

**Bible
Teachings
Series**

*A self-study
course about
God's greatest
plan*



God's Plan for the World

God's Plan for the World

A self-study course about
God's greatest plan

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Level 1, Book 6



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Getting Started

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The words above from the apostle John are a pretty powerful message! It is hard to believe in much of anything when everything has been taken away from us—right? Wrong! You can be separated from your home, your family, your job, or your friends. But you can never be separated from Jesus! Jesus opens his heart to his brothers and sisters everywhere!

This book is sort of a study guide and history lesson in one. "Yeah, I know!" I never was too enthused about history myself, but there is some very important information here!

The history in this book is important. It will help you learn how it happened that every person who has ever lived in the world needed a Savior and why every person who lives in the world today needs a Savior.

You may have already studied the life of Jesus and know he is that Savior. This history tells why God sent Jesus to save us.

Each of the five chapters begins with a list of goals marked with a small star (*). These goals tell you what you will be learning in that chapter. There are a few questions after each section, and a test at the end of each chapter. If you read each section carefully, you should be able to answer the questions correctly and without much trouble.

At the end of each group of questions, you will be given a page number to which you can turn to check your answers. Turn to that page, and you will find the answers at the very bottom of that page. Check your answers carefully, correcting any mistakes. Make sure you understand all the answers before reading any further.

At the end of the book there is a final test. Before you complete the test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you have completed the final test, you can give it to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover of this book.

I hope you enjoy this study. Remember, "The dark night of evil is nearly over. The day of Christ's return is almost here. So let us get rid of the works of darkness. Let us put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:12).



Chapter One

IN THE BEGINNING

As time draws closer to the day you move to a new city, you begin to make plans about what you will be doing when you arrive there. You will need to figure out where you will live, where you will work, and what kind of friends you will have.

The day you have been waiting for finally arrives. You are ready to make a new beginning. All your plans look perfect. You are ready to face your new life.

But no matter how hard you try to plan perfectly, something always seems to go wrong. When you travel to the place where you thought you would be working, the employer tells you he has hired someone else. Or maybe the place where you decided to live is not as good as you thought it would be. Or your desire to make some good friends is ruined when your friends turn out to be bad people. The best-made plans of man do not always work out well. Several thousand years ago our God had a plan for two people, Adam and Eve. God wanted them to live in happiness forever. But Adam and Eve ruined God's perfect plan. In our first study, you will see how God came to the rescue of his people when they destroyed his perfect plan.

The world did not happen by accident. God made the world. He did not make it out of something else, not even out of something scientific-sounding like cosmic dust. He made it out of nothing by using his word. He made everything in the world and on it, except sin, of

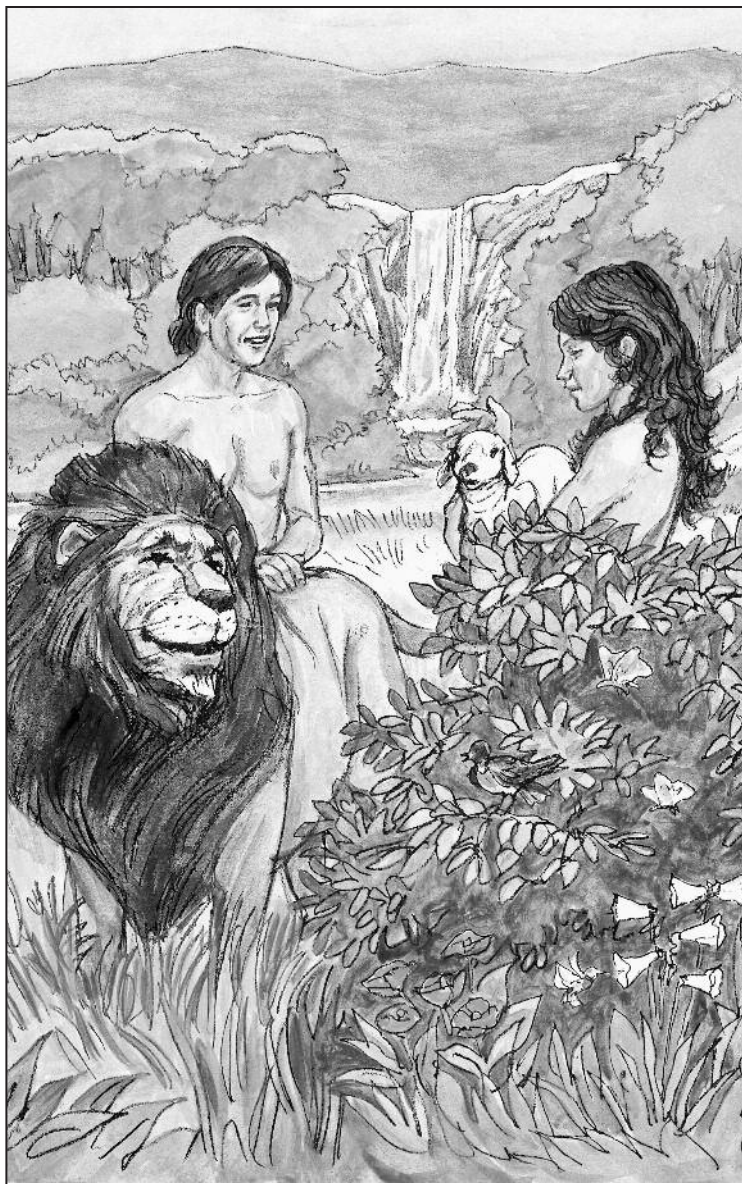
course. Because of this, each of us owes everything to God.

This chapter will help you see:

- * that the world and people were made by God, according to his plan; and
- * that when people trashed God's plan and disobeyed him at the very beginning, God promised to send a Savior instead of letting them all die as sinners.

The very first sentence in the Bible reads, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The Bible goes on to explain how God made everything on the earth, the plants, animals, and people.

“Creation” is the word we use for God's making of the world. To create something is to get the idea for something new and to make it. We say that people can create things in a small way,



God created everything on earth.

like inventing the light bulb. But they use the brains or minds God gave them, the hands God gave them, and the materials God gave them; so, they do not create something out of nothing.

1. What does the word create mean?

2. Who made the world and everything in it?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 14)

Bible passages to read:

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:24; Genesis 1:27;
Psalm 8:1-4.

"[God] saw everything that he had made. And it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). God, who is all good and all-powerful, did not make a bad world. He did not make a world full of sin and sinners.

After he had created everything else, God created people in his own likeness. That does

not mean they looked like God. It does mean that they were holy, without sin, and knew God perfectly. God intended that Adam, his wife Eve, and all the people who would come after them would enjoy life. They would live a life in which they loved God and did good to their neighbors. The many good gifts, which God planned for his people, are called blessings.

3. Was the world that God made good or bad?

4. What were the names of the first man and the first woman?

_____ and _____

5. What does the word blessing mean?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 14)

Bible passages to read:

Genesis 1:28-29; Psalm 8:6-9.

