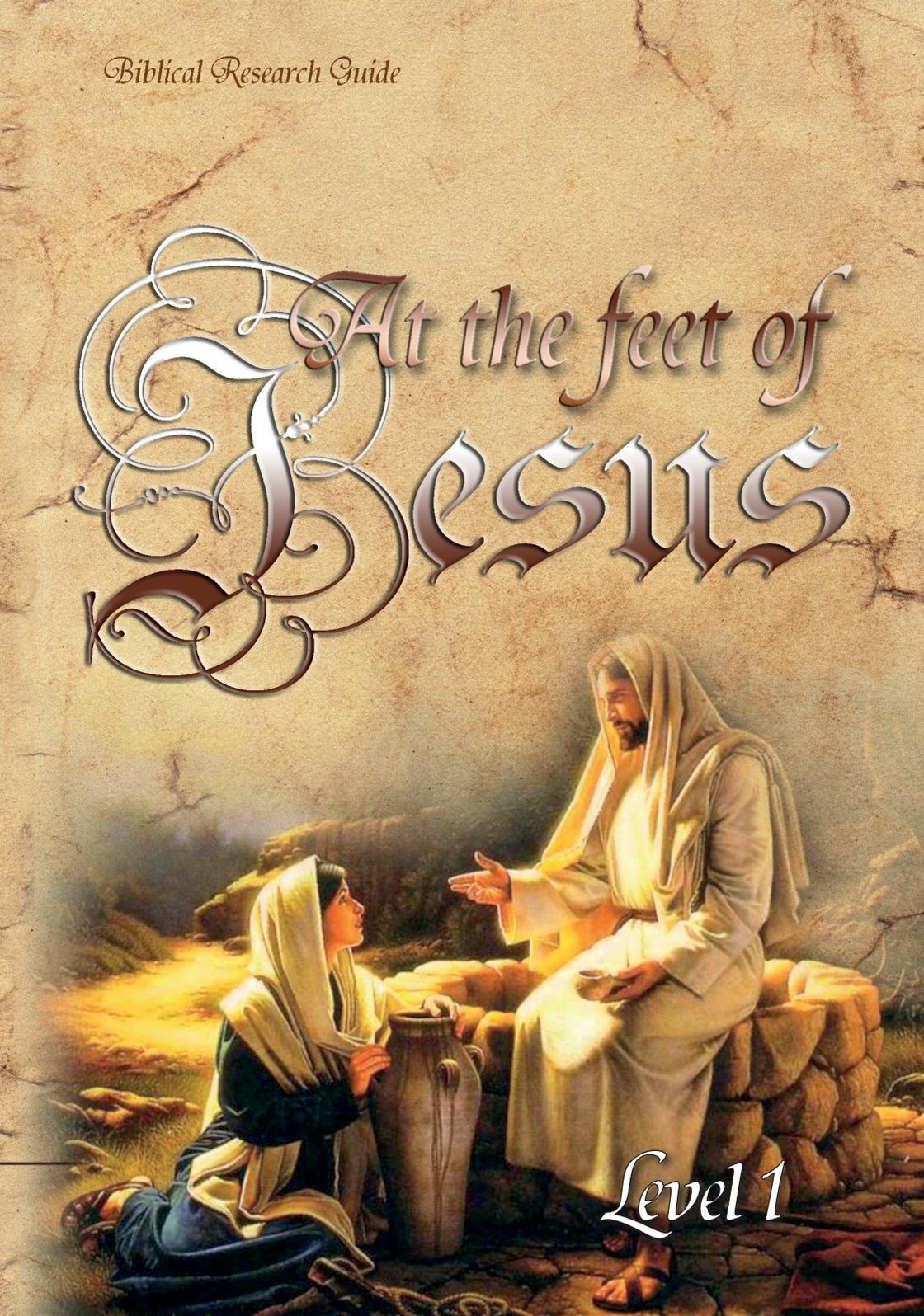


Biblical Research Guide

At the feet of JESUS



Level 1

At the feet of **JESUS**

RESEARCH TOPICS

- 1** **Unknowingly Rich**
- 2** **Is It Possible to Know the Future?**
- 3** **What Is the Cause of So Much Suffering?**
- 4** **Four Steps to Inner Peace and Happiness**
- 5** **How to Enrich Our Personality**
- 6** **The Best Solution to My Problems and Concerns**
- 7** **Who Will Rule the World in the Future?**
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- 9** **The Greatest Event of the Third Millennium**



Level 1

1

UNKNOWINGLY RICH



Did you know that you have a great treasure?

It was given to you by God himself, and its purpose is to make you happy. We are talking about the Holy Scriptures.

Why should the Bible be considered a treasure?

Because it contains 31,000 promises and valuable advice for the home, young people, and education. It encourages, comforts, and strengthens us. It tells us "Fear not" 360 times.

The Bible is also called:

The Holy Scriptures, the Word of God, the Holy Book, the Divine Letter, the Book of Books.

1. What does God reveal in the Bible? Amos 3:7. _____

The word Bible means "a set of books." There are a total of 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE

2. How was the Bible given to men? 2 Timothy 3:16.

The Holy Scriptures were _____ by God.

3. Who inspired men's thoughts? 2 Peter 1:21. _____

4. Therefore, what can we call the Bible?

1 Thessalonians 2:13. _____

5. What evidence exists that tells us the Bible was inspired by God?

a) The harmony of its message, although it was written by more than 40 authors over a period of 1600 years, it presents a unified message. These men came from different walks of life. They were: kings, prime ministers, doctors, fishermen, shepherds, prophets.

b) Its historical accuracy, proven by archaeology.

