

New Heights
Christian Church
Sunday School
Quarterly
Lesson Plans
(Winter 2008)

End Time Truths

by

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Lesson 1: Abraham's Bosom (December 7, 2008)

- I. The Death of People During Old Testament Times (Luke 16:19-31)
- II. The Desire to Depart this Life (Philippians 1:21-26)
- III. The Abode of the Condemned is no Place to Go. (Mark 9:41-50)
- IV. The Judgment of the Nations (Matthew 25:31-46)
- V. Jesus' Death on the Cross (Luke 23:26-43)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Luke 16:19-31, the Bible clearly shows that sheol has compartments. While Jesus told many parables about mythical characters, the story in that passage is believed to be true because He actually used a person's name. He described Lazarus as being in a place of comfort, called Abraham's bosom, and the rich man as being in a place of torment. The rich man could see Lazarus, but Lazarus probably could not see the rich man. In Philippians 1:21-26, the Apostle Paul wrote about his desire to be with the Lord in heaven rather than still in this life. Most people would not feel as he did, but Paul was a truly unique individual. In Mark 9:41-50, Jesus told His disciples that a person should take whatever extreme measures necessary to not die lost, and in Psalm 49:6-20 David wrote about the plight of the rich. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus told His disciples about the time when He will judge the nations of the world, but He is really talking about His judgment of the individuals of the nations. In Luke 23:26-43, Jesus' crucifixion is recorded.

Related Passages: Luke 23:43, Philippians 1:21-26, Luke 16:19-31, Mark 9:41-50, and Matthew 25:41

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday: Luke 16:19-31 and Philippians 1:21-26
Tuesday: Mark 9:41-50
Wednesday: Psalm 49:6-20
Thursday: Matthew 25:31-46
Friday: Luke 23:26-43

Study questions:

1. Where do unsaved people go when they die?

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2. What is the biblical definition of death?

3. How do theologians know that sheol had separate compartments?

4. Many people do not believe in the existence of hell or that a loving God would send people there. How can we be sure that they are wrong?

5. Did the rich man die lost because he was rich?

6. Does Mark 9:41-50 teach that a person can be lost by bad works? How do you know?

7. Does Psalm 49:6-20 teach that a person can be lost by being rich? How do you know?

8. In Matthew 25:31-46, what actually happens when Jesus gathers the nations of the world? When does this judgment occur in future time?

9. How did Jesus' death on the cross affect Abraham's bosom?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: December 2, 2008
Title: Where Do Unsaved People Go When They Die?

Bible Passages: Luke 16:19-24, Luke 23:43, and Philippians 1:21-26

Key Verse: "In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side."

The Hebrew word "sheol" means a place of no return, and it was used sixty-five times in the Old Testament. Thirty-one times, it meant hell. Another thirty-one times, it meant grave, and the final three times, it meant pit. During the Old Testament period, everyone that died went to "sheol" because "sheol" actually had separate compartments for the righteous and the unrighteous. Those compartments are made clear in Luke 16:19-24 when Lazarus is on the righteous side, in Abraham's bosom or in Paradise, and the rich man is in torment. Both men were near to each other because they could see each other. Also, both were aware of where they were and of what they were feeling. In Luke 23:43, Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be with Him on that day in Paradise, and He was literally telling him that they would be together in "sheol." Now, though, according to Philippians 1:21-26, the dead in Christ go to be with the Lord.

At the present time, "sheol" contains most of the Old Testament saints on the righteous side, and all the unsaved people on the unrighteous side. During the New Testament period, "sheol" has continued to be the place for the dead without Christ because they, like the Old Testament non-believers, must wait for the final judgment. In Greek, the word "hades" is used instead of the Hebrew word "sheol," but they are both the same place. From "hades," the unsaved dead will go to "gehenna," as a result of the White Throne judgment, and that will be their final place of abode. Jesus preached more about hell than heaven, and He preached more about hell than anyone else. He continually warned people to not go there. But as is the case so often today, many simply do not listen. Hell will be like a prison, with chains, beatings, weeping and gnashing of teeth, a bottomless pit, outer darkness, destruction, torment, worms, fire, and the second death. But those that have rejected God must have a place to go when they die, and "gehenna" is that place.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: December 4, 2008

Title: Where Will You Go When You Die?

Bible Passages: Luke 16:19-31, Mark 9:41-50, and Matthew 25:41

Key Verse: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

During the time before Christ, the Jews believed in a place after death called sheol, and that was the abode of both the saved and the lost. In sheol, the saved individual was in comfort, in Abraham's bosom, while the lost individual would be in flames and torment. Today, many people think that death is the end of a person's total existence and that there will not be any kind of life after death. Some accept reincarnation and the idea that life on this earth will be repeated until the individual finally gets it right and graduates into heaven. Some people believe in the existence of Purgatory, which is where they think the dead will go to work off their sins. Some people do not believe that God would let anyone die lost. Others think that life after death will be a pleasurable experience, while still others believe that God will give everyone a second chance so that they can make the right decision about Him.

However, none of the above beliefs about the after life are biblical, and Jesus did not subscribe to any of them. He taught that hell is a real place, of real eternal torment. In Mark 9:41-50, He described it as a place where the fire never dims and the worm never dies. In Luke 16:19-31, He taught the reality of hell when He spoke about the rich man that had lived sumptuously all his life and then died without ever having put His trust in God. On that occasion, Jesus did not even try to infer that His story was a parable. Hell is a real place, and He never tried to represent it as anything else. But on the bright side, hell was not created for humans. Matthew 25:41 says that it was created for the devil and his angels, so that means that people will only go there as intruders. A much better alternative to that place of eternal torment and doom is to embrace the finished work of Jesus on the cross at Calvary and go to the place where God's people will find rest from their labors and forever be with Him. Accepting Jesus is an individual choice, but not making that choice is the same as choosing to reject Him. Therefore, accept Him today and be saved.

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Lesson 2: The Cross of Jesus (December 14, 2008)

- I. The Death of Jesus was Described (Leviticus 9:7-15).
- II. The Death of Jesus was Foretold (Isaiah 53:1-12).
- III. Jesus was the Lamb of God that takes away Sin (John 1:29-34)
- IV. Jesus' Death was not an Accident (John 19:25-30)
- V. Jesus' Announcement from the Cross that it was Finished (John 19:25-30)
- VI. Jesus Said that He is the Way, the Truth, and that Life (John 14:1-6)

Main Focus of this Lesson: Much of the Bible is symbolic, and in considering the death of Jesus, one can observe similar symbolism. If Leviticus 9:7-15, Aaron offered a sin offering for himself and then for the people. The goat that was offered symbolized the offering that Christ would eventually make when He allowed Himself to be crucified on the cross. The death of Jesus was not an accident or a miscalculation. His death had been presented in Genesis 3:15 and was carried throughout Old Testament teaching. No part of the Bible showed the coming sacrificial death of the Lord anymore than Isaiah 53:1-12. In John 1:29-34, John the Baptist told his listeners that Jesus was the Lamb of God. Jesus died so that sinners could be forgiven and saved, but His salvation is not automatic. The Bible teaches that a person must come to Him in faith and receive His atoning work on the cross. In John 19:25-30, John recorded the death of Jesus. In verse 28, John wrote that Jesus knew all things, and this was verification of His deity. In verse 30, John recorded Jesus symbolically saying, "It is finished," and that economic term meant that sin's payment had been paid. In John 14:1-6, Jesus told His disciples about His going away, His coming again, and His being the only way to God.

Related Passages: Luke 23:34, Leviticus 9:7-15, John 1:29, John 19:30, and John 14:6

Five Day Recommended Reading:

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|------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday: | Luke 23:26-43 and Isaiah 53:1-12 |
| Tuesday: | Leviticus 9:7-15 |
| Wednesday: | John 1:29-34 |
| Thursday: | John 19:25-30 |
| Friday: | John 14:1-6 |

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Study questions:

1. Why did Jesus have to die in order for us to have a Savior?
2. What did Isaiah mean, in Isaiah 53:10, when he wrote that God was pleased to bruise Jesus?
3. Why did John the Baptist call Jesus the Lamb of God?
4. Jesus died so sinners can be saved, but how does a person get saved? How would you minister to someone that wants to get saved?
5. What was the significance of Jesus saying "it is finished"?
6. How would you explain to someone that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life?
7. Do you think that Jesus will literally return to set up His millennial kingdom or only return figuratively?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: December 9, 2008

Title: Jesus' First Statement From the Cross

Bible Passages: Luke 23:34, Leviticus 9:7-15, and John 1:29

Key Verse: "Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"

To say that Jesus, the Son of God and the second Person of the Trinity, epitomized a unique godly love for humanity is a major understatement. His first statement from the cross, which was asking forgiveness for those that had put Him on the cross, showed a love for mankind that a mere mortal could never express, apart from the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. During the night, He had been interrogated and judged by three different Jewish trials and three different Roman trials. He had been mocked, deserted by His disciples, betrayed by His friends, beaten, humiliated, falsely accused, left alone, and even scourged. Yet, in the early morning hours, when He was worn out and weary, He still had the compassion and the presence of mind, while nailed to the cross, to care more about others than He did about Himself.

