started preaching?
- 13) About how many close friends did Jesus have during His life on earth?

- 14) What kinds of things did Jesus do during His preaching years?

- 15) Could Jesus read and write?
- 16) Of what nationality was Jesus?

- 17) What religion did Jesus practice?

- 18) How much land did Jesus own?
- 19) Who were Jesus' primary enemies?

- 20) How old was Jesus when He was executed?

Lesson 9: Jesus' Fulfillment of Prophecy

Notice the many prophecies Jesus *fulfilled*, but *could not have controlled* (if He had been merely human). Especially notice *how many other people* were involved in His fulfillment of prophecy, even His enemies like the Herods. It was the farthest thing from their minds to help Jesus prove Himself to be the Messiah! (1 Corinthians 2:7-8)

John's role as a forerunner - Matthew 3:1-3 (Isaiah 40:3)

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "

Jesus' lineage – the son of David - Matthew 22:41-42; Acts 2:30-31 (2 Samuel 7:12-16)

12 When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.""

Jesus' tribe – Judah – Matthew 1:1-2; Hebrews 7:14 (Genesis 49:10)

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

His mom's virginity: The name His parents gave Him - Matthew 1:21 (Isaiah 7:14)

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."
22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

The place of His birth – Bethlehem - Matthew 2:6 (Micah 5:2)

'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

The place of His family's escape – Egypt - Matthew 2:15 (Hosea 11:1)

. . . and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Herod's massacre of the male children - Matthew 2:18 (Jeremiah 31:15)

"A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

The place in which His parents raised Him – Nazareth - Matthew 2:23 (Judges 13:5?)

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

The children's praise of Him - Matthew 21:15-16 (Psalm 8:2)

The children [were] crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David . . . 16 . . ." "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?'"

The Jewish leaders' rejection of Him - Matthew 21:42 (Psalm 118:22-23)

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

The disciples' abandonment of Him - Matthew 26:31 (See also verses 54, 56) (Zechariah 13:7)

31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"

Judas' use of the blood money - Matthew 27:1-10 (Jeremiah 32:6-9)

3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, . . . 9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 "and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

Pilate's condemnation of Jesus with the thieves - Mark 15:27-28 (Isaiah 53:12)

27 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. 28 So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."

The soldiers' casting lots for His clothing - Matthew 27:35/John 19:24 (Psalm 22:18)

Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."

The mode of His execution – crucifixion - Matt. 27:46 (Psalm 22:1)

Verses 6-8, scorn and ridicule (See Matt. 27:39-44)

Verses 14-17, the manner of death [**Note: Crucifixion had not been invented in the time of David.**]

Jesus' thirst and the offer of sour wine - John 19:28-29 (Psalm 22:15; 69:21)

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

The way to prove He had died – piercing - John 19:32-37 (Zechariah 12:10)

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. . . . 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not *one* of His bones shall be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced." (See also Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12; Psalm 34:20)

Summary concerning the "Passion" of Jesus - Acts 4:25-28

"Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.' 27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 'to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

The place He was buried – a rich man's tomb - Mark 15:43-46 (Isaiah 53:9)

43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. . . . 46 Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

His resurrection - Acts 2:24-28 (Psalm 16:8-11)

... whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. 25 "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

His ascension - Acts 2:33-35 (See also Matthew 22:44) (Psalm 110:1)

"Being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. 34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: "The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

His crushing of Satan – Galatians 4:4/Revelation 12:7-12 (Genesis 3:15)

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

His blessing to all nations - Acts 3:25 (Genesis 12:1-3)

You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

His similarities to Moses - Acts 3:22-23 (Deuteronomy 18:15)

"For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 'And it shall be *that* every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

His use of healing - Matthew 8:16-17 (Isaiah 53:4)

He cast out the spirits [demons] with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

Also notice things that Jesus had more direct control over:

His base of operation - Matthew 4:13-16 (Isaiah 9:1-2)

And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: 16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light . . .

His meek temperament - Matthew 12:16-21 (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Yet He warned them not to make Him known, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 18 "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. 19 He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. 20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; 21 And in His name Gentiles will trust."

His zeal - John 2:13-17 (Psalm 69:9)

13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" 17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

His use of parables - Matthew 13:34-35 (Also verses 10-15) (Psalm 78:2)

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

His lowly, but triumphant entry into Jerusalem - Matthew 21:1-6 (Zechariah 9:9)

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 "And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'" 6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

Lesson 9, Questions

List prophecies and references about Jesus from Isaiah 53, from the following verses:

3

4 (Notice Romans 15:3)

5

6

7 (Notice Acts 8:32-33)

8

9

10

11

12

Now do the same for Psalm 22. Verses

1

6-8

14

15

16

17

18

Lesson 10: Jesus' Miracles

A List of Jesus' Miracles (In chronological order, taken from Nave's Topical Bible)

Water made wine, **John 2:1-11**.
Heals the nobleman's son, **John 4:46-54**.
Draught of fishes, **Luke 5:1-11**.
Heals the demoniac, **Mark 1:23-26**; Luke 4:33-36.
Heals Peter's mother-in-law, **Matt. 8:14-17**; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38,39.
Cleanses the leper, **Matt. 8:1-4**; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16.
Heals the paralytic, **Matt. 9:1-8**; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26.
Healing of the impotent man, **John 5:1-16**.
Restoring the withered hand, **Matt. 12:9-13**; Mark 3:1-5; Luke 6:6-11.
Restores the centurion's servant, **Matt. 8:5-13**; Luke 7:1-10.
Raises the widow's son to life, **Luke 7:11-16**.
Heals a demoniac, **Matt. 12:22-37**; Mark 3:11; Luke 11:14,15.
Stills the tempest, **Matt. 8:23-27**; 14:32; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25.
Casts devils out of two men of Gadara, **Matt. 8:28-34**; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39.
Raises from the dead Jairus' daughter, **Matt. 9:18-26**; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56.
Cures the woman with the issue of blood, **Matt. 9:20-22**; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48.
Restores two blind men to sight, **Matt. 9:27-31**.
Heals a demoniac, **Matt. 9:32-33**.
Feeds five thousand people, **Matt. 14:15-21**; Mark 6:35-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:5-14.
Walks on the sea, **Matt. 14:22-33**; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21.
Heals the daughter of the Syrophenician woman, **Matt. 15:21-28**; Mark 7:24-30.
Feeds four thousand people, **Matt. 15:32-39**; Mark 8:1-9.
Restores one deaf and dumb, **Mark 7:31-37**.
Restores a blind man, **Mark 8:22-26**.
Restores lunatic child, **Matt. 17:14-21**; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43.
Tribute money obtained from a fish's mouth, **Matt. 17:24-27**.
Restores ten lepers, **Luke 17:11-19**.
Opens the eyes of a man born blind, **John 9**.
Raises Lazarus from the dead, **John 11:1-46**.
Heals the woman with the spirit of infirmity, **Luke 13:10-17**.
Cures a man with dropsy, **Luke 14:1-6**.
Restores two blind men near Jericho, **Matt. 20:29-34**; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43.
Curses a fig tree, **Matt. 21:17-22**; Mark 11:12-14,20-24.
Heals the ear of Malchus, **Luke 22:49-51**.
Second draught of fishes, **John 21:6**.

