

Vineyard Labourer Bible College

Bible Study Module 5

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God. . .”
James 1:5

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do . . .”
John 14:13

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth . . .”
John 16:13

“Search the scriptures . . . and they are they which testify of me.”
John 5:39

“All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God . . .”
2 Timothy 3:16

“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer.
Before opening its pages we should ask for the
enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.”
Steps to Christ by E. White, page 91 para 1.

© S. D. Goeldner, November, 2011. Last updated June, 2019.
<http://www.vineyardlabourer.info/biblecollege.html>

Vineyard Labourer Bible College Training for the Christian Walk

5a - TWO KINGDOMS - GRACE AND GLORY

1. The Bible speaks of two thrones of God. The existence of a throne implies the existence of a kingdom. G.C. p. 346 para. 4.

- Heb. 4:16. *The throne of grace*. A kingdom of grace therefore exists. This kingdom is God's present kingdom.
- Matt. 19:28, 25:31. *The throne of his glory*. A kingdom of glory therefore exists. This is the future kingdom of God.

2. The Kingdom of Grace.

Grace means 'the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from him.' *Webster's Dictionary*. "Grace is unmerited favor, and the believer is justified without any merit of his own, without any claim to offer to God. He is justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, who stands in the courts of heaven as the sinner's substitute and surety." 1 S.M. p. 398 para. 1. Therefore this kingdom of grace exists only while man is still on probation and can receive God's grace.

- 2 Tim. 1:9. Was given to us before the world began.
- Gen. 3:15-19. Instituted immediately after the fall of man. Here we see that God showed grace to Adam and Eve by not destroying them, but giving them and all mankind a time of probation. At this point in time it only existed by the promise of God. G.C. p. 347 para. 2.
- John 19:30. Established by Christ at His death when He proclaimed, "It is finished." (Also see G.C. p. 347 para. 2.)
- Matt. 4:23, 9:35; Luke 8:1. 'The kingdom of God' was extensively preached by Christ and His disciples.
- Luke 17:20, 21. The kingdom of God is not an earthly kingdom but starts within you.
- Matt. 18:3; John 3:3-5. There are conditions of entry.
- Matt. 5:19, 20, 7:21. Obedience necessary.

3. Notice Christ's position in the Kingdom of Grace.

- Rev. 3:21. With the Father on His throne.
- Heb. 8:1, 2. A *High Priest* of the true Sanctuary.
- 1 Tim. 2:5. The *Mediator*.
- 1 John 2:1, 2. An *Advocate*.
- Rom. 8:34. An *Intercessor*.

4. The Kingdom of Glory.

- Matt. 25:31, 34. Prepared from the foundation of the world. Before sin entered, this earth was a kingdom of glory.
- Dan. 12:1. At the close of probation Christ will 'stand up' to receive the throne of glory.
- Dan. 7:12-14. At the end of this world Christ receives the kingdom of glory.
- Matt. 25:31. At His second Advent Christ will be on the throne of glory.
- Rev. 19:11-21. Christ will destroy the kingdoms of this earth when He comes as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- 2 Peter 3:7-14. This present earth will be burned up and replaced with a new heaven and earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- Rev. 21:1-8. Only the overcomer from the kingdom of grace enters the kingdom of glory.

- Rev. 21:10-27. A magnificent city.
- Rev. 22:3. There shall be no more sin or curse, and everyone shall serve God.

Questions on the Lesson.

1. What are the two thrones of God spoken of in Scripture? What can be implied by the existence of a throne?
2. What time period do these two kingdoms relate to?
3. When was the kingdom of grace given, instituted, and established?
4. Give Scriptural proof that Christ and His disciples preached the kingdom of grace.
5. How does the kingdom of grace differ from earthly kingdoms?
6. What are some of the conditions of entry into the kingdom of grace?
7. What are three of Christ's positions during the kingdom of grace? Give references.
8. Has this earth ever been a kingdom of glory?
9. When is the kingdom of glory given to Christ? List what else happens at this point in time.
10. Who are the only ones who can enter the kingdom of glory?

MEMORISE:

- Matt. 7:21.
- G.C. p. 346 para. 4 "As used in the Bible, the expression 'kingdom of God' is employed to designate both the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory."