- Numerous discoveries in the Middle East confirm Biblical history amazingly.
- Cities such as Lachish, Tel Hazor, Megiddo, Nineveh and many others, whose locations were unknown, have been excavated by archaeologists.

c) More than 2,300 prophecies accurately fulfilled:

- It is interesting what the prophecies mention about empires such as Babylon, Tyre, Sidon, Egypt, and nations like that of the Jewish people.
- It contains predictions about scientific advances. It mentions cars and airplanes, the laws of gravity, the weight of air, the earth's roundness, etc., contrary to the knowledge of the time.
- Via various prophetic chains in the Book of Revelation, the political and religious history of about 2,000 years is told. We are told why Hitler and Napoleon lost the war, who will rule the world, the cause of the current world crisis, etc.
- There are 333 prophecies about a single man, which were written centuries before He was even born.

d) The purity of its message. An example being the Ten Commandments.

e) The people who were converted by it.

6. Who is its central figure?

The Bible's central figure is a wonderful person: Jesus Christ.

- He is mentioned under more than 200 names to highlight His virtues.
- 333 prophecies pointed to His life and ministry before He was even born.
- The New Testament describes the fulfillment of these prophecies.

PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

7. What do we obtain through Bible study? 2 Timothy 3:15. _____

8. What is it for? 2 Timothy 3:16-17. _____

9. What does the Bible offer us?

a) Romans 15:4. _____ b) Jeremiah 15:16. _____

10. To help us understand its virtues, what is the Bible compared to and why?

- a) Light. Psalm 119:105. It _____ our path.
- b) A sword. Hebrews 4:12. It _____ us against error.
- c) Bread. Matthew 4:4. It _____ our spiritual life.
- d) Fire and a hammer. Jeremiah 23:29.
Fire _____ and a hammer _____.
- e) Milk. 1 Peter 2:2. It helps us _____ spiritually.
- f) A mirror. James 1:23. It _____ us our defects.
- g) A letter. It _____ to us about His love.

THE FIVE KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

1. How should it be studied? Acts 17:11. _____

2. What should we be willing to do? John 7:17. _____

3. Which method is more effective: just reading or studying topics, comparing one passage with another? Isaiah 28:10. _____

4. Is it advisable to receive Bible instruction from others? Matthew 28:20. _____

5. What should we do before we study? James 1:5. _____

CONCLUSION

12. Was the Bible overcome by the many persecutions it suffered? Isaiah 40:8.

The Word of God remains _____.

13. What was Jesus' advice? John 5:39. _____

14. What is one who studies God's Word considered? Revelation 1:3. _____

.....
My decision: I believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and I intend to <study it each day.

- Yes No I'd like more information
-

2 IS IT POSSIBLE TO KNOW THE FUTURE?



People have always wanted to know the future. Millions of people consult horoscopes every day. Many politicians, businessmen and artists depend on fortune tellers to make important decisions. Are they told the truth?

Knowledge of the future is an exclusive attribute of the true God! Isaiah 46:9, 10; 42:9. He inspired the prophets. He is the true Author of the Holy Scriptures.

The seal of divine inspiration is fulfilled prophecy. In this course, we will study the most important prophecies. We'll take a look at a few as an example.

Become familiar with some of the 2,300 prophecies contained in the Holy Bible!

CONDEMNED CITIES

The city of Tyre, located in Asia Minor, was very rich. It traded with many countries but along with its increase in wealth; sin, vice, pride, idolatry and evil also increased.

Its inhabitants rejoiced when Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and they forgot the covenant they had made with King David, and delivered a whole nation into captivity. (Amos 1:9, 10) As a result of this...

1. What prophecy was given concerning this city? Ezekiel 26:3-9; 12-14.

Mention three details that most impress you about this prophecy:

Fulfillment of the prophecy: Nebuchadnezzar lay siege to Tyre for 13 years and abandoned it. Later, its inhabitants fled to an insular part of the city. After 200 years, Alexander the Great built an embankment from its rubble, and even its dust was thrown into the sea. In 7 months, he was able to conquer insular Tyre. It was never rebuilt.

2. What was foretold about Jerusalem? Matthew 23:37-38; 24:1, 2.

This prophecy was fulfilled in 70 AD.

3. How would Egypt compare to other nations after having been a powerful kingdom for thousands of years? Ezekiel 29:9, 15.

4. What punishment was foretold for the Jews due to their disobedience to God? Deuteronomy 28:15, 25, 37.

MODERN DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS FORETOLD 3,500 YEARS AGO

5. What did the Bible say about the earth when people thought it was supported by giant elephants? Job 26:7.

The Bible also mentions that the earth is round (Isaiah 40:22). The word chug, in Hebrew, means sphere.

6. In Job 28:25, we can read about the weight of air. What is written about wind currents and the water cycle? Ecclesiastes 1:6, 7.

7. What did the Bible say about the number of the stars, at a time when stars were counted? Jeremiah 33:22. _____

8. The Bible and health.

a) **Antiseptic methods.** (Numbers 19:13, 7). People were to wash their hands after touching a corpse.

b) **Circumcision on the 8th day** (Genesis 17:12). It has been discovered that vitamin K and Prothrombin, two elements that contribute to the coagulation of blood, reach their highest level on the 8th day of life.