Jesus did far more miracles than anyone else . . . ever . . . period. But even this long list is only a part of the story.

John 20:30 Truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. . . .

John 21:25 There are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Miracles Jesus Refused To Do

Why did Jesus *not* turn stones into bread so He could eat after a 40 day fast? And why did He *not* jump off the temple's pinnacle to prove Himself to be the Christ? And why did He *not* call down 12 legions of angels to prevent His arrest? And why did He *not* simply come down from the cross when challenged to do so in order to prove that He was the Messiah?

One important fact to remember is that Jesus *could* have performed the miracles, but *chose* not to. (**Matthew 26:53**) The reasons He refused to do some miracles surely lies at the very heart of the *purpose* of His miracles and always relates to His audience at the moment.

Matthew 13:58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Luke 23:8 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.

Matthew 16:1-4 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, "... Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

(A similar conversation is recorded in **Matt. 12:38-40**)

The Nature of Jesus' Miracles

Modern "miracles" simply do not live up to the standard set by God's miracle workers:

Jesus' miracles were

- on well known sick people
- public
- instantaneous
- complete
- visible
- undoubtable

Questions about modern "miracles":

- Why doesn't someone heal Ray Charles or Christopher Reeves?
- Where are the big TV networks when they happen?
- Why do they sometimes take weeks to supposedly work?
- Why is there sometimes only a partial recovery?
- Why do some people only feel better, with no visible change?
- Why have so many "faith healers" been exposed as frauds?

Jesus had power over the weather, over natural processes, over injury, paralysis and all manner of illness involving vision, hearing, thinking and other body functions, over life and death, over unclean spirits, over matter (to multiply it or change it), and power over natural forces (such as gravity). He also knew what people were thinking. He was able to heal by a word or by a touch or by using other means (such as making clay from spittle and having someone wash in water) and He was able to heal at great distance (the centurion's servant). Power flowed from Jesus to the point that a sick woman once touched Him by surprise (He didn't see her or know she was about to do it) and was healed without Him directly willing it.

The Purposes for Jesus' Miracles

When Jesus did miracles, many people obviously received a direct benefit from the power of God. But if He had set out simply to heal sickness and suffering, He did a very poor job because there were many sick people remaining in His day, the apostles' day and throughout time to this present day. The fact is that there was an underlying motive for Jesus to do miracles which went *beyond* the people's sicknesses.

John 9:1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. 4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Jesus performed miracles, in part, to bring glory to God. But there was a way in which Jesus would glorify God that went beyond healing physical suffering.

Luke 5:17 As He was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them. 18 Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. 19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with *his* bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. 20 When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? 24 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" -- He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 25 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear. . . .

It was *easy* to say, "Your sins are forgiven" because nobody could tell if it really happened or not. It was *hard* to say, "Rise up and walk" because people would instantly be able to tell if you were a fraud or not. Jesus proved He could do the "easy" thing (forgive sins) by first doing the "hard" thing, the miracle.

Now look back at the list of miracles. All of Jesus' miracles, as wonderful as they are, are really no different from the types of miracles performed by Old Testament prophets (E.g., Moses parted the Red Sea, Elijah caused the widow's oil to replenish itself, Elisha caused an ax head to float, Elijah and Elisha raised the dead, etc.). In fact, they serve the very same purpose - - to confirm that the miracle worker *spoke* for God.

John 3:2 [Nicodemus] said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

The Authority Behind Jesus' Miracles

Matthew 21:23 Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" 24 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 "The baptism of John -- where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

John's baptism and Jesus' miracles both originated from the same heavenly source.

Reactions to Jesus' Miracles

Jesus' mighty works did not always have the desired effect. Although many believed (**John 2:23**; also **John 2:11; 3:2; 6:2, 13-14**), but some were only interested in the physical blessing (**John 6:26**), and some did not believe at all. (**John 12:37**) But even the skeptics and unbelievers, and even Jesus' worst enemies could not deny that Jesus worked true miracles, and they realized the effect that Jesus' miracles were having.

John 11:47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. 48 "If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him. . . ." (Compare **Acts 4:16**)

But rather than admit the truth and believe, they resorted to blasphemy:

Matthew 12:22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him. . . . 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

And they finally resorted to killing Jesus. Contrary to the Jews' intentions, the crucifixion set Jesus up for *the greatest proof* of His divinity, the resurrection from the dead, and it didn't even stop Him from performing miracles! (He performed several after His resurrection!)

The Testimony to Jesus' Miracles

The reason these events were *written down* for us is basically the same reason that Jesus did them in the first place.

John 20:31 These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Lesson 10, Questions: Jesus' Miracles

Using the Scripture references given, write in a title for each miracle recorded by John. Then match its number to the realm in which it shows Jesus' mastery (on the right-hand column).

| Miracle: | | Jesus is the master of |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1) _____ | (2:1-11) | ___ Death |
| 2) _____ | (4:46-54) | ___ Time |
| 3) _____ | (5:1-9) | ___ Space |
| 4) _____ | (6:1-14) | ___ Quality |
| 5) _____ | (6:16-21) | ___ Quantity |
| 6) _____ | (9:1-7) | ___ People's circumstances |
| 7) _____ | (11:38- | ___ Nature's laws |
| 44) | | |

List at least one Scripture teaching that Jesus did *many* miracles which we don't read about.

From **Matt. 13:53-58**, why did Jesus not do many miracles in Nazareth?

List three miracles which someone challenged Jesus to do, but which He refused. Tell who His challenger was in each instance.

