

# Bible Study Lessons eCourse

## Bible Study Lessons eCourse Part #7 Index { 8 lessons: 200 points }

Lesson #1 {25 points}

[Can The Dead Speak To Us?](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

Lesson #2 {25 points}

[Would a God of Love Burn Sinners Forever?](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

Lesson #3 {25 points}

[Bible Prophets](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

Lesson #4 {25 points}

[Nebuchadnezzar's Dream](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

Lesson #5 {25 points}

[Prophecy Of The Messiah](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

Lesson #6 {25 points}

[The True Israel Of God](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

Lesson #7 {25 points}

[Speaking In Tongues](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

Lesson #8 {25 points}

[The Great Commission](#)

Lesson Quiz ([offline/online](#))

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 1. Can The Dead Speak To Us?

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.

Remember, it was Christ who in the beginning created all things (Ephesians 3:9), and man is therefore dependent upon Christ for life (1 John 5:12). When man sinned he forfeited his right to live, "for the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). And it is "our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10). Thus, there is hope of everlasting life only in Christ (John 3:16).

### Creation Of Man

#### 1. Of what was man formed in the beginning?

"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground." Genesis 2:7.

**Answer:** Of the dust of the ground.

#### 2. How was life imparted to the inanimate clay?

"And God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7.

#### 3. Is the physical life of man any different from that of the beasts?

"They have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast." Ecclesiastes 3:19.

When man was created, his body was first formed of dust. Then God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living, thinking, feeling, active being. God called him a living soul. He did not exist before.

When man dies, the simple opposite of the creative process takes place. Says the Bible, "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4). The breath of the spirit of life of all men, good and bad, returns to God. God also takes back the breath of life from animals, as you have read. Solomon rejects the theory that man's spirit goes upward and a beast's spirit downward (Ecclesiastes 3:19-21).

**Answer:** All living creatures die the same way as man (see Psalm 104:26-29).

#### 4. In what way does death come about?

**A. God requires of man the spirit of life.** "God said unto him. This night thy soul shall be required of thee." Luke 12:20.

**B. Man surrenders the spirit of life.** "Yea, man gives up the ghost, and where is he?" Job 14:10.

"The spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Ecclesiastes 12:7.

#### 5. What process of dissolution thereafter takes place?

“Man dies, and wastes away.” Job 14:10. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was.” Ecclesiastes 12:7.

## **6. How does Job describe the condition of man in death?**

“He comes forth like a flower, and is cut down: he flees also as a shadow, and continues not.” Job 14:2.

## **7. Who only has immortality?**

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” 1Timothy 1:17; 6:15, 16.

**Answer:** God.

## **The Soul**

### **8. What is a "soul"?**

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7.

**Answer:** A soul is a living being. A soul is always a combination of two things: *body plus breath*. A soul cannot exist unless body and breath are combined. God's Word teaches that we are souls.

### **9. Do souls die?**

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:20. "Every living soul died in the sea." Revelation 16:3.

**Answer:** According to God's Word, souls do die! We are souls, and souls die. Man is mortal (Job 4:17). Only God is immortal (1 Timothy 6:15, 16). The concept of an undying, immortal soul goes against the Bible, which teaches that souls are subject to death.

**NOTE:** In the Bible, the dead are never represented as being capable of a conscious existence apart from the body. Even the animals became living souls when the breath of life entered their bodies at creation. In Genesis 1:30, we read: "To every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life." The marginal rendering of "life" is "a living soul."

In Revelation 16:3, the animals of the sea are called living souls (*nephesh chaiyah*). This same expression is used in Genesis 1:20-21, 24, in referring to the animals as "the moving creature that hath life," "every living creature," and "the living creature." Thus animals are called "living souls," or *nephesh chaiyah*. This is the identical expression used in Genesis 2:7, when man became a "living soul" (*nephesh chaiyah*). At death, this breath leaves man.

### **10. Do the dead retain any of the mental faculties after they die?**

**A. They have no knowledge of God.** "In death there is no remembrance of Thee." Psalm 6:5.

**B. They cannot worship God.** "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalm 115:17.

**C. They have no emotions.** “Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any [thing] that is done under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 9:6.

**D. The dead are not capable of pleasure of pain.** “Neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” Ecclesiastes 9:5.

“There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest.” Job 3:17.

**E. They have no knowledge of anything.** “The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything.” Ecclesiastes 9:5.

**F. They have no thoughts.** “His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” Psalm 146:4.

The mental faculties did not exist before God breathed life into man, and they stop entirely when the man dies. When the electric current is turned off, the bulb is there, but light is gone.

**Answer:** No.

**NOTE:** What, then, is death? The answer of the Bible is simple and explicit. It is the opposite of life. It is a return to what man was before God breathed into him the breath of life. Death is the withdrawal of life and all that it implies. Life implies thought and consciousness. In death there is neither thought nor consciousness. Life suggests activity. Death means the cessation of activity. In death all connection with life is broken off.

### **11. What else is absent from the abode of the dead?**

**A. No light.** “A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.” Job 10:22. “Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death.” Job 10:21.

**B. No sound.** “The dead... go down into silence.” Psalm 115:17.

### **12. Can the dead communicate with the living?**

"His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them." Job 14:21.

**Answer:** God condemns attempts to communicate with the dead. Read Deuteronomy 18:9-12. Attempts to communicate with the dead are considered by God as an "abomination." According to Bible prophecy, spiritism is to have a great revival in these last days, but it is not of God (1 Timothy 4:1).

### **13. What terms are used to indicate that death is a temporary condition?**

In the Bible, death is referred to as "sleep" fifty-four times illustrating that the dead have no consciousness.

**A. The dead only fall asleep.** “He kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” Acts 7:60. “These things said He: and after that He said unto them, Our friend Lazareth sleeps.” John 11:11.

**B. They rest.** “There the weary be at rest. There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor.” Job 3:17, 18.

**14. Where is the sleeping chamber of the dead?**

“Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.” Job 21:32. “If I wait, the grave is mine house.” Job 17:13.

**Answer:** The grave.

**15. Is there any separation between the righteous and the wicked in the sleep of death?**

“All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.” Ecclesiastes 3:20.

**Answer:** No.

**16. What distinction, however, is retained in the mind of God between the righteous and the wicked?**

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.” Revelation 14:13.

“If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.” 1 Thessalonians 4:14.

### **Resurrection Unto Life**

**17. Who will awaken the dead out of their sleep and when?**

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.” John 5:25.

**Answer:** Jesus, at the second coming.

**NOTE:** Jesus did not teach that we receive either reward or punishment at death, but that the dead wait unconscious in the tomb until the human race comes to the end of its day of grace. Then, in “the last day,” He will return to the earth in triumph to call forth all the righteous dead in glorious resurrection from their earthy beds.

**18. What will the sleepers at the appointed time do?**

“Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2.

“As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order.” 1 Corinthians 15:22, 23.

**Answer:** The dead will be resurrected some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt.

**NOTE:** “If Adam and Eve had proved faithful, they and their posterity would finally have been made immortal, and this earth in the Edenic condition would have been their eternal home. When they transgressed, they were shut away from the tree of life, and as a consequence died in process of time. Being mortal, their death was complete, covering both soul and body. Once in their graves, they would have remained there forever had it not been for the atonement of Christ, which secured a resurrection from the dead for all men.

**19. Of what was the resurrection of Jesus a token?**

“Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.” 1 Corinthians 15:20.

**Answer:** A token of the resurrected righteous at the second coming.

**20. How is the resurrection of the righteous dead described by Paul?**

“The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

**21. What will be the signal for the resurrection?**

**A. Trumpet of God.** “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:52.

**B. Voice of Christ.** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth.” John 5:25-29.

**22. What question relating to the resurrection body did Paul anticipate?**

“Some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?” 1 Corinthians 15:35.

**23. How does Paul explain the relation between the earthly and resurrection bodies?**

“All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.” 1 Corinthians 15:39, 40.

**24. In what way will it differ from the earthly body?**

“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 15:44-46.

**25. How much more glorious will the resurrection body be?**

**A. Incorruptible.** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye: ... the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15: 52.

**B. Immortal.** “When . . . this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15: 54.

**NOTE:** What a body that will be! Immortal, incorruptible! No marks of disease or age, no scars of sin, will mar that glorious frame. “Man is at last what God originally intended him to be.”

**26. In whose likeness will it be fashioned?**

“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.” Philippians 3:21.

**27. While not desiring death, for what may we yearn?**

“In this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.” 2 Corinthians 5:2.

**28. What experience will come to the living righteous immediately following the resurrection of the righteous dead?**

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:51.

**29. From whence will the resurrected and translated saints be gathered and by whom?**

“He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:31.

**30. Where will they be taken?**

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

**31. How long after the resurrection of the righteous will the wicked remain dead?**

“The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” Revelation 20:5.

**NOTE:** An interval of one thousand years will separate the resurrection of the wicked from the resurrection of the righteous. This period, commonly known as the “millennium,” is dealt with in Lesson: “The Rapture And A thousand Years of Peace.”

**32. From whence will the wicked dead come?**

“The sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.” Revelation 20:13.

**33. For what will they be finally raised?**

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-15.

**NOTE:** The first resurrection is a resurrection to immortal, incorruptible, and endless life. The second is a resurrection for judgment. The life conferred by the first resurrection is forever. The life of those who will be raised in the second resurrection is but for a brief season, to be finally taken away in “the second death” (Rev. 20:14) from which there is no return.

**34. In what resurrection, therefore, should we, by grace, seek to have part?**

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection.” Revelation 20:6.

**35. How may we attain unto the resurrection of life?**

“He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death.” Revelation 2:11.