Psychosomatic diseases:

9. What is a joyful heart? Proverbs 14:30; 17:22.

10. What modern inventions do these two texts refer to?

a) Isaiah 60:8. _____ b) Nahum 2:4. _____

THE 333 PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST, written 600-1600 years before his birth.

11. Where was Christ to be born? Micah 5:2. _____

- Christ would be a descendant of David. (Jeremiah. 23:5, 6). - Of Abraham. (Genesis 22:18). - Of the tribe of Judah. (Genesis 49:10).

12. What kind of woman would give birth to God's son? Isaiah 7:14. _____

13 Mention four traits of His character or ministry. Isaiah 42:1-4, 6, 7.

a) _____ b) _____

c) _____ d) _____

14. According to prophecy, what price was paid for Christ's betrayal? Zechariah 11:12.

15. What did Isaiah's prophecy, written 700 years earlier, say about Jesus' life, suffering and death? Isaiah 53:1-12.

a) How many awaited for Him? _____

b) How was He treated? _____

c) What did He take on Himself? _____

d) With the character of which animal was He compared? _____

CONCLUSION

The prophecies regarding Christ are irrefutable evidence that He was God's Son. The many predictions in the Bible, which have been fulfilled, are evidence that it is the WORD OF GOD. God promises prosperity to those who believe in His prophets. 2 Chronicles 20:20. Are you convinced of this or do you still have doubts?

.....

My decision: I agree that the prophecies prove that the Bible was inspired by God and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Yes No I'd like more information

.....

3 WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF SO MUCH SUFFERING?



As a result of the bombings of the last world war, thousands were left homeless.

Children often wandered the dilapidated streets looking for their parents. Many never found them, as they either died or the cruelty of war had separated them. Their home, where they could be found, no longer existed.

All of humanity is disoriented. Something has happened that has led them to lose their right course. Instead of happiness, we experience frustration; in place of well-being, we experience discomfort. Why do the innocent suffer? Why do pain, sickness and death exist? Did God create a wicked world? What is our true origin and destiny? Where have we come from, and where are we going? These are questions that haunt most people but only the Author of life can answer.

MAN'S ORIGIN

1. God is Lord and He existed before anything was created. By Him were all things created (Genesis 1:1). But what does the Bible mean, when referring to the plural term "Let us make", in Genesis 1:26?

a) *The Heavenly Father. (Ephesians 4:6).*

b) *The Son, Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-4).*

c) *The Holy Ghost. (John 14:26).*

The first page of the Bible refers to the three persons of the Deity. Several verses in the Scriptures mention Christ's presence and role in the world's creation. (Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; 8-10).

2. How was man created? Ecclesiastes 7:29. _____

3. Man received four gifts from his Creator:

a) **Eternal life.** Man was not condemned to die.

b) **A righteous character.** There was no sin in him.

c) **A wonderful home.** Pain and suffering did not exist.

d) **Dominion over everything.** Adam was the crown jewel of creation. All nature was under his command.

4. What was the only condition given for it to stay that way? (Genesis 2:16, 17).

For his own good, he was to learn to obey. Can there be happiness in a home if parents are not respected or order in a nation if the government is not honored? The law of God was placed in the heart of man from the beginning. It was the foundation to God's government.

5. Man decided to obey another lord- Satan, the prince of darkness, seduced him. Did God create the "devil"? What was Satan at the beginning? Ezekiel 28:13-17.

He was a _____ who _____ against his Creator.

6. What did man become when he allowed Satan to defeat him? 2 Peter 2:19: (Romans 6:16).

a) The gifts received in creation: eternal life, a righteous character, a wonderful home, and dominion over everything, were substituted by death, sin, and a land full of thorns.

b) By so doing, man inherited a life of sin and death, which ends in eternal death and final destruction.

7. What inheritance have we received and what is man's current state? (Romans 5:12).

8. Is there a perfect or entirely righteous person in this world? What consequences must every human being face? (Romans 3:10-12, 23; 6: 23).

a) There is none _____, no, not _____

b) We come short _____

c) The wages of sin is _____

IS THERE A WAY OUT?

9. What does God want the sinner to do? Ezekiel 33:11.

10. Through whom only can we be saved? Acts 4:11, 12.

11. What solution has God provided? John 10:7, 9.

12. What does Jesus invite us to do? Matthew 11:28-29.

13. Which is the only bridge between life and death? John 14:6

ENCOURAGING PROMISES

14. What does God give to those who sincerely believe in Jesus? 1 John 5:11, 13.

15. Does Jesus reject anyone who comes to Him for salvation? John 6:37.

God desires to justify us freely, that is, to declare us forgiven and reconciled by His grace through Christ. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

CONCLUSION

16. What must we do to be called children of God and receive salvation? John 1:12.

By accepting Jesus, we become acquainted with Him and His law, as He is our Lord.

We will obey Him through love and for what He has done for us, and we will strive to live daily with Him. The purpose of His death was to deliver us from this valley of suffering and pain, and to give us the inheritance of eternal life. This is good news. Don't you think?

.....
My decision: I believe in Jesus Christ as the only way to eternal life and I wish to give Him my heart.

Yes No I'd like more information

.....

4 FOUR STEPS TO INNER PEACE AND HAPPINESS



Every human being longs for genuine peace and happiness.

Is it possible to find it in material things, amusements, honor, sex, drugs, or alcohol? Certainly, not. These are false sources.