Jesus was born to die for the sins of all that will receive Him as Savior, and He finished that purpose for which He had been born. Most people do not understand what the cross was all about, and some even think that He was overcome by His enemies and executed. However, Jesus' enemies did not overcome Him, and the cross was not an accident that was never meant to happen. Jesus freely laid down His life as a sin offering in the same sense that lambs were sacrificed for the people's sins in Leviticus 9:7-15. In reference to John the Baptist, John 1:29 says, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" Instead of questioning the validity of the various world religions, a person should look past them, look to Jesus on the cross at Calvary, and then see His true identity. He was and is the Son of God. He was born of a virgin, He was without sin, and He is the sin Sacrifice for all that will come to Him. In His capacity as Savior, He will forgive and receive anyone that asks Him for forgiveness. His salvation is a free gift, and then, when this life is over, those that have come to Him through all the Ages will be with Him for all eternity.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: December 11, 2008

Title: Jesus' Sixth Statement From the Cross

Bible Passages: John 19:30, John 1:29, and John 14:6

Key Verse: "When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

No endeavor is ever complete until it is finished, and in Jesus' sixth statement from the cross, He announced that it is finished. The Greek word that He used for finish was "teleo," and that word means to bring to a close, to finish, to end, or to close. The word was used in business to indicate when someone had fully paid an outstanding debt, and in using it, Jesus was saying that the sin debt for humanity had been paid. In the Old Testament, an animal was killed to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness after they had sinned and been shamed by their lack of clothing. When Cain and Abel had had their dispute, it was because God had expected both of them to present an animal offering to Him. During the times of Moses, the Law was written, and the children of Israel began their routine of periodically offering animals to appease the Lord for their sins.

But when Jesus announced that the debt had been paid, He was telling the people that no more animal offerings would be required. Those offerings had not been the actual payment for sins, but instead, they had only symbolized the true Offering or Payment that was to come. As John the Baptist indicated in John 1:29, Jesus was and is the true Offering, and there will not be another. John 1:29 says, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" Many people think that salvation is somehow connected to being good or to doing great religious works, but the biblical truth is that a person is saved simply and only by accepting the finished work of Jesus, the Christ, on the cross. No amount of good works will gain a person anything with God because His plan says that Jesus is the only Way to be reconciled to Him. John 14:6 says, "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

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Lesson 3: The Ascension of Jesus Christ and the Church Age (December 21, 2008)

- I. The Ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:1-11)
- II. The Very Beginning of the early Church (Acts 2:41-47)
- III. The Theology of Salvation (Romans 10:1-13)
- IV. The Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:1-20)
- V. Revelation, Chapters Two and Three (Revelation 2 and 3).
- VI. The End of the Church Age (the Rapture) (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Acts 1:1-11, Jesus met with His disciples for the last time while still in bodily form. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the coming Holy Spirit and said that they would soon be His witnesses to the unsaved world. In Acts 2:41-47, the early church was discussed. In Romans 10:1-13, the Apostle Paul wrote concerning salvation. People that receive Jesus as Savior make up the New Testament church and are part of the Church Age. In Revelation 1:1-20, Jesus came to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos to share with him the events that would transpire at the end of the Age. In verse 19, John was instructed to write about past, present, and future events. The opening two chapters of the Book share messages to seven churches that are part of the Church Age. The Book that John wrote is the Book of Revelation, and much of that book concerns future events. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, the Apostle Paul wrote about the Rapture.

Related Passages: Acts 1:1-11, Revelation 1:7, Romans 10:9, I Thessalonians 4:16, and Acts 2:41-47

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- Monday: Acts 1:1-11
Tuesday: Revelation 1:1-20 and Revelation 2:1-29
Wednesday: Revelation 3:1-22 and Romans 10:1-13
Thursday: I Thessalonians 4:13-18
Friday: Acts 2:41-47

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Study questions:

1. Why were the disciples told to stay in Jerusalem?
2. How many times did Jesus give them the Great Commission?
3. How far would they be allowed to carry the gospel message?
4. When did the Church Age begin?
5. What instructions did Jesus give the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos?
6. To whom were chapters two and three of the Book of Revelation written?
7. Based on Romans 10:1-13, how is a person saved?
8. How will the Church Age end?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: December 16, 2008

Title: Jesus Rose into the Clouds and He will Come Again

Bible Passages: Acts 1:1-11, Revelation 1:7, Romans 10:9, and I Thessalonians 4:16

Key Verse: "After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight."

One of the most exciting times in history was the fifty-day period following Jesus' resurrection. The Roman Government and the Jewish religious leaders had done their best to kill Him and to rid the world of His presence, but they had failed. Jesus was and is Lord, and He could not be removed from the scene so easily by a simple crucifixion. During the fifty days after He had arisen, He walked around Jerusalem for all to see, and many people did see Him. As a result, the resurrection became one of the key elements of the Christian faith. Romans 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

When a person becomes a Christian, the indwelling Holy Spirit shows that person that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. Then, by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, the person is able to make that profession, and it becomes an evidence of his or her conversion. The Roman Government could have destroyed Christianity from the beginning if only they had produced Jesus' dead body. But they were not able to do that, and they also were not able to destroy the church that was born shortly after at Pentecost.

In Acts 1:1-11, Jesus met with His disciples for the final time on earth, and they watched as He ascended into heaven. At that time, an angel told them that He would come back in the same way someday, so ever since, Christians have lived their lives with one eye towards the clouds. In I Thessalonians 4:16, His return will be accompanied by a loud voice that summons Christians to meet Him in the air. In Revelation 1:7, He is said to be coming in the clouds, and at that time, every eye will see Him. However, only those people that have put their hope and trust in Him as Savior will be happy at His return.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: December 18, 2008
Title: The Church is an Organism and an Organization

Bible Passages: Acts 2:41-47

Key Verse: "All the believers were together and had everything in common."

According to Dr. Oliver B. Greene, in his commentary on Acts 2:42-47, the first local church was unusual in every respect. Its initial members were converted suddenly, and no one in that group ever backslid or became an apostate. They professed Christ as Savior and Lord, they were immediately baptized, they were added to the overall number of believers, and they were assembled together to follow the Lord daily. Acts 2:44-45 indicates that those early believers even shared everything with one another so that each person's needs would be met. With the exception of Ananias and Sapphira, none of them are recorded as having ever held back any of their possessions. They joined together in all aspects for the chief purpose of telling others about Jesus.

In his book Lectures in Systematic Theology, Dr. Henry C. Thiessen wrote that the first church in Jerusalem had at least a type of loose organization and that the local churches that followed were definitely organized. The members adhered to doctrinal standards, they met for spiritual fellowship, they prayed, they observed the two ordinances, they kept a list of members, and they provided material help to their own as needed. Commentator Matthew Henry wrote that the members of the early church were very much together. They had great concern for one another, they were prayer warriors, they were diligent to attend all services, they were very thankful for their relationship with Christ, and they were very cheerful and generous. They acted like an organism in that they were totally focused on their worship of God, on learning more about Him, and on being in close fellowship with each other.

To be a true church, every body of believers should show similar tendencies towards being an organism and also being an organization. The members are alive in Christ, and they need to also be organized, focused, and united in their ministry for the Lord.