For Further Study

1. Read D.A. p. 506-510; and G.C. p. 346-348.

5b - SIGNS OF CHRIST'S RETURN

1. The Lord expects His people to know when His return is near by watching for the signs which He foretold, although they will not know the exact hour. Christ expects us to know these signs, and be ready and waiting for Him.

- Matt. 16:1-3. Christ called the Pharisees and Sadducees hypocrites because they knew not the signs of the times.
- Matt. 24:1-3. Christ's disciples asked what signs would there be for His second coming and the destruction of Jerusalem. Christ answered both questions together.
- Luke 21:28, 31. When these things happen know that Christ's return is near.
- Matt. 24:32-37. No one knows the exact hour.
- Heb. 9:28. Them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.
- Isa. 25:9. God's people will be waiting for Him and He will save them.

2. Signs in the National World.

- Matt. 24:6, 7. Wars and rumours of wars.
- Luke 21:25, 26. Distress of nations.
- Rev. 11:18. The nations shall be angry.
- 1 Thess. 5:2-4. Peace and safety will be the cry, but sudden destruction will come.
- Dan. 12:1. There shall be a great trouble both in the national and natural worlds.

3. Signs in the Social World.

- Matt. 24:12. Iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
- Matt. 24:37-39; Gen. 6:5, 11-13. Man's imagination and thoughts will be evil, and there will be violence.
- 2 Tim. 3:1-5. Many will have evil characters.
- 2 Tim 3:13. The evil will only get worse.
- James 5:1-8. The rich will exploit the labourers, and the just killed.

4. Signs in the Natural World.

- Matt. 24:7, Luke 21:11. Famines, pestilences, and earthquakes.
- Luke 21:25. The sea and the waves roaring.
- Matt. 24:21, 22, 29. After a great period of tribulation the sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars shall fall from heaven.
Note: The tribulation mentioned in verse 29 is referred to in Rev. 12:6, 13, 14. As a period of 1,260 years (see Eze. 4:6; Num. 14:34. for day for year principle.) This period of persecution refers to the time of Papal supremacy from 538 - 1798 A.D. The majority of the persecution ceased by the middle of the 18th century, shortened for the elect's sake.
- Mark 13:24; Luke 21:25; Joel 3:14-16; Amos 8:9. The sun was to darken after the tribulation ended, sometime after 1750.
- Rev. 6:12, 13. The darkening of the sun and the moon turning to blood happens after a great earthquake.

Note: The divine order is as follows:- 1. Long period of tribulation shortened. 2. Great earthquake. 3. Dark day. 4. Falling stars.

History testifies to the fulfilment of these signs.

1. *Persecution ceased before the 1260 years were over.*
"The persecution of the church did not continue throughout the entire period of the 1260 years. ... Through the influence of the Reformation the persecution was brought to an end prior to 1798." G.C. p. 266 para. 4. "The 1260 days, or years, terminated in 1798. A quarter of a century earlier, persecution had almost wholly ceased." G.C. p. 306 para. 1.
2. *Great earthquake - The Lisbon earthquake, November 1, 1755.*
"In fulfillment of this prophecy there occurred, in the year 1755, the most terrible earthquake that has ever been recorded. Though commonly known as the earthquake of Lisbon, it extended to the greater part of Europe, Africa, and America. It was felt in Greenland, in the West Indies, in the island of Madeira, in Norway and Sweden, Great Britain and Ireland. It pervaded an extent of not less than four million square miles." G.C. p. 304 para. 2.
(Read more about this event in G.C. p. 304-5; and Daniel and The Revelation by Smith on Rev. 6:12-17.)
3. *Dark Day - May 19, 1780.*
"In the morning the sun rose clear, but was soon overcast. The clouds became lowery, and from them, black and ominous, as they soon appeared, lightning flashed, thunder rolled, and a little rain fell. Toward nine o'clock, the clouds became thinner, and assumed a brassy or coppery appearance, and earth, rocks, trees, buildings, water, and persons were changed by this strange, unearthly light. A few minutes later, a heavy black cloud spread over the entire sky except a narrow rim at the horizon, and it was as dark as it usually is at nine o'clock on a summer evening." G.C. p. 306 para. 3.
(Read more about this event in G.C. p. 306-08; and Daniel and The Revelation by Smith on Rev. 6:12-17.)
4. *Falling Stars - November 13, 1833.*
"This prophecy received a striking and impressive fulfillment in the great meteoric shower of November 13, 1833. That was the most extensive and wonderful display of falling stars which has ever been recorded; "the whole firmament, over all the United States, being then, for hours, in fiery commotion!" G.C. p. 333 para. 1.
5. *Other calamities happening -*
One has only to read the newspaper or listen to the news to hear of famines, pestilences or fatal epidemic diseases, and tsunamis which make the sea and waves to roar.