The well-known actress Marilyn Monroe once said to a journalist: "I am admired for my beauty, I have money, I lack nothing. But I have never been happy."

But, do peace and happiness mean not having problems? How can we find peace with God, the security of His forgiveness, a reassuring and steady hope, and the certainty that if we die today we will obtain eternal life?

WHAT IS THE KEY TO FINDING PEACE AND HAPPINESS?

1. **What is the name of that key? Hebrews 11:6.** _____

2. **Faith is not:** *Assuming something or having an uncertain opinion. For example, "I think the sun will come out tomorrow" or "I think this or that may happen."*

- A mere affirmation.

- A fleeting feeling.

- To just speak about a religion.

- To take something as given. This is only part of it.

What is true faith? Hebrews 11:1 _____

- Unwavering trust in God's promises.

- Believe in God and in His word.

- To know, trust, and surrender to someone selectively.

- We should have genuine faith in Christ, the Author of life and the Bible.

FOUR STEPS IN THE DEFINITION OF FAITH (HEBREWS 4:16)

3. **Step one: TO KNOW JESUS.**

What is knowing Jesus related to? John 17:3. _____

We should know in what and in whom we believe.

4. **Who is Jesus?**

a) *The eternal Son of God. (Matthew 16:16)*

b) *The Creator. (John 1:1-3,14; Col. 1:16)*

c) *The Lawgiver. (Nehemiah 9:13, 1 Corinthians 10:4)*

d) *The Saviour. (Luke 19:10)*

e) *Our Friend. (John 15:14, 15)*

f) *Mediator. (1 Timothy 2:5)*

g) *Lord and King. (Revelation 17:14)*

h) *Judge. (Acts 10:42)*

5. **What has He done for me?**

a) *He was made in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:7)*

b) *He lived without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)*

c) *He took my _____.* (Isaiah 53:5-6)

d) *He died in my place, for my _____.* (1 Corinthians 15:3)

e) *He rose from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:20.*

f) *He intercedes for me. 1 Timothy 2:5.*

g) *He promised to come back and take me with Him. John 14:3.*

6. **Step two: TO TRUST IN JESUS. What is His greatest virtue? John 3:16** _____

As I see His love, I will open my heart to Him, I will trust Him, and I will tell Him all the things that worry me.

7. **Step three: TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY SINS. What should His love lead us to? Romans 2:4.**

8. **What should we do with our sins? 1 John 1:8, 9. (Psalm 32:5) Isaiah 55:6, 7.**

We do not need to make great physical sacrifices, go on pilgrimages or take vows to be forgiven by God. He wants our heart. He wants us to confess and forsake our sins. (Proverbs 23:26).

9. **Step four: TO ACCEPT JESUS AS OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD. Revelation 3:20. What is the difference between accepting Jesus as our Saviour and as our Lord? John 1:12.**

a) *As my Saviour, I must believe _____ in my place.*

b) *As my Lord, Master, and Ruler, I must obey His _____.*

Let us say with Paul, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"

GENUINE AND TEMPORARY FAITH

10. **What is the difference between genuine and temporary faith?**

- a) Genuine faith has to do with our entire being, since we are three-dimensional beings.
 - REASONING (mind): Knowing Jesus and believing He exists.
 - HEART (feelings): Trust Him, open our heart, and confess all our sins to Him.
 - WILL (decision): Be willing to obey Him.
- b) Genuine faith means surrendering to Him.
- c) We need not be perfect to come to Christ. Let us go to Him as we are. (John 6:37).
- d) We need to let Him come into our life and overcome our ego. When our ego reigns, all our interests revolve around ourselves. When Christ is in the throne of our heart, our interests will be fixed on God.
- e) We should make an agreement with Him, a covenant of love, just as in marriage.

THE RESULT

11. **What will we become through Jesus? 2 Corinthians 5:17.** _____

12. **What does God promise us regarding our sins? Micah 7:18, 19. Isaiah 1:18.**

We can rejoice in salvation, for He who has the Son has life.

13. **What does Jesus offer to every soul who accepts Him? John 14:27**

Inner _____ . We will be reconciled with God.

CONCLUSION

God wants to make you happy today! He wants to forgive your sins and give you salvation. He wants to call you His child today. The question is: Will you allow Him to? Do you accept Jesus in your life as your Saviour and Lord? Confess this to God now in prayer.



.....
My decision: I accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of my life and I want to follow in His foot-steps through faith. Yes No
.....

5 HOW TO ENRICH OUR PERSONALITY

We all want to have an attractive personality. Many wonder: Why am I this way? are? How can I change? Has it always been like this? Can I be different?

MAN'S CONDITION BEFORE AND AFTER SIN

1. What was man like when he came from the hands of the Creator?

Psalm 8:5, 6. _____

2. Sin destroyed man's happiness. What did the earth produce?

Genesis 3:17, 18. _____

Man's heart sowed the poisonous seeds of evil: pride, envy, jealousy, rebellion, disobedience.

3. What became of the human character? Isaiah 59:9-12. _____

Man's personality was distorted. His character was corrupted and he was separated from God and condemned to death. Isaiah 59:2.

4. What is human righteousness equated to? Isaiah 64:6 _____

Righteousness means to match the measure given by God. Man was in perfect harmony with God's law. But sin made it of impossible for him to reach the standard required by the law. An unclean thought is enough to separate us from perfect righteousness.