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Lesson 4: The Rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ (December 28, 2008)

- I. The Church Age was for Spreading the Good News (Romans 3:21-26)
- II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 16:5-15)
- III. The End of the Church Age (I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and John 14:1-6)
- IV. The Symbolic Resurrection of Lot (John 11:38-44)
- V. Signs That the End is Near (I Thessalonians 1:1-10 and Jeremiah 30:4-9)
- VI. The Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:1-13 and II Corinthians 5:9-11)
- VII. A Great Battle and a New Heaven and Earth (Revelation 19:11-21 and Revelation 21:1-27)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Romans 3:21-26, the Apostle Paul wrote about the heartbeat of Christianity. He indicated that everyone is a sinner and that through Jesus everyone can be saved. In John 16:5-15, Jesus told His disciples about the ministry of the Holy Spirit and how He would help them carry out the Great Commission. In John 14:1-6, Jesus told His disciples that He would soon be going away but that He would also soon be coming again. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul wrote about the Rapture. Many in the Thessalonica church had stopped working because they thought that Jesus would be coming back at any time. So Paul wrote about the Rapture so that he could explain to them the importance of continuing a normal lifestyle until Jesus did return. John 11:38-44 is not talking about the Rapture, but the resurrection of Lot is symbolic of how departed saints will be awakened from the grave when Jesus calls them out. In I Thessalonians 1:1-10 and Jeremiah 30:4-9, the writers wrote about the end of the Church Age and the beginning of the Great Tribulation. In Romans 14:1-13 and II Corinthians 5:9-11, Paul wrote about the Judgment Seat of Christ where all Christians will stand before the Lord.

Related Passages: I Thessalonians 4:13-18, John 14:1-3, Romans 3:23, John 11:43, Jeremiah 30:7, Revelation 19:11-21, Revelation 21:1-27, John 16:7-11, and I Thessalonians 1:10

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday: Romans 3:21-26 and John 16:5-15

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Tuesday: John 14:1-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, and John 11:38-44
Wednesday: I Thessalonians 1:1-10 and Jeremiah 30:4-9
Thursday: Romans 14:1-13 and II Corinthians 5:9-11
Friday: Revelation 19:11-21 and Revelation 21:1-27

Study questions:

1. What is the church's mission? How does the Holy Spirit help?
2. Where do living Christians go when the Rapture occurs?
3. What happens to departed saints in the Rapture?
4. How does the resurrection of Lot compare to the Rapture?
5. What was the fundamental problem in the church at Thessalonica?
6. What did Paul tell them about the Rapture and the Antichrist?
7. What is the Judgment Seat of Christ and when does it occur?
8. What is the White Throne judgment and when does it occur?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: December 23, 2008

Title: One Rapture for all Christians

Bible Passages: I Thessalonians 4:13-18, John 14:1-3, Romans 3:23, John 11:43, and Jeremiah 30:7

Key Verse: "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

The word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible. But it is described in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, and it is also alluded to in John 14:1-3. Rapture means that Jesus will come down to the clouds and call the church unto Himself. It will be an opportunity for Christians to go be with their Lord and also a way to get them out of the way so that the Tribulation can begin.

Despite the simple concept of the Rapture, however, people have different beliefs about what will actually happen. Some think that only the most spiritual Christians will go. But that view is not logical since Romans 3:23 says that everyone is a sinner, even those that have received Jesus as Savior and even the so-called most spiritual. Some people think that there will be more than one Rapture. But the Bible does not support that view, plus such a belief would turn Christianity into a purgatory type of belief. According to I Thessalonians 4:16, there will be one loud command or shout from the archangel, and that command will summon those Christians that have already died. After that, according to I Thessalonians 4:17, those Christians, that are still alive on earth, will go to be with the Lord, but that does not mean or even suggest a separate Rapture. Their being caught up after the dead in Christ will be a continuation of the one Rapture and in response to the single command or shout from the archangel.

The loud shout used by the archangel in the Rapture is consistent with how Jesus called Lazarus from the grave in John 11:43. Many Christians debate over whether that shout will occur before the Tribulation, halfway through, or at the end. But according to Jeremiah 30:7, the Tribulation will be God's final time to deal with the nation of Israel, and the church will not be around.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: December 25, 2008

Title: Biblical Teaching About The Rapture

Bible Passages: I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 19:11-21, Revelation 21:1-27, John 16:7-11, Jeremiah 30:7, and I Thessalonians 1:10

Key Verse: "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."

Rapture means to be caught up, and it was described in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 as a future event when Christians would meet the Lord in the clouds. Some people believe in a partial rapture where not everyone will go up, while others think of multiple Raptures where Christians will be raptured at different times. The Bible, however, does not seem to support either of those views. Many people have also thought the Rapture of the church would occur after the Great Tribulation, but the Bible does not seem to support that view, either. The early church believed in a post-Tribulation Rapture, but that was only because they thought that they were already in the Tribulation.

In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, the Apostle Paul wrote about the Rapture of the church into the clouds, and in Revelation 19:11-21 and Revelation 21:1-27, the Apostle John wrote about the Second Coming of Christ to the earth. But those latter happenings of the Revelation are not related to the Rapture, and that would suggest that a Tribulation occurring between the two events is logical. In John 16:7-11, the Apostle John also wrote about the restraining work of the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit, who resides in Christians, will not be as great a force during the Tribulation, and that is consistent with His having been raptured out before the Tribulation, too. In Jeremiah 30:7, the Bible associates the Tribulation with Jacob's trouble, but that clear connection to Israel would not apply to the church. Finally, in I Thessalonians 1:10, Paul wrote that the church would be spared from the wrath to come because of Jesus.

So, the conclusion is that, while the church may not need to be worried about going through the Tribulation, they should be concerned about spreading the Gospel of Christ to every man, woman, boy, and girl while there is still time.

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Lesson 5: The Tribulation and the Seven Seal Judgments (January 4, 2009)

- I. The Alpha and Omega Revealed on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:8-20)
- II. The Seven Seals of Judgment (Revelation 6:1-17)
- III. The 144,000 witnesses (Revelation 7:1-17 and Revelation 14:6-13)
- IV. The Time Reference of the Seal Judgments (Revelation 8:1-5)
- V. The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:1-13)
- VI. The Mysterious Woman (Revelation 12:1-17)
- VII. The Final Victory (Revelation 19:11-21)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Revelation 1:8-20, Jesus appeared to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos. John had been sent into exile by the Roman authorities so that he would not be able to minister to the churches. Jesus had come to him at that time to answer a question from Mark 13:3-4. In Revelation 6:1-17, John wrote about the seven seal judgments that will be poured out by the Lord. People interpret those seals differently depending upon how they interpret the Book of Revelation. The conservative Christian view is that the entire book should be interpreted literally whenever possible, but some people maintain an allegorical approach. In Revelation 7:1-17 and Revelation 14:6-13, 144,000 witnesses are discussed. They are presumed to be Jewish witnesses because they are identified by tribes. Notice, however, that the tribes are a little different than Joseph's original twelve sons. In Revelation 8:1-5, an indication of how the judgments will be initiated during the entire Great Tribulation is given. In Revelation 11:1-13, two witnesses are discussed, and in Revelation 12:1-17, a mysterious woman is introduced. In Revelation 19:11-21, Jesus overthrows the Antichrist.

Related Passages: Revelation 6:1-17, Revelation 7:1-17, Revelation 8:1-5, Revelation 1:19, Mark 13:32, Zephaniah 1:15, Revelation 14:7, Revelation 15:4, Amos 5:18-20, Matthew 24:21-22, Revelation 11:1-13, Revelation 12:1-17, and Revelation 19:11-21

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- Monday: Revelation 1:8-20, Mark 13:1-37, and Zephaniah 1:14-18
Tuesday: Revelation 6:1-17, Revelation 7:1-17, and Revelation 8:1-5

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Wednesday: Matthew 24:15-22 and Revelation 11:1-13

Thursday: Revelation 12:1-17, Revelation 14:6-13, and Amos 5:18-27

Friday: Revelation 15:1-8 and Revelation 19:11-21

Study questions:

1. Why did Jesus come to John on the isle of Patmos?
2. How would you describe the earthly relationship between Jesus and John?
3. What question did John and Peter ask in Mark 13:3-4?
4. How would a normal conservative Christian interpret the Book of Revelation?
What are some of the other ways to interpret the Book?
5. Why are the 144,000 witnesses described with different tribe names than the original twelve?
6. How do the seal judgments relate to other things that are described in the Book?
7. Who are the 144,000 witnesses in Revelation 7:1-17 and Revelation 14:6-13?
8. Who are the two witness in Revelation 11:3-8?
9. Who is the woman in Revelation 12:1-17?
10. How does Jesus return to earth to do battle with the Antichrist?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: December 30, 2008
Title: John Wrote About the Seven Seal Judgments

Bible Passages: Revelation 6:1-17, Revelation 7:1-17, Revelation 8:1-5, Revelation 1:19, and Mark 13:32

Key Verse: "I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, 'Come!'"