5. Signs in the Spiritual World

- Matt. 24:5, 11, 24-27. There shall be false Christs, false prophets, and deceivers.
- Matt. 24:14. The gospel shall be preached in all the world.
- 2 Peter 3:3-7. People will scoff about Christ coming.
- 1 Tim. 4:1-2. Some will depart from the faith into spiritualism and false doctrines.
- 2 Tim. 3:1-5. Many will be Christian in name only, not in actions.
- 2 Tim. 3:12. Those who live Godly lives will suffer persecution.
- 2 Tim. 4:3, 4. There will be great apostasy.
- Rev. 13:3, 8. The influence of the Papacy will again grow.
- Acts 2:17, 18. The latter rain of the Holy Spirit will be poured out on God's faithful people.

Questions on the lesson.

1. What Scripture tells us that Christ expects us to know when His return is near?
2. Explain the parable of the fig tree.
3. Give three national signs of Christ's return.
4. What will the social climate be like in the last days?
5. What did James say would happen between the rich and the labourer in the last days?
6. Give four natural signs of Christ's return.
7. Where in time does prophecy locate the first of these events?
8. Give a brief description of the three main natural events that are predicted to occur in their order of time sequence.
9. What signs in the spiritual world show us that it is necessary in the last days to heed God's Word? List four of these signs.
10. What prediction is made concerning the preaching of the gospel message?
11. What will happen to all those who live Godly lives?

MEMORISE:

- Matt. 24:14.
- A.A. p. 535 para. 2. "As the end of all things earthly should approach, there would be faithful ones able to discern the signs of the times."

For Further Study

1. Write down a list of events happening that are related in the news that show Christ's return to be soon.
2. Read 9 T. 11-18.

5c - DANGERS AND DECEPTIONS OF THE LAST DAYS

1. Perilous times shall come in the last days.

- 2 Tim. 3:1.

2. There will be life threatening perils and terrible calamities which God will send, because most of mankind have allowed Satan to control them. The only safety that can be found from any of these is through faith in the power and protection of God.

- 2 Tim. 3:13. Evil men and seducers will become worse and worse.
- 2 Tim. 3:12. All who live godly lives will suffer persecution.
- Isa. 59:13-16. There is no judgment, justice, or truth. The righteous are prey to the wicked, but the Lord brings salvation.
- Rev. 13:3, 8. All the earth will worship the beast (the Papacy), except those whose names are in the book of life.
- Rev. 13:15-17. Those who will not worship the beast or receive it's mark by keeping Sunday sacred, will be condemned to death.
- Rev. 2:10. God's people will be faithful even unto death. They will have the same attitude as Daniel's three companions. (Dan. 3:17, 18.)
- Ps. 91:1-16; 46:1-11. God will protect all His people after the close of probation. However, there will be martyrs before the close of this time. (Rev. 20:4.)

3. Other than these life threatening perils, there will be countless perils to the spiritual life.

- Luke 21:34-36. The peril of overeating (surfeiting), drunkenness, are cares of this life which can crush out one's spiritual life.
- 2 Tim. 3:5. The peril of hypocrisy, formalism, and ungodliness.
- 1 Tim. 4:1, 2; Matt. 24:24. The peril of seducing spirits and false doctrines.
- Matt. 24:13. The peril of not enduring unto the end.
- Matt. 24:42-44. The peril of not being ready.
- Matt. 24:48-51. The peril of not seeing the closeness of Christ's return, and condemning and fighting against those who do.
- Matt. 25:1-13. The peril of a legalistic, nominal, or theoretical profession that is without the Holy Spirit.
- Heb. 10:35-38, James 5:7, 8. The peril of impatience and faithlessness.
- 2 Thess. 2:10, 11. The peril of believing a lie because of not loving the truth.

4. God will keep a people safe through to the end despite all the perils of the last days.

- Nahum 1:7. God knows those who trust in Him.
- Isa. 25:9. He will save those who waited for Him.
- Isa. 10:20-22; Jer. 11:11. God will rescue His remnant people.
- Rev. 12:17. Satan will make war against God's remnant.
- Rev. 14:1-5. A company will be victorious.
- Rev. 15:2-4. The victor's song.