5. What 4 miracles does God want to work in our lives? 1 Corinthians 1:30.

- a) WISDOM. We are called to be righteous. b) _____. He declares us righteous.
c) _____. He makes us righteous. d) REDEMPTION. He makes us immortal.

6. What does the first miracle consist of? GOD'S CALL TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.

1. He draws us to Himself. (John 12:32). 2. He calls us. (Matthew 11:28).
3. He looks for us as for a lost sheep. (Matt. 18:12, 13) 4. He makes us yearn for God. (Psalm 63:1).
5. He gives us faith. (John 6:29). 6. He shows us our sins. (John 16:8).

7. What does the second miracle consist of? JUSTIFICATION (BEING DECLARED RIGHTEOUS, ALTHOUGH GUILTY)

- a) Christ imputes His merits in our favor. His incarnation, sinless life, sacrifice and resurrection make our justification possible. Through His sinless, perfect life He met the requirements of the law. Romans 8:34. (Hebrews 2:14-15). With His life, Christ paid the debt that we ourselves would have had to pay for our transgressions. (Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 5:10).
b) It is our acceptance, by faith, of this act of God in our behalf that makes Him declare us righteous. This is JUSTIFICATION.

What is the result? Romans 5:1. _____

8. What are the benefits of imputed righteousness? (Granted, given as a gift, granted freely).

- a) We are given _____. Isaiah 1:18; 43:25.
b) John 1:12. We are declared _____. Romans 8:16.
c) Luke 10:20. Our name is written in _____.
d) Jesus illustrates this with the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. Luke 18:9-14.



9. Third miracle: RESTORATION OF THE LOST CONDITION. Can man change his character with his own efforts? Jeremiah 13:23: Romans 7:24. _____

At the same time that Christ declares us righteous, He works another miracle in us by sanctifying us through His IMPARTED RIGHTEOUSNESS. Ephesians 4:24.

10. What does God want to do with our mind and heart through His grace? Ezekiel 36:25-27.

-
- a) *This change of heart enables us to obey God's law. Hebrews 10:16.*
b) *When Christ abides in our heart, He purifies it with His Holy Spirit and gives us a new nature. Galatians 2:20. (Colossians 3:5-10).*

11. What aspects of the human being are sanctified? 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

-
- a) **SPIRIT** - thoughts. b) **SOUL** – feelings. c) **BODY** - habits of life.
Good deeds are the result of justification, not the means for obtaining it. (Ephesians 2:10).

12. When will the fourth miracle of REDEMPTION or GLORIFICATION take place? 1 John 3:2.

We will be like Him and be transformed into immortality when we are raised from death. We will have a perfect character (Revelation 21:5). There will be eternal righteousness in the restored paradise.

13. What can I do so Jesus will work these miracles in my life?

- a) *Answer His call. (Isaiah 45:22).*
b) *Believe in Him and accept Him as my Saviour and Lord. (Acts 16:31).*
c) *Repent of my sins. (Acts 3:19).*
c) *Accept His Holy Law. (Hebrews 5:8, 9).*
f) *Renew my decision daily.*
g) *Persevere until the end. (Matthew 24:13).*

14. God's plan for man is illustrated in the parable of the prodigal son. (Luke. 15:11-24).

The story of the prodigal son reveals the plan of salvation for man. The son that stays home represents Adam in Eden. When he abandons the home, he falls. The prodigal son spent all he had, which is symbolic of moral degradation. The slavery is the slavery of the devil. He comes to himself: this is the silent work of the Holy Spirit. He recognizes his fault when he says "I will arise and go to my father." His father's hug is justification. The father's robe is imputed righteousness. The change of garment is imparted righteousness. Finally, the feast represents glorification.

15. What three joys does a Christian obtain in Jesus?

Our heart is full of joy when we receive these good news.

- a) First we obtain **the joy of salvation**. (Psalm 51:12).
b) Then **the joy of obedience**. (Psalm 119:174).
c) **Eternal joy**. (Isaiah 25:10).

My decision: I believe I am justified solely by faith and that works are just its fruits and the proof of my love. Yes No

6

THE BEST SOLUTION TO MY PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS



Every human being faces worries and problems! These may involve family, our job, health, social status or our personal and spiritual life.

An ill child is on his death bed and his mother is in despair. Her husband is an alcoholic, meanwhile her children suffer from a lack of food, clothing, and are in need of a stable shelter. They long for a change.

What can we do when we have problems with our health, work, family, or personal well-being? Maybe you feel remorse for your failures or perhaps you feel frustrated, lonely, and discouraged not knowing whom you can open your heart to.

Prayer is the best remedy. It can be compared to a direct telephone call to God. Psalm 34:6.

1. How can prayer be defined?

- "Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul."

- "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend."

- "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heavens storehouse where are treasured the boundless resources of omnipotence." Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 94.

- It is a spiritual vitamin.

2. What means of communication did God provide after the fall?

Our friend Jesus wants to help us and **speaks to us though His Word**. We should study it daily. (John 15:15) (Acts 17:11). – We speak with Him through prayer. (Daniel 9:20).

WHEN, WHERE AND HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

3. What did the disciples ask Jesus to do? Luke 11:1. _____

4. What are the different types of prayers?

a) **Public**. one person prays and the congregation listens with reverence. (This prayer should be short).

b) **Family**. every morning and every evening, the family should read the Word of God and pray.

c) **Before meals**. We should thank the Lord for the food He provides us and ask Him to bless it.

d) **In private**. Matthew 6:6. "...It is secret communion with God that sustains the soul life." Ellen G. White, *Education* p. 254.