In Mark 13:32, Jesus told His disciples that He did not know when He would return to earth for a second time and that only His Father in heaven knew the exact hour. Theologians now understand that Jesus, in His incarnated Form, voluntarily gave up the free use of His comparative attributes, and that explains how He could have not known about such an important event. As the Son of God and as the second Person of the Trinity, He was and is all knowing, He was and is all-powerful, and He was and is able to be everywhere all the time. But in bodily Form, He let Himself be limited as to the extent that He would exercise those attributes.

After He ascended into heaven, Jesus learned about His second coming. So, He sent an angel to the Apostle John in a vision to tell him, and the writing of the Book of Revelation was the result. While in his vision, according to Revelation 1:19, he heard a voice tell him to write what he saw. So, being faithful to that calling, he recorded what he saw, and some of it was quite amazing and very terrifying.

Revelation 7:1-17 was a parenthetical chapter in which he wrote about the one hundred and forty-four thousand Jewish witnesses. But just before and just after that, in Revelation 6:1-17 and Revelation 8:1-5, he wrote about the seven seal judgments. The first four seals were four horses, which were white, red, black, and pale, and they represented varying degrees of hardship for people on earth. The fifth seal was the voice of martyred saints, the sixth seal was a great earthquake, and the seventh seal was so awesome that it brought silence in heaven for about thirty minutes. What John saw was bad enough that no one should want to go through it, and because of Jesus, no one is so required.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: January 1, 2008

Title: The Events of the Great Tribulation

Bible Passages: Zephaniah 1:15, Revelation 14:7, Revelation 15:4, Amos 5:18-20, Revelation 6:15-17, Matthew 24:21-22, Revelation 11:1-13, Revelation 12:1-17, and Revelation 19:11-21

Key Verse: "On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"

Zephaniah 1:15 describes the Tribulation as a time of wrath, trouble, and distress. Revelation 14:7 and Revelation 15:4 describe it as a time of judgment. Amos 5:18-20 says that it will be a time of darkness, and Revelation 6:15-17 and Matthew 24:21-22 say that it will be a time of unparalleled suffering. Israel will be in the process of returning to their homeland, the federated church will dominate, there will be seven Seal judgments, the one hundred and forty-four thousand witnesses will be sealed, and the two witnesses of Revelation 11:1-13 will rise up. But the first half of the Tribulation will only be the beginning of sorrows.

In the second half of the Tribulation, the two witnesses of Revelation, Chapter Eleven, will be slain, and the sacrifices and oblations will be ended. According to Revelation 12:7-12, Satan will be cast to the earth, and he will begin to persecute Israel. Also during the second half of the Tribulation, the seven Trumpet judgments, the seven Bowl judgments, and the battle of Gog and Magog will occur. The apostate church will be overthrown, the mark of the beast will be given so that only those with the mark are allowed to buy, commercial Babylon will be overthrown, and the nations of the earth will be brought together by demons for the battle of Armageddon.

Based on Revelation 12:1-6 and Revelation 12:13-17, however, God will preserve His people and keep them from being overthrown. The Tribulation will be ended in Revelation 19:11-21 with the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus will return to the earth, and judgment of Satan and the surviving unbelievers will occur. From beginning to end, God will be in control of everything during the Tribulation, and He will bring the events of time to an orderly end.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Lesson 6: The Tribulation and the Seven Trumpet Judgments (January 11, 2009)

- I. Two Key Passages about the Devil (Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19)
- II. The Seventy Weeks Prophecy and the Church Age (Daniel 9:20-27)
- III. The Seven Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8:1-13 and Revelation 9:1-21)
- IV. The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:1-19)
- V. The Final Two Vial Judgments (Revelation 16:12-17)
- VI. The Final Days of the Antichrist and the Great Tribulation (Revelation 19:11-21 and Revelation 20:1-10)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19, the Bible talks about the devil. Numerous references in those two passages describe attributes of Satan, and in Isaiah 14:12, he is even called Lucifer. In Daniel 9:20-27, the prophet wrote one of the more important Old Testament prophecies. He described some conditions of the Tribulation, and he even provided a time line. In Revelation 8:1-13 and Revelation 9:1-21, the seven trumpet judgments are described. These judgments actually come from the seventh seal judgment and continue while all of the other events of the Great Tribulation are occurring. In Revelation 11:1-19, two witnesses are discussed, and in Revelation 16:12-17, the final two vial judgments are described. In Revelation 19:11-21, Jesus overthrows the Antichrist, and in Revelation 20:1-10, the devil is cast into the bottomless pit.

Related Passages: Revelation 8:1-13, Revelation 9:1-21, Revelation 11:1-19, Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Daniel 9:26-27, Revelation 16:13, Revelation 19:19-20, and Revelation 20:10

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Monday: | Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19 |
| Tuesday: | Daniel 9:20-27 |
| Wednesday: | Revelation 8:1-13 and Revelation 9:1-21 |
| Thursday: | Revelation 11:1-19 and Revelation 16:12-17 |
| Friday: | Revelation 19:11-21 and Revelation 20:1-10 |

Study questions:

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1. Why do Bible scholars say that Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19 are about the devil?

2. What do Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19 say about the devil?

3. In Daniel 9:20-27, how do theologians explain the seventy weeks prophecy in conjunction with the church age?

4. What happened with the seventh seal judgment?

5. What happens during the seven trumpet judgments?

6. Who are the two witnesses in Revelation 16:1-19, and what do we know about them?

7. How does Jesus overthrow the Antichrist?

8. What happens after the Antichrist is overthrown?

9. How long will Satan be bound?

10. What is the second death?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: January 6, 2008 Title: John Wrote About the Seven Trumpet Judgments

Bible Passages: Revelation 8:1-13, Revelation 9:1-21, and Revelation 11:1-19

Key Verse: "Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them."

The Apostle John wrote about the end times in the Book of Revelation because the Lord returned to him in a vision and told him to write what he saw. He wrote about seven seal judgments, seven trumpet judgments, and then, he wrote about seven vial or bowl judgments. After the seventh seal judgment, which he had written about in Revelation 8:1-5, there was silence in heaven for about half-an-hour. Then, he saw and wrote about the seven trumpet judgments. He presented the first four trumpet judgments in Revelation 8:6-13. He presented the next two in Revelation 9:1-21, and he presented the final trumpet judgment in Revelation 11:15-19.

The series of seal, trumpet, and vial judgments in the Book of Revelations were like parenthetical occurrences, which means that they happened in order during the entire seven-year Tribulation rather than at the specific time in the Book where John wrote about them. While the specific judgments were happening, other events, that were recorded in the Book, were also happening at the same time.

The first trumpet sounded, and hail and fire mixed with blood were hurled to the earth with devastating results. The second trumpet sounded, and a huge mountain was thrown into the sea that caused the destruction of one-third of the sea life. The third trumpet caused a great star to fall from the sky, and the fourth trumpet judgment caused the days to be one-third shorter. The fifth judgment caused locusts with scorpion-type powers to be released on those that were still alive, and that caused the people to suffer much agony. The sixth trumpet sounded, and there was a great war that involved two hundred million troops. The seventh trumpet sounded, and loud voices in heaven began proclaiming Christ as the eternal King and His kingdom as the new kingdom. The judgments will be real, and the torment will be terrible for those involved.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: January 8, 2008

Title: What Will Happen in the End?

Bible Passages: Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Daniel 9:26-27, Revelation 16:13, Revelation 19:19-20, and Revelation 20:10

Key Verse: "And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

The Bible describes the Antichrist as the wicked one in I John 2:13, as the bloody and deceitful man in Psalm 5:6, and as the little horn in Daniel 8:9. He is described as the man of sin and the son of perdition in II Thessalonians 2:3, as the adversary in I Peter 5:8, and as the spoiler in Jeremiah 6:26. He is described as the angel of the bottomless pit in Revelation 9:11 and as the abomination of desolation in Daniel 9:26-27, to name just a few. He will most likely be the political leader of a type of revived Roman Empire, and his source of power and energy will be the devil. The prefix "anti" in his name means that he is opposed to Christ. It also means that he wants to be a substitute for Christ. From the beginning, as is taught in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19, the devil has wanted to be held in higher esteem than God, and he has also wanted to rule in His place.