Questions on the lesson.

1. How does Paul describe the last days in 2 Timothy?
2. List five of the life threatening perils and terrible calamities which will come in the last days.
3. What are the sources of these perils and calamities?
4. What will the extent of the consecration of God's people be in the last days?
5. List five of the perils to the spiritual life in the last days..
6. If we don't love the truth what peril will we be in?
7. According to Isaiah what will the saints say when they see Christ?
8. What does God promise to do for His remnant people?
9. Those standing on the sea of glass gained victory over what?
10. What is the song these people sing?

MEMORISE:

- Ps. 46:1, 2.
- G.C. p. 593. "In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His Word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them."

For Further Study

1. Read 1 S.M. p. 48; 2 S.M. p. 392-395.

5d - GOD'S WRATH FILLED PLAGUES

1. Fearful warnings are given in the Scripture in relation to God's wrath being poured out on unbelievers of the last days.

- Rev. 14:9-11. The third angel's message is given to warn and save men from God's wrath to come.
- Rev. 15:1. God's wrath is poured out in the seven last plagues.
- Rev. 18:2-4. All of God's people are called out of Babylon so they don't receive of the plagues.
- Rev. 18:8, 17. The plagues will come suddenly.

2. The seven last plagues will only be poured out when probation has closed.

- Rev. 15:5-8. There is no Sanctuary ministrations while the plagues are poured out.
- Rev. 14:10. There is no mercy mixed with God's wrath, it is without mixture.
- Rev. 16:17-21. The seventh plague will conclude with Christ's return. (Compare with Rev. 6:12-17.)
- Dan. 12:1. This time of trouble or plagues will commence when Michael or Christ stands up to receive His kingdom, from interceding for His people.
- G.C. p. 613 para. 2 When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received "the seal of the living God." Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. Every case has been decided for life or death. (Rev. 22:11.)
- L.S. p. 116 para. 1. "The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out."

3. The seven last plagues will be real events which will devastate this earth and the wicked inhabitants.

- Dan. 12:1. A time of trouble the like of which this earth has not seen since there was a nation.
- Exo. 7:19-25, 9:8-11. History shows us that God is powerful enough to do what He says He will do.
- Job 38:22, 23. God has reserved weapons for this time of trouble.

4. The plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Nevertheless, they shall be devastating.

- *The First Plague* Rev. 16:1, 2.
Foul, dangerous, painful sores will be poured out on anyone who does not keep God's Sabbath.
- *The Second Plague* Rev. 16:3.
The sea is like the blood of a dead man - black and polluted - and all things living in it die. Consider what this will do to fishing industries, seaports, and seaside tourist resorts.

- *The Third Plague* Rev. 16:4-7.
The rivers and fountains of waters become blood because over time the wicked have killed God's righteous people.
- *The Fourth Plague* Rev. 16:8, 9.
The sun is given power to scorch or burn men. The sun under differing symbols is worshipped by all (including pagans, Catholics, apostate Protestants, etc.) who don't worship the true God. God in turns uses their symbol of worship to torment them during the plagues. (Also read Joel 1:10-12, 17-20; Amos 8:3.)
- *The Fifth Plague* Rev. 16:10, 11.
This plague is directed at the seat of the beast and his kingdom, namely Rome. Note that they still have pain from the sores of the first plague, and curse God because of it.
- *The Sixth Plague* Rev. 16:12-16.
This plague is aimed at the location of the great river Euphrates which dries up, making way for the kings of the east. Water represents peoples, nations, and multitudes (Rev. 17:15, 9:14.). The drying up of the river Euphrates represents the destruction of most, if not all the people in that area. This makes way for the kings of the east to assemble for the battle of Armageddon, near where the Holy City, New Jerusalem will come down from God out of heaven. When these wicked people are raised 1,000 years after Christ's return, the battle of Armageddon will happen (Rev. 20:7, 8.).
During the plague the dragon or Paganism (Rev. 12:1-5.), the beast or the Roman Catholic Church (Rev. 13:1-10.), and the false prophets (apostate Protestantism) will unite under the influence of spiritualism or spirits of devils to make war against God and His people. They will also influence the kings to gather together for the battle of Armageddon.
- *The Seventh Plague* Rev. 16:17-21.
During this plague-
A great voice is heard, saying "It is done."
A great earthquake - caused by God's voice. Joel 3:16; Jer. 25:30-33.
Babylon in it's three parts - Paganism, Catholicism, and apostate Protestantism - is destroyed by God.
Every island disappears, and so do the mountains.
Great hail falls - a talent is about 25.4 Kg (56 pounds) in weight.