- a) Miracle: _____ Challenger: _____
- b) Miracle: _____ Challenger: _____
- c) Miracle: _____ Challenger: _____

Try to use several miracles in your answers, and please do not use Jesus' resurrection for this next section. Tell one of Jesus' miracles which was . . .

- a) done on a well known sick person
- b) seen in public
- c) instantaneous
- d) completely effective
- e) visible
- f) undoubtable

Why are some of Jesus' miracles recorded in writing?

Is a personal miracle necessary for someone to have faith?

Support your answer.

Be prepared to discuss your favorite miracle of Jesus' in the Bible.

Lesson 11: Jesus' Teachings

The Bible contains many significant claims *about* Jesus, but this lesson simply looks at the claims Jesus made *for Himself*.

Jesus was asked on many occasions to admit being the King of the Jews, or the Messiah, or the Son of God. Sometimes He did not give a direct answer.

John 10:24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

But sometimes He answered very directly.

John 4:25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Mark 14:60 And the high priest stood up . . . and asked Jesus, saying, "What is it these men testify against You?" 61 But He kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." (See also **Luke 22:67-70**.)

Luke 23:2-3 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say."

And Jesus made other very unique claims that no prophet before Him or since has ever dared to make:

John 8:58 Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

John 8:12 I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Matthew 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

And Jesus made unique predictions, even about His own death and resurrection!

Matthew 20:18 Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.

When Jesus taught, He pointed out gaps and flaws in the teaching that the people had received from other religious leaders and set forth His own message as the standard for truth.

Matthew 5:21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry

with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. (See also verses 27, 28, 31-34, 43, 44.)

This all left the clear, unmistakable awareness with His listeners that He had authority.

Matthew 7:28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings [the "Sermon on the Mount" in Matt. 5 - 7], that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

After the resurrection, Jesus did something else that no other prophet had done - He *claimed* all authority, and *used* that authority to call for followers.

Matthew 28:18 All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Now, in all fairness, sometimes small parts of a message (such as the speaker's tone of voice) might be lost in translation when his words are written down. (And the New Testament was first written in Greek.) But if there's any doubt about what Jesus was claiming, the doubt can be completely and finally removed by seeing how Jesus' *listeners* understood His message.

John 5:16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." 18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

Even if Jesus' statement in these verses is not very clear to us, the Jews understood very well that Jesus was "making Himself equal with God."

John 19:19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. 21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.'" " 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

From this exchange, we see 1) that the Jews knew Jesus claimed to be God's anointed King of the Jews, and 2) that Pilate (who had already said, "I find no fault in this Man." **Luke 23:4**) even saw the truth of Jesus' claims.

If we are to face Jesus honestly, we must face up to the claims He made.

If the statements He made are true, then He is the Christ, the anointed of God, the Son of the Living God, the Eternal One who fulfills all prophecy, the source of truth, the One with all authority, the only One who offers all spiritual blessings.

If His claims were less than true to any degree at all, then He was indeed NOT the source of truth, NOT sinless - NOT *any* of the things that He claimed.

The very nature of His claims make His identity an "all or none" proposition. No one can accept His teachings as good moral guidelines or as wise words while claiming that He was only a "good teacher" or "a wise Jewish Rabbi." After all, good teachers don't make themselves out to be God or claim to have all authority in heaven and on earth. He was either the Son of God or He was a blasphemer, liar and pretender. There is simply no middle ground.

Lesson 11, Questions: Jesus' Teachings

1) Jesus said, "I am . . ." many things. Match the claims to the Scriptures.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| ___ Light of the world | a) John 14:6 |
| ___ Good shepherd | b) John 11:25 |
| ___ Way, truth and life | c) John 6:51 |
| ___ Living bread | d) John 10:11 |
| ___ The true vine | e) John 8:12 |
| ___ Resurrection and the life | f) John 15:1 |

2) Match others of Jesus' claims and teachings to the Scriptures.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| ___ Gives living water | a) Matthew 5:27-28 |
| ___ Offers rest for our souls | b) John 8:58 |
| ___ Eternal | c) Matthew 11:29 |
| ___ Present with disciples anywhere | d) Luke 22:27 |
| ___ Has all authority | e) Matthew 20:18-19 |
| ___ God's son | f) John 4:10 |
| ___ A servant | g) Matthew 28:18 |
| ___ Makes "new" rules | h) Matthew 18:20 |
| ___ Predicted details of His own death | i) John 8:14-18 |

3) For each passage, tell who Jesus was talking to ("audience") and who He claimed to be.

| Passage | Audience | Claims |
|--------------|----------|--------|
| John 3:11-18 | | |

John 4:26

John 5:16-18

John 16:28

Matthew 27:11

Mark 14:61-62

4) If Jesus is not the Christ, then He was

- a) a liar and blasphemer b) simply a good teacher c) a wise man

5) According to Matthew 7:29, Jesus taught as one having

- a) knowledge b) authority c) wisdom d) love

Lesson 12: Jesus' Resurrection

As noted in an earlier lesson, Jesus predicted many details about His own death, including *where* (Jerusalem), *by whom* (chief priests, scribes and Gentiles) and exactly *how* (crucifixion).

Matthew 20:18 We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.

John 12: 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." 33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Notice that Jesus also predicted His own resurrection on "the third day"! (See also **Luke 4:28-30**; **John 5:18**; **7:1, 25**; **8:59**; **10:31**; **11:8**) Jesus was at all times in complete control of the circumstances leading to His death and of the power leading to His resurrection.

John 10:15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. . . . 17 Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

Obviously, no ordinary man or even prophet could have gotten away with such a prediction. (Recall the lesson on the two tests of a prophet; for one thing, any predicted event must happen!) This prediction was so dramatic that all of His other claims stand or fall with the one of His resurrection. If Jesus had stayed in the grave He would have been shown to be a false prophet, and all His claims would have been wrong. On the other hand, all His claims could be confirmed and He could be

declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (**Romans 1:4**)

The Bible asserts countless times that Jesus in fact rose from the dead, just as He Himself had predicted. But in order to satisfy those who might have doubts about the Bible's record, notice the following details surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection.

