

How We Got the Bible

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 1 of 15

We are so glad you want to learn about God! As you study this fifteen-lesson course of the Bible, we hope you will be thrilled with learning about God. As these lessons are designed for those who already believe that the Bible is the Word of God, we will not attempt to prove this in this course; but we believe you will learn much as you study the Word of God in the next few weeks.

THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Some people do not know exactly how we got the Bible. The answer to this question is that God through the Holy Spirit instructed men exactly what to say ([2 Peter 1:21](#)). The Old Testament part of the Bible was written in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages. Today very few people can read these languages. The New Testament was written in the Greek language that Jesus spoke. Today we are very fortunate that wise men have translated (brought from one language to another) the Bible into the languages men speak.

FIRST WRITTEN ON SCROLLS

The earliest parts of the Bible were written on scrolls. To have a complete Old Testament it was necessary to have many scrolls. For example, the book of Isaiah was on one scroll, the book of Daniel was on another, and thus having a Bible meant having many such scrolls.

By the time of the writing of the New Testament a form of paper called papyrus was in use. Later, men took the writings on paper and put them in book form. But even then, the Bible was in a language few people could read.

THE BIBLE INTO ENGLISH

In the 17th century King James of England wanted a Bible in the English language for all to read. He ordered that the wise men in his

kingdom translate the Bible for the common man. In 1611 this translation was completed. Most English Bibles today are copies of this translation.

Some people find the King James Bible hard to read. Often this is because the English words used in 1611 are not all used today. The chart below shows some of these words and their present meaning.

WORD USED IN 1611	MODERN WORD
let	hinder
allow	approve
communicate	share
prevent	precede
kine	cow

Because of the change in the meaning of a few of the King James words, modern translations have been made. Some of these are not as accurate as the King James, but most are very good. The King James Bible is still widely used, and in this course we will use both King James and the American Standard Version.

How God Had Dealt With Man

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 2 of 15

Before beginning an actual study of the text of the Bible, perhaps it would be well to get an overall view of the Bible and how God has dealt with man. God has dealt with man under different laws at different times.

THREE AGES OF BIBLE HISTORY

For all practical purposes, the Bible can be divided into three major periods. In each period God has dealt differently with man.

THE PATRIARCHAL AGE

The word "patriarch" means "father" and the Patriarchal Age is the time when God dealt directly with the fathers of each family. Because there was no Bible or written law from God, it was the father's responsibility to teach and lead the family in worship. The Patriarchal period begins with the creation and ended with the giving of the law by Moses.

THE MOSAICAL AGE

The Mosaical Age is the period of time when God had a written law (including the Ten Commandments) for the Jewish people and dealt with them according to its teaching. This age began about 1,500 years before Christ came. One important point to remember is that we do not live under this law.

THE CHRISTIAN AGE

The Christian age is the one in which we live. It began at the death of Christ ([Heb. 9:16-17](#)) and is for all men of every nation under heaven. The teachings for the Christian age are to be found in the New Testament. We are to live by the teachings of the New Testament and not the Old.

THE PLACE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

God never intended for the Old Testament to be a permanent law, but rather gave it until Jesus came ([Galatians 3:19](#)). Today one who would seek to be saved by its teachings falls away from the grace of God ([Galatians 5:4](#)). This is not to say the Old Testament has no purpose (see [Romans 15:4](#); [1 Cor. 10:11](#)) but it is not for it to be a law for men today.

WHY TWO TESTAMENTS?

Perhaps an example will help us to understand the difference between the two testaments. Suppose a man has a large sum of money and much land. He makes a will (his testament) showing how his things are to be divided among his children. Later he adopts several other children; and he makes a new will to include them. The old will is no longer binding.

In like manner, God had a will (the law of Moses) that was only for the Jews ([Deut. 5:2-3](#)); but this has been replaced by the New Testament that includes all men.

The Creation

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 3 of 15

'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth'

With these words the Bible begins and gives answer to one of life's most important questions. This question is, "Where did man come from?" The Bible answers, "From God."

THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION

God took only six days to make all that is in the world. These days were 24 hour days each made up of "an evening and a morning." The chart below shows what God made on each day.

FIRST DAY	Light
SECOND DAY	Firmament
THIRD DAY	Dry land and vegetation
FOURTH DAY	Sun, moon and stars
FIFTH DAY	Fish and fowls
SIXTH DAY	Beasts, man and woman

Having finished His creation in six days, the Bible says that on the seventh day God rested.