5. The righteous are promised God's protection during the plagues.

- Ps. 27:5. God will hide the righteous.
- Ps. 37:38-40. God is the strength of the righteous during this time.
- Isa. 33:2. God is the salvation of the righteous.
- Dan. 12:1. Those whose names are in the Lamb's book of life will be delivered at this time.
- 7 BC p. 967 para. 8. "The nations of the world are eager for conflict; but they are held in check by the angels. When this restraining power is removed, there will come a time of trouble and anguish. Deadly instruments of warfare will be invented. Vessels, with their living cargo, will be entombed in the great deep. All who have not the spirit of truth will unite under the leadership of satanic agencies."
- G.C. p. 628 para. 2. "Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals."

Questions on the lesson.

1. Why does God send the third angel's message?
2. What will be poured out on those who reject this message?
3. What Scriptures show us that the plagues are not poured out until after the close of mankind's probation?
4. What event immediately precedes the plagues?
5. How do we know that the plagues will be real events?
6. What weapons of destruction does God keep in store for this time?
7. Describe each plague and its effects.
8. Where does the battle of Armageddon centre?
9. When do the kings of the east assemble for the battle of Armageddon, and when does the battle actually take place?
10. What is said during the seventh plague, and what does this cause?
11. What will happen to the righteous during the plagues?

MEMORISE:

- Rev. 18:4.
- E.W. p. 71 para. 1. "Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully."

For Further Study

1. Read G.C. p. 613-634.

5e - THE 1,000 YEARS OR MILLENNIUM

1. Although the word 'millennium' is not used in Scripture, it simply means 1,000 years. In Revelation 20 we find a time period of 1,000 years which most people associate with peace, prosperity, and righteousness. Let us examine what Scripture really says about this period of time.

2. During the millennium the righteous are 'with Christ,' reigning with Him on thrones of judgment.

- 1 Cor. 6:1-3. The saints will judge the world and angels.
- Rev. 20:4. 'Judgment was given unto them ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.'

3. To find out when the millennium begins we need to find out when the saints are 'with Christ', as it cannot begin before this time.

- John 14:1-3. Jesus Christ will return to take His people to heaven.
- 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. When Christ returns He will raise the saints who are dead, and the living will be translated, and all will go to heaven together.
- 1 Cor. 15:51-54. At the last trump the dead saints shall be raised incorruptible, and the living changed.
- Rev. 20:4. The saints live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years.

4. To determine where the unbelievers or wicked are during this time we need to find out what happens to them at Christ's second coming.

- 2 Thess. 1:7, 8. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God.
- Rev. 19:15, 20, 21. Slain by the Lord.
- 1 Thess. 5:2-6. Sudden destruction comes upon them, and none shall escape.
- Luke 17:26-30. As in the days of Noah and Sodom, they will be destroyed.

5. Satan is bound in the bottomless pit during the millennium.

- Rev. 20:1-3. An angel binds Satan for 1,000 years. He is confined to this earth and cannot deceive the nations during this time.
Note: The word here translated 'bottomless pit,' is translated in Gen. 1:1 'deep.' A more literal translation would be 'abyss.' It is a term applied to the earth in its desolate, waste, chaotic, dark, uninhabited condition. This will be the condition of the earth after Christ's return.
- Eze. 28:17, 18. Satan will be punished on this earth.
- Isa. 24. Describes the earth during the millennium.
- Jer. 4:23-26. The earth similar to Gen. 1:1.
- Jer. 25:31-33. The earth will be covered with the bodies of the slain. (Also see Rev. 19:17-21.)
- Isa. 14:12-15. Satan's fall from heaven to a pit.

6. At the end of the millennium the wicked are raised to receive their doom along with Satan whom they have chosen to serve.