Based on Revelation 16:13, Satan is the first person of the Satanic trinity, and his enemies are the biblical Trinity of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He will offer world peace as his way to gain control over humanity, but he will not be able to deliver on his offer. The Antichrist is the second person of the Satanic trinity. He will be intelligent, persuasive, and evil. He will be the ruler of the last form of Gentile government, and he will have worldwide influence and absolute authority. From his offices in Jerusalem, he will oppose God, exalt himself, and offer the nation of Israel a national covenant of peace. But in Daniel 9:27, he will break that covenant of peace after three and a half years, and conditions throughout the world will quickly begin to deteriorate. In Revelation 19:19-20, the Antichrist and the false prophet, who is the third person of the Satanic trinity, will be defeated and judged, and lastly, in Revelation 20:10, Satan will be judged.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Lesson 7: The Tribulation and the Seven Vial Judgments (January 18, 2009)

- I. The Return to Israel and the Great Tribulation (Jeremiah 30:1-9)
- II. No One Knows the Time (Mark 13:24-37)
- III. The Church Will Not Go Through the Tribulation (I Thessalonians 1:1-10)
- IV. The Antichrist Will Be Revealed (II Thessalonians 2:1-12)
- V. Preparing for the Vial Judgments (Revelation 15:1-8)
- VI. The Seven Vial Judgments (Revelation 16:1-21)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Jeremiah 30:1-9, the prophet wrote about a time when the Jews would begin returning to Israel and about the Great Tribulation that would come after. The Lord told Jeremiah that that time would be like no other time before it. In Mark 13:24-37, when the disciples tried to pin Jesus to a time when the end events would occur, Jesus told them that no one knows. Despite many date-setters since, no one has yet correctly guessed when that time would be. In I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Paul told the members of that congregation that the church would not go through the Tribulation, and in II Thessalonians 2:1-12, he wrote about the revealing of the Antichrist. In Revelation 15:1-8, preparation for the vial judgments is made because one of the four beasts gave the vials to the seven angels. In Revelation 16:1-21, the vials are poured out, and the great destruction and turmoil is the result.

Related Passages: Revelation 15:1-8, Revelation 16:1-21, Mark 13:32-33, II Thessalonians 2:1-12, Jeremiah 30:7, and I Thessalonians 1:9-10

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- Monday: Jeremiah 30:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37
- Tuesday: I Thessalonians 1:1-10
- Wednesday: II Thessalonians 2:1-12, Isaiah 14:12-17, and Ezekiel 28:11-19
- Thursday: Revelation 15:1-8
- Friday: Revelation 16:1-21

Study questions:

1. When did the Jews start returning to Israel?

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2. What words in Jeremiah 30:1-9 suggest that the church will not go through the Great Tribulation?

3. What did Jesus tell His disciples concerning the end times? Why did He not give them a specific date for when the events would occur?

4. What words in I Thessalonians 1:1-10 suggest that the church will not go through the Great Tribulation?

5. How did Paul describe the Antichrist in II Thessalonians 2:1-12? How do his words compare to Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19?

6. What happened when the seven vial judgments were poured out?

7. What is the duty of the church during these last days?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: January 13, 2008

Title: John Wrote About Seven Plague Judgments

Bible Passages: Revelation 15:1-8, Revelation 16:1-21, and Mark 13:32-33

Key Verse: "Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever."

Towards the end of His ministry, Jesus' disciples asked Him about the events that would occur at the end of the Age. After describing what life on earth would be like, He then responded in Mark 13:32-33 by saying, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." In human form, Jesus allowed Himself to not know everything, to not always be all-powerful, and to not have the ability to be everywhere at all times. Those comparative attributes were true of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, but for His time on earth, Jesus voluntarily gave up the free use of them. On one occasion, when a woman with an issue of blood touched Him, He appeared to not know who had touched Him. At other times during His ministry, He experienced the very human feelings of hunger and fatigue. Thus, one should not be surprised or disappointed when He told His disciples that He did not know the exact moment of the end of the Age.

After He ascended into heaven, however, He learned about the end times, and the Apostle John wrote the whole Book of Revelation to share what Jesus came back to reveal to him in a vision. In that Book, John wrote about the seven seal judgments, the seven trumpet judgments, and the seven plague or seven bowl judgments. Each judgment brought a different kind of hardship and agony to those that were still on earth, and the seven plague judgments were equally hard, too. In Revelation 15:1-8 and Revelation 16:1-21, people received painful sores, the sea, rivers, and streams turned to blood, and the sun scorched everyone like fire. Darkness came over the kingdom, the Euphrates River dried up, and there was a very severe earthquake. The Great Tribulation will be very difficult for everyone involved, but a person can still avoid it by simply turning to the Lord in faith and by trusting in Him before it is too late.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: January 15, 2008

Title: The Church Has a Lot of Work to Do

Bible Passages: II Thessalonians 2:1-12, Jeremiah 30:7, and I Thessalonians 1:9-10

Key Verse: "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed."

According to II Thessalonians 2:1-12, the Antichrist will be revealed just prior to the Great Tribulation but just after the Holy Spirit has been removed. He will be opposed to Christ, he will try to pass himself off as the substitute Christ, and initially, he will establish a covenant of peace with Israel. However, he will default on his agreement, align the nations against them, and then, lead an attack against the nation of Israel. At that time, Jesus will return and defeat him in the Battle of Armageddon.

During the Tribulation, there will be the seven Seal judgments, the one hundred and forty-four thousand people from the twelve tribes of Israel, the two witnesses, the blowing of the seven Trumpets, the battle of Gog and Magog, the seven Bowl judgments, and the Battle of Armageddon. There will be a Satanic Trinity, and the False Prophet, who is a member of that trinity, will be the religious leader. He will lead the counterfeit church, promote the worship of the Antichrist, and succeed in deceiving the unbelieving world. He will also have the power of death over those that refuse to worship the Beast, and he will have control over commerce and trade.

The Great Tribulation will be a difficult time in history. The Bible teaches that it will be a time of wrath when God deals with Israel, but the Bible also teaches that the church will not be involved. Jeremiah 30:7, written by the Prophet Jeremiah to warn the Jews of that day, speaks of the time as Jacob's trouble. I Thessalonians 1:9-10, written by the Apostle Paul to comfort the church at Thessalonica about the end time, talks about the church being saved from the wrath to come. To Christians, the Tribulation should not be a fearful event, but it should be a constant reminder of their never-ending responsibility to the world. Jesus died on the cross so that everyone can be saved, but He left the church with the responsibility of spreading the word.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Lesson 8: The Bride of Christ (January 25, 2009)

- I. A Love Song between a Man and a Woman (Song of Songs 2:1-9)
- II. The Significance of the Rose of Sharon (Isaiah 65:1-10)
- III. Jesus Will Someday Return for His Church (John 14:1-6 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- IV. The Antichrist will be Revealed (II Thessalonians 2:1-12)
- V. Final Instructions to the church at Thessalonica (II Thessalonians 3:6-15)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Song of Songs 2:1-9, Solomon wrote about the love between a man and a woman. Written from the woman's perspective as she longs to see her true love, the book depicts the love between the Lord and His church. Those that make up the New Testament church are called the bride of Christ in Revelation 21:9. In Isaiah 65:1-10, Isaiah wrote about God's reaction to those people that had rejected Him and His reaction to those that would someday receive Him. In John 14:1-6 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18, the Apostles John and Paul wrote about end time realities. In the first passage, John wrote about Jesus coming again for His own, and in the second passage, Paul wrote about Jesus receiving the church in the clouds. This second event is called the Rapture, and the church is currently anticipating it. In II Thessalonians 2:1-12, Paul wrote about the beginning of the Great Tribulation and about how many people will be fooled by the revealed Antichrist. In II Thessalonians 3:6-15, Paul gave final instructions to the church at Thessalonica. The people had been sitting around, not working, waiting for the Lord to return. He told them to not do that.

Related Passages: Song of Songs 2:1, Isaiah 65:1-10, John 14:1-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, II Thessalonians 2:1-12, and II Thessalonians 3:6-15

Five Day Recommended Reading:

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|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Monday: | Song of Songs 2:1-9 and Revelation 21:1-9 |
| Tuesday: | Isaiah 65:1-10 |
| Wednesday: | John 14:1-6 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| Thursday: | II Thessalonians 2:1-12 |
| Friday: | II Thessalonians 3:6-15 |

Study questions:

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1. Who do the man and woman in Song of Songs 2:1-9 represent?
2. Is Song of Songs 2:1-9 written from the man's or the woman's perspective?
3. What kind of place was Sharon when Solomon and Isaiah wrote about it?
Why is that significant in Song of Songs 2:1-9 and Isaiah 65:1-10?
4. When will the Rapture occur?
5. In John 14:1-6, was Jesus talking about His Second Coming or about the Rapture?
6. In II Thessalonians 2:1-12, why will so many people be fooled by the Antichrist?
7. What were Paul's instructions to the church at Thessalonica?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: January 20, 2008

Title: A Beautiful Rose in an Ugly Swampland

Bible Passages: Song of Songs 2:1, and Isaiah 65:1-10

Key Verse: "I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys."