THE CREATION OF MAN AND WOMAN

The Bible gives the details concerning the creation of man and woman. *"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life,' and man became a living soul."* He took this man, Adam, and put him into a beautiful garden,

called the Garden of Eden. He brought to Adam all the animals and Adam named every one of them. The Bible then says that God caused Adam to sleep, and taking a rib from his side He made a woman from it. Adam called her Eve, for she *"was the mother of all the living."*

THE FALL OF MAN

When God placed man in the Garden of Eden, he told him that he could eat of every tree in the garden, except one called the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil." If he did, God said, "You will die the very day you eat of it." The Bible tells of the coming of the Devil in the form of a serpent and persuading Eve to eat of that tree. She then persuaded Adam to eat of it.

Because of their sin (disobeying God) they were driven out of the garden: they were separated from God--they were dead spiritually. Today when we disobey God we die spiritually--we are separated from Him. As further punishment, God told Eve she would have pain in bearing children, man would have to work hard to get food, the serpent would have to crawl upon his belly and the Devil was told that someday he would be crushed. (See [Genesis 3:14-19](#); [Romans 16:20](#)).

Adam and Eve had two boys, Cain and Abel. When God told these boys to offer sacrifices, Abel did just what God said, but Cain offered something other than what God had said. (Note: This is sin, whenever one disobeys God, it is wrong). When God accepted Abel's sacrifice, Cain became angry and killed his brother. Later Adam and Eve had other children. One of these, named Seth, is the one through whom Jesus was to come later on.

This lesson is taken from the first four chapters of the Bible. You will enjoy reading these chapters to learn even more.

God's Judgment: The Flood

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 4 of 15

We will not be able to cover every event of the Bible in this study, but one story that we cannot overlook is the account of the great flood that God sent on the wicked world of Noah's day.

FROM ADAM TO NOAH

About 1,600 years after God made Adam and Eve the world had become so wicked most of the people on the earth were disobeying God. In this wicked world lived one righteous man with his family. He was Noah. Because the world was so evil, God determined to destroy all the evil people and save Noah and his *family*.

BUILDING THE ARK

God told Noah to build an ark (a large ship) for his family and the animals he was to take into the ark with him. While Noah was building the ark he preached to the people trying to get them to change and obey God. We should learn from this that even if no one wants to do right we should be like Noah and still serve Him.

Finally the time for the sending of the flood came. At God's command, Noah took the animals (two of every "unclean" and the clean by sevens) and his wife, his three sons and their wives into the ark.

THE FLOOD

For forty days and nights it rained, until all the dry land was covered, even the tallest mountains. All the wicked men died in this flood. After being in the ark for over a year Noah was able to come out.

THE BEGINNING OF THE RAINBOW

One of the First things Noah did after leaving the ark was to worship God. As a sign of His promise to all men, God placed a rainbow in the sky to let us know He will never destroy all the earth with a flood

again (Read [2 Peter 3:7-12](#) to see how one day the earth will be destroyed).

LESSON FROM NOAH

1. God hates sin. He will bring His judgment on those who do not obey Him.
2. God demands obedience. God told Noah to build the ark. If he had not, he would have been destroyed like the others.
3. God demands exact obedience. Suppose Noah had used a different kind of wood than that which God had said. He would have been wrong; he would not have been obeying God just like the rest of the world was not obeying God. We too must do exactly what God says. Men today cannot change even one thing God has said and still be right! (See [Deut 12:32](#); [Pro. 30:6](#); [Gal. 1:8-9](#); [Rev. 22:18ff](#)).
(SPECIAL NOTE- if you would like to learn why men speak different languages and find out about how they started, then read [Genesis 11:1-9](#)).

Abraham, the Man of Faith

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 5 of 15

In Genesis we are introduced to one of the most important characters of the Bible. Let us study his life in detail to learn from him what kind of faith God expects us to have.

Faith (or belief) comes only from hearing God ([Romans 10:17](#)). Look at these two events in Abraham's life to see exactly what faith is. Abraham lived in Ur when God came to him and told him to leave his land, friends and relatives and to "go to a land I will show you." Imagine the faith it took for Abraham to gather his possessions and leave not even knowing where he was going!" He trusted God, and left simply because God told him to go. This helps us to know what faith is.

Another time God told Abraham to take his son and offer him as a sacrifice. Abraham arose early, taking his son to the place God had said. He would have killed his own son simply because God said to do it! You can read of how God stopped him in Genesis 22. It is a thrilling story.

ABRAHAM, THE FATHER OF THE JEWISH NATION

Because of his faith, God selected Abraham and his descendants (his sons, grandsons, etc.) and promised that some day Christ would come through them. God said to Abraham, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." ([Genesis 22:18](#)). [Galatians 3:16](#) shows us that the word "seed" referred to Jesus. The promise was that some day Jesus would be born to bring a blessing to all nations.