5. When can we pray?

a) We can pray **when we are traveling or working**. We can pray in silence. (1 Corinthians 14:15).

b) **In moments of danger or need**. (Jonah 2:1).

c) Ideally we should pray three times a day (Daniel 6:10). We should **constantly be in a spirit of prayer**. (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

6. What should we avoid when we pray? Matthew 6:7, 8. _____

Pray in a concise, simple manner. The Lord's prayer is a wonderful example of what a prayer should be like.

7. Whom should we pray for?

a) **For the sick; for individuals**. (James 5:13-16).

b) **For the messengers of God and the progress of the Gospel**. (Acts 12:5; Habakkuk 3:2).

c) **For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit**. (Luke 11:13).

Model prayer: 1. Address the Father: Our Father 2. Thank Him: Thank you for...
3. Ask: for our needs, for others, for the forgiveness of sins 4. In the name of Jesus.
d) Conclude: "Amen," which means "So be it. "

FOR GOD TO LISTEN, WHAT SHOULD OUR ATTITUDE BE?

8. What are we to manifest? Matthew 6:5. Sincerity, no trace _____

9. How should we ask? James 1: 6, 7. _____

Faith is compared to a seed that must be sowed, watered and taken care of. It should be fed by the daily study of God's Word. (Romans 10:17).

10. We have to be humble. What parable shows us this? Luke 18: 9-14.

11. What is the best position for reverent prayer? Romans 14:11. _____

You can also pray standing, but always bowing your head, closing your eyes and clasping your hands.

12. What must we always have? Matthew 6:25. A _____ spirit.

This is shown in the parable of the two debtors. (Matthew 18:23-35).

13. What must we remember to say when we ask God for something? Matthew 26:39.

God knows our needs. (Romans 8:26). We should let the Lord mold us, as a potter molds clay with his hands. (Jeremiah 18:6). God can give an answer. If He does not, WAIT. He knows what is good for us.

14. Let us be persevering. Who was an example of perseverance in Luke 18:1-7?

15. What should we respect in order to be heard by God? 1 John 3: 22. (Proverbs 28: 9).

16. In whose name should we pray? Why? John 16: 23, 24. _____

Sin separated us from God. It is only through the grace of Christ that we can expect our prayers to reach God's throne.

RELIEF AND JOY IN PRAYER. PROVERBS 15:8, 9.

17. When we feel overcome by problems, whom can we call on for help? Matthew 11:28.

18. What does God urge us to do? Romans 12:11, 12. To be _____.

Let us use God's "telephone", the key in the hand of faith, the "vitamin" of the soul:

-To praise Him, to thank Him, to confess our sins to Him, to tell Him our worries, and to keep in daily, personal contact with Him.

- Cultivate the habit of praying in your family and teach your children how to pray.

- This is the only way we can live in happiness and in peace, feeling certain that our most difficult problems will be dealt with and that He sustains us.

.....
My decision: I want to pray every day, for prayer is the life of the soul and the means of communication with God. Yes No
.....

7 WHO WILL RULE THE WORLD IN THE FUTURE?



Will it be the USA, Russia, China, Japan, or some other power?
Hitler and Napoleon dreamt of having a great empire, but:
Four words written 2,600 years ago prevented them from doing so!

1. **Where only can we find true light concerning the future?**
2 Peter 1:19. _____

Only God knows the future (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

AN EXTRAORDINARY REVELATION OF THE FUTURE: DANIEL CHAPTER 2

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who lived about 600 B.C. had a very strange dream, but he forgot it. (Daniel 2:1). He summoned his sorcerers and astrologers to reveal to him the dream and its significance, but they could not do it. (Verses 2-11) The monarch signed a decree which commanded that all the wise men of Babylon, among whom were Daniel and his companions, should be put to death. (Verses 12-14). Daniel asked the king to give him some time, he and his companions prayed to God, and He revealed everything to him in a vision. (Verses 15-19).

2. **Who is the only one who can direct and reveal the destiny of nations?**
Daniel 2:20-22, 27, 28.

Daniel even revealed to the king what he was pondering when he fell asleep. (Verses 29-30).

3. **What did Nebuchadnezzar see in his dream? Daniel 2:31-35.**

A large _____ . Its head was made of _____ ; its chest and arms of _____ , its belly of _____ ; its legs of _____ , and its feet of _____ and _____ .

MEANING OF THE DREAM

4. **What empire did the head of gold represent? Daniel 2:37-38.** _____

- *This was a kingdom of great splendor. The city of Babylon had wide avenues and luxurious palaces. Its hanging gardens were one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. A large amount of soil had been placed on tiered terraces and giant trees grew there.*
- *There was gold in abundance. In the great temple of Marduk there was an image of Bel and an enormous table 12 x 4.50 m., both made of pure gold which weighed 23,000 kg. There were also lions and a sculpture made of the same metal, which was 5.40 m. tall.*
- *The city was apparently impregnable. According to Herodotus, a Greek historian, it was surrounded by a wall about 60 m. high and by a deep moat.*
- *It had enough provisions for 20 years. There was plenty of water since the Euphrates river flowed under its walls, right into the center of the city.*

5. **The chest and arms of silver symbolized MEDO-PERSIA (538-331 B.C.). How would the empire compare to the previous one? Verse 39.** _____

- *The two arms represented the two parts that composed the empire: Mede and Persia.*
- *For the first time, silver coins were used for commercial transactions.*

6. What did the prophecy say about the kingdom represented by the bronze belly? Verse 39.

This part of the statue represented GREECE (331-168 B.C.).