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 1. Can The Dead Speak To Us?

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Lesson #1](#)

## QUIZ

**1. What was the devil's first lie? Gen. 3:3, 4 (1)**

- Eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge will make you as gods
- You will not die if you disobey God

**2. What did Jesus call death? John 11:11-14 (1)**

- Sleep
- Temporary
- Spiritual
- Rest

**3. The Bible speaks of death as (1)**

- An inexplicable mystery.
- A change to a different form of life.
- A sleep.

**4. A person who dies goes to (1)**

- Purgatory.
- Remains sleeping in the grave.
- Heaven or hell.

**5. The "spirit" that returns to God at death is (1)**

- The breath of life.
- The soul.
- A person's real inner self.

**6. A soul is (1)**

- A living being.
- The undying part of a person.
- A person's spiritual nature

**7. Can a soul die? (1)**

- No
- Yes

**8. Where does the spirit go at death? Eccl 12:7 (1)**

- To God because the spirit is the breath of life from God
- To the dust because that where we all came from
- To the grave

**9. Is this spirit that returns to God, conscious? Eccl. 9:5 (1)**

- No
- Yes

**10. When a person dies (1)**

- He is dead in every way--the body dies, the soul ceases to exist, and no contact with the living is possible.
- He is able to observe the living and contact them.

- His spirit, or soul, remains alive.

**11. Who only has immortality? (1)**

- Pope
- Satan
- God

**12. In Moses' day, God commanded that all who encouraged communication with the dead were to be: (1)**

- Killed
- Rewarded
- Sought for

**13. Individuals who "communicate" with the dead are actually talking with (1)**

- Evil spirits impersonating the deceased.
- Holy angels.
- Immortal souls.

**14. How can we protect ourselves from this form of spiritualism? (1)**

- Pray and study the Bible daily, obeying all the light that you receive from God's word.
- Uphold all that your church teaches and encourage others to attend your church.
- Ask God for a special sign from heaven to have a personal experience with truth.

**15. Why does Satan deceive people by telling them the dead are now living spirits? (1)**

- Because he wants to help people (so that they are not deceived in to think that death is final). Because he feels sorry for them.
- Because he wants people to believe immortality of the soul (a person can continue to sin and not die).

**16. Where will the dead be when Jesus resurrects them at His second coming? John 5:28, 29 (1)**

- The Bible does not indicate
- In purgatory
- In heaven
- In their graves

**17. When do the dead go to heaven or to hell? Matt. 25:31-34, 41 (1)**

- After the second coming of Christ
- When they die

**18. When are the righteous rewarded? (1)**

- At the second coming of Christ.
- At death.
- In this life.

**19. When did the thief on the cross look forward to being with Jesus in heaven? Did Jesus promise him that he will be with Him in paradise that very day? Luke 23:42, 43**

- No, the punctuation in the Bible was supplied by the translators. What Jesus really said was "Assuredly I say unto you today, you will be with Me in Paradise"
- Yes, Jesus told him that he would go to heaven the same day

**20. I believe that all the dead - including Mary and all the saints - are sleeping in their graves and will remain there at least until the second coming of Christ. (1)**

- No
- Yes

**21. It is impossible to communicate with, see or listen to the spirits of the dead because they are all asleep. (1)**

- Yes
- No

**22. The only way to try to contact the dead is by communicating with demons pretending to impersonate the dead. (1)**

- Yes
- No

**23. Will you accept Jesus' assurance that we will all (the dead and alive) go to heaven together, at the same time, after the resurrection at the second coming of Christ?**

- This statement is not biblical
- Amen

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 2. Would a God of Love Burn Sinners Forever?

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.

The doctrine of an eternal fire is believed by millions Christians. This belief is the outgrowth from the idea that a soul will never die whether is it righteous or wicked, but will live forever either in heaven or hell.

Let's study the Bible and find the truth about hell fire.

### No Endless Torture

#### 1. What is the Bible meaning of the word “Hell”?

**Answer:** There are three definitions:

**A. *Hell sometimes means the grave.*** The Hebrew word widely used for grave is *sheol*. In Psalm 16:10, we have it rendered hell, referring to the grave. In Acts 2:27, this Scripture is quoted by Peter. In this verse, the Greek word for hell is *hades* meaning grave, the same as *sheol* in the Hebrew. As you know, the New Testament was originally written in Greek. In Acts 2:31, Peter definitely says that Psalm 16: 10, the verse we speak of, refers to Christ's resurrection. Christ was not left in hell, that is, not in the grave, but was raised from the dead. The word, *hades*, is used eleven times in the New Testament. In I Corinthians 15:55, it is translated grave. Otherwise it is translated hell signifying the grave or state in the grave.

**B. *Hell also signifies a place of burning.*** In the New Testament the word is *Gehenna*, or the Valley of Hinnom, described as a deep, narrow glen, south of Jerusalem, where, after the introduction of the fire gods of Ahaz, the idolatrous Jews offered their children to Moloch. In this Valley of Hinnom, the bodies of dead animals and the refuse of the city were cast. Fires burned continuously, and worms infested the carcasses of animals. What the fire did not destroy, the worms consumed. It thus was a type of complete annihilation. *Gehenna*, the place of burning, is used twelve times, being translated hell.

**C. *Hell sometimes represents darkness*** and the third meaning of the word, hell, is found in 2 Peter 2:4. God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment. The Greek word here is *Tartarus*, not *Gehenna* or *hades*. In this text, hell represents the darkness that enshrouded Satan and his angels, when they were separated from God, and heaven and the darkness that has come to earth because of the presence of the prince of darkness. Isaiah 60:2.

#### 2. Will the wicked be rewarded with salvation?

“Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not Thy statutes.” Psalm 119:155.

#### 3. What will the sinner be rewarded?

“After thy hardness and impenitent heart treasures up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.” Romans 2:5.

#### **4. In what will their fate consist?**

**Answer:**

**A.** Cut off and rooted out. “The wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.” Proverbs 2:22. “Such as be blessed of Him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of Him shall be cut off.” Psalm 37:22. See also verse 9.

**B.** Cast out. “Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 22:13.

**NOTE:** “The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. Proverbs 11:31. They shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts. Malachi 4:1. Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished according to their deeds. The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch--Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah.” *The Great Controversy*, page 673.

#### **5. Where will the wicked go?**

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” Psalm 9:17.

#### **6. By what illustrations is their utter end vividly portrayed?**

**Answer:**

**A.** Dashed in pieces like a potter's vessel. “Thou shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” Psalm 2:9.

**B.** Vanish as early dew. “Therefore they shall be as ... the early dew that passes away.” Hosea 13:3.

**C.** Fly away as dreams. “He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.” Job 20:8.

#### **7. What will become of their name and their memory?**

“The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.” Psalm 34:16.

#### **8. How irrevocable will their end be?**

“There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.” Psalm 36:12.

“Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.” Proverbs 6:15.

#### **9. How enduring will be their punishment?**

**Answer:**

**A.** Everlasting punishment. “These shall go away into everlasting punishment.” Matthew 25:46.

**B.** Everlasting judgment. “Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” Hebrews 6:2.

**C.** Everlasting destruction. “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.” 2 Thessalonians 1:9.

## **10. What death, then, is most to be feared?**

“Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28.

## **Objections Answered**

### **11. On what verses is the doctrine based of the eternally burning hell where the wicked suffer forever?**

“Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” “And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire” Matthew 3:12; Mark 9:43, 47.

**Answer:** These verses teach that the fires of hell cannot be put out or quenched by anyone. There is no escape from the power of the flame, but when all is consumed “. . . there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.” (Isaiah 47:14) When the fire has done its work it will go out on its own. II Chronicles 36:19 - 21 records when Jerusalem burned with unquenchable fire and was totally destroyed.

Because of the apostasy recorded in Jeremiah 32:35 and the consequence of the judgments upon Israel because of it, the flames and worms of Gehenna became a symbol of punishment and judgment. In Jeremiah 7:31 - 34 God warns the Israelites that the valley of Hinnom will become “. . . the valley of slaughter” where the “. . . carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven.” Jesus used the fires that were burning in the valley as He spoke, to describe the final, total destruction of sin and sinners.

It must be noticed that it is not disembodied souls upon whom the worms feed, but carcasses, or dead bodies of men. (See Isaiah 66:24) Those who are cast into the lake of fire will go in bodily form. (Mark 9:42 - 45) Jesus said in Matthew 5:30 that “the whole body” would be cast into hell. Isaiah 51:8 states that “the worm shall eat them like wool” showing that they will be put out of existence.

### **12. Is the ‘unquenchable’ fire that devoured the palaces of Jerusalem still burning today?**

“But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.” Jeremiah 17:27.

**Answer:** This text declares that if the Jews would not observe the Sabbath, the Lord would kindle a fire that could not be quenched. This does not mean that it would never go out, but that no one will be able to stop it. It would burn until what it was burning was completely destroyed. This fire is also described in II Chronicles 36:19, 21: “And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. To fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as

long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfill the threescore and ten years.”

The fire here mentioned is not still burning. Man could not quench it, therefore it burned until there was nothing left to burn. In the end the wicked will burn in the unquenchable lake of fire. (Mark 9:43, 45) The undying worm and unquenchable fire are symbols of utter destruction. The wicked will not be able to escape in any way from it: “. . . they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.” (Isaiah 47:14) This shows that the fire will go out when it has consumed all the bodies of the wicked.

### **13. What did Jesus mean by everlasting fire and everlasting punishment?**

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” Matthew 25:41, 46.

**Answer:** The word “everlasting” comes from the Greek word meaning literally “age lasting.” Further definitions include, “A period of time of significant character; life; indeterminate as to duration; eternity; a period of existence; a space of time clearly defined and marked out; everlasting; eternal.”