ISAAC, THE CHILD OF PROMISE

Abraham had several children ([Gen. 25:2,12, 19](#)) but the blessing was to come through Isaac. Isaac was born when Abraham was an old man ([Genesis 21:2](#)), according to the promise of God. When Isaac

grew up God promised to him "in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." ([Genesis 26:4](#)). Christ was to come through Isaac.

THE PROMISE TO JACOB

God repeated the same promise to Jacob that he had made to Abraham and Isaac ([Genesis 28:14](#)). We read of the life of Jacob in Genesis 25-49 and learn of the time he deceived his father, (Genesis 27), the time he had to leave his home to keep his brother from killing him ([Genesis 27:41-28-22](#)), the time he had to work 14 years as payment for his wives." (Genesis 29, 30).

THE NATION OF ISRAEL

In fact, God chose Jacob, Isaac's son, and changed his name to Israel. His twelve sons became the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. Much of the history of the Old Testament is concerning God's dealing with Jacob's descendants, the children of Israel.

Going Down Into Egypt—Joseph

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 6 of 15

Our last lesson dealt with the beginning of the nation of Israel, when we studied the promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Let us look at how the nation develops further by studying the life of Joseph.

Jacob had twelve sons, but his favourite one was Joseph. The fact that he was the one who was given the coat of many colours shows this ([Gen. 37:3,4](#)).

SOLD INTO EGYPT

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. One day they sold Joseph to some merchants who were on their way to Egypt. They took his coat and dipped it in the blood of a goat and took it to their father. When Jacob saw it, he thought his favourite son had been killed by a wild beast and was deeply grieved.

SOLD TO POTIPHAR

When Joseph arrived in Egypt he was bought as a slave by a man named Potiphar, an officer of the king, Pharaoh. Joseph was a very good young man and God blessed everything that he did. Potiphar liked him very much and made him overseer of his house.

CAST INTO PRISON

A very evil thing happened. Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to commit sin with her, but Joseph would not. This made her so angry that she lied about Joseph and caused him to be cast into prison.

But even while in prison God was with Joseph and blessed him. When Joseph was able to tell the meaning of dreams (with the help of God), it led him to be appointed Pharaoh's special helper, second in charge of the whole country.

JOSEPH'S FAMILY COMES INTO EGYPT

There was a great famine (not enough food to eat) throughout the whole world. Because of Joseph's wisdom Egypt had stored up enough food before the famine came.

When Jacob and his sons heard of the food in Egypt the sons came to Egypt to buy food Joseph was very happy to see them, though they did not know who he was.

Finally, Joseph told his brothers who he was and then sent and brought his father to live in Egypt. Pharaoh gave them a special part of Egypt called Goshen for them to live in. When Jacob died, Joseph took his body back into Canaan to *bury* him. When Joseph died (he lived to be 110 years old) he told the Israelites that some day they would leave Egypt and when they did they were to take his body back into Canaan to bury it. Our next lesson will study about this.

This lesson has covered Genesis, chapters 34-50. Study these chapters carefully and you will be thrilled in seeing how God has worked with His people.

Coming Out of Egypt—Moses

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 7 of 15

Our last lesson dealt with the time when the family of Jacob went into Egypt during the time of Joseph. This lesson deals with the time when God raised up a leader to bring them out of Egypt.

Following the death of Joseph, the Israelites (the descendants of Jacob) grew into a mighty nation. They became so numerous that the Egyptians were afraid of them. They made them slaves and even ordered that all the male children be killed so that the nation of Israel would not grow. It is at this point of history we meet Moses, the great deliverer.

FORTY YEARS IN EGYPT

Moses was the son of Amram and Jochebed. Because they did not want him killed when he was born, they hid him as long as they could. Finally they knew something had to be done. His mother made a basket, put Moses in it and placed it in the river.

The king's daughter came to the river and saw the basket. When she saw the baby, she wanted to keep him alive. Moses' sister, Miriam, was hiding to see what would happen to the basket. She suggested to the princess that an Israelite woman be found to help raise the child. When the princess agreed, Miriam ran and got Moses' own mother to help raise the child.

FORTY YEARS TENDING SHEEP

When Moses grew up he loved the people of Israel very much. This is shown by the fact that when he saw an Israelite fighting with an Egyptian, he helped the Israelite by killing the Egyptian. Because he had killed an Egyptian he had to flee to another country (called Midian) where he married and had two sons.