- Rev. 20:5. The rest of the dead or the wicked, are raised when the 1,000 years are finished.
- John 5:28, 29. This is the resurrection of damnation.
- Rev. 20:7 Satan shall be loosed from his prison, so that he can deceive the nations once more.
- Rev. 20:3. Satan's freedom will be short - a little season.
- Rev. 20:8. Satan works among the nations to urge them to battle.
- Rev. 20:9. He incites them to attack the New Jerusalem which has come down from God out of heaven. (Rev. 21:2.)
- RH, November 1, 1850 par. 5. "After the saints are changed to immortality, and are caught up together, and receive their harps, crowns, &c., and enter the Holy City, Jesus and the saints set in judgment. ... Then at the close of the 1000 years, Jesus, and the angels, and all the saints with him, leaves the Holy City, and while he is descending to the earth with them, the wicked dead are raised ... It is at the close of the 1000 years that Jesus stands upon the Mount of Olives, and the Mount parts asunder, and it becomes a mighty plain, and those who flee at that time are the wicked, that have just been raised. Then the Holy City comes down and settles on the plain."
- Jude 14, 15. Jude speaks of Christ's 3rd coming.
- Zech. 14:4, 5. The city comes down upon the Mount of Olives when Jesus returns with the saints.
- Rev. 20:9. Satan's effort to overthrow the city is defeated.
- Rev. 20:10, 14, 15. All sin, death, hell, and sinners consumed in the lake of fire.
- 2 Peter 3:12, 13. This earth will be burned up, then it will be renewed.
- Rev. 21:1. After the lake of fire, John sees a new heaven and earth.

Questions on the lesson.

1. What is the meaning of the word 'millennium', and what Scripture speaks of a millennium?
2. Where are the righteous during the millennium, and what are they doing?
3. How do we know that the millennium cannot precede the Christ's return?
4. What happens to the righteous at Christ's return?
5. What happens to the unbelievers or wicked at Christ's second coming?
6. What is a more literal translation of the term 'bottomless pit' of Rev. 20?
7. What will the earth be like during the millennium?
8. What resurrection occurs at the end of the 1,000 years?
9. Describe what Satan does and tries to do at the end of the millennium?
10. What ends up happening to Satan, sinners, death, and hell?
11. Does this earth burn in a lake of fire for the rest of eternity or what does happen?

MEMORISE:

- Rev. 20:6.
- G.C. p. 678 para. 3. "The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. ... From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love."

For Further Study

1. Read G.C. p. 653-678.

5f - THE EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT

1. The judgment has two important stages which we may fittingly call Investigative and Executive.

- Dan. 7:9, 10, 13. The investigative judgment is an examination of the books in heaven to determine eligibility or ineligibility for heaven.
- John 5:26-29; Rev. 20:4. The executive judgment consists of the execution of decisions, and the distribution of rewards either of commendation or punishment.

2. The cases of everyone who has made a profession of Christianity are investigated in the investigative judgment which concludes just prior to Christ's return to this earth.

- Dan. 8:14. The commencement of the cleansing of the sanctuary was 1844. We have noted in previous studies that the cleansing of the sanctuary on the day of atonement was a day of judgment. Therefore the day of final judgment commenced in heaven in 1844.
- Rev. 14:6, 7. The investigative judgment is announced on earth.
- 1 Peter 4:17. The judgment commences with the righteous.
- G.C. page 480 para. 1. "In the typical service only those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary, had a part in the service of the Day of Atonement. So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period."

3. When Christ returns He rewards the righteous thereby executing their judgment. The unrighteous and unbeliever who are alive at this time are slain, however this is not their final execution or punishment.

- Rev. 22:12. Christ brings His rewards with Him when He returns.
- Psa. 50:3-6. The righteous are gathered together.
- 1 Thess. 4:16-17. The righteous receive their reward of eternal life when Christ returns.

4. The investigative judgment for the unbeliever will take place during the millennium.

- Rev. 20:4. The righteous sit on thrones of judgment for 1,000 years.
- 1 Cor. 6:2, 3. The saints shall judge the world and angels.
- Rev. 20:11-13. The wicked are judged while they are still dead.
- Eccl. 12:14. The wicked will receive reward for their evil, just like the righteous receive reward for their faith. The investigative judgment of the wicked will determine the degree of their punishment.

5. The executive judgment of the wicked will take place at the close of the 1,000 years.

- Rev. 20:5 (first part). This is the resurrection of the unjust or of damnation. (Also see John 5:29; Acts 24:15.)
- Rev. 20:9, 10, 14, 15. The wicked will be punished with the second death which is eternal separation from God.
- Matt. 25:46. This punishment or death is everlasting.
- Mal. 4:1-3. Satan, sin, and sinners will all be consumed to ashes.