In Song of Songs 2:1, Solomon called himself a rose of Sharon, but what exactly was he saying? To begin with, Sharon was a place in Israel that was part of the northern plain towards the coast. But to know the real significance of Sharon, one must also know something about the terrain and something about how the people reacted to it. Was it an area of difficulty, or was it an area of ease?

In Isaiah 65:1-10, Isaiah wrote about God's reaction to those people that had rejected Him and His reaction to those that would someday receive Him. In Isaiah 65:1, He said, "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, Here am I, here am I." In that verse, God was saying that He was very upset with His people because He had tried diligently to reach them, but they had not been interested in being reached. In Isaiah 65:8-9, though, despite His anger, He said that He still would not destroy them completely but would show some of them mercy. He concluded in Isaiah 65:10 by saying, "Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for my people who seek me."

From the above passage, one can see that Sharon was not a pasture for flocks at the time of Solomon and Isaiah's writing because God said that it would become that kind of place. Actually, it was a swampland, and people usually traveled around it rather than traveling through it. Isaiah said that, in that day, when God would restore His people, Sharon would become like a pastureland. Currently, despite the swampland environment, a very beautiful rose grows there, and in Songs of Solomon 2:1, Solomon was comparing himself to that rose. What he was actually writing, however, was how his lover saw him, not necessarily how he saw himself. Jesus is sometimes called the rose of Sharon, and in His case, He truly was and is the beautiful Rose in an ugly swampland.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: January 22, 2008

Title: Stay Busy for the Lord Until the Rapture

Bible Passages: John 14:1-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, II Thessalonians 2:1-12, and II Thessalonians 3:6-15

Key Verse: "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope."

The Apostle Paul went on three missionary journeys. During that time, he was involved with a lot of different churches, and the church at Thessalonica was one of his favorites. He wrote two epistles to that church, as attested to by Marcion, Clement of Rome, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Irenaeus, Ignatius, and Polycarp, and in those epistles, he tried to present a very important Bible doctrine. In John 14:1-6, Jesus had told His disciples that He would leave them to prepare an eternal home for them and that He would someday return to earth to receive them unto Himself. The problem at Thessalonica was that no one knew exactly when Jesus would return, and the people in that church were giving up their jobs and normal routines so that they could wait for Him. Paul saw their mistake and wrote to them about it.

In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, he wrote about the Rapture of the Church so that he could renew their hope in the reality of the Lord's eventual return. Prior to that writing, however, a distinction between the Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture of the Church had not been given, so Paul was revealing a new theological truth. In II Thessalonians 2:1-12, he next gave them a sign of the Lord's return so that the people in the church could get back to their normal routines. In II Thessalonians 2:3, he wrote, "Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction." Finally, in II Thessalonians 3:6-15, he added the importance of staying busy for the Lord and of avoiding idleness. II Thessalonians 3:10 says, "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat.'"

Paul's letters to the Thessalonians renewed the peoples' hope in Jesus' return, gave them new information about the Rapture, and told them to stay busy.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Lesson 9: The Return of the King of Kings (February 1, 2009)

- I. The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
- II. The Signs of the Times (Matthew 24:1-51)
- III. John on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:1-20)
- IV. The Church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22)
- V. The New Heaven and the New Earth (Revelation 21:1-27)
- VI. The Deity of Jesus Confirmed Once Again (Revelation 22:12-21)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Ezekiel 37:1-14, Ezekiel wrote about his vision of the dry bones to indicate that life would someday be restored to Israel. In Matthew 24:1-51, Jesus told His disciples about the signs of the times. They wanted to know about the destruction and raising up of the temple, and they also wanted to know when the end of the Age would come. In Revelation 1:1-20, Jesus appeared to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos to answer the questions posed by the disciples about the end times. In Revelation 3:14-22, John wrote a letter to the church at Laodicea. In Revelation 21:1-27, John wrote about the new heaven and the new earth. Within those places, there will be no evil, and only those that have their name written in the Lamb's book of life will be there. In Revelation 22:12-21, Jesus' deity is once again confirmed when John called Him the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Related Passages: Revelation 1:1-8, Revelation 22:12-21, John 1:1-3, Revelation 21:1, Matthew 24:1-51, Ezekiel 37:1-14, and Revelation 3:14-22

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- Monday: Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Tuesday: Matthew 24:1-51 and John 1:1-5
- Wednesday: Revelation 1:1-20 and Revelation 3:14-22
- Thursday: Revelation 21:1-27
- Friday: Revelation 22:12-21

Study questions:

1. What was the symbolic meaning of the valley of dry bones?

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2. What two events concerned the disciples in Matthew 24:1-51? What did Jesus tell them?

3. Why did Jesus appear to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos? What were John's instructions in Revelation 1:19?

4. What did John tell the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22?

5. What kind of places will the new heaven and the new earth be?

6. Who will be in the new heaven and the new earth?

7. What is significant about the name, Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End? How does that relate to Exodus 3:14, "I AM THAT I AM"?

8. What is significant about Genesis 3:24, Revelation 22:2, and Revelation 22:14?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: January 27, 2008

Title: Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End

Bible Passages: Revelation 1:1-8, Revelation 22:12-21, and John 1:1-3

Key Verse: "I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'"

Ever since Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, humans have looked for that Being that would crush the serpent's head, and when He finally came, most of them did not even recognize Him. According to John 1:1-3, He was in the beginning at Creation, and through Him, all things were created that were created. In the course of time, He was incarnated into bodily Form, and in that capacity, He lived and walked among His people for about thirty-three years. Finally, because the religious leaders of those days rejected His claims of deity, He was crucified on the cross at Calvary, and His enemies thought that He was gone forever. However, what they did not know was that His birth into this life had always been so that He could offer Himself on the cross for the sins of those that would receive Him. Hence, they had not taken Him by force and then taken His life. He had let Himself be apprehended, and He had let them nail Him to a cross because He was and is the sinless Lamb of God.

While on earth, Jesus often spoke about coming again to receive His own and to reign on His eternal throne, but He never told His disciples exactly when that would be. In Revelation 1:1-8, an angel came to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos and told him about the latter days and about Jesus' return so that the apostle could share the information with the church. John wrote that Jesus was and is the Alpha and the Omega, which corresponds to the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. In Revelation 22:12-21, he made the same reference again, and in that instance, he added that Jesus was and is the First and the Last and the Beginning and the End. From beginning to end, the Bible consistently supports Jesus' deity. He was and is the Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, and the Beginning and the End, and He is coming again to receive His own. His enemies may say or do whatever they want, but they will not change a single event on God's calendar for the future with respect to Jesus or anything else.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: January 29, 2008

Title: Jesus is Coming Again and Maybe Soon

Bible Passages: Revelation 21:1, Matthew 24:1-51, Ezekiel 37:1-14, and Revelation 3:14-22

Key Verse: "I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it," declares the LORD."

A dispensation is a time when God regulates the conduct of believers and tests their responses to His conditions. The judgment at the end of the Dispensation of Grace, or the New Covenant, will be the Tribulation. Leading up to that, there will be intense evil and ungodliness in the earth, Satan will blind people, and there will be an age of apostasy. During that time, the church will have great difficulty trying to stay pure. At the end of the Kingdom Dispensation, based on Revelation 21:1, there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

In Matthew 24:1-51, Jesus talked about the end of the Age, and He gave some signs for how people will know that it is here. One of the problems with signs, though, is that people sometimes try to predict dates. Another is that no one knows that any particular sign is the actual sign for which the people should be looking. Signs can be a diversion from doing the work that God wants those in the church to be doing, so maybe He does not even give them because His people cannot handle them. Of course, He may give them just to see how they will handle them. In the church at Thessalonica, the people were so certain that Christ would soon return that many of them quit work to wait for Him.