1. **Jesus really died.** Some have suggested that maybe Jesus was just unconscious and walked out of the tomb later (the "Swoon Theory"). But in **John 19:32-35**, notice that
 - a) the Roman soldiers treated Him differently from the other two because they saw that Jesus was already dead,
 - b) when they pierced His side with a spear (to be absolutely sure He was dead), blood and water flowed out, conclusively indicating death, and
 - c) this was all recorded by an eyewitness. Besides this, the "Swoon Theory" does not explain Jesus' escape past the guards at the tomb.
 - d) And notice from **John 19:38-42** that Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped Jesus' body in cloth strips in about 100 pounds of spices.
2. **The tomb was empty.** The Roman guards saw it (**Matthew 28:1-8**), and Mary, Peter and John saw it. (**John 20:1-18**). Notice that not all of the guards were obedient to the angel, but ran and told Jesus' Jewish enemies what they had seen. (**Matthew 28:11**) This proves that not all the guards were sympathetic to the Christian cause. The fact that the tomb was empty is further proved by the following points:
3. **Non-Christians were powerless to show the dead body of Jesus.** If the Jews or Romans had simply presented Jesus' dead body, they would have completely countered any stories about Jesus resurrection, and Christianity would have died out before it started. Then the Jews or Romans could have written any decrees they wanted and could have circulated them throughout the Roman empire to prevent anyone from believing a lie. Rather than persecute Christians, they simply could've displayed Jesus' dead body and disgraced and ridiculed the Christians, dismissing and denying all the Christians' claims and beliefs.

But the Jews obviously didn't *have* Jesus' body. They were unable to show it to anyone because they had been powerless to keep it in the tomb. So they tried to make it look as if the Christians had somehow faked the resurrection.

Matthew 28:11 Behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests . . .
. 12 When they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' 14 "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

Notice that "this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day". (**Matt. 28:15**) But why didn't that lie spread through the Roman empire? Because it had no basis in fact. And the Roman guards suffered no consequences (in spite of the fact that the lie made them look incompetent) because the situation was "fixed" politically.

And consider the lie itself that the Roman soldiers were instructed to tell:

If the soldiers were asleep, how could they know what was happening around them? OR . . .
If the soldiers were awake, why didn't they try to stop the disciples?

4. Christians were powerless to steal the body of Jesus. Out of their fear that the Christians might try to steal Jesus' body (thereby faking the resurrection), the Jews 1) obtained a squad of Roman guards, 2) placed them at the tomb with someone always watching and 3) sealed the tomb. Any plan for faking the resurrection would have had to bypass the Roman guards (and no one was killed). And even if certain of the guards had been sympathetic with Jesus' followers, why would they have put their lives on the line for a hoax?

The idea that the disciples could possibly steal Jesus' body out from under the noses of the Roman guard is ludicrous. Anyone who believes it doesn't know much about Roman (or *any*) soldiers, and they don't understand the mind-set of the disciples immediately after the crucifixion. They were not plotting and scheming or trying to battle the Jewish leaders for followers and political power. In fact, they were 1) scared of the Jews (**John 20:19**), 2) saddened and discouraged and generally lacking direction (**Luke 24:13-35**), and 3) lacking in understanding of the Scriptures concerning the resurrection. (**John 20:9**)

5. Only Christians wanted Him to rise again. Everyone besides Jesus' followers (especially Jews and Romans) had a vested interest in Jesus staying dead and His body staying in the tomb. If He arose, the Jews would lose both "face" and followers. And if He arose, the Roman guards would be seen as incompetent and Pilate would have to confront an angry group of Jews.

6. Not even Christians would benefit from a faked resurrection. The multitudes who believed in Jesus and His resurrection (See **Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14.**) were added as His followers in spite of immediate and ongoing persecution from both Jews (**Acts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,** etc.) and Romans. (**Acts 12, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,** etc.)

7. Jesus was seen by many people after the resurrection. This explains why so many people were willing to suffer such persecution for Jesus' cause - there were so many eyewitnesses!

1 Corinthians 15:5 [Christ] was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me [Paul] . . .

For the record, there is no such thing as mass hallucination. And where could you find 500 people to conspire to lie, especially when (at the risk of wearing out this point) it resulted in such persecution? Jesus was also seen later in visions by Stephen (**Acts 7**), Paul (**Acts 9**) and John (**Revelation 1**).

8. None of the apostles ever abandoned the faith. Christians were some of the most persecuted people in the first several centuries A.D., and all the apostles (except John) died violent deaths (according to tradition) for their preaching. Why would they tolerate such treatment for the sake of a hoax?!

9. No published account disputes any detail recorded in the Bible. It is possible for an unbeliever to argue that *anything actually* happened, and that the writers of the New Testament concocted elaborate lies only to make it *look in print* like Jesus really arose from the dead. But then where are the books by Jesus' enemies documenting anything about the Bible record being faked? After all, Jesus' enemies had all the political and religious power for most of a hundred years, but no account from *any* source - political, religious, historical or private - contradicts the Bible record at all, about either the Jews' influence over the Romans, the details of guarding the tomb, the empty tomb, or the resurrection itself.

And we always seem to get back to two basic problems: Christians didn't have the social, military, political or religious power to fake the resurrection, let alone fake the Bible record, and they wouldn't have tolerated extreme persecution for the sake of a hoax, anyway.

Jesus' resurrection is the basis for faith and hope. Without it, Christianity would crumble.

1 Corinthians 15:14 If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up -- if in fact the dead do not rise. . . . 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

Paul here states the point we have been repeatedly making in this lesson. Although the Bible accounts are detailed, reliable and from eyewitnesses, the proof of Jesus' resurrection goes far beyond the simple accounts of the events. The *lives of the eyewitnesses* themselves prove that Jesus rose from the dead! About the only thing that belief in the resurrection gained for believers *in this life* was persecution. So if Jesus was *not* raised (if it were faked or a hoax), then His disciples would receive basically nothing in this life *or the next!* They would truly be pitiful and pitiable. But remember that Paul had seen Jesus and had spoken with Him after His resurrection (and ascension - **Acts 9:3-5**), and so speaks as an *eyewitness* when he says:

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope that our loved ones will be raised to live again.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

But primarily, His resurrection gives us hope that *we ourselves* will be raised to live with Him.

Romans 6:4 We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. . . . 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

This passage shows us the special nature of Jesus' resurrection - He dies no more. We can assume that everyone else who was raised from the dead in the Bible eventually died again. The permanent resurrection of Jesus is powerful and is a worthy goal for all our souls' efforts.

Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him . . . 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

John 11:25 Jesus said to [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

26 "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Do you believe this?"

Lesson 12, Questions: Jesus' Resurrection

- 1) **Read John 19:32-35.** Tell three ways that we know Jesus was really dead (and not just unconscious) when he was laid in the tomb.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 2) **Read Matthew 27:62-66.** What had Jesus predicted would happen three days after His death?
- 3) Who would have benefited the most from Jesus rising from the dead?
 - a. The Jews
 - b. The Romans
 - c. The Christians
- 4) What did the Jews fear that the disciples might do?
- 5) What precautions did the Romans take to prevent such a thing?
 - a.
 - b.
- 6) What would the disciples have gained from *faking* the resurrection?
- 7) If the resurrection had been faked what would the disciples have most likely done when persecution began?
- 8) **Read Matthew 28:1-8.** Tell who the Roman guards spoke to . . .
- 9) . . . what they were told to come see . . .
- 10) . . . what they were commanded to tell Jesus' disciples . . .
 - a.
 - b.
- 11) . . . and how they felt.
 - a.
 - b.
- 12) **Read Matthew 28:11-15.** Tell who some of the guard spoke to . . .
- 13) . . . what they were given . . .
- 14) . . . and what they were told to say.
- 15) If the soldiers were asleep, how could they know what was happening around them? (Don't answer - - it's a rhetorical question.) OR . . . If the soldiers were awake, why didn't they try to stop the disciples? (Don't answer. It's another rhetorical question.)
- 16) **Read John 20:1-13.** Who else saw the empty tomb?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 17) What did they see?
- 18) **Read John 20:14-18.** Who saw Jesus after His resurrection?
- 19) **Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-9.** Who else saw Jesus after His resurrection?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
- 20) **From John 21:1-14.** Tell a miracle Jesus performed after His resurrection.

Lesson 13: "Do We Look For Another?"

Jesus lived in a time when the Jews, based on the Old Testament, were expecting a leader to arise and save them from political oppression. Whoever was coming, the Jews could understand Daniel's prophecies well enough to know that it would happen during the reign of the Roman Empire. They were pretty much on the edge of their seats in anticipation. Impostors and pretenders can find gullible followers in such an atmosphere. So Jesus warned people against following false christs:

Matthew 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

The Jews understood that the Old Testament predicted the coming of a special servant of God whom God would anoint (thus, the "Messiah"). But did *all* the passages with their various figures and symbols refer to only *one* person, or did the Old Testament point to *several* different men? When John the baptizer started preaching, people were generally confused on this point.

John 1:19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

And this same confusion existed about Jesus when He was preaching.

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

In this series of lessons, we have studied true prophets of God, all of whom spoke of Jesus. Jesus was the truest and purest of all, and stands as God's ultimate prophet. We have studied the lives and teachings of the apostles, those special eyewitnesses to all that Jesus taught and did. They sacrificed their lives, even suffering violent deaths, because of their unwavering faith:

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

We have seen that Jesus fulfilled numerous prophecies, including many which were out of His control to fulfill (unless He was indeed God). We have looked at the miracles He did which showed Him to be of God. (**John 7:31** "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?") We have looked briefly at the extreme claims that He made and have seen that He, Himself, left no middle ground. (**Matthew 12:30** "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.") May our conviction and faith be as strong as these people's:

John 4:42 Then [the Samaritans] said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

John 1:41 [Andrew] first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 1:49 Nathanael: "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

John 11:27 [Martha] said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Matthew 27:54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

John 20:27 [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

We may not get to see Jesus in the flesh, but the written word is intended to produce faith in us. (**John 20:31; Romans 10:17**) Even though we live long after Jesus' earthly ministry, we can still walk by faith, not sight. (**2 Corinthians 5:7**)

1 Peter 1:8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith -- the salvation of your souls.

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

If you decide that Jesus is *not* who He claimed to be, then you still have to face the numerous Old Testament prophecies. You either have to find a way to explain them away, or you have to say (like the Jews do) that the Messiah is still coming, it just wasn't Jesus. You'll be left in the very awkward position of trying to deny the entire New Testament (with all its connections to the Old) while looking for another Messiah who will fulfill Old Testament prophecies better than Jesus (including rising from the dead), do miracles like Jesus did, teach better than Jesus did, and . . . well, you get the point. And you're left out of step with Daniel's prediction that the kingdom of God would be established during the time of the Roman empire which has passed away some 1,500 years ago.

But Jesus fills every qualification a hundred times over and proved Himself time and again to be the Christ, the Son of God. Peter saw the truth clearly, and also realized how pointless it would be to look for another:

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

We must all decide who Jesus is.

What will You Do with Jesus?

1. Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall, friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all. Hearken! What meaneth the sudden call, "What will you do with Jesus?"
2. Jesus is standing on trial still. You can be false to Him if you will. You can be faithful thru good or ill. What will you do with Jesus?
3. Will you evade Him as Pilate tried? Or will you choose Him, whate'er betide? Vainly you struggle from Him to hide. What will you do with Jesus?
4. Will you like Peter your Lord deny? Or will you scorn from His foes to fly, daring for Jesus to live or die? What will you do with Jesus?
5. "Jesus, I give Thee my heart today! Jesus, I'll follow Thee all the way, gladly obeying Thee!" Will you say, "This will I do with Jesus"?

CHORUS: What will you do with Jesus, my friend? Neutral you cannot be: Some day your heart will be asking, oh, friend, "What will He do with me?"

Lesson 13, Questions: "Do We Look For Another?"

- 1) In Matthew 11:3, who asked Jesus, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"
- 2) Many people were faced with Jesus, either personally, or through the preaching of the gospel. Match the people to their responses.

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ___ Pilate (Matthew 27:22-24) | A) Believed and obeyed |
| ___ Thomas (John 20:24-25) | B) Threatened the preachers |
| ___ Thousands of Jews (Acts 2:41-42) | C) Delayed out of fear |
| ___ The Jewish leaders (Acts 4:17-18) | D) Killed the preacher |
| ___ The Jewish crowd (Acts 7:51-60) | E) "Almost" submitted |
| ___ Saul (Acts 9:1-2) | F) Tried to stay neutral |
| ___ Cornelius (Acts 10:30-33) | G) Washed the preachers' wounds |
| ___ Elymas (Acts 13:8) | H) Sent for a preacher |
| ___ Prison keeper (Acts 16:32-33) | I) Mocked the preacher |
| ___ Felix (Acts 24:24-26) | J) Persecuted the believers |
| ___ Festus (Acts 26:24) | K) Simply wanted proof |
| ___ Agrippa (Acts 26:28) | L) Hindered the preaching |

From **Matthew 27:22**, ask yourself, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

Now consider the historical fact that the Jewish temple was destroyed along with all their genealogical records by the Romans in A.D. 70.