Sin means not doing what God wants us to do. God tried to protect Adam and Eve from sin.

He told them what they should not do. He warned them what would happen if they sinned.

But God did not make people to be like puppets or robots. God gave the first two people the choice that they could avoid sin if they decided not to sin. Or, they could do the opposite and disobey God if they decided to sin.

6. What is sin?

7. Did God want Adam and Eve to sin?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 14)

Bible passage to read:

Genesis 2:16-17.

God gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to obey him and show their trust in him. He planted a special tree and told them never to eat its fruit, or they would surely die.

The devil came and lied to Eve. He said Eve would be like God if she ate of the special tree. Eve listened to the devil and no longer believed God's word. She picked fruit from the tree, ate some, and gave it to her husband, who ate some too. Right away, they knew they did wrong. Then, because their faith in God had died, they tried to hide from God. They also tried to lie to God about it.

Maybe that does not sound so bad. But there are no little sins in God's judgment. God told Adam and Eve that they would die if they ate the fruit of that tree.

Because Adam and Eve were the first people, and they sinned, all people born since then enter life with sin. They are not innocent babies. They are born with Adam and Eve's sinful nature, just as the color of hair and eyes and skin is passed down from parents to children. Adam and Eve's sinful nature is still with us today.

8. Describe in a few words how Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

9. How can we tell that Adam and Eve knew that they had done something wrong?

10. If Adam and Eve were the ones who sinned, why do people today need a Savior?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 14)

People cannot sin without paying the consequences, or price, for sinning. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, everything was ruined by their sin. From now on, their world would be full of hard times, pain and sweat, sickness and death. All of its people would suffer from these troubles.

11. What was the main result of sin?

12. List some problems which sin brought into the world?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 14)

Bible passages to read:

Genesis 3:17-19; Exodus 20:5b-6.

But God loved Adam and Eve. He had made them, and he did not leave them in complete sorrow and despair. Right away he gave them and all the sinful people who would come after them the promise of a Savior from their sins. That Savior would be our Redeemer, Jesus. To redeem means to buy back. Jesus would pay the price that God's holy judgment demanded. He would die to buy back all people from slavery to Satan and sin.

This meant that, although Adam and Eve were still very miserable, they had comfort and hope from God. They could not do anything to make right what they did wrong. But they knew God would help them.

13. Did God forget about Adam and Eve after they sinned?

14. What did God promise to Adam and Eve after they sinned?

15. What is the meaning of the word redeem?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 14)

Bible passages to read:

Psalm 9:9-10; Joel 2:12-13; Psalm 32:1-2;
Joel 2:23; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 15:22;
Romans 5:12-21.

There is more reading here than usual, but each passage from the Bible is important. You do not need to read them all at once. Take them one at a time and stop to think about each statement.

Review of Chapter One

God made the world. God made everything in the world. The plants, birds, fish, animals, and people were all made by God. When God made the world, it was good and perfect.

But the first people, Adam and Eve, did not obey God. People sin when they do not obey God. Because of sin, Adam and Eve brought sickness, death, pain, and all trouble into the world.

God did not turn away from Adam and Eve. God hates sin, but he wants sinners to be saved from his just anger and the punishment they deserve. God promised he would send a Savior. He would pay the ultimate price—death—so that our sins would be forgiven. Jesus redeemed us from our sins.

Answers to questions within Chapter One:

1. make; 2. God; 3. good; 4. Adam and Eve; 5. good gifts; 6. disobeying God; 7. no; 8. They ate fruit from the tree God told them not to; 9. They tried to hide from God; 10. Because all people inherit sin; 11. He drove them out of their wonderful home; 12. death, sickness, pain, all kinds of trouble; 13. no; 14. a Savior; 15. buy back.

Test on Chapter One

Answer the following questions:

1. Who created the world?

2. People were created in the likeness of

_____.

3. God gave Adam and Eve many

_____.

4. Were the first man and woman able to disobey God? _____

5. If a person disobeys God, a person

_____.

6. Adam and Eve were ancestors of

_____.

7. Sickness and death were brought into the world by _____.
8. God promised to send Adam and Eve a _____.
9. God _____ sin, but he wants sinners to be _____.
10. The word redeem means _____.

(Check your answers on page 77)



Chapter Two

HISTORY TEACHES ABOUT GOD AND SINNERS

You and I like things to happen quickly. We do not like to wait. When it is time to eat, we expect the food to be handed over to us quickly. We do not like standing in line. When we are not feeling well, we might try to talk about it with our best friend so he or she can make us feel better. One area that we wish could be made better quickly is our relationship with other people. By what we may have said or done, we, no doubt, have hurt a lot of people besides ourselves. Our sins did not

only hurt us; they affected a lot of other people as well. We have told these people we are sorry, but they do not seem to believe us. Or we would like to tell these people we are sorry, but circumstances will not allow it. What does it take for someone to believe we are truly sorry for what we have done wrong?

Adam and Eve experienced these same kinds of feelings. By their actions they had hurt God, themselves, and the children they would bring into the world. They wanted a quick solution to their problem. But as you will see in this lesson, it took time for God to carry out his rescue plan. And while he waited, God found it necessary to use some pretty severe punishment and testing to bring his people back to him. Let us now take a closer look at history and see how God deals with people who are sinners.

The Savior God promised to Adam and Eve did not come right away. For several thousand



God gave Adam and Eve many blessings.

years people had only the promise that some day he would come.

In this chapter you will learn that:

- * God's people in Old Testament times were all sinners who needed the Savior;
- * sometimes when God sent them warnings they repented, that is, they were sorry they had hurt God and others by their actions and now looked to Jesus for forgiveness. But sometimes they were stubborn in their sins and refused to repent; and
- * God punishes unrepentant sinners, but he lovingly corrects and forgives repentant sinners.

Adam and Eve felt the pain of sin in their own lives, not just when they were forced to leave the garden home that God had given them, but when their son Cain murdered his brother Abel. Sin does not just hurt the sinner but everyone

else, too. When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they did not harm only him; they also made his old father Jacob very sad.

The most important difference between Cain and the brothers of Joseph was that Cain was not sorry for his sin and did not ask God to forgive him. But Joseph's brothers were sorry later and asked both God and Joseph to forgive them. They were repentant sinners.

1. What does repenting for sin mean?

2. Do all sinners repent?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 28)

Bible passages to read:

Psalms 12:1-2; Micah 7:2-4; Judges 3:7; 3:12a; 4:1; 6:1a; 10:6.

Many times the Bible tells us about people who sinned. Not only bad people sinned, like the

men of Sodom or the Pharaoh of Egypt, but good people also sinned, like Noah and King David. Why does the Bible tell us about their sin? God wants to show us that all people are sinners. All people need to repent. All people need the Savior.

God did not want the people he had made to live as miserable, wretched, hopeless sinners. Someone once said that life is mean, nasty, brutish, and short. But God never meant it to be that way.