One sign that will occur before the return of Christ is found in Ezekiel 37:1-14, where the Prophet Ezekiel wrote about the valley of dry bones. In his vision, he saw Israel being restored to their land, and that prophecy seems to be happening now. Other prophecies that foretell the Lord's return are the growth of the ecumenical harlot church, the possibility of a one-world government, the growth of knowledge, the population explosion, the declines in ecology, and the fact that the church has already started becoming the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22. When those things happen, the time may be drawing near.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Lesson 10: The Judgment of the Nations (February 8, 2009)

- I. Abraham Believed in a Resurrection (Genesis 22:1-14)
- II. Job and Daniel Believed in a Resurrection (Job 19:23-29 and Daniel 12:1-4)
- III. Isaac Believed in a Resurrection (Isaiah 26:12-21)
- IV. David Believed in a Resurrection (Psalm 16:1-11)
- V. Christians do not have to Fear the Resurrection (Ephesians 1:1-14)
- VI. The Incorruptible Body (Luke 20:27-40)
- VII. The White Throne Judgment, the Second Death and the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:5-15)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 22:1-14, the Bible shows that Abraham believed in a resurrection. He knew that he could obey God and offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice and that God could still raise Isaac up again. Job 19:23-29, Daniel 12:1-4, Isaiah 26:12-21, and Psalm 16:1-11 also show a belief in a resurrection by their respective authors. None of the four, however, would have known about multiple resurrections because they were being taught these truths in embryonic form. In Ephesians 1:1-14, the Apostle Paul wrote that Christians had been chosen before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless. Therefore, we do not have to fear the judgment. It is important to realize that Paul is not saying that God chose who would be holy and blameless and who would not. What he was saying is that God had chosen before the foundation of the world to make all of those that come to him to be holy and blameless. In Luke 20:27-40, the author wrote about believers having an incorruptible body and not marrying in heaven. In Revelation 20:5-15, John wrote about the white throne judgment, the second death, and the terrible eternal fate of those that go through that judgment.

Related Passages: Ephesians 1:1-8, Job 19:25, Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19, Psalm 16:11, Genesis 22:1-14, Luke 20:35-36, and Revelation 20:5-15

Five Day Recommended Reading:
Monday: Genesis 22:1-14

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Tuesday: Job 19:23-29 and Daniel 12:1-4
Wednesday: Isaiah 26:12-21 and Psalm 16:1-11
Thursday: Ephesians 1:1-14 and Matthew 25:31-46
Friday: Luke 20:27-40 and Revelation 20:5-15

Study questions:

1. How does Genesis 22:1-14 show that Abraham believed in a resurrection? Do you think that he envisioned a resurrection during the Rapture and another one at the end of the Tribulation? Why or why not?
2. Do you think that Job, Daniel, Isaac, and David envisioned a resurrection during the Rapture and another one at the end of the Tribulation? Why or why not?
3. According to Ephesians 1:1-14, why can Christians feel easy about the judgment?
4. What did Paul mean when he said that Christians had been chosen before the foundation of the world? Why is this NOT election?
5. In Luke 20:35-36, what did Jesus say about the eternal fate of Christians?
6. What is the judgment of nations in Matthew 25:31-46, and when will it occur?
7. When does the white throne judgment and the second death occur relative to the Millennium? What will happen to those that go through that judgment?
8. What does Satan do after the Millennium? Where will he ultimately reside?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: February 3, 2008

Title: God as Father, Lawgiver, and Judge in the New and Old

Bible Passages: Ephesians 1:1-8

Key Verse: "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

God, the Father, Who is clearly revealed in the Old Testament, in Genesis 28:13-15, as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is also clearly revealed as heavenly Father in both the Old and New Testaments. In Deuteronomy 7:6-8, He is described as the One that chose Israel for His people. That passage says that He selected them because He loved them and that He brought them out of Egyptian bondage because of His everlasting love and faithfulness. In Psalm 103:8-13, He is shown to be merciful, slow to anger, and quick to forgive those that fear Him. In I John 1:9, He is described as a God of love that forgives those that confess their sins. In Romans 5:6-8, the Apostle Paul wrote that He sent His Son to live for everyone, to die for everyone, and to make a way back to Himself for all that trust in Him. In Ephesians 1:4, the Apostle Paul wrote that Christians were chosen before the foundation of the world.

In addition to being our heavenly Father, God is also often described in both Testaments as being the eternal Lawgiver and Judge. In James 4:10-12, He is referred to as Lawgiver and Judge. That passage indicates that He has the power to save those that trust in Him and to destroy those that do not. It also teaches His followers to not speak against or slander others. In Revelation 6:9-10, God is again identified as the eternal Lawgiver and Judge, only in that instance, the cry is from those that would be waiting for Him to judge evil. The attributes of God as Lawgiver and Judge are seen in the Old Testament, too, in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 28:1-68, when He gave the Ten Commandments and then promised blessings and curses to the people of Israel based upon whether or not they would hearken to Him. Both Testaments are totally consistent when they speak of God as Father, Lawgiver, and Judge.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: February 5, 2008

Title: Choose the First Resurrection and Live

Bible Passages: Job 19:25, Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26:19, Psalm 16:11, Genesis 22:1-14, Luke 20:35-36, and Revelation 20:5-15

Key Verse: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power."

The resurrection of the dead is taught in both testaments. Job said, in Job 19:25, that he would see God in the flesh. Daniel 12:2 says, "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt." Isaiah 26:19 says, "But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead." Psalm 16:11 says, "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Even the offering of Isaac by Abraham, in Genesis 22:1-14, showed Abraham's belief and trust in the resurrection.

In the New Testament, the Bible teaches that there will be a first resurrection and a second resurrection. The first resurrection will be at the Rapture of the church when the dead in Christ are raised. Those in Him will have a literal body that does not have a sin nature, that has not been affected by sin, and that has been equipped to live in heaven. Their body will possess a pure spirit, and it will be composed of flesh and bones, just like Jesus. Luke 20:35-36 says that their resurrected body will also be incorruptible and glorious, again just like Jesus. But the second resurrection, according to Revelation 20:5-15, will be after the Millennium when the unsaved are raised to face the White Throne judgment. Everyone in that judgment will have already been condemned, and Revelation 20:14-15 says that they will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Which resurrection and which eternity a person experiences will be based on their own individual choices in this life concerning Jesus. Accept Him and live. But reject Him and look forward to an eternity of torment and suffering, forever separated from the One that created and loves every person.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Lesson 11: Armageddon and the Millennial Reign of Jesus (February 15, 2009)

- I. David's Throne Is Eternal (II Samuel 7:12-17)
- II. Isaiah Described the Final Details (Isaiah 14:1-17)
- III. The End of Time (Mark 13:1-37)
- IV. Jesus Appeared to the Apostle John (Revelation 1:1-20)
- V. The Letters to the Seven Churches (Revelation 2:1-29 and Revelation 3:1-22)
- VI. The New Heaven and New Earth (Ezekiel 40:1-4 and Revelation 20:2-9)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In II Samuel 7:12-17, the author wrote that David's house will exist forever and that he will be given a throne without end. Isaiah 14:1-17 says that Israel will be back in their homeland, that they will have peace from their enemies, that Lucifer, the Morning Star, will have finally been overthrown, and that there will be peace in the whole earth. In Mark 13:1-37, Jesus described the end time events and concluded His message by telling His disciples to be ready for His imminent return. That same message to be always ready applies to Christians today, as well. In Revelation 1:1-20, Revelation 2:1-29, and Revelation 3:1-22, Jesus appeared to the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos, where He told him to write what was, what is, and what shall be. After that, John composed separate letters to each of seven churches and then a prophecy of coming events during the Tribulation. In Ezekiel 40:1-4 and Revelation 20:2-9, the two authors wrote about the new heaven and new earth that will come into existence at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Related Passages: II Samuel 7:12-17, Isaiah 14:1-17, Ezekiel 40:1-4, Luke 1:31-33, Revelation 20:2-9, Mark 13:1-37, Revelation 1, Revelation 2, and Revelation 3

Five Day Recommended Reading:

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|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday: | II Samuel 7:12-17, Isaiah 14:1-17, and Ezekiel 40:1-4 |
| Tuesday: | Revelation 1:1-20 |
| Wednesday: | Revelation 2:1-29 |
| Thursday: | Revelation 3:1-22 |
| Friday: | Luke 1:31-33, Revelation 20:2-9, and Mark 13:1-37 |

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Study questions:

1. Who will someday sit on David's throne?
2. How long will His reign last?
3. What will happen at the end of His reign?
4. How does Isaiah describe the end of the Tribulation?
5. In Mark 13:33, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? How does that affect Christians today?
6. How have John's letters to the churches played out in history?
7. At what point in time did John see the new heaven and new earth?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: February 10, 2008

Title: What the Millennium will be Like

Bible Passages: II Samuel 7:12-17, Isaiah 14:1-17, Ezekiel 40:1-4, Luke 1:31-33, and Revelation 20:2-9

Key Verse: "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

II Samuel 7:12-17 teaches that David's house will exist forever and that he will be given a throne without end. During the Millennium, the person on his throne could be someone like David. It could be one of his descendants, or it could even be David, himself. Luke 1:31-33 says that Jesus will be given David's throne and that He will have eternal rule over the house of Jacob. According to Isaiah 14:1-3, Israel will be back in their homeland. They will have peace from their enemies, and the Gentiles that survived the Tribulation will be their servants. Isaiah 14:12-17 says that Lucifer, the Morning Star, will have finally been overthrown and that there will be peace in the whole earth.