- 3) If they are looking for someone else to be Messiah, who is from the tribe of Levi, and therefore qualified to be priest, in the meantime?
- 4) And where can they sacrifice their offerings to make atonement for sin?
- 5) Out of the many religious leaders in the world, who best fulfills the Old Testament prophecies?
 - a. Mohammed b. Buddha c. Sun Yung Moon d. Jesus e. (other) _____
- 6) Who has the best-documented miracles?
 - a. Mormon apostles b. Catholics c. New age psychics d. Jesus e. (other) _____
- 7) Who claimed to be the only begotten Son of God?
 - a. Mohammed b. Buddha c. Sun Yung Moon d. Jesus e. (other) _____
- 8) Who led a sinless life?
 - a. Mohammed b. Any pope c. Sun Yung Moon d. Jesus e. (other) _____
- 9) If Jesus was not the Messiah, what does that say about the New Testament?

and then what does *that*, in turn, say about the Old Testament?
- 10) Who alone is qualified to be the cornerstone in the foundation of faith?

What Bible passage(s) call(s) Him that?
- 11) From **Matthew 16:13-14**, list four others (besides "Christ") that men said Jesus was.

| | |
|----|----|
| a. | c. |
| b. | d. |

12) Now Jesus is asking *you*, "But who do *you* say that I am?"

Extra: Titles and Roles of Jesus

2 Tim. 2:19 "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

God: Mighty God; Lord God Almighty; Son of God; Immanuel.

Eternal: I AM; Alpha and Omega; Root and Offspring of David.

Human: Son of Man. We are His brethren

Chosen by God: Christ; Anointed; Holy One. We are the worshipers. Apostle of our confession.
We are His prospects.

Savior: Jesus, Savior, Horn of Salvation. We are the saved, who were formerly lost.

Sacrifice: Lamb of God; Propitiation for our sins. We are the sinners who are sanctified and spared from God's wrath.

Conqueror: Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Seat of Authority: King of kings; Governor; Lord of All; Prince of peace. We are the subjects.

Ruler of the Church: Head of the church; Bridegroom. We are called out of the world into His body.

Light: Light of the world; Dayspring (dawn); Morning star; Sun of righteousness. We as "candles," draw energy from Him and reflect His glory.

God's message: The Word; The Truth; Word of Life; Author and Finisher of our faith

Guide: Wonderful Counselor; The Way; The Door of the Sheep; Chief Shepherd; Bishop of our souls. We are sheep, prone to go astray and needing guidance.

Source of Life: Resurrection and the Life; Prince of Life; The Life; Bread of Life; The True Vine.
We live spiritually only by Him.

Foundation of God's Temple: Chief cornerstone. We are the living stones.

Helper: Advocate; Mediator; High Priest of our confession. We are on trial, pleading to God.

Judge: Righteous Judge

Remember that there are two appointments we must all keep, and one is with Jesus the Judge.

Hebrews 9:27 It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.

2 Cor. 5:10 We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Acts 10:42 [Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

Jesus as the chief cornerstone, with the prophets who went before Him and the apostles who followed after, serves as a solid foundation for our faith.

John 12:48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

You have been living your entire life in front of other people, and your words betray what you think of Jesus. So remember Jesus' promise and His warning:

Matthew 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Names, Appellations and Titles of Jesus

| | |
|--|---|
| Son of God (John 1:34) | High Priest of our confession (Hebrews 3:1) |
| Lord God Almighty (Rev. 15:3) | Dayspring (Luke 1:78) |
| Immanuel (Matthew 1:23) | Morning Star (Revelation 22:16) |
| Mighty God, (Isaiah 9:6) | Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2) |
| I AM (John 8:58) | Light of the World (John 8:12) |
| The Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8) | Shepherd and Bishop of Your Souls (1 Peter 2:25) |
| Root and Offspring of David (Revelation 22:16; Isaiah 11:1, 10) | Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4) |
| Son of Man (Matthew 12:40) | Good Shepherd (John 10:10) |
| Holy One (Mark 1:24) | Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6) |
| Messiah (John 1:41) | The Way (John 14:6) |
| Christ (Acts 2:36) | The Door of the sheep (John 10:7, 9) |
| Apostle of our confession (Hebrews 3:1) | Resurrection and Life (John 11:25) |
| Jesus (Matthew 1:21) | Prince of Life (Acts 3:15) |
| Savior (2 Peter 2:20) | The Life (John 14:6) |
| Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69) | Word of Life (1 John 1:1) |
| Lamb of God (John 1:29) | Bread of Life (John 6:48) |
| Propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2) | The True Vine (John 15:1) |
| Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5) | The Truth (John 14:6) |
| King of Kings (Rev. 19:16) | The Word (John 1:1) |
| Governor (Matthew 2:6) | Author and Finisher of Our Faith (Hebrews 12:2) |
| Lord of All (Acts 10:36) | Chief Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20) |
| Prince of Peace, (Isaiah 9:6) | Advocate (1 John 2:1) |
| Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22) | Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) |
| Bridegroom (Matthew 9:15) | Righteous Judge (2 Timothy 4:8) |

A list from Nave's Topical Bible:

Adam, 1 Cor. 15:45. Advocate, 1 John 2:1. Almighty, Rev. 1:8. Alpha and Omega, Rev. 1:8. Amen, Rev. 3:14. Angel, Gen. 48:16; Ex. 23:20,21. Angel of his presence, Isa. 63:9. Anointed, Psalms 2:2. Apostle, Heb. 3:1. Arm of the Lord, Isa. 51:9,10. Author and perfecter of our faith, Heb. 12:2. Beginning and end of the creation of God, Rev. 3:14; 22:13. Beloved, Eph. 1:6. Bishop, 1 Pet. 2:25. Blessed and only Potentate, 1 Tim. 6:15. Branch, Jer. 23:5; Zech. 3:8. Bread of life, John 6:48. Bridegroom, Matt. 9:15. Bright and morning star, Rev. 22:16. Brightness of the Father's glory, Heb. 1:3. Captain of the Lord's army, Josh. 5:14. Captain of salvation, Heb. 2:10. Carpenter, Mark 6:3. Carpenter's son, Matt. 13:55. Chief Shepherd, 1 Pet. 5:4. Chief corner stone, 1 Pet. 2:6. Outstanding among ten thousand, Song 5:10. Child, Isa. 9:6; Luke 2:27,43. Chosen of God, 1 Pet. 2:4. Christ, Matt. 1:16; Luke 9:20. The Christ, Matt. 16:20; Mark 14:61. Christ, a King, Luke 23:2. Christ Jesus, Acts 19:4; Rom. 3:24; 8:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Cor. 1:30; Heb. 3:1; 1 Pet. 5:10,14. Christ Jesus our Lord, 1 Tim. 1:12; Rom. 8:39. Christ of God, Luke 9:20. Christ, the chosen of God, Luke 23:35. Christ the Lord, Luke 2:11; Christ the power of God, 1 Cor. 1:24. Christ the wisdom of God, 1 Cor. 1:24. Christ, the Son of God, Acts 9:20. Christ, Son of the Blessed, Mark 14:61. Commander, Isa. 55:4. Consolation of Israel, Luke 2:25. Corner stone, Eph. 2:20. Counselor, Isa. 9:6. Covenant of the people, Isa. 42:6. David, Jer. 30:9. Daysman, Job 9:33. Dayspring, Luke 1:78. Day star, 2 Pet. 1:19. Deliverer, Rom. 11:26. Desire of all nations, Hag. 2:7. Door, John 10:7. Elect, Isa. 42:1. Emmanuel, Isa. 7:14. Ensign, Isa. 11:10. Eternal life, 1 John 5:20. Everlasting Father, Isa. 9:6. Faithful and True, Rev. 19:11. Faithful witness, Rev. 1:5. Faithful and true witness, Rev. 3:14. Finisher of faith, Heb. 12:2. First and last, Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13. First begotten, Heb. 1:6. First begotten of the dead, Rev. 1:5. Firstborn, Psalms 89:27. Foundation, Isa. 28:16. Fountain, Zech. 13:1. Forerunner, Heb. 6:20. Friend of sinners, Matt. 11:19. Gift of God, John 4:10. Glory of Israel, Luke 2:32. God, John 1:1. God blessed for ever, Rom. 9:5. God manifest in the flesh, 1 Tim. 3:16. God of Israel, the Savior, Isa. 45:15. God of the whole earth, Isa. 54:5. God our Savior, 1 Tim. 2:3. God's dear Son, Col. 1:13. God with us, Matt. 1:23. Good Master, Matt. 19:16. Governor, Matt. 2:6. Great shepherd of the sheep, Heb. 13:20. Head of the church, Eph. 5:23. Heir of all things, Heb. 1:2. High priest, Heb. 4:14. Head of every man, 1 Cor. 11:3. Head of the church, Col. 1:18. Head of the corner, Matt. 21:42. Holy child Jesus, Acts 4:30. Holy one, Psalms 16:10; Acts 3:14. Holy one of God, Mark 1:24. Holy one of Israel, Isa. 41:14; 54:5. Holy thing, Luke 1:35. Hope [our], 1 Tim. 1:1. Horn of salvation, Luke 1:69. I Am, John 8:58. Image of God, Heb. 1:3. Israel, Isa. 49:3. Jehovah, Isa. 40:3. Jehovah's fellow, Zech. 13:7. Jesus, Matt. 1:21. Jesus Christ, Matt. 1:1; John 1:17; 17:3; Acts 2:38; 4:10; 9:34; 10:36; 16:18; Rom. 1:1,3,6; 2:16; 5:15,17; 6:3; 1 Cor. 1:1,4; 1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Cor. 1:19; 4:6; 13:5; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 1:8; 2:11; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb. 13:8; 1 John 1:7; 2:1. Jesus Christ our Lord, Rom. 1:3; 6:11,23; 1 Cor. 1:9; 7:25. Jesus Christ our Savior, Tit. 3:6. Jesus of Nazareth, Mark 1:24; Luke 24:19. Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, John 19:19. Jesus, the King of the Jews, Matt. 27:37. Jesus, the Son of God, Heb. 4:14. Jesus, the Son of Joseph, John 6:42. Judge, Acts 10:42. Just man, Matt. 27:19. Just one, Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14. Just person, Matt. 27:24. King, Matt. 21:5. King of Israel, John 1:49. King of the Jews, Matt. 2:2. King of saints, Rev. 15:3. King of kings, 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14. King of glory, Psalms 24:7-10. King of Zion, Matt. 21:5. King over all the earth, Zech. 14:9. Lamb, Rev. 5:6,8; 6:16; 7:9,10,17; 12:11; 13:8,11; 14:1,4; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7,9; 21:9,14,22,23,27. Lamb of God, John 1:29. Lawgiver, Isa. 33:22. Leader, Isa. 55:4. Life, John 14:6. Light, John 8:12. Light, everlasting, Isa. 60:20. Light of the world, John 8:12. Light to the Gentiles, Isa. 42:6. Light, true, John 1:9. Living bread, John 6:51. Living stone, 1 Pet. 2:4. Lion of the tribe of Judah, Rev. 5:5. Lord, Rom. 1:3. Lord of lords, Rev.