Questions on the lesson.

1. What are the two fittingly called stages of the judgment?
2. When does the investigative judgment commence and conclude for professed Christians?
3. With whom does the judgment commence?
4. When are the righteous rewarded?
5. When does the investigative judgment take place for the unbeliever?
6. Who judges them?
7. When does the executive judgment on the wicked occur?
8. What is their reward?
9. How does Malachi describe the end of Satan, sin, and sinners?

MEMORISE:

- Eccl. 12:14.
- G.C. page 673 par. 1. "The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. ... Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished 'according to their deeds.'"

For Further Study

1. Read S. R. pages 415-429.

5g - THE HEAVENLY PROMISED LAND

1. God has purposed and promised a glorious and beautiful home for His redeemed people.

- Gen. 1:31, 2:8-10, 15. When God created this world He also created a perfect environment and home for man. However, this home was forfeited through sin.
- Isa. 45:18. Why God made the earth.
- 2 Peter 3:6, 7, 10. This present heaven and earth will be destroyed by fire.
- 2 Peter 3:13, Rev. 21:1. God will then recreate the heaven and earth for His people.

2. This promised new land has been the hope of the saints all through the ages.

- Heb. 11:8-10. Abraham never inherited the promised land, but looked forward to it.
- Heb. 11:13-16. All of Abraham's true seed look for it.
- Heb. 11:35. Many were tortured and killed but remained faithful to obtain it.
- Ps. 84:11. God withholds no good thing from the upright.

3. Every faithful soul of earth is an heir to this promise.

- Gen. 13:14, 15. Abraham and his seed were promised the land he saw forever.
- Rom. 4:13; Gal. 3:29. The seed of Abraham are the righteous.
- Matt. 5:5; Psa. 37:11. The meek shall inherit the earth.
- Rom. 6:22. Servants of God receive eternal life.
- Psa. 37:34. Keep God's ways and you will inherit the earth.

4. The heavenly promised land will be real, with real activities.

- 1 Cor. 2:9. God had prepared a wonderful place for those who love Him.
- Isa. 65:21-25. They will build houses, plant vineyards, and the wolf and lamb will feed together.
- Isa. 66:22, 23. From one Sabbath to another all flesh will come together and worship God.
- Rev. 21:1-5. The new heaven and earth will replace this one. The Holy City New Jerusalem will come down from God out of heaven. There will be no more tears, death, crying, sorrow, or pain, everything will be made new.

5. The recreated earth with its city New Jerusalem, will be exceedingly beautiful.

- Isa. 35:1-10. Some of the beauties described.
- Rev. 21:9-27. A description of the New Jerusalem.
- Rev. 22:1, 2. The river and tree of life which bears 12 different fruits.

6. The heavenly promised land will be inhabited by sinless, immortal humans all of whom have been redeemed through Christ's sacrifice.

- Rev. 21:27. Only those whose names are in the Lamb's book of life can enter.
- Rev. 22:14, 15. Only those who keep God's Commandments have right to the tree of life.
- Rev. 22:4. They shall see God face to face, and His name will be in their foreheads.

- 1 Cor. 13:12. They shall understand more clearly.
- Isa. 11:2. Filled with the Spirit we shall gain true education.
- Isa. 35:10. Singing and everlasting joy.
- Rev. 22:5. An eternal possession.

Questions on the lesson.

1. What sort of home did God originally make for man?
2. What will happen to this present heaven and earth?
3. Did Abraham inherit the promised land in his day?
4. What was promised to Abraham, and who else share this promise?
5. What are some of the real activities that will happen in the new earth?
6. What revelations are given of the beauty of nature in the home of the redeemed?
7. Describe the New Jerusalem.
8. Where and for what purpose is the tree of life?
9. Who are the only ones who can enter the heavenly promised land?
10. Will the redeemed ever lose their inheritance?

MEMORISE:

- Rev. 21:4, 5.
- G.C. page 678 para. 1. "As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed thrill with more fervent devotion, and with more rapturous joy they sweep the harps of gold; and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise."

For Further Study

1. S.R. pages 430-433; and E.W. pages 288-9.

© S. D. Goeldner, November, 2011. Last updated June, 2019.
<http://www.vineyardlabourer.info/biblecollege.html>

Vineyard Labourer Bible College Training for the Christian Walk