- *The weapons used by the Greeks were made of bronze. Greek soldiers were called "brass soldiers."*
- *The belly: Alexander the Great was a slave to his stomach, he died very young due to the feasts he participated in. Alexander died at the age of 32, while drinking his second-round Herculean cup, which contained 5 liters of wine. His kingdom was later divided.*
- *The temporary sheen of bronze aptly depicted the passing glory of his kingdom.*

7. What would the fourth kingdom, symbolized by the iron legs, be like? Verse 40.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE (163 B.C. - 476 A.D.)

- *The Roman Empire lasted 644 years. It was rough and cold, just like iron. It was cruel and fearsome, and this can be seen by the atrocities committed by Nero and other emperors.*
- *The weapons used by the Romans were short iron swords.*

8. What kind of a kingdom was represented by the feet of iron mixed with clay? Verses 41-43.

- *The Roman Empire was divided into 10 parts between the fourth and fifth centuries. It weakened under the pressure of the Germanic tribes coming from the north of Europe. Finally, the territory of the Roman Empire was occupied by the Franks (France), Germans (Germany), Anglo-Saxons (England), Lombards (Italy), Suevi (Portugal), Visigoths (Spain) and Burgundians (Swiss). The Herules, Vandals and Ostrogoths have now disappeared. All these nations were partly strong and partly weak.*
- *They would try to reunite by intermarriage.*
- *Justinian, the Emperor of the East; Charles V; Philip II; Louis XIV; Napoleon; Wilhelm II and Hitler tried to achieve this unity by force to fulfill their dream of forming a great empire, but they all failed.*

9. What are the six words written in the Bible which tell us that all attempts to unite Europe would fail? Verse 43.

10. What will God establish when these nations try to unite? Verses 34, 44, 45.

The words "without hands" mean that it is not a human but rather a divine event.

11. Whom did the stone that smote the image represent? Acts 4:11; 1 Corinthians 10:4.

CONCLUSION

12. Who will be the ruler of the next world empire? Revelation 11:15. _____

13. Now that this wonderful event is imminent, what appeal does the Lord make? Luke 12:40.

.....

My decision: I want to prepare myself to be a citizen of Christ's kingdom. Yes No

.....

8 THE CAUSE OF THE CURRENT WORLD CRISIS



There are crises in every sector of society, and every nation is experiencing upheaval. There are wars in the Middle East, battles in Central America, turmoil in Africa, insecurity on the streets, theft, violence, juvenile delinquency, etc. There is also a crisis in the financial world- inflation, the rising cost of living, misery, famine and strikes. Foreign debt threatens to strangle the economies of the Third World.

In nature, we also see crises - earthquakes, floods, drought and tornadoes, widespread freezes and sudden heat waves are more frequent. Families are also going through a crisis. In the USA, there are 6,500 divorces every day, which is more than a million a year. Among women between 30 and 40 years of age, six out of ten have gone through a divorce, which is a rate of 60%. In France, one in every two marriages ends in divorce.

World health is threatened. The number of AIDS patients is increasing rapidly, and soon the victims will number in the 18 millions. All this shows that something is happening, but what?

1. Because of these conditions, what do people suffer from? Luke 21:25, 26. _____

Why is all this happening? What do these events, changes, and crises announce?

2. What did the disciples once ask Jesus? Matthew 24: 3.

SIGNS OF THE END

Even though no one knows the exact day or time of Jesus' coming (Matthew 24:36), there will be certain characteristic signs pointing to the time of His coming. The anguish that we have just mentioned is one of the signs of the last times.

3. What will happen among the nations? Matthew 24: 6, 7. _____

There have always been wars, but world wars are a product of our century. There is a frantic arms race. Small nations are becoming strong (Joel 3: 10). The nuclear weapons in existence today can destroy our planet 50 times over, not mentioning chemical weapons.

4. In spite of all this, what agreements will be signed? 1 Thessalonians 5: 3; (Jeremiah 6:14) _____

5. What will be the health condition of people, animals and nature? Matthew 24:7.

Modern day man is becoming increasingly sick; cancer, AIDS, and heart attacks are the plagues of today. Animals are kept artificially, and vegetables are treated with insecticides and chemical fertilizers for greater production.

6. What does the Bible say about environmental pollution? Isaiah 24:4, 5, 7.

7. What will millions of poor people suffer? Matthew 24:7. _____

The UN reports that two thirds of humanity suffer from malnutrition and every year 12 million children die before they reach their first year of life. The foreign debt of the Third World makes the problem more serious, and inflation threatens to destroy the economy of many countries.

8. What other signs are there? Luke 21:11 _____

According to statistics, there have been 127,000 earthquakes in this century, which is 8,500 times more than in the first century, and 31 times more than all the centuries before. The death toll from earthquakes has been 10 times higher in this century than in previous ones.

9. What will happen in science in the end of time? Daniel 12: 4. _____

80% of all discoveries were made in the last decades, and 90% of those scientists are still alive. "Many shall run to and fro..." reflects the hectic pace of life of our time and the speed with which man is able to go from one place to the other.