Even before the Savior came, God did many things to lead people to repent of their sins. Sometimes he used very severe correction when they did wrong. He always guided them and taught them what was right through his prophets (God's teachers). God did not want to destroy people. He wanted all of them to come to know him and be saved.

3. Why does the Bible tell us about the sins of people like Noah and King David?

4. Why did God correct people if he did not want them to be miserable?

5. How did God teach his people what was right? _____

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 28)

Bible passages to read:

Psalms 5:4-6; Micah 6:10-13; Isaiah 48:17-18;
Psalm 25:8-10; Joshua 24:25-27.

Why does God correct sinners? Because they need to be corrected. Why does he forgive sinners when they repent? Because they need forgiveness, too. God's teaching shows his love and forgiveness. Through his Word he strengthens and keeps his people from being destroyed by sin.

God wants all sinners to be saved. The only way they can be saved is through faith in Christ, whose sufferings, death, and resurrection have earned salvation (deliverance from spiritual dangers) for all sinners. This message of God's love and Jesus' work is called the gospel. When the Holy Spirit leads us to accept the good news of what Jesus has done for us, we become believers in Jesus. Through the gospel, the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in sinners' hearts.

Many sinners hear the gospel, but not all of them become believers in Christ. Some refuse to repent of their sins. They think they do not need the Savior. Therefore, God may use correction and discipline to lead them to be sorry for their sins and to help them to see they do need a Savior.

6. Why does God correct sinners?

(Check your answer on the bottom of page 28)

Bible passages to read:

Ezra 9:6-7; Psalm 18:4-6; Psalm 27:7-11.

Discipline can come in different ways, as the Bible shows us. After King David committed adultery (had sex with someone he was not married to), his baby son died. Sometimes a sickness came on a whole country. Sometimes the country was defeated in war. Sometimes there was no food for the people to eat. When these things were happening as discipline from God, he sent prophets (those who spoke for God) to tell the people they were being corrected. After God's prophet convicted King David, David asked God to forgive him.

Not all the bad things that happen to people are correction from God. Job's troubles were a test to see if he would stay faithful.

7. What kinds of discipline can God send?

8. Give another reason why bad things happen to people besides correction from God. _____

(Check your answer on the bottom of page 28)

Bible passages to read:

Ezra 9:6-7; Psalm 18:4-6; Psalm 27:7-11.

Was there no one who stayed faithful to God? Well, no one could be perfectly faithful to God, because all people are sinners. But there were people who believed in the promised Savior even through all kinds of trouble.

What kinds of trouble? Well, Joseph was sold as a slave and then put into prison. Daniel was put into prison, and his friends were put into a furnace to burn them up. Both Joseph and Daniel worked for rulers who did not believe in God. They had people all around them who did not believe in God.

Job's children were killed. He lost all his money. He came down with boils on his skin.

Even worse, he had three friends who kept telling him that God was punishing him and that he deserved it all!

9. Give three examples of people in the Old Testament who remained faithful to God's teaching even though they had much trouble in their lives.
-

10. Do you need to live in a Christian environment to be faithful to God?
-

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 28)

Bible passages to read:

Psalm 10:14; Psalm 15; Zechariah 7:8-10;
Micah 6:8; Psalm 16:2; Psalm 16:7-8.

Review of Chapter Two

All people alive in the world today descended from Adam and Eve, the first man and the first woman. All people who have ever lived descended from them.

Because all people belong to one human family, all have inherited sinful natures from Adam and Eve. All people die because of that inherited sin. All people have troubles and hard times. Bad things happen to all people, and all people do bad things.

Our only help in all these troubles is God. Adam and Eve received the promise that a Savior would come. Though their descendants sinned over and over again, some of them remembered the promise and hoped for the time when the Savior would come.

Answers to questions within Chapter Two:

1. to be sorry for sin; 2. no; 3. To show us that all people are sinners; 4. To lead them to repent; 5. He sent prophets; 6. He wants them to be sorry for their sins and know they need a Savior; 7. sickness, no food, war; 8. In order to test their faith; 9. Joseph, Daniel, Job; 10. no.

Test on Chapter Two

Answer the following questions:

1. Cain was the son of _____ and _____.
2. Cain _____ his brother Abel.
3. The man sold into slavery by his brothers was _____.
4. A person who is sorry for sin and looks to Jesus for forgiveness is called _____.
5. Is it true that only bad people sin?

6. Are all people sinners?

7. Sometimes God corrects people to lead them to _____.
8. A king corrected by God for adultery was named _____.
9. Is it true that all troubles are corrections from God? _____

(Check your answers on page 77)



Chapter Three

HISTORY LEADS TO THE SAVIOR

People have made promises to us for many years. They have told us they would come to visit us, write us letters, give us some money, or contact someone for us. They have said they would help us when we are in trouble. But we have been frustrated again and again by broken promises. People who make promises to us do not always keep those promises. It makes us wonder if we can really trust anyone completely.

There is one person we can always trust. He keeps every one of the promises he makes to us. His name is God. We read about the promises he makes to us in the Bible. Like Adam and Eve, we have disobeyed God. Maybe as children we have disobeyed our parents. Or as husbands or wives we have abused one another or our children. Perhaps we stole money from a business or took possessions from a home. Maybe we hit and hurt someone. We may have said or thought bad things about our neighbor. Whatever we have done, we have not followed God's Ten Commandments. Our evil or bad actions made us feel sad, as if we were not worth very much.

Our God has shown us we are important to him, and he does not want us lost. He gave us a promise that a Savior would come one day to rescue us from our sins. He did not give us this promise only one time, but over and over again in the Bible. It certainly is a message that needs to be repeated to us. As we look at

the history of our world, we see history leads to the Savior.

There is a reason for every single word of history written in the Bible. God himself gave the words and thoughts of the Bible to Moses and the prophets and had these men write them down for us to study and to learn. These are not simply stories, even though they are very interesting to read. God used the words of the Bible to teach his people then, and he still uses these words to teach people today.

In this chapter, we will learn:

- * God is faithful even when people are not;
- * God kept reminding people about the Savior;
- * God's prophets taught people about the Savior; and
- * why this teaching was important after the Savior came.

God gave the law to his people. A well-known example of that law is the Ten Commandments. He gave his people the law to protect them and to guide them in how they lived their lives. But God gave his law for a reason that is much more important. God gave his law to show people their sin and their need for a Savior.

God also used the prophets to tell his people about his promise to send the Savior. All the writing in the Bible was given to teach people what the Savior would be like when he came.

1. God gave his law to show the people their sin and their need for a _____.
2. How did God tell his people about his promise of a Savior?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 42)

Bible passages to read:

Psalm 100:5; Psalm 107:1-2; Isaiah 44:24-26a.

One group of people out of all the peoples of the world was chosen by God to be the special guardian of his promise of a Savior. He paid special attention to this people called the Jews, or the People of Israel. God promised the People of Israel that the Savior Jesus would come from them.

However, when he came, the Savior would be for all people. Israel had the special task of making sure the promise was not forgotten.