One day as Moses was keeping his sheep on Mt. Sinai, God spoke to him out of a burning bush. At first Moses did not think he could do so great a work, but God answered every objection of Moses. So Moses went. with his brother Aaron to speak for him, into Egypt.

THE TEN PLAGUES

The people of Egypt did not want to let the Israelites leave. Because of this, God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. The ten plagues were:

1. Water Changed to Blood
2. Frogs
3. Lice
4. Flies
5. Cattle Disease
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the Firstborn

When the last plague came, the Egyptians demanded that the Israelites leave. God was with the Israelites and wonderfully provided for them. Shortly after leaving Egypt God caused the Red Sea to open up and allowed the Israelites to cross on dry ground, but destroyed the Egyptians when they tried to cross.

Our next lesson will tell of the events that happened while they were on their way to the land of Canaan.

From Egypt to the Promised Land

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 8 of 15

Hundreds of years had passed since God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. The time of the fulfilling of the promise had arrived ([Acts 7:17](#)), so God raised up Moses as a Deliverer to lead the Israelites from the land of Egypt. After God brought the ten plagues on the Egyptians, they allowed the Israelites to leave the land of Egypt and to begin their journey to the "promised land."

THE LIFE OF MOSES

The life of Moses divides itself into three equal parts of forty years each. The first forty years were spent in Egypt, being raised as the son of the King. The next forty years were spent in the land of Midian tending sheep, where Moses had fled from the anger of the king. This lesson deals with the last forty years of his life, as leader of the children of Israel.

EVENTS AT MT. SINAI

Having left the land of Egypt and miraculously crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites arrived at Mt. Sinai. They remained at the mount for almost a year. While here, four notable events occurred.

1. God delivered to Moses the ten commandments on the table of stone.
2. The people built the golden calf to be their "god"; which Moses destroyed.
3. The people were numbered. (counted).
4. The tabernacle (a large tent to be the center of Jewish worship) was built.

FROM SINAI TO THE PROMISED LAND

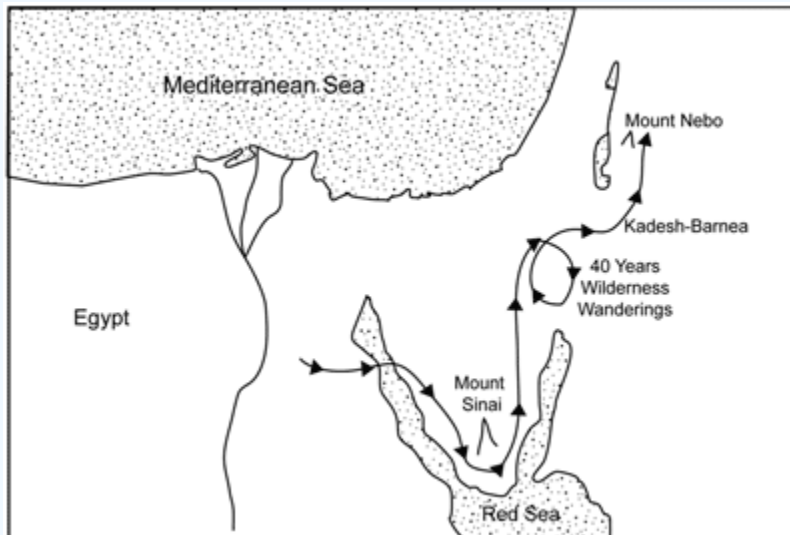
After leaving Mt. Sinai, the Israelites headed toward the promised land. When they arrived at a place called Kadesh-Barnea, twelve spies were sent into the land to find out about it. They returned after forty days, with the report of the beauty of the land, but ten of the twelve

spies forgot about the fact that God was helping them and persuaded the people they just were not able to capture the land.

FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

Because of their unbelief, God determined that the Israelites would be punished. They were told that they must wander in the wilderness for forty years until all of the men who did not believe Him died; then their children would go into the land. For forty years the nation of Israel were wanderers in the wilderness; God gave them bread (called manna) from heaven and often gave them water by a miracle.

Before the death of Moses, two nations on the east side of the Jordan River were defeated. Moses, as an old man, was permitted to climb to the top of Mt. Nebo, look at the promised land; then he died and God buried him. Look at the map below to see the location of the events of this lesson.



Judges, Kings, and Prophets

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 9 of 15

Moses was dead, but God selected another great man to lead His people. This man was Joshua. He was one of the spies that went into the promised land from Kadesh-Barnea, but his report was that God would help His people to possess the land. Because of this, he and the other "faithful spy," (a man named Caleb), were the only two men who left the land of Egypt to enter the promised land. All the rest of the men (over 600,000) perished wandering the forty years in the wilderness. God gave the land to their children.