In Ezekiel, chapters Forty through Forty-four, the Prophet wrote about a Temple that he had seen in a vision. His view of the Temple was about twice the size of the original Temple, so he was definitely seeing something other than the Temple of Solomon's time. Ezekiel's Temple will be the ideal Temple that the Jews should have built. It will demonstrate God's holiness, provide a dwelling place for His divine glory, be a memorial for past animal sacrifices, be a center for divine Government, and provide water for the healing of the land. The people will observe the Feast of Tabernacles and the Passover in the Temple. But there will not be any evening sacrifices, and the people will not observe Pentecost.

In Ezekiel, Chapters Forty-five through Forty-eight, there will be a new land distribution, no Holy of Holies, and no rod of Aaron. Revelation 20:2-9 says that Satan will be released for a season at the end of the Millennium and that, as a final test of obedience, those that were born during the Millennium will have an opportunity to reject Christ. Some may reject Him, and then, the White Throne judgment will be the final event on God's calendar.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: February 12, 2008

Title: Be on Guard and Be Alert

Bible Passages: Mark 13:1-37, Revelation 1, Revelation 2, Revelation 3, and Revelation 3:15-18

Key Verse: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Book of Revelation is probably the most difficult Book in the Bible to understand because it discusses many events that have not yet happened. The first chapter is an introduction to the whole Book, and it presents Jesus standing in the midst of seven churches. The second and third chapters present messages from Him to each of the seven churches, and there are a couple of views as to how those two chapters should be interpreted. The first view says that His messages to the seven churches were exclusively to seven churches that existed during the time of the Apostle John's writing. The second view says that the seven churches each represent specific time periods over the past two thousand years in which the church as a whole has exhibited the same general characteristics as each of the seven churches. Interestingly, both of the two views could be correct, and if so, then those two chapters and the seven churches form a type of dual prophecy.

The first view probably is correct. But if the second view is also correct, then the church would now be in the seventh time period and characterized by the church in Laodicea. In Revelation 3:15-17, Jesus said to that church, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked." Jesus did not have kind words for the people at that church. They had lost their vision for His work, and they no longer possessed zeal to see Him uplifted and glorified in the earth. In Revelation 3:18, He urged them to grow up spiritually, to clothe themselves in His righteousness, and to open their spiritual eyes. In Mark 13:33, after having told His disciples about the end of time, He advised them, and He has advised each Christian since them, to be on guard and to be alert for the end of time is drawing near.

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Lesson 12: The Great White Throne Judgment (February 22, 2009)

- I. Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:1-10)
- II. The Church at Work (Luke 19:1-10 and Mathew 28:16-20)
- III. Not Obeying the Holy Spirit has Penalties (John 15:1-8)
- IV. Jesus Told Peter to Feed His Sheep (John 21:1-25)
- V. Closing the Final Curtain (Revelation 21:1-27)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Jeremiah 30:1-10, the Bible describes the Tribulation as a time of Jacob's trouble, and that passage clearly teaches that it will be the time when God deals with the nation of Israel. In Luke 19:1-10 and Mathew 28:16-20, the church should be at work trying to win people to Christ. Jesus came so that the lost can be found, not so that Christians can have a social club and support group. In John 15:1-8, Jesus told His disciples that He was and is the Vine. His power flows to us so that we can serve Him. Christians are expected to bring forth fruit, and consequences await those that do not. In John 21:1-19, Jesus visited His disciples on the shore while they were fishing. Actually, they were more than just fishing. They had forsaken the ministry and returned to their former profession of being fishermen. When Jesus spoke to Peter, He told him to feed His sheep. In Revelation 21:1-27, John wrote about the new heaven and the new earth. Within those places, there will be no evil, and only those that have their name written in the Lamb's book of life will be there.

Related Passages: John 14:1-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Jeremiah 30:1-10, John 21:1-19, Revelation 21:1-5, Luke 19:1-10, Ephesians 2:8, Mathew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-48, John 21:15-17, and John 15:8

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- Monday: John 14:1-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, and Jeremiah 30:1-10
Tuesday: Luke 19:1-10 and Ephesians 2:1-10
Wednesday: Mathew 28:16-20, Mark 16:9-20, and Luke 24:46-48
Thursday: John 21:15-25 and John 15:1-8
Friday: John 21:1-19 and Revelation 21:1-27

Study questions:

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1. Based on Jeremiah 30:1-10, how can Christians know that the Great Tribulation is not intended for them?
2. Why was Jesus incarnated, and what should the church do because of it?
3. How does the Lord treat Christians that fail to produce fruit?
4. Why were Peter and the others fishing when Jesus came to see them? How do we know?
5. What did He tell Peter to do, and how did Jesus possibly hint that Peter would have a long life?
6. Based on Revelation 21:1-27, how does time end?

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: February 17, 2008

Title: Life After Death and in Heaven with Jesus

Bible Passages: John 14:1-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Jeremiah 30:1-10, John 21:1-19, and Revelation 21:1-5

Key Verse: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

The Bible says, in John 14:1-6 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18, that Jesus is coming again for the church, but not all Christians agree on exactly when He will return. A mid-Tribulation rapture view says that He will come for the church in the middle of the Tribulation. A post-Tribulation view says that He will take the church out of the world at the end of the Tribulation. But both of these views have to be rejected in favor of a pre-Tribulation belief because God never mixes the church with the nation of Israel. In Jeremiah 30:1-10, the Bible describes the Tribulation as a time of Jacob's trouble, and that passage clearly teaches that it will be the time when God deals with the nation of Israel.

When believers go to be with Jesus in heaven, John 21:1-19 suggests that they will be able to recognize each other. If the disciples could recognize Jesus even after His gruesome death, then all believers should have that same ability. Despite being able to recognize others in heaven, though, theologians cannot answer all questions about what heaven will be like. They do not know, for example, if people in heaven now can watch events unfold on earth. They also do not know how old people will be, although the idea that everyone will have a kind of mature glorified body is reasonable. People will be happy because Revelation 21:4 says that God will wipe away their tears and also because, in heaven, there will not be any more death, mourning, crying, or pain.

At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus will reign for one thousand years. During that time, Christians will probably still be in heaven since that Millennium period is also a time for Israel. At the end of the Millennium, in Revelation 21:1-5, there will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all believers will have access to both. But not everyone will go to heaven. Only those that are in Christ will go to spend eternity with Him.

The End Time Truths Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: February 19, 2008

Title: A Church Without the Gospel is a Social Club

Bible Passages: Luke 19:1-10, Ephesians 2:8, Mathew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-48, John 21:15-17, and John 15:8

Key Verse: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

When a church does not minister the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ, it fails to accomplish the very purpose for which it was supposed to have been established. In speaking to Zacchaeus, in Luke 19:1-10, Jesus told the tax collector that He had come to seek and to save the lost. In Ephesians 2:8, the Apostle Paul wrote that salvation is the free gift of God, and in Romans 5:6-8, he taught that salvation is available freely to everyone because Jesus offered Himself on the cross at Calvary for the sins of mankind and womankind.

The free gift of salvation is a message that is well worth sharing, and Jesus expects those that follow Him to be faithful in sharing it. In Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:15, He told His disciples to preach the Good News to all creation, to make new disciples, to baptize those disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to teach them His commandments. In Luke 24:46-48, He spoke about the fact that the Gospel would be preached throughout the world and that the disciples were to be witnesses concerning Him and all that would happen. In John 21:15-17, He told the Apostle Peter to feed and take care of those that had and would follow Him, and that same instruction applies to every preacher and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. In John 15:8, Jesus said, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

When a church does not minister the Gospel of Christ, it fails the very Lord that it professes to follow. When a church does not teach the inspired, errorless Word of God, then it becomes little more than a social club. A social club, under the banner of being a church, can grow and have the appearance of being successful. But if Christ is not uplifted and glorified, then the church will have failed. If the people within and without the church are not taught the Bible, then whatever they are taught will not be worth knowing.

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The End

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