3. Which people were chosen by God to be the special guardian of the promise of a Redeemer? _____
4. Would the Redeemer only come to save Israel? _____

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 42)

Bible passages to read:

Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 15:1;
Genesis 28:13-15.

All through the history of God's people, God kept reminding them he was going to send the Savior. After the great flood, God promised he would never again destroy the earth with a flood because of people's sins. And he repeated the promise of the Savior to Noah.

God promised Abraham the Savior would come from his family. Abraham was called a patriarch because he would be the ancestor of a great people.

God kept repeating the promise. He repeated it to Isaac, to Jacob, to King David.

5. Besides being exciting stories, why should we read about men like Noah and Abraham?
-

6. Will God ever again destroy the world with water as he did in the time of Noah?
-

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 42)



Noah thanked God for keeping him safe during the flood.

Bible passage to read:

Genesis 8:21-22.

Moses was the first man in history to be given words from God that were to be put down in a book for people to read and follow. What Moses wrote down was put into a collection of books that we call the Bible. Moses wrote the Bible books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Moses and the other men who wrote God's Word were called prophets. Prophets sometimes told what was going to happen in the future.

Another name for the promised Savior is the Messiah. The prophecies that Jesus would come to save people from sin were called Messianic prophecies. Both Isaiah and Micah wrote famous Messianic prophecies.

7. What man was the first one who wrote God's words? _____

8. What does the word prophet mean?

9. Who were Isaiah and Micah?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 42)

Bible passages to read:

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 53; Micah 5:2.

In school, we learn that when a newspaper reporter is going to write a story, the story is not good unless it answers the questions who, what, when, where, why, and how.

God's prophets answered all these questions about the Messiah. God clearly taught what the Savior would be like and what he would do. When the Savior came, there would be no way they would miss knowing who he was. The people would know him.

The prophets told the people where the Redeemer would be born, what family he

would come from, that his mother would be a virgin, how he would act, and many of the things he would do.

Bible passages to read:

Micah 5:2; Micah 5:4, 5; Zechariah 9:9; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 9:6, 7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Isaiah 11:10-11a.

While the believers among God's people were waiting for the Savior to come, they spoke clearly of their faith in God's promises. Even though they still were sinners, they were repentant sinners. They believed God's promises, and they were saved through faith in the promised Messiah who was to come.

This was true not only when life was easy, but also in hard times. Job had many problems, but still he was able to say, "I know that my Redeemer lives. In the end he will stand on the earth. After my skin has been destroyed, in my body I'll see God. I myself will see him with my own eyes. I'll see him, and he won't be a

stranger to me. How my heart longs for that day!" (Job 19:25-27).

10. Does God's promise of a Redeemer for sinners mean that God will make life on earth easy for Christians? _____

(Check your answer on the bottom of page 42)

Bible passages to read:

Joshua 24:14-18; Psalm 6:4; Micah 7:7;
Job 19:25-27.

God's promise to sinners of a Redeemer does not mean God will make life on earth easy for believers. Sometimes God is testing his people. Sometimes he is training them to face even greater difficulties in the future.

Even when times are hard, the believer is still a child of God.

11. Do the difficulties in life mean that God no longer loves you? _____

12. How does God use difficulties in life for our benefit? _____

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 42)

Bible passages to read:

Psalm 4:6-8; Habakkuk 3:17-18; Micah 7:8, 9.

At this time it is good to read all of Psalm 98.

Review of Chapter Three

From the very beginning God promised that the Savior would be for all people. The Savior would be for all the descendants of Adam and Eve.

God picked one group of people to be a special guardian of the promise until the Savior came. That group was called Israel. God promised Abraham, the patriarch of Israel, that the Savior would be born in his family.

Answers to questions within Chapter Three:

1. Savior; 2. He had the prophets write the promises; 3. Israel; 4. no;
5. They remind us that God promised the Savior; 6. no; 7. Moses;
8. a man who spoke God's Word to the people; 9. prophets; 10. no;
11. no; 12. God can be training us or testing us.

God repeated the promise of the Savior many times. Even though the people sometimes forgot his promise, God never forgot.

Through teaching and correction, God kept reminding his people sin was wrong. He kept reminding them they needed a Savior.

Test on Chapter Three

Answer the following questions:

1. Did God ever forget his promise to send a Savior? _____
2. The patriarch of the people of Israel was _____.
3. Israel was the _____ of God's promise of the Savior.
4. Was the promise of the Savior only for Israel? _____

5. The first man who wrote God's Word was _____.
6. Another name for the Savior is _____.
7. Writers who told about the coming of the Savior were the _____.
8. Did the promise of the Savior keep the people of Israel from having troubles? _____
9. Sometimes God _____ a believer by sending troubles.

(Check your answers on page 77)



Chapter Four

JESUS COMPLETES GOD'S PLAN

Whenever someone commits a crime and is convicted for that crime, we say the person has a bad record.

Jesus Christ also has a record. But his record is not bad. Jesus' record is not filled with wrong deeds or words. Jesus never did anything wrong. His record tells about his birth and life on this earth. His record comes to us from men like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John who wrote the first five books of the New Testament.

These men brought out evidence from the past to show the world that Jesus is who he said he was. Jesus is the long awaited Savior. Jesus is the one who completes God's plan to save the world.

The Gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell about the birth and life of Jesus. They tell what Jesus taught the people. They also tell how Jesus died and rose again from the dead.

While the writers of the Gospels tell us about Jesus' life, they often remind us of the promises about the Messiah. The Gospel writers go back to Adam and Eve, to Noah, to Abraham, to Jacob, and to David. They repeat the promises the prophets gave to people long ago.

Why do they do this? The Gospel writers quoted many Messianic prophecies to show that Jesus of Nazareth had fulfilled all those prophecies. By fulfilling the Old Testament Messianic prophecies, Jesus proved he truly is

the promised Savior, the Messiah, the Redeemer, the Son of God, God himself. God causes the Gospel writers to do this because he wants all sinners to believe that Jesus is their only Savior.

In this chapter you will:

- * see how the birth of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the birth of the Savior;
- * see how the life and ministry of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the life and ministry of the Savior;
- * see how the teaching of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of what the Savior would teach; and
- * see how the death and resurrection of Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of how God would save all sinners.

For a more detailed explanation of Jesus' life and work as the world's only Savior, reread the Bible Teachings course *Jesus the Christ*.