It can be clearly seen that the meaning of the word is determined by that which it is applied to. When it is applied to God, it means there is no end if applied to man, it ends with his life; if to the Christian era, it terminates when Christ comes. When applied to the punishment of the wicked, it evidently means the same as when applied to the reward of the righteous, as both rewards are eternal and everlasting. One is eternal life and one is eternal death. The reward of the wicked is not “everlasting (eternal) punishment” or “everlasting (eternal) punishing” but “everlasting destruction.” (II Thessalonians 1:9) The punishment is of eternal duration which is complete destruction. It is a destruction that never ends because there is no resurrection from that eternal death. (See Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:8)

### **14. Doesn't the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 teach an eternal hell of torment?**

**Answer:**

No, indeed! It is simply a parable used to emphasize a point. Many facts make it clear that this is a parable. A few are as follows:

**A.** Abraham's bosom is not heaven (Hebrews 11:8-10, 16).

**B.** People in hell can't talk to those in heaven (Isaiah 65:17).

**C.** The dead are in their graves (Job 17:13; John 5:28, 29). The rich man was in bodily form with eyes, a tongue, etc., yet we know that the body does not go to hell at death. It is very obvious that the body remains in the grave, as the Bible says.

**D.** Men are rewarded at Christ's second coming, not at death (Revelation 22:11, 12).

**E.** The lost are punished in hell at the end of the world, not when they die (Matthew 13:40-42).

Parables cannot be taken literally. If we took parables literally, then we must believe that trees talk! (See this parable in Judges 9:8-15.)

So what does this parable mean? The point of the story is found in verse 31 of Luke 16. The rich man was a symbol of the Jewish nation, feasting on the Scriptures while the beggar at the gate--the Gentiles--were starving for the Word. Jesus concluded the parable with the observation that If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. Luke 16:31. Indeed, Jesus did later raise a man named Lazarus from the dead, and most of the Jewish leaders still did not believe (John 12:9-11).

**Wicked Destroyed - Body And Soul**

### **15. Where will the wicked and hell (the grave) be cast?**

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14-15.

**Answer:** Yes, they will be cast into a literal lake of fire. Nine times does Jesus give warning concerning this hell of fire. This is the place of burning, the final Gehenna of Scripture.

### **16. Will the whole man be cast into this fire?**

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell Matthew 10:28 (*Matthew 5:30; 18:8-9*).

**Answer:** The answer is clear: all of him- both soul and body in hell (*Gehenna*). Since there is no fire in the grave, this consignment to a place of burning could not take place at death. The burning hell Jesus is speaking of is not one into which some ghostlike spirit or soul is cast, but one into which men are cast bodily. Since at death the body goes into the grave, where there is no burning, this hell that Jesus here speaks of has no connection with ordinary death. It refers to the second and final death by fire, when the wicked are destroyed at the close of the millennium.

### **17. How long will the wicked burn?**

**Answer:**

#### **A. Until body and soul are destroyed.**

But rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28.

#### **B. Until neither root nor branch is left.**

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea. and all that do wickedly. shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up. saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. Malachi 4:1.

#### **C. Until they are devoured-the second death.**

And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. . And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Revelation 20:9, 14.

#### **D. The wicked will burn forever, as long as life lasts.**

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Revelation 20:10.

It is perfectly plain that the wicked are going to be completely destroyed. This will be the second death. At the first death, the wicked went into the grave. The second death marks the end of the sinner, the end of death, and the end of the grave. God is forever through with sin, sinners, death, and the grave. Those who suffer the second death will be destroyed by eternal fire.

### **18. What about the phrase for ever and ever in connection with the punishment of the wicked?**

“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and

ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:10, 11

**Answer:** The word “forever” as used in the Bible does not always mean “without end.” The meaning is determined by that to which it is applied. The Bible uses this phrase over fifty times in conjunction with events that have already come to an end.

In Leviticus 25:46 the stranger would be a bondmen “for ever” and Exodus 21:1 - 6; Deuteronomy 15:17 states that a Hebrew servant would serve his master “forever,” but here “forever” is limited to as long as he lives. It was a custom to say to a king “O king, live forever” (1 Kings 1:31; Daniel 3:9) but fully knowing that forever was limited to the length of the kings life. It meant to live a long life. Samuel was taken to God’s house to abide “forever” but limited to “as long as he liveth.” (1 Samuel 1:22, 28)

Psalm 48:14 defines the term for us, “For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death.” Christ is called “a priest forever” (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6) but when sin is destroyed, there will be no need of this function, and Christ’s work as priest will end.

The definition of “forever” in Revelation 14:11 means the wicked will suffer as long as they live, but when there is nothing left to burn, they die. They then are “destroyed forever.” (Psalm 92:7; Malachi 4:1 - 3) They have received their final reward—eternal death (everlasting destruction). (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

### **19. When and where will the wicked burn in hell?**

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations. and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished 2 Peter 2:9 (Proverbs 11:31).

**Answer:** Peter tells us the wicked are reserved to the day of judgment to be punished. The earth will become, temporarily, a fiery hell.

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:7. Keep in mind that this happens at the end of the millennium, after the wicked dead are raised.

But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. Revelation 20:5.

Fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. Revelation 20:9.

So complete will be the destruction that the wicked will be as though they had not been.

For as ye have drunk upon My holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down. and they shall be as though they had not been. Obadiah 16.

For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shalt not be. Psalm 37:10.

## **A Clean Universe Again**

**Then God will make a glorious new earth.**

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 2 Peter 3:13.

### **20. How can we escape destruction and have eternal life?**

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace. Without spot and blameless. 2 Peter 3: 14.

**Answer:** Let us fully accept Christ and be diligent to be without spot of sin. God will write our names in His book. And no one whose name is retained there after the judgment will be destroyed by fire (Revelation 21:8; 22:15).

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15.

God never intended that any man should ever suffer in hell. It is prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). God wishes us to have a home with Him forever and ever. Christ died that we might inherit a home with Him. It is by His mercies that we receive this rich reward. His second coming will soon open the literal gates of heaven to receive the redeemed. Is it not all wonderful? Let us praise God for the glorious plan of salvation!

**NOTE:** How repugnant to every emotion of love and mercy, and even to our sense of justice, is the doctrine that the wicked dead are tormented with fire and brimstone in an eternally burning hell; that for the sins of a brief earthly life they are to suffer torture as long as God shall live. Yet this doctrine has been widely taught and is still embodied in many of the creeds of Christendom. . .

Where, in the pages of God's word, is such teaching to be found? Will the redeemed in heaven be lost to all emotions of pity and compassion, and even to feelings of common humanity? Are these to be exchanged for the indifference of the stoic or the cruelty of the savage? No, no; such is not the teaching of the book of God.

What would be gained to God should we admit that He delights in witnessing unceasing tortures; that He is regaled with the groans and shrieks and imprecations of the suffering creatures whom He holds in the flames of hell? Can these horrid sounds be music in the ear of infinite love? It is urged that the infliction of endless misery upon the wicked would show God's hatred of sin as an evil which is ruinous to the peace and order of the universe. Oh, dreadful blasphemy! As if God's hatred of sin is the reason why it is perpetuated. For, according to the teachings of these theologians, continued torture without hope of mercy maddens its wretched victims, and as they pour out their rage in curses and blasphemy, they are forever augmenting their load of guilt. God's glory is not enhanced by thus perpetuating continually increasing sin through ceaseless ages.

It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil which has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment. The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, and abounding in compassion, is darkened by superstition and clothed with terror. When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made thousands, yes, millions, of skeptics and infidels. . .

A large class to whom the doctrine of eternal torment is revolting are driven to the opposite error. They see that the Scriptures represent God as a being of love and compassion, and they cannot believe that He will consign His creatures to the fires of an eternally burning hell. But holding that the soul is naturally immortal, they see no alternative but to conclude that all mankind will finally be saved. Many regard the threatenings of the Bible as designed merely to frighten men into obedience, and not to be literally fulfilled. Thus the sinner can live in selfish pleasure, disregarding the requirements of God, and yet expect to be finally received into His favor. Such a doctrine, presuming upon God's mercy, but ignoring His justice, pleases the carnal heart and emboldens the wicked in their iniquity. *The Great Controversy*, pages 535-537.

**Are you thankful to learn that God is full of love and will not punish the wicked throughout eternity in hellfire?**

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 2. Would a God of Love Burn Sinners Forever?

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Lesson #2](#)

## QUIZ

#### 1. How does the Bible describe God? 1 John 4:7, 8 (1)

- God is love
- God is angry
- God is unfair
- God takes revenge

#### 2. Destroying people in hell (1)

- God will allow the devil to do it.
- Is called God's 'strange act', because it is so foreign to His loving plan of saving people.
- God will finally take revenge.

#### 3. An eternal hell of torment (1)

- Is symbolical.
- Is the devil's plan to slander God's character.
- Is an integral part of God's plan.

#### 4. "Hell" in the Bible (2) ( 2 answers )

- Is symbolical.
- Does not yet exist.
- Refers to the center of the earth.
- Has several meanings, one of them being the grave.
- Always refers to a place of burning.

#### 5. In the Bible, in reference to man's life, the term forever (1)

- Usually means 'a man's lifetime' or 'until he dies.'
- Is mysterious and cannot be understood.
- Means 'eternal.'

#### 6. Who has already suffered "eternal fire" as an example of the hell fire in the last days? Jude 7 (1)

- Sodom and Gomorrah
- No one
- Satan

#### 7. The story of the rich man and Lazarus (1)

- Proves that souls in hell can converse with souls in heaven.
- Is a parable that cannot be taken literally.
- Is Bible proof for the teaching of eternal torment.