CONQUERING THE LAND

After crossing the Jordan River by a miracle, the Israelites began to take the land. The city of Jericho was taken by God making the wall of the city to fall down after the Israelites marched around the city 13 times. It was not too long before the entire land was taken by the Israelites.

THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES

Following the death of Joshua, God selected certain men to lead the people by being judges over them. We do not have time to discuss all of these (you can read of their lives in the book of Judges) but some are well known to Bible students.

Ehud	The left-handed judge
Deborah	The woman judge
Gideon	God's warrior with his 300 men
Samson	The strongest man who ever lived
Samuel	The last judge

THE PERIOD OF THE KINGS

The people rejected God's plan of having Him as their king and judge ([1 Samuel 8:1-7](#)) and demanded earthly kings. God let them have their way and gave them Saul as their first king. Later David became king and then his son Solomon.

THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM

Following the death of Solomon, the kingdom became two kingdoms; each of which was to go into captivity. The chart below gives some of the important information about the kingdoms.

Name of kingdom	Location	No. of tribes	Date of captivity	Place of captivity	Kind of kings	Faithful to God
Judah	Southern	2	605 B. C.	Babylon	Good, Evil	Sometimes
Israel	Northern	10	722 B. C.	Assyria	Evil	Never

THE PROPHETS

Most of the prophets of the Old Testament lived after the time of Solomon. The prophets were simply God's spokesmen. They called the people to repentance and foretold the coming of Jesus. The last 17 books of the Old Testament are books written by some of these prophets.

RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY

Seventy years after being taken into Babylon the Israelites returned to the promised land. They were lead by Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. Here they were to remain until the coming of Jesus. You can read about the return in Ezra and Nehemiah.

Jesus, the Son of God

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 10 of 15

The central character of the Bible is Jesus, the Son of God. The message of the Old Testament is that Jesus is coming, that of the New is that Jesus is here! His coming is the most important event in the history of man.

HIS BIRTH

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The story of the visit of the shepherds, the visit of the wise men (incidentally, the Bible does not say how many wise men there were), the trip into Egypt to escape from King Herod is known by many. The details of this part of His life can be found in Matthew 2 and Luke 1,2.

HIS BAPTISM

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. The purpose of John's baptizing people was "for the remission of sins" ([Mark 1:4](#)) but when Jesus who had no sins came to him, he refused to baptize Him. Jesus said that John should baptize Him "to fulfil all righteousness," John then baptized Him.

HIS MIRACLES

Jesus performed many miracles. Some people do not know why He did this. The miracles were to show that Jesus was the Son of God ([Acts 2:22](#)). Today, some people claim to have the power that Jesus had, but compare the following differences.

Jesus and the Early Church

Men Today

People cured immediately

Often takes days

Cures were visible to all

Often are of sicknesses none can see

Everyone was cured

Only some are cured

Faith rarely required

Always required

Complete cures

Partial cures

The truth is that men today do not have power like Jesus had; else they would do what he did!

HIS PARABLES

Jesus also taught in parables. Parables are stories taught to illustrate truth. They are well known stories of the earth to teach the truths of heaven. To see some of the parables Jesus taught read Matthew 13 or Luke 15.

HIS APOSTLES

Another important work of Jesus was the selecting of the apostles. As Jesus knew He was soon to leave earth and go back to heaven, He picked out certain men to carry on His work. Later they received the Holy Spirit to help them do the work he had planned for them.

HIS CHURCH

In Matthew 16, Jesus announced His plan to start the church (The word church as used in the Bible does not mean a building, but a group of people). Once established it was to abide forever (Matthew 16:18; [Daniel 2:44](#)). Some today do not think the church one is a member of is important, but the church Jesus started, and that is still on the earth, is of great importance. In fact, Jesus died for the church ([Acts 20:28](#)); and it is this church that He is going to save. ([Ephesians 5:23](#); [1:22](#)). Later in our study we'll learn more about it

A MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

Now that you have studied about the life of Jesus, do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 11 of 15

As already stated, the most important event in the history of man is the coming of Jesus. The most important events in His life are His death and His resurrection.

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

Many times while Jesus was on the earth, He was very popular with the multitudes. One time there were about 5,000 men listening to Him preach, not counting the women and children. Just a week before His death, the people ran before Him coming into the city, shouting His praises. ([Matthew 21:8,9](#)).