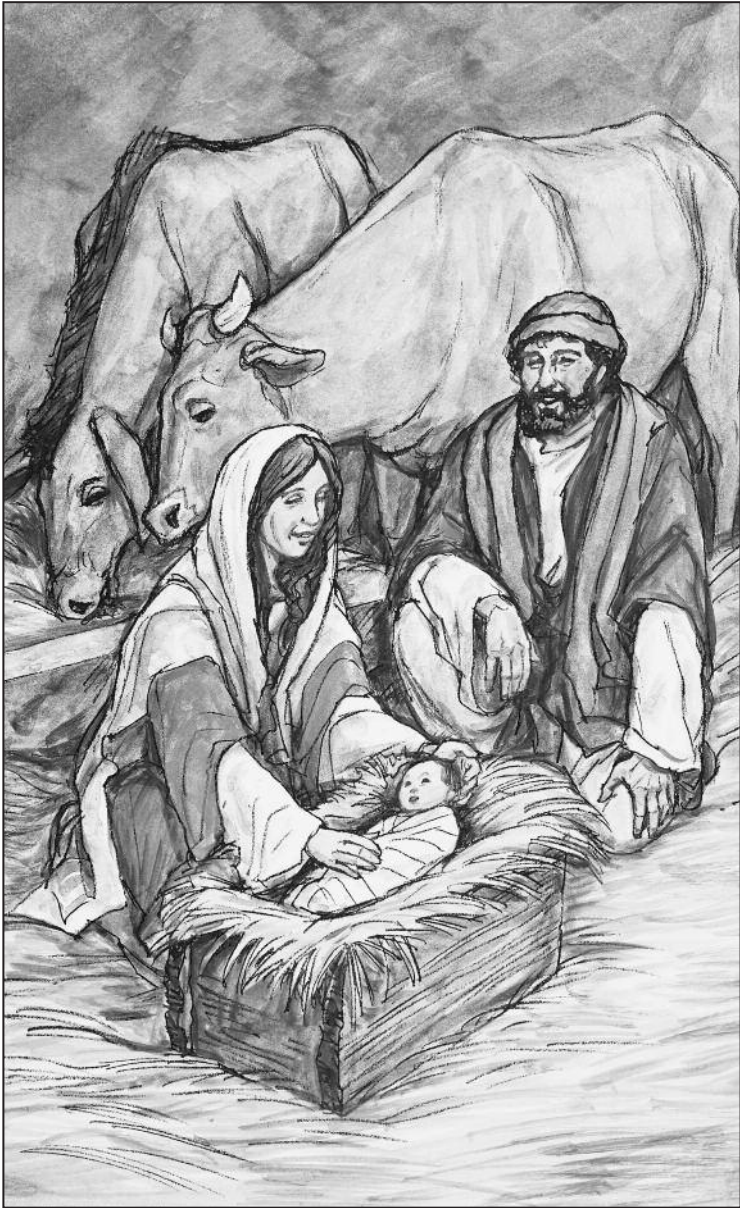
The gospel writer Matthew tells us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He also quotes the prophet Micah who promised that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. The gospel writer Luke tells us that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was still a virgin when he was born. He also reminds us that the prophet Isaiah had said the mother of the Savior would be a virgin. The prophets said the Savior would come from the family of King David. And as Matthew makes clear, both Mary, Jesus' mother, and Joseph, his stepfather, belonged to King David's family.

1. What king's family was Jesus from?

2. What did the prophecy say Jesus' mother would be? _____

3. Where was Jesus born?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 52)



Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth and laid him in a manger.

Bible passages to read:

Luke 1:26-35; Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 2:4-7.

Even when Jesus was a baby, his life happened exactly the way the prophets had said it would. Anyone who studies God's Word can see that Jesus was fulfilling what God's Word promised. After he grew up, his life and ministry matched the prophecies of the life and ministry of the Savior. Jesus is the Savior that God promised to send. Read the examples in the Bible passages for this section.

4. Did Jesus' life match the prophecies?

5. Can a believer who studies God's Word know that Jesus is the Savior?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 52)

Bible passages to read about Jesus' life:

Matthew 2:14-15; Matthew 2:16-18;

Matthew 2:21-23; Matthew 3:1-3.

. . . about Jesus' teaching:

Matthew 4:12-17; Matthew 5:17;
Matthew 13:10-17.

. . . about Jesus' death and resurrection:

1 Corinthians 15: 22-25; Matthew 21:1-7;
Matthew 26:31-32; Matthew 27:6-10;
Luke 24:13-27.

It was very important that everything Jesus did was according to God's plan. By fulfilling the prophecies, Jesus was keeping the promise God made long ago to Adam and Eve. He was keeping the promise God made so many times to other sinners. If Jesus had not kept the promises, he could not have saved people from their sins.

Jesus was obeying God by doing exactly as God had promised. He was doing what Adam and Eve failed to do long ago when they did not love, trust, and obey God.

If Jesus had not been a true man, he could not have lived and died for us. If Jesus had not been true God, he could not have entered life as a sinless person and he could not have risen from the dead. The only way Jesus could save people from their sins was by carrying out God's plan of salvation. He did this by giving his sinless life as the payment for all sin.

6. What was Jesus doing when he fulfilled the prophecies? _____

7. Why did Jesus have to be true man?

8. Why did Jesus have to be true God?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 52)

Answers to questions within Chapter Four:

1. King David; 2. a virgin; 3. Bethlehem; 4. yes; 5. yes; 6. He was keeping God's promise (or he was obeying God); 7. so he could die for us; 8. so he could rise from the dead.

Review of Chapter Four

When the time came for God to send him, the Savior was born. His name was Jesus, the Christ. He was the promised Messiah. He was the Redeemer promised by God. The patriarchs hoped he would come. The prophets promised he would come.

Jesus loved, trusted, and obeyed God perfectly. Jesus did everything God required. He lived a life that had no sin. He died to save sinful people.

People who study God's Word can tell from it that Jesus is the Savior. He was born exactly as the Savior was prophesied to be born. He lived the way the Savior was prophesied to live. He taught what the Savior was supposed to teach. He died the way the Savior was to die.

And as God had promised, Jesus rose from the dead, to show he had conquered death. He is the Redeemer. God's plan is fulfilled in Jesus.

Test on Chapter Four

Answer the following questions:

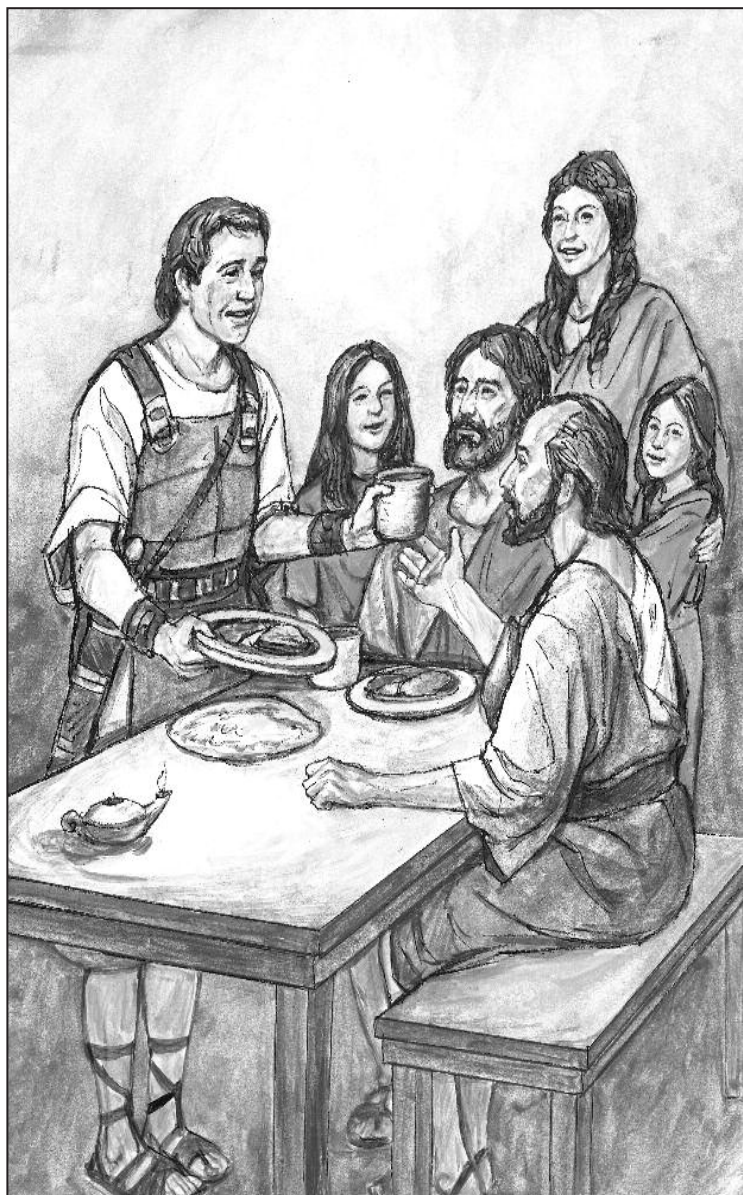
1. When the Savior came, his name was _____.
2. Other names for the Savior are _____ and _____.
3. Jesus did what was foretold by the _____.
4. Jesus was born into the family of King _____.
5. Jesus was born in the town of _____.
6. Did Jesus obey God perfectly? _____
7. Did Jesus ever sin? _____

8. Did Jesus die? _____

9. Did Jesus rise from the dead? _____

10. Jesus _____ God's plan of salvation.

(Check your answers on page 77)



The jailer gave Paul and Silas something to eat and drink.



Chapter Five

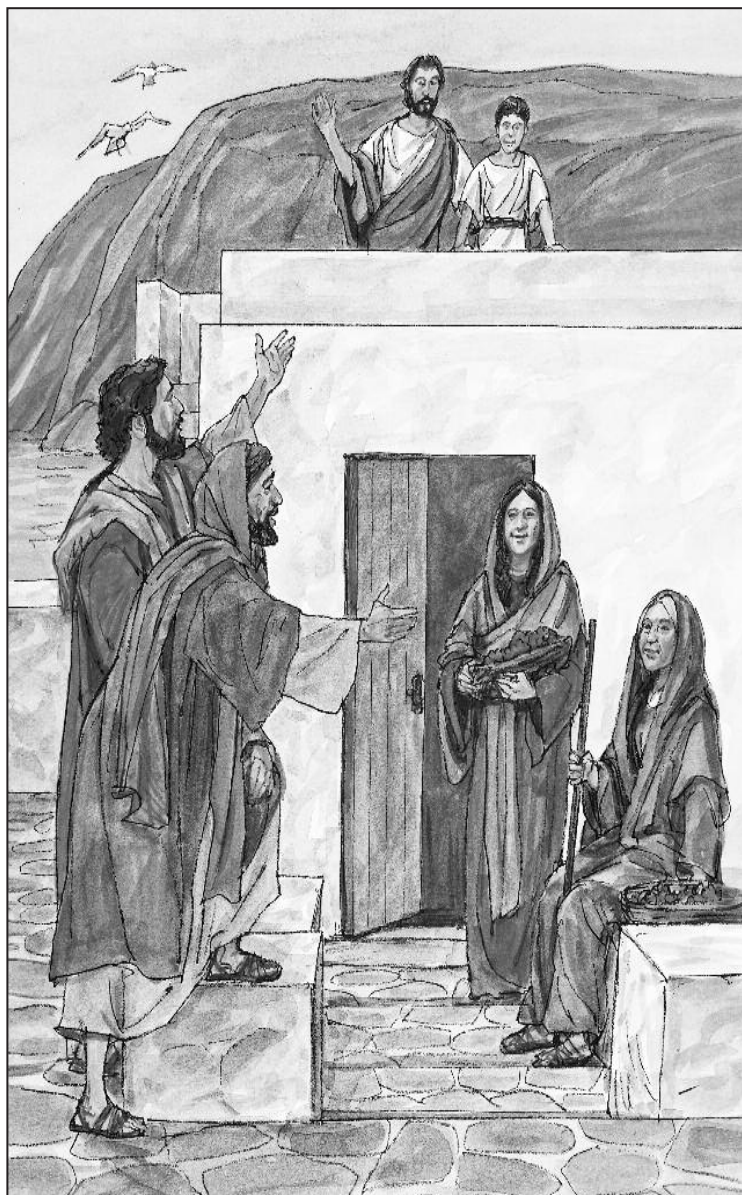
SPREADING JESUS' MESSAGE

The message we have about Jesus as our Savior is a message we do not want to keep to ourselves. We want to share that news with others. But you might say, "Well I am not a pastor!" Or "Look at the bad things I have done in my life! Why would God want to use someone like me?" Why not you? God took a man named Saul who had dragged Christians out of churches and executed them, and made him into Paul, the apostle. God took Peter, a

person who was proud and loud and made him into a humble and dedicated disciple of Jesus Christ. God will also use you to tell others about his plan for the people in your world.

The land Jesus lived and died in was very small. Not very many people lived in Jesus' country. At the time Jesus died, very few people in the world had heard that the Savior had come.

That was why Jesus told Christians to go out and tell others about him. Every Christian in the world receives this order. Spreading the gospel of Jesus is a privilege for every Christian. It is also the duty of every Christian. The work of telling others about Jesus is given to all Christians, no matter who they are or where they are. It does not matter if they are rich or poor, ugly or good-looking, young or old.



The friends of Jesus told others about God's love.