#### 8. How will the soul be destroyed? Matt. 10:28 (1)

- The soul cannot be destroyed it is immortal
- At the second coming
- In hell

#### 9. Hellfire: (1)

- Destroys sinners -both soul and body- turning them to ashes, then goes out.
- Tortures the soul of the wicked throughout eternity.
- Destroys only the body of the wicked.

#### 10. The population of hell today (1)

- Hundreds, consisting of only evil angels.
- A large multitude of people from all ages.
- Zero.

**11. Sinners who have died are in (1)**

- Their graves.
- Hellfire
- Purgatory.

**12. The punishment that the wicked will receive in hellfire is (1)**

- Burning varying in duration and intensity, "according to their works," ending with death.
- Suffering eternal burning in the lake of fire forever.
- Whippings by the Lamb combined with burning in fire.

**13. Hellfire (1)**

- Burns throughout the endless ages of eternity.
- Is burning now.
- Will be the earth set on fire by God.

**14. Sinners are cast into hellfire (1)**

- By the devil.
- At the end of the world.
- When they die.
- When they die.

**15. The purpose for hell is to (1)**

- Completely blot out sin from the universe eternally.
- To encourage people to obey God.
- Pay back and torture God's enemies.

**16. What will be left when the fire is through burning? Mal. 4:1, 3 (1)**

- Ashes
- Crying souls
- Dead bodies

**17. After hellfire goes out (1)**

- Hell fire will burn eternally.
- God will make a perfect new earth, where sin will never rise again.
- God will banish Satan away eternally.

**18. After the wicked are through burning, where will they be found? Ps. 37:9, 10 (1)**

- They will return to their graves
- On earth
- They will cease to exist
- In hell

**19. There is nothing more decidedly that distinguishes the Christian from the worldly person than the: (1)**

- Church he goes to
- Estimate he has of God and His love for the sinner

**20. The wicked will burn in hell forever. (1)**

- I agree
- I disagree
- **If we believe in Jesus, from what will we be saved? John 3:16 (1)**
- Eternal torment
- Perishing

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 3. Bible Prophets

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.



Adam and Eve had the joy of talking face to face with their Maker. Sin abruptly ended that privilege. After Adam and Eve sinned and could no longer commune with God face to face, God instructed His children through inspired prophets.

This special guidance is often called the 'gift of prophecy.' While God has His prophets, Satan also has his counterfeit prophets to divert attention from the genuine. Matthew 7:15

In this lesson, we will examine this important gift and how we can determine the true prophets from the false.

### How To Test A Prophet

#### 1. What three things does Paul command regarding prophets?

“Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” 1 Thessalonians 5:20-2.1

#### 2. How do I test, or prove, what a prophet says, to see if the prophet is true?

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:19-20

**NOTE:** “The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions.” *The Great Controversy*, page 593.

**A. “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”** Matthew 7:20.

#### **B. The Spirit of Christ is in him:**

“Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in

them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” 1 Peter 1:10, 11.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Romans 8:9.

### **C. He will deny the trinity doctrine of the Godhead:**

“And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: . . . And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he.” Mark 12:29, 32

“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” 1 Corinthians 8:6.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

For further study on the Godhead, please refer back to the lesson entitled: [How Many Gods Are In Heaven?](#)

### **D. He lives a holy life:**

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.

### **E. He acknowledges that Jesus is come in the flesh:**

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God” 1 John 4:1, 2.

### **F. While in vision, a true prophet has no breath, and his natural strength is gone.**

As for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me. Daniel 10:17-18.

### **G. While in vision, a true prophet can nevertheless speak.**

And when he [the angel] had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb [unable to speak]. And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake. Daniel 10:15-16.

### **H. While in vision, a true prophet keeps his eyes open.**

He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open. Numbers 24:16.

### **I. While in vision, a prophet is unconscious of his surroundings.**

I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. . How that He was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 2 Corinthians 12:2, 4.

## Holy Men Moved By The Holy Ghost

### 3. How did Christ speak to the people?

It was Christ that spoke to His people through the prophets. The apostle Peter, writing to the Christian church, says that the prophets prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. 1 Peter 1:10, 11.

It is the voice of Christ that speaks to us through the Old Testament. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Revelation 19:10.

### 4. Where does prophecy come from?

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.

## Purpose Of Prophecy

### 5. What is the purpose of prophecy?

“Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.” John 13:19.

“And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.” John 14:29.

“But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.” John 16:4.

### 6. What was the gospel message of Christ based on?

“Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:12-17.

“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:14, 15.

### 7. Who were some in the New Testament, other than the apostles and Paul, who had the gift of prophecy?

“And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity” Luke 2:36.

“For I say unto you, among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” Luke 7:28.

“And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.” Acts 11:28.

“And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.” Acts 21:9, 10.

“And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.” Acts 15:32.

### **8. What is the prophet's ministry?**

“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7.

### **9. What were the prophets called in olden times?**

“(Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.)” 1 Samuel 9:9.

“Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them.” Jeremiah 7:25.

“Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.” Haggai 1:13.

“He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.” John 1:23.

## **Work Of A True Prophet**

### **10. What was the work of a true prophet?**

#### **A. To denounce sin in high places:**

“And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. And Ahab said to Elijah, hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee; because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin.” 1 Kings 21:17-22.

#### **B. To reveal secret plans of the enemy:**

“Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.” 2 Kings 6:8-12.

#### **C. To be a spokesman for God:**

“And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.” 1 Kings 22:13, 14.

#### **D. To pronounce judgment:**

“This is the word that came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which were at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them; Now when all the princes, and all the people, which had entered into the covenant, heard that every one should let his manservant, and every one his maidservant, go free, that none should serve themselves of them any more, then they obeyed, and let them go. But afterward they turned, and caused the servants and the handmaids, whom they had let go free, to return, and brought them into subjection for servants and for handmaids. Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondmen, saying, At the end of seven years let ye go every man his brother an Hebrew, which hath been sold unto thee; and when he hath served thee six years, thou shalt let him go free from thee: but your fathers hearkened not unto me, neither inclined their ear. And ye were now turned, and had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour; and ye had made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name: But ye turned and polluted my name, and caused every man his servant, and every man his handmaid, whom he had set at liberty at their pleasure, to return, and brought them into subjection, to be unto you for servants and for handmaids. Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.” (Jer 34:8, 10-17).

#### **E. To promise deliverance from enemies:**

“Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying, Go and speak to Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be accomplished in that day before thee. But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the LORD: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid. For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.” Jeremiah 39:15-18.

#### **F. To be a watchman:**

“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.” Ezekiel 3:17.

#### **G. To foretell the future:**

“But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these” Daniel 2:28.

#### **H. To lead the people of God:**

“And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.” Hosea 12:13.

### **11. Do miracles prove that a prophet is true?**

“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.” Deuteronomy 13:1-5

**Answer:** No. “John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.” John 10:41.

## **Believe His Prophets**

### **12. God promises to speak to a true prophet in one of three ways. What are these three ways?**

“And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.” Numbers 12:6.

“With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” Numbers 12:8.

### **13. What happens to a person who believes and obeys true prophets?**

“And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” 2 Chronicles 20:20.

### **14. Name four women who had the gift of prophecy in the Old Testament times:**

Miriam - Exodus 15:20.

Deborah - Judges 4:4.

Huldah - 2 Kings 22:14.

Noadiah - Nehemiah 6:14.

### **15. What five gifts were named by Paul as being bestowed on the church?**

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” Ephesians 4:11.

## **Gift Of Prophecy**

### **16. What provision has God made to protect His faithful people against the wrath of Satan in the last days?**

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” “Here is the

patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

### **17. What else is required of a true prophet?**

“But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.” Deuteronomy 18:20-22.

**NOTE:** The teachings of a prophet must be tested by Scripture. This is our only safety. Conduct may appear to be very spiritual but this proves nothing in itself: “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

Unless a prophet's teachings agree with Scripture, he is an imposter, a false teacher. To follow such is to be led to destruction.

### **18. In what condition then would a church be which did not have the gift of prophecy?**

“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Matthew 15:14.

**We Believe the Spirit of Prophecy in modern times, was manifested in the work and ministry of Ellen Gould Harmon White.**

Click [here](#) for more information on her ministry.