10. What problems will arise in the work world? James 5:1-5 _____

11. To what time will the love of pleasure, sex, violence and corruption be similar to? Luke 17:26-30. (Genesis 6:11). _____

Appetite has become a god to many. Adultery, divorce, rape, and violence dominate TV screens and real life.

The sin of Sodom (homosexuality and promiscuity) has increased in an alarming way and AIDS is its obvious consequence. Crime has increased to 900% in the last 10 years.

12. What are the signs in the social world? 2 Timothy 3:1-4. _____

There will be a lack of _____ (Matthew 24:12).

13. What signs will be evident in the religious world?

2 Timothy 3:5. A form of _____.

Timothy 4:3,4. False doctrines.

Matthew 24:5,11,24. False _____.

Luke 18:8. Lack of _____.

2 Peter 3:3,4. _____.

Matthew 24:14. The gospel _____.

CONCLUSION

14. What do all these signs mean? Luke 21:28-31. _____

15. What does God urge us to do in this most solemn time? Luke 21:34-36. _____

Based on the above and the fulfillment of the biblical prophecies that are fulfilled before our eyes, do you believe that we are living in the last days of human history? Do you want to be prepared to meet Jesus at His second coming?

.....
My decision: I believe the signs of the times announce the end of the world and I want to be ready when Christ returns. Yes No
.....

THE GREATEST EVENT OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

The world lives in anticipation of the events of the new millennium. What will happen? Will it be the decline of humanity or the beginning of a new era?

Will we die annihilated by hunger, pollution, a universal cataclysm, or will we enjoy greater well-being in a world increasingly programmed by its new, manmade technologies?

Will violence reach its peak in a world nuclear war? Or does a time of peace and understanding amongst nations await us? What awaits our children? What will the 21st century bring?

Space science has achieved great accomplishments. Man managed to land on the moon, live on a space station, place numerous satellites in orbit and send probes to distant planets, but he is unprepared for the greatest invasion of space ever imagined or for an impressive trip to the stars. What does the Bible say about this?

The world will not end with a nuclear war. Jesus Christ will intervene in human affairs at His second coming.

Since man's fall, pain, suffering, and death were introduced, as well as a promise of a coming Saviour. The Saviour was expected for 4,000 years. The message was: "HE IS COMING."

333 Bible prophecies describe His first coming in detail, and they were all mathematically fulfilled.



A MILLENNIAL HOPE

1. **What did Jesus Christ Himself promise? John 14:1-3.** _____

Now the message is, "He will return."

2. **How was this message considered by millions of Christians throughout the centuries? Titus 2:13.** _____

3. **Why will Jesus return?**

- Hebrews 9:28. To _____.
- Isaiah 35:4-6. To _____ human suffering.
- Philippians 3:20-21. To make us _____ of a better world.
- Psalms 96:13. To _____.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. To destroy the _____.

HOW WILL JESUS COME?

4. **How will Jesus come? Acts 1:9-11.**

5. **Was the resurrected Christ visible and tangible? Luke 24:36-40**

6. **How else will He come? Matthew 24:30.**

7. **How many will see Him? Revelation 1:7 (Matthew 24:26-27).**

8. Who will escort Jesus? Matthew 25:31.

9. Will we only see Him? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT HIS COMING?

10. What will happen to those who have died believing in Christ? 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16.

What blessed hope! To meet again the loved ones that death snatched from us! Mothers who have been faithful will receive the children that died in their childhood. What a happy encounter!

11. What will happen to our sickly, mortal bodies? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53.

12. What will the wicked exclaim when Christ comes? Revelation 6:15-16.

They will remember wasted opportunities and their rejection of God's calling, but it will be too late. They will be lost forever!

13. What will the righteous say and how will they feel? Isaiah 25:9

14. How will the day of the Lord come? 2 Peter 3:10.

15. What advice does He give us? Matthew 24:42, 44.

CONCLUSION

After these two studies about our times and the second coming of Christ, do you think His coming is really near, or are you still doubtful?

.....

My decision: I believe that Jesus Christ will return very soon in a visible and audible way.

Yes No

.....

Studies 1-9

REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire's purpose is to assess your understanding of the content of the studies you have completed. If you wish, you may complete it in the presence of the instructor and later track the questions you answered correctly. If you have any doubts, review the lessons once again or ask the instructor.

1) What is the meaning of the word "Bible"?

- a. Collection of papyri
- b. Collection of books
- c. Holy Book

2) Only mention 2 of the 333 prophecies about Jesus Christ.

- a. _____
- b. _____

3) Jesus said: "I am _____, the _____, and the _____"

4) What do we become when we accept Jesus as our Saviour?

5) We are justified (forgiven) by God through:

- a. Faith
- b. Our works
- c. Religion

6) What aspects of the human being are sanctified?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

7) Define the meaning of prayer.

8) How should we pray?

9) What do we gain through the study of the Bible?

10) What are the 5 keys to understanding the Bible?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

11) Who is represented by the stone that destroyed the image that Nebuchadnezzar dreamt of?

12) List 2 signs of the times.

a. _____

b. _____

13) What was Jesus' promise before ascending to heaven?

14) Why will Jesus come?

15) How will Jesus come?

16) What will happen at His coming?

Level 2 Topics: *The Secret of the Golden Ark, The Best Way to Overcome Stress, Is There Life after Death?*

You will be amazed by these and other topics due to their biblical accuracy and their answers to the questions that many have wondered about. Don't miss them!



At the feet of Jesus

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