1. Was God's plan to save people finished after the death and resurrection of Christ?
-

2. Why or why not?
-

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

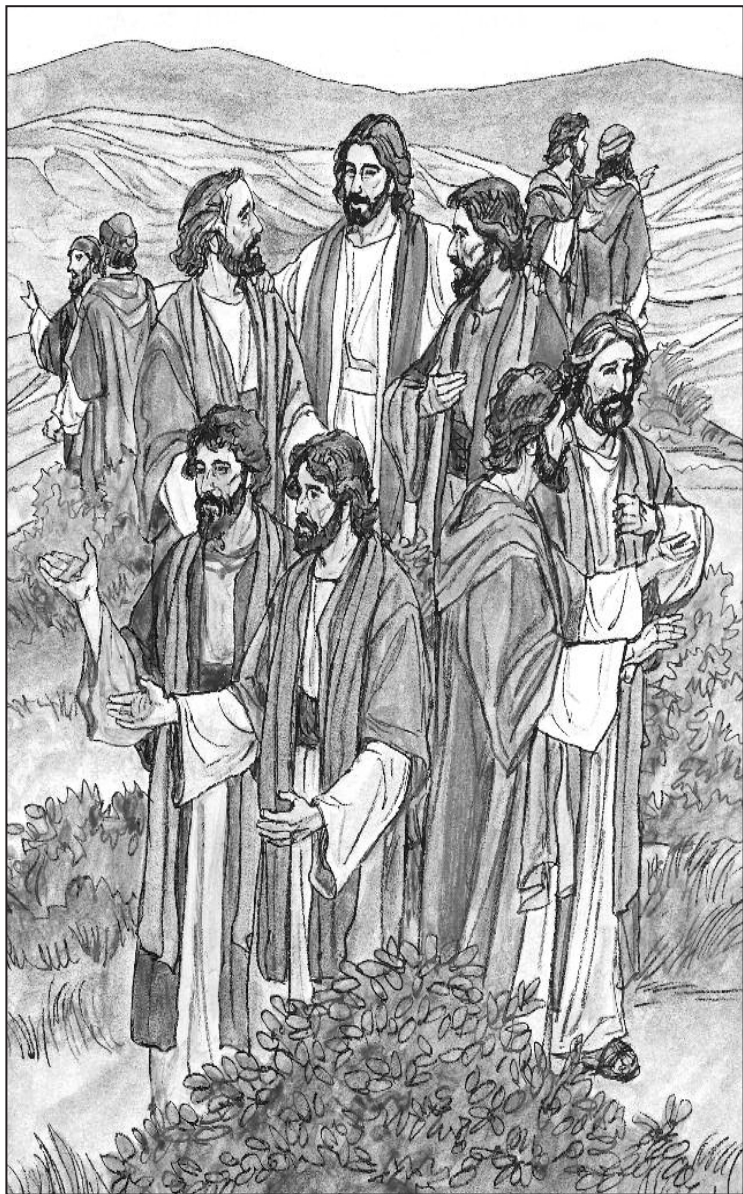
Bible passage to read:

Isaiah 12:4-6.

The Lord's command that every Christian spread the Word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ is called the Great Commission.

The Great Commission says, "Make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18). This does not mean that each one of us must go to every country as a missionary. It means we are to tell everybody we meet that Jesus has saved us from our sins.

It is good if they already know Jesus. Everyone can use a review of who Jesus is and what he has done!



Jesus sends out his disciples to teach and baptize.

3. Who received the Great Commission?

4. Who should be taught about Jesus?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

Bible passage to read:

Matthew 28:16-20.

Jesus died to save us from the punishment our sins deserve. We receive the gift of forgiveness by trusting that Jesus is our Savior. Does that mean Christians are not sinners anymore? Does it mean Christians are perfect people?

No. Even the followers of Jesus who first heard the Great Commission were still sinful human beings. Jesus' followers still argued. They were still afraid. They still got sick and died.

5. Were the followers to whom Jesus gave the Great Commission perfect people? _____

6. List two of the problems of the followers of Jesus.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

The Christians who went out to spread the gospel did not need to be perfect people. People who are not perfect can do great things in the name of Jesus. God does not expect us to find the courage to do these things by ourselves.

God sends the Holy Spirit to help believers. The Holy Spirit first came to Christians at Pentecost, which was ten days after Jesus went to heaven. The Holy Spirit has been with Christians ever since.

The Holy Spirit helps Christians repent of sin and lead better lives. The Holy Spirit guides Christians as they study the Bible. The Holy Spirit gives Christians the courage to teach others.

7. Who was sent by God to help Christians?

8. When did the Holy Spirit come?

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

NOTE:

Let me tell you or remind you about the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian. The Holy Spirit gives us faith in Jesus. After we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit teaches us. The Holy Spirit guides us while we study God's Word.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies us. What does sanctify mean? This means it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to repent and fight off sin in our daily lives, and he helps us obey God's commands. The Holy Spirit keeps us in the true faith.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can carry out the Great Commission. God will always be with us.

God works through people even though they have weaknesses.

Think of Peter. Peter was a man who denied knowing Jesus three times. But later he repented. Then God used him to heal a cripple in Jesus' name. He was also the man who preached in public about Jesus our Savior when persecutors told him not to. He was also a man who died for his faith.

Think of Paul. Paul was a man who persecuted Christians. But after he repented, God inspired him to write many books of the Bible. He was the man who went to jail because of his preaching about Jesus. He was another man who died for his faith.

9. Who helps us spread God's Word?

10. Who were two of Jesus' imperfect followers who spread the gospel? _____
and _____

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

Review of Chapter Five

God wants all people to be saved. Jesus has completed God's plan to save all people from sin. When Jesus died, many people still did not know they were saved. There were people who had never heard of Jesus. There were whole countries that had never heard of Jesus.

Jesus gave his followers an order called the Great Commission. They were to go to all nations and share their faith in Jesus so that other people could hear the gospel, believe it, and become disciples, or followers, of Jesus. Although the followers of Jesus were ordinary people, they followed this command. As far as they could travel, they taught about Jesus.

Christians today still have the same Great Commission. We are to teach other people about Jesus. We are to teach at home and far away from home. We are to teach wherever we go. God's plan of salvation will not be finished until everyone knows about Jesus.

Answers to questions within Chapter Five:

1. no; 2. God's Word has not reached all people yet; 3. all Christians;
4. everybody in the world; 5. no; 6. They argued. They were afraid.
- They became sick. They died; 7. Holy Spirit; 8. at Pentecost;
9. Holy Spirit; 10. Peter and Paul.

Test on Chapter Five

Answer the following questions:

1. Which Christians should teach the gospel to others? _____
2. "Make disciples of all nations" is called the _____.
3. Do Christians still sin? _____
4. Do Christians still have trouble and problems? _____
5. Are Christians perfect people? _____
6. Which person of the Trinity helps Christians to teach the gospel to other people?
_____(Two words)
7. Which person of the Trinity helps Christians repent and lead better lives?
_____(Two words)

8. Living according to God's teaching is called

_____.

9. Two early followers of Jesus were

_____ and _____.

10. Do you need to go to another country to
teach the gospel to others?

(Check your answers on page 77)



Conclusion

Peter and Paul did not completely finish the work given in the Great Commission. Today, that work is still not completed. The Lord wants us, his followers, to teach his Word in the entire world. That work will be completed only when the last person the Holy Spirit wants to bring to faith in Christ hears the gospel and believes its glorious and amazing truths. Then Judgment Day will come.

Every single Christian alive in the world today has the responsibility to tell other people about Jesus. God's plan about how he was going to save people from sin was finished by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. God's plan about getting the good news to all people to tell them they have been saved is not finished yet.