#### **Summary of Spiritual Tests:**

Speaks according to God’s Word. Isaiah 8:20

The predictions of the prophet come to pass. Jeremiah 28:9

Point people to the true God. Deuteronomy 13:1-4; 1 Kings 18:21

Encourage obedience to the Ten Commandments. 2 Chronicles 24:19, 20; Revelation 12:17

Their work produces good fruit. Matthew 7:15-20

Confesses that Christ is come in the Flesh. 1 John 4:2, 3

Confesses the Fatherhood of God and the literal Sonship of Christ. Ephesians 1: 3; John 6: 69

Prepares people to meet the Lord. Luke 1:17

#### **Summary of Physical Tests:**

Loses all natural strength during the vision. Daniel 10:8, 16,17

Is supernaturally strengthened during the vision. Daniel 10:18,19

Have their eyes open during the vision. Numbers 24:3

Does not breathe during the vision. Daniel 10:17

Speak without breathing during the vision. Daniel 10:17-20)

Tongue controlled by the. Lord 2 Samuel 23:2

Unconscious of natural surroundings. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 3. Bible Prophets

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Lesson #3](#)

## QUIZ

- 1. By what name did Jesus refer to John the Baptist? Matt. 11:13-15 (1)**
  - John
  - My brother
  - My prophet
  - Elijah
- 2. Was John the Baptist really Elijah? John 1:19-21 (1)**
  - No
  - Yes
- 3. If John the Baptist was not really Elijah, why was he given that title? Luke 1:17 (1)**
  - Because he looked like Elijah
  - He did the same work Elijah did: to make ready a people prepared for the Lord
  - Because he was a prophet like Elijah
  - He was related to Elijah
- 4. Does the work of some messengers from the Lord include more than the word "prophet" signifies? Luke 7:26-28 (1)**
  - No
  - Yes
- 5. Elijah, like John the Baptist, was a "reformation" prophet, sent to bring people back to the true worship of God. What was Elijah's message? 1 Kings 18:21 (1)**
  - To start up a school for prophets
  - To teach God's law to the youth
  - To restore the holy city of Jerusalem that had been destroyed
  - A call to follow God or Baal and not stand between the two
  - To build a temple for JHVH
- 6. What had Israel forsaken that demanded a reformation? 1 Kings 18:18 (1)**
  - The commandments of JHVH
  - The temple
  - The prophets
- 7. With the Christian world trampling on God's Sabbath and forsaking His commandments, as Israel was doing in Elijah's day, will God again send another trumpet-like message calling upon people to choose between God and the Beast, as Elijah called Israel to do?**
  - No, God has a different message for the Christian world today
  - Yes, this is found in the three angels' messages
- 8. Will God send another "Elijah-prophet" to go along with the "Elijah" message of Revelation 14? Mal. 4:5 (1)**
  - Yes, Elijah will be resurrected again before the second coming of Christ
  - Yes, the great and dreadful day of the Lord is specifically Jesus' second coming
  - No, Elijah came only once
- 9. How long has God promised to continue sending prophets to His people? Eph. 4:11-13 (1)**
  - Until His first advent

- Until we come to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ
- 10. Jesus warned against false prophets; what did he confirm about the kinds of prophets that would appear in the future? Matt. 7:15-17, 20 (1)**
- That they would all be false prophets and that after the Apostolic generation, no true prophets would arise again
- That not all the prophets in the future would be false, because why would Jesus tell us to test the prophets, instead of reject them, if there were not to be any more true prophets?
- 11. What test does the Bible give to help us differentiate between true and false prophets? Is. 8:20 (1)**
- False prophets cannot do supernatural miracles
- If the prophets see visions and remember them after they see them they are true
- If they do not speak in line with God's law and His word, there is no light in them
- 12. Who only will recognize Jesus' voice when He speaks through someone He has called to be His messenger? John 10:27; 7:17 (1)**
- Those that listen carefully and read between the lines
- Those that have heard him before in visions or dreams
- Those that follow Him and do His will
- 13. Will you determine, by God's help, to walk so close to Jesus that you will be able to recognize and accept, His voice even through a prophetic messenger? (1)**
- Yes
- No
- 14. Against what are we cautioned by Jesus Christ? (1)**
- Dreams
- False prophets
- Soothsayers
- 15. The Bible also warns against rejecting true prophets. What warning does Paul give about quenching the Spirit? 1 Thess. 5:19-21 (1)**
- That they should not quench the Spirit by forgetting their prophetic visions
- That they should not quench the Spirit by rejecting any prophecy
- That they should not quench the Spirit by despising prophecies
- 16. What condition does the Lord give for His children to prosper? (1)**
- To respect God's prophets
- To reject past prophets
- To believe God's prophets
- To support God's prophets
- 17. How will the remnant people of God be recognized in the last days? (1)**
- They will have a living prophet and be sabbathkeepers.
- They will be keeping the commandments of God, and will be led by the works of a true prophet.
- They will emphasize against idol worship and do a great work of evangelism in the Asian countries.
- Their gospel work, outreach and Sabbathkeeping.
- 18. What does the book of Revelation define 'the testimony of Jesus' to be? (1)**
- The spirit of prophecy
- The song of the Lamb
- The prophet at the cross
- 19. If a prophet can perform genuine miracles he is a prophet from God. (1)**
- False
- True
- 20. Mark all statements that are true about the tests of a true prophet? (7) ( 7 answers )**
- He knows several languages
- His voice will change while in vision

- He is guided by crystal balls or channeling
- While in vision, a true prophet keeps his eyes open
- While in vision, a prophet is unconscious of his surroundings
- He acknowledges that Jesus has come in the flesh
- He lives a successful and prosperous life
- He lives a holy life
- He will deny the trinity doctrine of the Godhead
- He foretells the future destiny of individuals
- The Spirit of Christ is in him
- Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them

**21. Check the facts that are true about the works of a true prophet? (8) ( 8 answers )**

- To encourage church membership
- To lead the people of God
- To foretell the future
- To hide sins of God's people
- To be a watchman
- To promise deliverance from enemies
- To pronounce judgment
- To fast for 40 days on behalf of the church
- To be a spokesman for God
- To travel to Jerusalem for pilgrimage on behalf of the church
- To reveal secret plans of the enemy
- To connect with other people around the world
- To denounce sin in high places

**22. Were there prophets in the New Testament times? (1)**

- It was not revealed
- No
- Yes

**23. Will there be prophets in the last days? (1)**

- Yes
- No

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 4. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

**The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.**

Daniel contains some of the most amazing fulfillments of prophecy. The prophet Daniel was taken captive to Babylon at around 586 B.C. While there, him and his three companions rose in recognition of God's blessing on them and were promoted to the position of wise men, and Daniel had a special gift for interpreting dreams.

One night, King Nebuchadnezzar dreamt a dream that struck him in importance, yet he could not remember the dream. He ordered his wise men to interpret the dream. They asked him to tell them the dream, and he responded that he could not remember it and would trust their interpretation of it if they both related the dream to him along with the interpretation. They told the king that there was not a man who could do such a thing, **“And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”** Daniel 2:11.

As a result, the king threatened to kill them all. Upon hearing this, Daniel asked the king for a little time so that he could make the matter known to him. He and his three companions then prayed to God for the revelation of the dream and its interpretation. That night, the Lord revealed all to Daniel, who praised the Lord and went to the king with the good news that there is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets and future events.

### Daniel 2

Read Daniel 2, for this amazing testimony:

**“But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; <sup>29</sup>As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. <sup>30</sup>But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. <sup>31</sup>Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. <sup>32</sup>This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, <sup>33</sup>His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. <sup>34</sup>Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. <sup>35</sup>Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. <sup>37</sup>Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. <sup>38</sup>And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. <sup>39</sup>And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. <sup>40</sup>And the fourth**

kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. <sup>41</sup>And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. <sup>42</sup>And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. <sup>43</sup>And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. <sup>44</sup>And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. <sup>45</sup>Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure. <sup>46</sup>Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. <sup>47</sup>The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret." Daniel 2:28-47.

Daniel told the king that the God of Heaven revealed to him that the king that night had been thinking of what would happen in the future to his kingdom and that he dreamed a dream. Daniel related the dream, along with its interpretation. The first thing the king saw was a great image made of the following elements:

1. The head was of gold.
2. The breast and arms were of silver.
3. The belly and thighs were of brass.
4. The legs were of iron.
5. The feet of iron and clay.



Next, the king saw a stone that had been cut without hands. At this point, King Nebuchadnezzar was no doubt sitting spellbound on the edge of his throne.

Daniel had related the dream precisely as God had given it to him. Now the king eagerly waited, wondering what the dream meant.

Daniel proceeded to explain the interpretation as the Lord had revealed it to him, and we would do well to take it just as He gave it. The only safe way to interpret the Bible and prophecy is to allow the Bible to explain itself.

In Daniel 2:38, the dream starts to be interpreted "...Thou art this head of gold."

The king was regarded as the head of the state. This is why Nebuchadnezzar represented Babylon, the empire that began the prophecy. Neo-Babylon ruled the world from 612-539 B.C. as one of the mightiest empires of antiquity--one that could aptly be described as the head of gold. Notice that the prophecy begins with Daniel's time.

Despite the greatness of the Babylonian kingdom, it would not last forever, "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee." Daniel 2:38. Succeeding kingdoms, inferior to Babylon, would rule in their turn. Just as silver is inferior to gold, so the kingdom that followed Babylon enjoyed diminished glory. Led by Cyrus in 539 B.C., the Medo-Persian Empire conquered Babylon and reduced it to ruins. The Medes and Persians were the ruling world power from 539-331 B.C. During their reign, all taxes had to be paid in silver.

After the Medo-Persian Empires, it was prophecies that "Another third kingdom of brass ... shall bear rule over all the earth." Daniel 2:39. The brass kingdom of Greece came into power when Alexander the Great conquered the Medes and Persians at the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C., and Greece remained in power until about 168 B.C. Greek soldiers were called "brazen coated" because their armor was all bronze.

Notice how each succeeding mineral depicted in the image is less valuable, yet more enduring than the one before it. Also note how each kingdom had characteristics related to their identification according with the metals they represented.

After the brass kingdom, "The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron." Daniel 2:40. The iron monarchy of Rome conquered the Greeks in 168 B.C. and enjoyed world supremacy until Rome was captured by the Ostrogoths in A.D. 476. Rome is the kingdom that dominated the world when Jesus Christ was born. Notice how Daniel foretold a thousand years of world history with unerring accuracy. The rise and fall of these four world empires - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome - are clearly foretold in the Bible and recorded in history.

After the iron empire, the kingdom would be divided. "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. <sup>42</sup>And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken." Daniel 2:41, 42.

When the Roman Empire began to crumble in A.D. 476, it was not overtaken by another world power. Instead, barbarian tribes conquered the Roman Empire and divided it--just as Daniel prophesied. Ten of these tribes evolved into modern Europe. They were the Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Alemannians, Sueves, Anglo-Saxons, Heruls, Lombards, and Burgundians. Seven of them still exist today in Europe. For example, the Anglo-Saxons became the English, the Franks became the French, the Alemannians became the Germans, and the Lombards became the Italians.