Why then did He die? One reason was because of what He taught. He wasn't afraid to tell men of their sins, He spoke very plainly. (Matthew 23). He taught the Jews that God was planning to remove them from being His chosen people and that others, those not Jews, would be accepted. ([Matthew 21:43](#); [8:11,1 2](#)). He also taught that He was equal with the Father ([John 5:1 8](#)) and this made the Jews angry. Jesus died because men hated Him; yet it was these same men for whom He died!

HIS DEATH

A very close friend of Jesus named Judas, decided to sell Jesus to His enemies. The enemies promised Judas 30 pieces of silver if he would give Jesus into their hands. One night while Jesus was praying, Judas came with a mob and showed them who Jesus was by kissing Him. Later Judas killed himself because of what he had done.

HIS TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION

Jesus was taken by the mob and, though not one time in His life had He done wrong, He was put on trial. Men lied about Him, about what He had done, and finally He was sentenced to die. All the time He was on trial, men were spitting on Him, hitting Him in the *face*, mocking

Him and beating Him. Jesus, even though being treated wrong, still did no wrong. ([I Peter 2:22-25](#)).

Finally, He was taken to be crucified. They drove nails through His hands and feet and into the cross, then lifted the cross up, to watch Him die. Even while He was on the cross, they mocked Him.

HIS BURIAL

After Jesus was dead, His friends took Him from the cross to bury Him. A man named Joseph, from Arimathea, gave them a burial place. Because the Jewish leaders were afraid someone might steal the body, they placed guards around the tomb to keep the body of Jesus in the tomb.

HIS RESURRECTION

But nothing could keep Him in the tomb! On Sunday morning, when the friends of Jesus came to the tomb, they found it open; Jesus had been raised from the dead! In order for all men to know that Jesus was His son, God raised Him from the dead. Forty days later Jesus returned to heaven to be with God! Jesus is alive! He is a living Savior!

The Church of Jesus

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 12 of 15

As already noticed, Jesus went back to heaven just forty days after His resurrection. But His work of saving men was just beginning. He had selected the apostles to use in establishing His church, and shortly after His arrival in Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit on them to help them.

Acts chapter 2 tells of the beginning of the church. On that day 3,000 were baptized. They became members of Jesus church. The church was just beginning, but within thirty years, the gospel had been preached to every creature on earth ([Colossians 1:23](#)). John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles had been preaching the kingdom was coming ([Matthew 3:2](#); [4:17](#); [10:7](#)). In fact, Jesus had said it would come before the disciples He taught died. ([Mark 9:1](#)) And in Acts, the KINGDOM came!

It is important that we learn as much as possible about the church. Jesus started it, and gave instructions that no man was to change it (See [Galatians 1:8,9](#); [2 John 9-11](#); [Rev. 22:18,19](#)). If we can learn what it was like when Jesus started it, we can know what it should be like today. After Jesus began His church, men have started others; so we must learn all we can about the church of Jesus so we can tell it from man-made churches.

The following chart will help us understand about the church of Jesus. Study it carefully.

Builder:	Jesus (Matthew 16:18)
Year begun:	33 A. D.
Place begun:	Jerusalem (Acts 2) Jesus (Ephesians. 1:22,23)

Head:

Organization: Every congregation independent, with its own elders and deacons. There were no "headquarters" on the earth. (Acts 14.-23; 1 Timothy 3)

Worship: Praying, giving, Lord's Supper every week, preaching, singing without instrumental music ([Acts 12:12](#); [1 Corinthians 16:2](#); [Acts 20: 7](#); [Colossians 3:16](#)).

Membership: Those who believe, repent, confess faith in Christ were then immersed (buried) in water for the forgiveness of sins ([Acts 2:36-47](#)).

THE CHURCH

Our other lessons will deal more fully with much of the above. However, you should try to learn as much of it as you can now. All around the world today millions are members of the very same church that Jesus started; they are His church today! If you would like to know more about His church, please let us know.

Because the church is important; you should ask yourself the following questions about any church before being a member of it.

1. Was it begun by Jesus?
2. Did it start in the year 33?
3. In what city was it begun?
4. Who is its head? Does it have an earthly head?
5. Does it worship like the first church did?
6. How do I become a member of it? Does it follow the Bible pattern for membership?

ANOTHER IMPORTANT QUESTION

Are you a member of the church that Jesus began?

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 13 of 15

The most important question ever asked by man is, "What must I do to be saved?" It is a question that you, and all men, must find the answer to. The Bible has the answer. The book of Acts shows examples of men finding the answer. This lesson is a very important one!

ALL MEN NEED TO BE SAVED

The Bible affirms that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God ([Romans 3:23](#)). Just as Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and were separated from Him, today you, me and all men have done wrong and have been separated by our sin from God. Unless our sins are forgiven by God, we will be lost when He comes to judge the world at the end of time.