17:14; 19:16. Lord of all, Acts 10:36. Lord our righteousness, Jer. 23:6. Lord God Almighty, Rev. 15:3. Lord from heaven, 1 Cor. 15:47. Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, 2 Pet. 1:11; 3:18. Lord Christ, Col. 3:24. Lord Jesus, Acts 7:59; Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 4:2. Lord Jesus Christ, Acts 11:17; 16:31; 20:21; Rom. 5:1,11; 13:14. Lord Jesus Christ our Savior, Tit. 1:4. Lord of glory, Jas. 2:1. Lord of Armies, Isa. 44:6. Lord, mighty in battle, Psalms 24:8. Lord of the dead and living, Rom. 14:9. Lord of the sabbath, Mark 2:28. Lord over all, Rom. 10:12. Lord's Christ, Luke 2:26. Lord, strong and mighty, Psalms 24:8. Lord, the, our righteousness, Jer. 23:6. Lord, your holy one, Isa. 43:15. Lord, your redeemer, Isa. 43:14. Man Christ Jesus, 1 Tim. 2:5. One of sorrows, Isa. 53:3. Master, Matt. 23:8. Mediator, 1 Tim. 2:5. Messenger of the covenant, Mal. 3:1. Messiah, John 1:41. Messiah the Prince, Dan. 9:25. Mighty God, Isa. 9:6. Mighty one of Israel, Isa. 30:29. Mighty one of Jacob, Isa. 49:26. Mighty to save, Isa. 63:1. Minister of the sanctuary, Heb. 8:2. Morning star, Rev. 22:16. Most holy, Dan. 9:24. Most mighty, Psalms 45:3. Nazarene, Matt. 2:23. Offspring of David, Rev. 22:16. Only begotten, John 1:14. Only begotten of the Father, John 1:14. Only begotten son, John 1:18. Only wise God, our Savior, Jude 25. Passover, 1 Cor. 5:7. Plant of renown, Ezek. 34:29. Potentate, 1 Tim. 6:15. Power of God, 1 Cor. 1:24. Physician, Matt. 9:12. Precious corner stone, Isa. 28:16. Priest, Heb. 7:17. Prince, Acts 5:31. Prince of life, Acts 3:15. Prince of peace, Isa. 9:6. Prince of the kings of the earth, Rev. 1:5. Prophet, Deut. 18:15,18; Matt. 21:11; Luke 24:19. Propitiation, 1 John 2:2. Rabbi, John 1:49. Rabboni, John 20:16. Ransom, 1 Tim. 2:6. Redeemer, Isa. 59:20. Resurrection and life, John 11:25. Redemption, 1 Cor. 1:30. Righteous branch, Jer. 23:5. Righteous judge, 2 Tim. 4:8. Righteous servant, Isa. 53:11. Righteousness, 1 Cor. 1:30. Rock, 1 Cor. 10:4. Rock of offence, 1 Pet. 2:8. Root of David, Rev. 5:5; 22:16. Root of Jesse, Isa. 11:10. Rose of Sharon, Song 2:1. Ruler in Israel, Mic. 5:2. Salvation, Luke 2:30. Sanctification, 1 Cor. 1:30. Sanctuary, Isa. 8:14. Savior, Luke 2:11. Savior, Jesus Christ, 2 Tim. 1:10; Tit. 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:1. Savior of the body, Eph. 5:23. Savior of the world, 1 John 4:14. Scepter, Num. 24:17. Second Adam, 1 Cor. 15:47. Seed of David, 2 Tim. 2:8. Seed of the woman, Gen. 3:15. Servant, Isa. 42:1. Servant of rulers, Isa. 49:7. Shepherd, Mark 14:27. Shepherd and bishop of souls, 1 Pet. 2:25. Shepherd, chief, 1 Pet. 5:4. Shepherd, good, John 10:11. Shepherd, great, Heb. 13:20. Shepherd of Israel, Psalms 80:1. Shiloh, Gen. 49:10. Son of the Father, 2 John 3. Son of God, see SON OF GOD. Son of Man, see SON OF MAN. Son of the blessed, Mark 14:61. Son of the highest, Luke 1:32. Son of David, Matt. 9:27. Star, Num. 24:17. Sun of righteousness, Mal. 4:2. Surety, Heb. 7:22. Stone, Matt. 21:42. Stone of stumbling, 1 Pet. 2:8. Sure foundation, Isa. 28:16. Teacher, John 3:2. True God, 1 John 5:20. True vine, John 15:1. Truth, John 14:6. Unspeakable gift, 2 Cor. 9:15. Very Christ, Acts 9:22. Vine, John 15:1. Way, John 14:6. Which is, which was, which is to come, Rev. 1:4. Wisdom, Prov. 8:12. Wisdom of God, 1 Cor. 1:24. Witness, Isa. 55:4; Rev. 1:5. Wonderful, Isa. 9:6. Word, John 1:1. Word of God, Rev. 19:13. Word of life, 1 John 1:1.1

¹ Swanson, James, Editor, *New Nave's Topical Bible*, (Oak Harbor, Washington: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1994.

And thou shalt call His name Jesus (Matthew 1:21),
Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Wonderful
Counselor (Isaiah 9:6), Holy One (Mark 1:24), Lamb of God
(John 1:29), Prince of Life (Acts 3:15), Lord God Almighty (Rev.
15:3), Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5), Root of
David (Rev. 22:16), Word of Life (1 John 1:1), Author and
Finisher of Our Faith (Heb. 12:2), Advocate (1 John 2:1), Son
of Man (Matthew 12:40), The Way, the Truth and the Life
(John 14:6), Dayspring (Luke 1:78), Lord of All (Acts 10:36), **I AM** (John
8:58), Son of God (John 1:34), Shepherd and Bishop of
Your Souls (1 Peter 2:25), Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4),
Messiah (John 1:41), Savior (2 Peter 2:20), Chief Cornerstone
(Eph. 2:20), King of Kings (Rev. 19:16), Righteous Judge (2 Tim.
4:8), Light of the World (John 8:12), Head of the Church
(Eph. 1:22), Immanuel (Matthew 1:23), Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), Sun
of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2), Resurrection and Life
(John 11:25), Horn of Salvation (Luke 1:69), Governor (Matthew 2:6),
The Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8), The Lord Jesus
Christ (Acts 15:11).

Extra: Titles and Roles of Jesus, Questions

Match the role Jesus plays to the Scripture that mentions it:

- ___ Spokesman for God (prophet)
- ___ Priest
- ___ King
- ___ Judge
- ___ a gracious Lord

- a. 2 Tim. 4:8
- b. Heb. 1:2
- c. Rev. 19:16
- d. Acts 15:11
- e. Heb. 3:1

From Matt. 1:21, define “Jesus.”

From Matt. 1:23, define “Immanuel.”

From John 1:41, tell another word for “Messiah.”

Look up each Scripture, match it to one of the phrases on the right, and fill in the blanks:

___ Eph. 5:23

___ John 1:29

___ Rev. 22:16

___ John 14:6

___ Heb. 12:2

___ Eph. 2:20

___ 1 Peter 5:4

- a. “the chief _____”
- b. “the _____ of the church and the _____ of the body”
- c. “the _____ and _____ of David”
- d. “the chief _____”
- e. “the _____ of God”
- f. “the _____, the _____ and the _____”
- g. “the _____ and _____ of our faith”