The Europeans would try to unite together, but would not succeed, “They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall **not** cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.” Daniel 2:43 Through marriage, alliances, and treaties, men have vainly attempted to reunite the European continent. All throughout history, leaders such as Charlemagne, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Mussolini, and Hitler have fought to build a new European empire; but these words of Scripture have stopped every single would-be world ruler. Revelation 13 tells us there will be another attempt to establish a universal religion. To read more about this click: [A New World Order is About to Start: Are You Ready for It?](#)

## The Image of Different Elements

After all these kingdoms, Daniel told the king, “Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.<sup>35</sup> Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.” Daniel 2:34-35.

What does this stone represent and who will set up the final kingdom? “And in the days of these kings shall the **God** of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.” Daniel 2:44. The next great universal kingdom will be the kingdom of heaven, which is described in Matthew 25:31-34.

The stone that was cut without human hands represents God's kingdom. It will not be a collection of earthly kingdoms, but a total replacement (Revelation 21:1). The Scriptures declare that when Jesus Christ returns to earth, He will completely consume all the kingdoms of earth and establish an everlasting kingdom (Daniel 2:44).

King Nebuchadnezzar may have thought that his kingdom would last forever, but he was shown very quickly that God is ruler over all. Human events are under His control, and ultimately He will win the conflict. Babylon , Medo-Persia , Greece , Rome , and the 10 divisions of the Roman Empire may have sought to usurp divine authority and destroy the people of God, but all earthly kingdoms will eventually be crushed by the coming of Christ. Thank God, He will win the great controversy!

After all this revelation, “The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets.” Daniel 2:47. Having seen that Daniel knew the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten and the interpretation of the dream, even Nebuchadnezzar readily acknowledged that the God Daniel served was above all the heathen gods of Babylon . Because of their faithfulness to God, Daniel and three companions, were elevated from their initial captivity in Babylon to positions of prominent leadership for the kingdom (Daniel 2:48, 49). God always honors those who honor Him (1 Samuel 2:30).

A quick review for the image of different elements:

### **Gold = Babylon**

The head of gold represented Babylon , which was the ruling world power from 605-539 B.C.

### **Silver = Medo-Persia**

The chest of silver represented Medo-Persia, the ruling world empire from 539-331 B.C.

### **Bronze = Greece**

The thighs of bronze represented Greece , the dominant world ruler from 331-168 B.C.

### **Iron = Rome**

The legs of iron represented Rome , which enjoyed world supremacy from 168 B.C.-A.D. 476.

## **Iron and Clay = the Divided Empire**

The feet that were partly iron and partly clay represented a divided empire that would not cleave together. No single power has ruled the world since A.D. 476, and it will remain divided until Christ's return.

**Do you agree that this prophecy confirms that we are living in the final events of earth's history?**

## QUIZ

**1. Who alone truly knows the future? Isa. 46:9, 10 (1)**

- No one
- God, the head of the Trinity
- Our Heavenly Father and Creator

**2. Has God revealed the future? Amos 3:7 (1)**

- No, we will know it when we go to heaven
- Yes, but not everything God does He will reveal
- Yes, He revealed it through prophets
- Yes, He revealed it

**3. Which prophecies did Jesus mention by name, saying we should understand them? Matt. 24:15 (1)**

- The prophecies by Daniel
- The prophecies by John
- The prophecies by Daniel and John

**4. For what time period was the book of Daniel especially written? Daniel 12:4 (1)**

- For the time just before Christ was born
- The last days of the earth's history

**5. What circumstances led up to Daniel's first prophecy? Dan. 2:1-3 (1)**

- Daniel was praying and fasting for an opportunity to speak to the king when Nebuchadnezzar called him to explain it to him
- Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him very much and no one in his kingdom could explain the dream to him

**6. Who explained the dream, and what period of the earth's history did it picture? Dan. 2:27, 28 (2) ( 2 answers )**

- The dark ages
- The last days
- God to Daniel
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Daniel

**7. What was the dream? Dan. 2:31-35 (1)**

- Nebuchadnezzar saw an image made of gold, silver, brass, iron, and iron mixed with clay
- David dreamt of an image made of gold, silver, brass, iron and clay
- Nebuchadnezzar dreamt of an image made of gold, silver, brass, iron and iron mixed with clay
- Nebuchadnezzar dreamt of an image made of gold, iron, bronze and clay

**8. What two important principles must we understand to correctly interpret Daniel and Revelation? (2) ( 2 answers )**

- We must allow the predicted prophecy to take place first before affirming whether our interpretation of the prophecy is correct or not
- Only scholars of the Bible can understand these prophecies
- The symbols are interpreted by the Bible itself
- These prophecies are given in symbols

**9. In the first prophecy, God makes it easy by giving the interpretation immediately. What did the head of gold represent? Daniel 2:36-38 (1)**

- Satan
- Persia
- Babylon

**10. What did the silver, bronze and iron represent? (1)**

- Babylon, Greece, Media-Persia
- Rome, Greece and Media-Persia
- Media-Persia, Greece and Rome

**11. In the image, what is the fifth kingdom represented by? (1)**

- Clay mixed with bronze
- Iron mixed with clay
- Iron mixed with bronze

**12. What will happen in the days of divided Europe? (1)**

- The EU will be formed and all the countries of Europe will gradually unite
- The second coming of Christ will happen

**13. How does Revelation describe this event? Rev. 11:15-18 (1)**

- The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord
- A a great and fearful day

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 5. Prophecy Of The Messiah

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

**The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.**

Many are losing faith in Jesus. How can we know for sure that Jesus was really the Savior of the world? We can be sure by comparing His life with Old Testament Bible prophecy. The strongest of which is found in Daniel chapter 9.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.” Daniel 9:24. Let's study this wonderful prophecy.

### **Seventy Week Cut Off From The 2300 Days**

These are the first words the angel uttered to Daniel in imparting to him that instruction which he came to give. Why did he thus abruptly introduce a period of time? In the vision of Daniel we see that Daniel at the close of the chapter did not understand the vision. Some parts of that vision were the time clearly explained. It could not have been these parts which he did not understand. We therefore inquire what it was that Daniel did not understand, or what part of the vision was left unexplained.

In that vision four prominent things are brought to view: the ram, the he-goat, the little horn, and the period of 2300 years. The symbols of the ram, the he-goat, and the little horn were explained, but nothing was said respecting the period of time. This must therefore have been the point that he did not understand. The other parts of the vision were of no avail while the application of this period of 2300 days was left in obscurity.

If this view of the subject is correct, we should naturally expect the angel to begin with the point which had been omitted, namely, the time. This we find to be true in fact. After citing Daniel's attention to the former vision in the most direct and emphatic manner, and assuring him that he had now come forth to give him understanding, he begins with the very point there omitted: “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city.”

### **Cut Off From the 2300 Days**

But how does this language show any connection with the 2300 days, or throw any light upon that period? We answer: The language cannot be intelligently referred to anything else. The word here rendered “determined” signifies “cut off,” and no other period is given in the vision here referred to from which the seventy weeks could be cut off, except the 2300 days. How direct and natural, then, is the connection. “Seventy weeks are cut off.” Cut off from what? – The 2300 days, most assuredly.

The word “determined” in this clause is a translation of the Hebrew *nechtak*, based on a primitive root defined by Strong as meaning “to cut off, (i.e., fig.) to decree – determine.” Taking the basic and simpler definition, we have “seventy weeks are cut off for thy people.”

If cut off, it must be from some whole larger than itself – in this case from the 2300 years of the prophecy heretofore discussed.

Why, then, it may be asked, did our translators render the word “determined,” when it so obviously means “cut off”? The answer is, They doubtless overlooked the connection between the eighth and ninth chapters, and considering it improper to render it “cut off,” when nothing was given from which the seventy weeks could be cut off, they gave the word its figurative instead of its literal meaning. But, as we have seen, the definition and context require the literal meaning, and render any other inadmissible.

Seventy weeks, then, or 490 days of 2300, were allotted to Jerusalem and the Jews. The events which were to be consummated within that period are briefly stated. The transgression was to be finished, that is, the Jewish people were to full up the cup of their iniquity, which they did in the rejection and crucifixion of Christ, and end of sins, or sin offerings, was to be made. This took place when the great offering was made on Calvary. Reconciliation for iniquity was to be provided. This was accomplished by the sacrificial death of the Son of God. Everlasting righteousness was to be brought in, the righteousness which our Lord manifested in His sinless life. The vision and the prophecy were to be sealed or made sure.

By the events which were to occur in the seventy weeks, the prophecy is tested. By this the application of the whole vision is determined. If the events of this period are accurately fulfilled, the prophecy is of God, and will all be accomplished. If these seventy weeks are fulfilled as weeks of years, then the 2300 days, of which these are a part, are so many years.

In Scripture a day in prophecy represents a year. (Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6).

### **To Anoint The Most Holy**

According to the prophecy the “most holy” was to be anointed. The Hebrew phrase *godesh qadashim*, here translated “most holy” is a term used freely through the Levitical books to characterize *things* and *places*, but is nowhere applied to *persons*, unless by exception in this verse. While it is used in the Old Testament and its Greek equivalent in the New, to distinguish the holy place in the tabernacle, it is by no means confined to this usage. It is also used to characterize many articles connected with the holy service of the sanctuary, such as the brazen altar, the table, the candlestick, the incense, the unleavened bread, the sin offering, the trespass offering, every devoted thing, and the like, but never to *persons* connected with that service.