ALL MEN NEED TO DO THE SAME THING

God is no respecter of persons. He will judge all men according to the same standard ([Acts 10:34](#); [John 12:48](#)). If we can find what He required of men after the church started, we will know just exactly what he requires of us today.

THE ANSWER BY EXAMPLE

In other times and periods of Bible history, God has required various things of men. For example, God asked Noah to build an ark; Abraham to offer his son in sacrifice; the Jews to worship at the temple; the rich young man to sell all he had; but the answer for us will be found in His New Testament, the law under which we serve God. The first example after Christ ascended into heaven is found in Acts 2. The Jews had killed Christ, Peter convicted them of their sins and they asked "What shall we do?" Note carefully the answer given. Remember what God required of them, He requires of us. He is not a respecter of persons. The answer was: "Repent and be baptized...for the remission of your sins. " Since these people already believed in Jesus, they were told to

repent and be baptized. Today, God requires the same things of us. Notice the chart below listing other examples of men being saved.

Without exception, they all did the same things required of us today.

Acts 2:33-38		Repented	Baptized
Acts 8:12	Believed		Baptized
Acts 8:26-40	Believed	Confessed	Baptized
Acts 10:34-48	Believed		Baptized
Acts 16:14-15			Baptized
Acts 16:30-34	Believed		Baptized
Acts 18:8	Believed		Baptized
Acts 22:6-16			Baptized

SUMMARY: Believed Repented Confessed Baptized

SPECIAL NOTE: Although it is not specifically mentioned that each one did all of the things in the summary, Since God is "no respecter of persons" it must be that each one did all of the things. Other verses on the subject of salvation to be studied are [John 3:16](#); [5:24](#); [Luke 13:3](#); [Acts 17:31](#); [Mark 16:16](#); [Romans 10:9,10](#); [1 Peter 3:21](#). If you have questions about salvation, write to us.

**SUMMARY OF BIBLE TEACHING ON
BAPTISM**

The right subject	A believer, not an infant	Mark 16:16
The right element	Water	Acts 10:47, 48
The right method	Burial (not sprinkling)	Romans 6:1-4
The right authority	In the name of Jesus	Acts 2:38
The right purpose	For the remission of sins	Acts 2:38

Dear Student, may we ask you if you are saved? Have you done the same things listed above that God required of men in the early

church? Have you believed, repented, confessed, and been buried in water?

Acceptable Worship

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 14 of 15

When one is saved, God adds him to His church. One way of knowing just which of the many churches His church is, is to examine the worship of the churches. That church today which does not have the same worship as the New Testament church cannot be the church of the Bible. When one is saved, he should be a part of, and worship with, a New Testament church. What did the early church do in its worship? How did it worship God?

PRAYER

One part of the worship of the New Testament church was prayer. Of course we can pray when the church is not assembled, but one thing the church begun by Jesus did was pray ([Acts 2:42](#) and many other verses show that the church prayed together).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The early church also had the Lord's supper in its worship every week. [Acts 20:7](#) shows that the disciples came together on the first day of the week (Sunday) to have the Lord's supper. 1 Corinthians 16 shows this was a weekly assembly (The original language in [1 Corinthians 16:2](#) says every week. Many later translations show this meaning). Just as in the Old Testament, God did not have to say "Remember every Sabbath" for the Jews to understand they should keep every Sabbath; so the New Testament church understood they were to have the Lord's Supper every week. Today in churches begun by men, the Lord's Supper is had on days other than Sunday. Many do not have it weekly, but monthly or quarterly or yearly. This is one way to tell a church begun by man from that one begun by Jesus.

TEACHING

The early church had preaching in its worship. [Acts 20:7](#) shows that on one occasion Paul preached until very late in the night. There are many other verses that show the preaching as worship ([Acts 2:42](#); [2 Tim. 4:1-5](#)).

GIVING

The early church also had giving on the first day of the week. [1 Corinthians 16:1](#), [2](#) shows that it was common throughout the church to have a time on the first day of the week when men gave to God. This freewill gift is the only way for the church to raise money to do His work.

SINGING

The early church had singing without instrumental music. The Jews in the Old Testament had instrumental music, but no where do we read of the early church having such. There is no authority today for men to use instruments in their worship to God. Neither is there authority for choirs, solos, quartets, etc. Here is a complete list of verses in the New Testament on music in the church, and not one time is instrumental music found ([Matthew 26:30](#); [Mark 14:26](#); [Romans 15:9](#); [1 Corinthians 14:1 5](#); [Ephesians 5:19](#); [Colossians 3:16](#); [Hebrews 2:12](#); [James 5:13](#)). The kind of music in the church is another way of identifying the New Testament church.