You do not have to be rich or famous to tell others about Jesus. Many of the early followers of Jesus had simple jobs like fishermen. Some

had work that people did not think was good. Matthew had been a tax collector before he followed Jesus. But when he became a Christian, he dedicated his life to telling others about Jesus.

Telling others about Jesus will not make you successful in the eyes of the world. In some places, talking about Jesus can still get you persecuted or thrown out of a country.

Then why do Christians tell others about Jesus? Because it is God's plan. Because every single person alive in the world today needs God's love and salvation just as much as Adam and Eve did in the beginning.

That is why this history is important.



Glossary

(A list of words you may not know)

abandon	to go away and leave someone
accident	a happening that is not planned
affect	to produce a change in someone
ancestor	a person from whom you trace your family line
apostle	one of the men Jesus sent out with his message
benefit	a good thing that happens to you
blessings	gifts from God
boils	painful sores like big, hot pimples
brutish	acting like a dangerous animal in the jungle
charges	crimes you have been accused of
circumstances	the way things are for you
commission	a mission someone gives to someone else
condemn	to declare that someone is a sinner
consequence	a result of an act or action

contact	to speak or write to someone, to touch
convicted	to be found guilty
crime	an act not in keeping with the law
dedicated	ready to do what needs to be done
deliverance	saving someone from something
deny	to say you do not know someone or something
descend	to come down through someone's family line
descendants	people who trace their family line back to someone
despair	the feeling that all is lost and hopeless
devil	the leader of the angels who rebelled against God and were driven from heaven before Adam and Eve sinned
difficulties	troubles
disciple	a follower or student of someone
duty	something you must do
employer	the person who gives you a job
enthused	to be excited about something
environment	the kind of place you are in
evidence	proof that you did something

execute	to put someone to death
exciting	causing a person to have a feeling of happiness
experienced	felt something or had something happen to you
faithful	loyal
Flood, the	the time God destroyed most of the human race by drowning them in a world-wide flood
frustrated	upset when someone breaks a promise to you
fulfilled	did what a prophecy said you would do
gospel, the	the good news about our Savior, Jesus Christ
Gospels	the four books about Jesus found in the Bible (written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
guardian	someone who protects someone else from danger
history	the story of true happenings in the past
Holy Spirit	the Third Person of the Trinity (see Trinity)
inherited	something received from your parents (like your eye or skin color)

inspired	gave the writers the thoughts and words to write down or moved someone to do something
intend	to plan
invent	to make something for the first time
judgment	opinion; someone's way of looking at things
Judgment Day	the end of the world, when God will judge all people.
just	good and holy in God's sight
Messiah	the Savior promised by God in the Old Testament, called Christ in the New Testament
ministry	Jesus' work while he was on earth by teaching, serving
miserable	very sad
molested	had sex with someone who did not want it
nasty	terrible, dirty, not pleasant
New Testament	the part of the Bible written after Jesus was born
Old Testament	the part of the Bible written before Jesus was born
opportunity	the chance to do something
patriarch	an ancestor of the Jewish race (see ancestor)

perfect	the best, nothing missing or wrong
persecutors	people who give others trouble because of what they believe
Pharaoh	the king of ancient Egypt
political	having to do with the government and elections
privilege	something you are allowed and honored to do
prophecies	statements about what will happen in the future
puppet	a doll moved by strings
refuse	to not want to do something
relationship	the way things are between you and other people
repent	to be sorry for one's sins, believe Jesus forgives sin, and not want to sin again
require	to make someone do something
responsibility	something you must do
resurrection	rising from the dead
robot	a machine
ruin	to destroy
salvation	being saved from sin, death, and the devil

Savior	the One who saved us from sin, death, and the devil
separate	to move or keep apart
severe	very harsh
sin	a thought, word, action, or desire that is against God's will
slavery	the condition of being a person who is owned by someone else
solution	the way to solve a problem, an answer found
Ten Commandments	God's laws for all people of all times
Trinity	God, who is one Being but three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
ultimate	the highest, best, final
violated	went against something
virgin	a woman who has never had sex
wretched	feeling bad or miserable



Answers to the Chapter Tests

Chapter Test One (Pages 15-16)

1. God; 2. God; 3. blessings; 4. yes; 5. sins; 6. all people;
7. sin or Adam and Eve; 8. Savior; 9. hates, saved; 10. buy back.

Chapter Test Two (Pages 29-30)

1. Adam, Eve; 2. killed; 3. Joseph; 4. repentant; 5. no; 6. yes;
7. repent; 8. David; 9. no.

Chapter Test Three (Pages 43-44)

1. no; 2. Abraham; 3. guardian; 4. no; 5. Moses; 6. Messiah or Redeemer; 7. prophets; 8. no; 9. tests.

Chapter Test Four (Pages 54-55)

1. Jesus; 2. Messiah, Redeemer; 3. prophets; 4. David;
5. Bethlehem; 6. yes; 7. no; 8. yes; 9. yes; 10. completed or fulfilled.

Chapter Test Five (Pages 67-68)

1. all Christians; 2. Great Commission; 3. yes; 4. yes; 5. no;
6. Holy Spirit; 7. Holy Spirit; 8. being sanctified; 9. Peter, Paul;
10. no.



Final Test

Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Also review the goals marked with a star (*) at the beginning of each lesson. When you are sure you know all the goals, you are ready to take the final test.

Complete the final test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover of this book. You may also ask for more Bible Teachings study books in this series.



God's Plan for the World
Final Test

1. God made the world out of _____.
2. When God made the world, it was in a _____ condition.
3. God created people in his own _____.
4. The gifts which God gave people are God's _____.
5. Disobeying God is _____.
6. The first man and woman were _____ and _____.
7. Did the first man and woman continue to obey God? _____
8. Because of sin, the world was _____.
9. God _____ sin, but God wants sinners to be _____.

10. Redeem is another word for _____.
11. God promised to send people a _____ from their sin.
12. Did the Savior come right after God promised to send him? _____
13. People who are _____ for their sins are called repentant sinners.
14. God has _____ on repentant sinners.
15. God _____ sinners who do not repent.
16. Moses and the prophets wrote the Word of _____.
17. The prophets kept reminding the people that God was promising to send the _____.
18. Because the patriarchs and the prophets believed in God's promise of a Savior, they were _____.

19. Are all bad things that happen to people a punishment from God? _____
20. Can people be faithful to God in spite of troubles? _____
21. Did God ever repeat his promise to send the Savior? _____
22. The Bible tells us a lot about one group of people that was chosen to guard God's promise. That group was called _____.
23. The Savior who came was named _____. He was also called the _____ and the _____.
24. Jesus fulfilled what the _____ had foretold.
25. Did all the people alive at the time of Jesus need a Savior? _____
26. Did all the people alive at the time of Jesus know about him? _____

27. What did Jesus do? He gave his followers the Great _____.
28. Do all the people alive in the world today need a Savior? _____
29. Do all people in the world today know about Jesus? _____
30. Should all Christians today help to teach the gospel to others? _____

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