On the other hand, in the case of *anointing* for service, the term is applied to the tabernacle itself, as well as to all its vessels. Exodus 30:26-29. In Daniel 9:24, a case of *anointing* is specified in the prophecy. Consistent with the uses of “most holy” pointed out above, there is every reason to believe that in this verse the anointing of the heavenly tabernacle is predicted. The tabernacle was anointed for the typical service, and true to pattern, it is most appropriate that the heavenly tabernacle should be anointed for the anti-typical, or real, service as our High Priest enter upon His gracious working of ministering in behalf of sinners.

In Daniel 8:14, we saw that a time came when the earthly sanctuary gave place to the heavenly, and the priestly ministration was transferred from the one to the other. Before the ministration in the earthly sanctuary began, the tabernacle and all the holy vessels were to be anointed. Ex. 40:9, 10. The last event of the seventy weeks where brought to view therefore, is the anointing of the heavenly tabernacle for the opening of the ministration there.

Daniel 9:25-27: “Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to

cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

## **Seventy Weeks Subdivided**

The angel now related to Daniel the event which is to mark the beginning of the seventy weeks. They were to date from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem. Not only is the event given which determines the time of the commencement of this period, but also those events which take place at its close.

Thus a double test is provided by which to try the application of this prophecy. But more than this, the period of seventy weeks is divided into three grand divisions. One of these is again divided and the intermediate events are given which were to mark the termination of each one of these divisions. If we can find a date which will harmonize with all these events, we have beyond a doubt the true applications, for none but that which is correct could meet and fulfill so many conditions.

Let the reader now take in at one view the points of harmony to be made, that he may be the better prepared to guard against a false application. We are to find at the beginning of the period a commandment going forth to restore and build Jerusalem. To this work of restoration seven weeks are allotted. As we reach the end of this first division, seven weeks from the beginning, we are to find Jerusalem restored in its material aspects, the work of building the street and the wall full accomplished. From this point sixty-two weeks are measured off. As we reach the termination of this division, sixty-nine weeks from the beginning, we are to see the manifestation of the Messiah before the world. One week more if given us, completing seventy. In the midst of this week the Messiah is to be cut off, and to cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease. At the expiration of that period which was allotted to the Jews as the time during which they were to be the special people of God, we naturally look for the going forth of the blessing and the work of God to other people.

## **Beginning of Seventy Weeks**

We now inquire for the initial date which will harmonize with all these particulars. The command respecting Jerusalem was to include more than mere building. There was to be restoration. By this we must understand all the forms and regulations of civil, political, and judicial society. When did such a command go forth? At the time of these words were spoken to Daniel, Jerusalem lay in utter desolation, and had thus been lying for many years. The restoration pointed to in the future must be its restoration from this desolation. We then inquire, when and how was Jerusalem restored after the seventy years' captivity?

There are four events which can be taken as answering to the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem. These are:

1. The decree of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the house of God, 536 BC. (Ezra 1:1-4.)
2. The decree of Darius for the prosecution of that work which had been hindered, 519 BC. (Ezra 6:1-12.)
3. The decree of Artaxerxes to Ezra, 457 BC (Ezra 7.)
4. The commission to Nehemiah from the same king in his twentieth years, 444 BC

Dating from the first two of these decrees, the seventy prophetic weeks, or 490 literal years, would fall many years short of reaching even to the Christian Era. Beside this, these decrees had reference principally to the restoration of the temple and the temple worship of the Jews, not to the restoration of their civil state and policy, all of which must be included in the expression, “To *restore* and to build Jerusalem.”

These two decrees made a beginning of the work. They were preliminary to what was afterward accomplished. But of themselves they were altogether insufficient to meet the requirements of the prophecy, both in their dates and in their nature. Thus falling short, they cannot be brought into the discussion as marking the point from which the seventy weeks are to begin. The only question now lies between the decrees which were granted to Ezra and to Nehemiah respectively.

The facts between which we are to decide here are briefly these: In 457 BC, a decree was granted to Ezra by the Persian emperor Artaxerxes Longimanus to go up to Jerusalem with as many of his people as were minded to go with him. The commission granted him an unlimited amount of treasure, to beautify the house of God, to procure offerings for its service, and to do whatever else might seem good to him. It empowered him to ordain laws, set magistrates and judges, and execute punishment even unto death; in other words, to restore the Jewish state, civil and ecclesiastical, according to the law of God and the ancient customs of that people. Inspiration has seen fit to preserve this decree, and a full and accurate copy of it is given in Ezra 7. This decree is recorded not in Hebrew, like the rest of the book of Ezra, but in the official Chaldaic, or Eastern Aramaic. Thus we are referred to the original document by virtue of which Ezra was authorized to restore and build Jerusalem.

Thirteen years after this, in the twentieth year of the same king, 444 B.C., Nehemiah sought and obtained permission to go up to Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 2.) Permission was granted him, but we have no evidence that it was anything more than oral. It pertained to him individually, since nothing was said about others going up with him. The king asked him how long a journey he wished to make, and when he would return. He received letters to governors beyond the river to help him on his way to Judea, and an order to keepers of king's forest for timber.

When he arrived at Jerusalem, he found rulers and priests, nobles and people, already engaged in the work of building Jerusalem. They were, of course, acting under the decree given to Ezra thirteen years before. Finally after arriving at Jerusalem, Nehemiah finished in fifty-two days the work he came to accomplish.

Now which of these commissions, Ezra's Nehemiah's constitutes the decree for the restoration of Jerusalem, from which the seventy weeks are to be dated? It hardly seems that there can be any question on this point. The answer is Ezra. The decree granted to Ezra in the seventh year of Artaxerxes, 457 B.C., is the point from which to date the seventy weeks. That was the going forth of the decree in the sense of the prophecy. The two previous decrees were preparatory and preliminary to this.

### **Harmony of Subdivisions**

Will the dates harmonize if we reckon from the decree to Ezra. Let's see. Our starting point then is 457 B.C. Forty-nine were allotted to the building of the city and the wall. The last act of reformation was indeed completed *just forty-nine* years after it had been first begun by Ezra.

So far we find harmony. Let us apply the measuring rod of prophecy still further. Sixty-nine weeks, or 483 years, were to extend to Messiah the Prince.

Dating from 457 BC, they end, in AD 27. What event then occurred? There is abundance of authority for A.D. 27 as the date of Christ's baptism.

Here, again is indisputable harmony. But further, the Messiah was to confirm the covenant with many for one week. This would be the last week of the seventy, or the last seven years of the 490. In the midst of the week, the prophecy informs us, He should cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease. This Jewish ordinance, pointing to the death of Christ, could cease only at the cross. There they did virtually come to an end when the veil of the temple was rent at the crucifixion of Christ, though the outward observance was kept up until the destruction of Jerusalem, A.D. 70.

After three score and two weeks, according to the record, the Messiah was to be cut off. It is the same as if it had read: After three score and two weeks, in the midst of the seventieth week, shall Messiah be cut off, and cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease. Now as the word *midst* here means middle, the crucifixion is definitely located in the middle of the seventieth week.

### **Date of Crucifixion**

Jesus' ministry began Autumn of A.D. 27 when He was baptized. It is not to be questioned that our Saviour attended every Passover that occurred during His public ministry, and we have mention of only four such occasions previous to His crucifixion (John 2:13; 5:1; 6:4; 13:1). This gives us three years and a half for His public ministry, and corresponds exactly to the prophecy that He would be cut off in the midst or middle of the seventieth week. As that week of years began in autumn of A.D. 27, the middle of the week would occur three and one half years later, in the spring of 31, when the crucifixion took place.

A.D. 31 being the middle of the last week, we have simply to reckon backward three and a half years to find where sixty-nine of the weeks ended and forward from that point three and a half years to find the termination of the whole seventy weeks. Going forward from the crucifixion three and a half years, we are brought to the autumn of A.D. 34, as the grand terminating point of the whole period of the seventy weeks. This date is marked by the martyrdom of Stephen, the formal rejection of the gospel of Christ by the Jewish Sanhedrin in the persecution of His disciples, and the turning of the apostles to the Gentiles. These are the events which one would expect to take place when that specified period cut off for the Jews and allotted to them as a peculiar people, should fully expire.

From the facts above, we see that, reckoning the seventy weeks from the decree given to Ezra in the seventh year of Artaxerxes, 457 B.C., there is perfect harmony throughout. The important and definite events of the manifestation of the Messiah at His baptism, the commencement of His public ministry, the crucifixion, and the rejection of the Jews and the preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles, with the proclamation of the new covenant – all come in their exact place, sealing the prophecy and making it sure.

This lesson was taken from the book "*Daniel and Revelation*" by Uriah Smith.