You and the Future

Intermediate Bible Studies, Lesson 15 of 15

One of the most interesting questions to think about is, "What does the Bible say about the future?" When Jesus left the earth, the angels said, "**This Jesus shall come in like manner as you have seen Him go into Heaven**" ([Acts 1:11](#)). We do not know the day or hour ([Matt. 24:36](#)), not even the time or season ([1 Thess. 5:1](#)), but He is coming again!

But someone might ask, "Why?" He is not coming to die for man. This is the reason He came the first time ([Heb. 9:28](#)). He is not coming to start His kingdom, His church. This is what He did the first time (See [Matt. 4:17](#); [10:7](#); [16:18](#); [Mark 9:1](#); [Col.1: 13,14](#)). But the Bible does say exactly what will happen when He comes.

First, when Jesus returns, the Bible says that at one time all the dead will be raised. Jesus said, "**The hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth**" ([John 5:28-29](#)).

All that are in the graves come forth at one time. This means that Noah, Abraham and all the righteous men of the Old Testament plus all the evil men who have ever lived - all will be raised! But more important YOU will be there to see Him.

Second, the Bible says that when Jesus comes the earth will be destroyed ([Heb. 1:10, 11](#); [2 Peter 3:10-12](#)). Not only will the evil works on the earth end, but so will the earth itself! "**The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up**" (2 Peter 3:10). This earth will be no more after Jesus returns.

Third, the Bible says that when Jesus comes, the Final Judgment will take place. This is why He is to return. God has appointed a day when He will judge the world through Jesus ([Acts 17:31](#)) Every man who has ever lived will be there and will give account for how he has lived ([2 Cor. 5:10](#))! But more important, YOU will be there and you will give account how you lived.

Finally, the Bible says that when Jesus returns, the righteous will be with God and the evil will suffer forever ([Matt. 25:46](#)).

But what is to be the standard of that judgment? Jesus says that His words will be that standard ([John 12:48](#)). Let us suppose that He were to come today, and the Judgment were to take place. What things should we have done to please Him? The rest of this lesson is designed to help you look carefully at yourself so you can know what will happen to you on the Judgment day.

BELIEVING IN GOD

For one to be saved on that day, he must have faith. "**He that cometh to God must believe that He is**" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)) There is no other way; one must believe that God is. Do you?

BELIEVING IN JESUS

Not only must we believe in God, but we must believe in Jesus. He said, "**Except you believe that I am He you shall die in your sins**" ([John 8:24](#)). We must believe in Jesus. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

REPENTANCE

Repentance is a change of mind that causes a change in life. Even the devils believe ([James 2:19](#)). Salvation is not by faith alone ([James 2:24](#)). You must be willing to change.

Jesus said, "**Except you repent you shall all perish**" ([Luke 13:3](#)). If you believe that Jesus is the son of God, you must repent. Have you repented?

BAPTISM

Jesus taught, "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved**" ([Mark 16:16](#)). To have true Bible baptism one must have all of the following: (1) Water ([Acts 8:36](#)); (2) Much water ([John 3:23](#)); (3) Coming to the water ([Acts 8:36](#)); (4) Going down into the water ([Acts 8:38](#)); (5) A burial in the water (Romans 6:4,5; [Col. 2:12](#)); (6) Coming up out of the water ([Acts 8:39](#)). Because one's sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus when he is baptized, one must be buried with Christ in baptism ([Acts 22:16](#)). Have you been buried with Christ in baptism?

A MEMBER OF HIS CHURCH

Because the Lord adds the saved to His church, one must be in His church on that day ([Acts 2:47](#)). When He returns, it is this church that He will save (See [Ephesians 5:23](#); [1:22,23](#)). It is this kingdom which Jesus will give to the Father ([1 Cor. 15:24](#)). After Jesus left the earth, men have started many other churches wearing human names, worshipping in ways not found in the Bible, having human organization, and teaching many things not found in the Bible. Are you a member of the church begun by Jesus?

RIGHTEOUS LIVING

God expects His people to live righteous lives. The Bible talks of many sins and says we cannot live in sin and please Him. Read [I Cor. 6:9, 10](#) and [Gal. 5:19-21](#) to learn many of the things that displease God. The true Christian must be like Jesus. He should develop the fruit of the Spirit. **"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance"** ([Galatians 5:22-25](#)). Are you trying to live right and to develop the fruit of the Spirit?