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 5. Prophecy Of The Messiah

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Lesson #5](#)

## QUIZ

- 1. What did Jesus show was the theme of Old Testament prophecies? Luke 24:25-27 (1)**
  - The second coming of Jesus
  - The first coming of the Messiah
  - God's law
  - Jesus
- 2. In what city did the Old Testament say Jesus was to be born? Micah 5:2 (1)**
  - Samaria
  - Jerusalem
  - Bethlehem
- 3. Was there also a specific time when Jesus was to appear? Gal. 4:4 (1)**
  - No
  - Yes
- 4. When was that time to be? Dan. 9:24, 25 (1)**
  - Seven weeks after the command to restore and build Jerusalem
  - Seventy weeks before the command to build and restore Jerusalem
  - Sixty-nine weeks before the command to restore and build Jerusalem
  - Sixty-nine weeks after the command to restore and build Jerusalem
- 5. Sixty-nine weeks is 483 days. In symbolic prophecy, what does a day represent? Eze. 4:6 (1)**
  - One thousand years
  - One day
  - One year
  - It's symbolic for a short period of time
- 6. Of all the commissions given to restore Jerusalem which one fulfills Daniel 9:25? (1)**
  - None of the above
  - The commission to Nehemiah from Artaxerxes
  - The decree Artaxerxes to Ezra
  - The decree of Cyrus for the rebuilding of the house of God
  - The decree of Darius for the prosecution of that work which has been hindered
- 7. The Hebrew word "Messiah" ("Christ" in Greek) means "anointed." When was Jesus anointed by the Holy Spirit to be our Messiah? Acts 10:37, 38 (1)**
  - At His birth, exactly according to the prophecy
  - At His resurrection in 27 A.D., exactly according to the prophecy
  - At His baptism in 27 A.D., exactly according to the prophecy
- 8. Did Jesus recognize the fulfillment of this prophetic time? Mark 1:15 (1)**
  - No, He did not recognize the fulfillment of prophetic time
  - Yes, the time that had just been fulfilled was the 70-week prophecy
  - Yes, the time that had just been fulfilled was the 69 weeks
- 9. Although the Jewish people wanted a conqueror, what would happen to the Messiah sometime after 27 A.D.? Dan. 9:26a (1)**
  - He would be made king

- He would be cut off
  - He would be vanquished by the Roman government
- 10. Jesus' baptism marked the end of the 69-weeks and the beginning of the 70th week of probationary time given to the Jewish nation. What would happen in the middle of this prophetic week? Dan. 9:27a (1)**
- Jesus would be born
  - Jesus would become our sacrifice on the cross
  - Jesus would be resurrected from the grave
- 11. Since after Jesus' death there were still 3 1/2 years of the final (70th) week for special ministry to the Jewish people, where did Jesus tell His disciples to begin their witness? Acts 1:8 (1)**
- With the Jewish people
  - With the church in Corinth
  - With the church in Acts
  - With the Gentiles
- 12. When did the gospel begin to go to the Gentiles? Acts 7:59; 8:1, 4 (1)**
- After the Pentecost
  - After the sending for of the 70 disciples
  - After the resurrection of Christ
  - After the stoning of Stephen
- 13. Was the Jewish nation still God's chosen people for a certain period of time after 34 A.D.? Rom. 2:28, 29 (1)**
- No
  - Of course
- 14. Jesus alone fulfills the prophecies of the Messiah. Through Him we can each become part of God's true people - spiritual Israel. Is it your desire to be a part of God's true Israel today? (1)**
- No
  - Yes

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 6. The True Israel Of God

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

**The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.**

The Bible abounds with promises that the people of Israel will be saved. They are called “the people of God” and “His holy nation.” Many times the promise is given that, even though they are scattered throughout the whole world, they would be gathered again, returned to their own land, and dwell there forever (Jeremiah 30:3).

Today, all over the world, there are millions of Jews who still believe that God's promises will be fulfilled through them. They claim to be both the "Israel of God" and the "Israel according to the flesh." And many Christian churches second this notion. They are under the delusion that the promises God made thousands of years ago can only be fulfilled by literal Israel today. As we go through this study we will see how our Father in heaven views it through His word.

### **The Jewish Nation Not True Israel**

**1. In the Hebrew culture, every name had a deeper meaning. What does the name 'Israel' mean?**

“Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.” Genesis 32:28.

**Answer:** Jacob had deceived his father to obtain the blessing that was due Esau. Upon discovering the deception of Jacob, Esau said, “Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing.” Genesis 27:36. The name Jacob meant “deceiver,” and he lived up to the name. The new name that he received from the angel, Israel, meant “overcomer.” The angel said that Jacob had “. . . power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.” Verse 28. Jacob had overcome his sins, he was now a new creature, able to serve God. Therefore, the name Israel was given to a man who overcame sin in his life.

**2. How many of Israel will to be saved?**

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.” Romans 11:26.

**Answer:** All Israel.

The promises of Scripture have led many to suppose that the time would come when the literal descendants of Abraham -the members of the Jewish race- would return to Palestine, regain their nationhood, accept Christ as their Saviour, and become God’s dispensers of light and truth to the nations.

Because of this interpretation the present Zionist movement, sponsored by Jews in many lands, which aims to restore the Jewish nation in Palestine, has been heralded by many religionist as a sign that these predictions are about to be fulfilled.

But neither the Zionist movement nor the establishment of the modern nation of "Israel" in Palestine has any connection with these Biblical prophecies concerning the restoration of Israel. Neither of these can have any part in establishing God's kingdom upon earth. They have not even been mentioned in Scripture. They have no standing whatsoever in God's scheme of things. Why? Because the literal Jewish race does not constitute Israel.

### **3. What does it mean that all Israel shall be saved?**

**Answer:** The immediate context of Romans 11:26 is verse 25. When "the fullness of the Gentiles be come in," then "all Israel will be saved." Or, to be exact, "And so all Israel will be saved." In other words, the coming in of the fullness or total number of the Gentiles results in "all Israel" being saved. Paul's idea seems to be that when *all* Gentiles (totally, throughout history) have come in, that is, have been grafted into the Vine, they, uniting with *all* Jews who have become believers, will form the total number of the saved.

### **4. Who are being identified as the true Israel of God?**

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." Galatians 6:15,16.

### **5. How does Apostle Paul identify the true "Israel of God" and the "Israel according to the flesh"?**

"For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises. . . Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed." Romans 9:3,4, 6-8.

**Answer:** An Israelite in God's sense of the term is one who accepts His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ and who follows God fully. A true Israelite may have been born of Jewish parents, or he may have had Gentile parents. It is not his natural or first birth that makes him an Israelite. It is the new or second birth. Israelites are twice-born men and women, who have accepted the grace of God, and who recognize Christ Jesus as their Redeemer from sin and death. To simplify it, Apostle Paul is saying that being a literal Jew is not a passport into the family of God. God's family consists of the children of promise. The true Israel of God are true Christians.

## **Where The Jews Failed**

### **6. In Jesus' day, the majority of the Jews claimed to be the children of Abraham and heirs to the promises of God based on lineage. But what was Jesus' response to their claims?**

John 8:39-47 "They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do

ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

**Answer:** Jesus told them: "Ye are of your father the devil."

### **7. Where does God write His law with reference to spiritual Israel?**

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." Jeremiah 31:31-33.

### **8. What was a symbol God used about the Jewish nation?**

"The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken." Jeremiah 11:16.

**Answer:** The Jewish nation - or literal Israel - is likened to a cultivated olive tree.

### **9. How can Gentiles become spiritual Israelites?**

"And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" Roman 11:17-26.

**Answer:** Jeremiah and Paul likened the Jewish nation to a cultivated olive tree and Paul likens the Gentiles to a wild olive tree. The branches that were broken off were the Jews who rejected Christ. They were a part of the nation of Israel, but because of unbelief no longer belonged to God. But Christ, the stock and root of the house of Israel remained. New branches could be grafted in to God's nation. Here the Gentiles were to have their chance. They could take the place of those who had fallen out. They were warned not to boast for they could fall from grace too, if they stopped trusting in Jesus. To remain a part of the cultivated olive tree they were to continue in faith. One's natural birth does not count. Paul concludes by saying, "And so all Israel will be saved." This is so true, for Israel is made up of those whose sins Christ has taken away.

## **His Spirit Visits The Gentiles**

### **10. The Gentiles are given a wonderful promise, what is it?**

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Ephesians 2:19, 20.

**Answer:** Gentiles cannot be saved unless they become Israelites through the new birth. Once without God and with no hope, through the blood of Christ they are brought into the household of God. They are then part of God's family. They have become one in Christ.

### **11. Who is a true Jew?**

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.” Romans 2:28, 29.

### **12. Through whom do we receive the promise of God?**

“And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:29.

**NOTE:** “Throughout his ministry Isaiah bore a plain testimony concerning God's purpose for the heathen. Other prophets had made mention of the divine plan, but their language was not always understood. To Isaiah it was given to make very plain to Judah the truth that among the Israel of God were to be numbered many who were not descendants of Abraham after the flesh. This teaching was not in harmony with the theology of his age, yet he fearlessly proclaimed the messages given him of God and brought hope to many a longing heart reaching out after the spiritual blessings promised to the seed of Abraham.” *Prophets and Kings*, page 367.

### **13. When will the promises to spiritual Israelites be fulfilled?**

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” Hebrews 11:13-16.

**Answer:** In Heaven.

**NOTE:** “God gave to Abraham a view of this immortal inheritance, and with this hope he was content. "By faith he sojourned in the Land of Promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:9, 10.

Of the posterity of Abraham it is written, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Verse 13. We must dwell as pilgrims and strangers here if we would gain "a better country, that is, an heavenly." Verse 16. Those who are children of Abraham will be seeking the city which he looked for, "whose builder and maker is God."” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 170.

## QUIZ

**1. Who are Israel according to the flesh? (1)**

- Those that have naturalized
- Both Jews and Gentiles that have accepted Christ
- Those that are of Jewish parents

**2. Through whom do we receive the promise of God? (1)**

- Through Christ Jesus
- Through Abraham's heritage
- Through Angel Gabriel

**3. Who are identified as being the true Israel of God in the book of Galatians? (1)**

- Those that are in Christ Jesus
- The Jewish people in Palestine
- The Gentiles who love the Jews

**4. Who are true Israelites according to the book of Romans? (1)**

- Israelites are twice-born men and women, who have accepted the grace of God, and who recognize Christ Jesus as their Redeemer from sin and death
- Those that are born of the flesh
- Those that are of Jewish parents

**5. What was a symbol of the Jewish nation used by God? (1)**

- A cultivated olive tree
- A grape vine
- A beast

**6. How can the truth about the Gentiles becoming spiritual Israelites be illustrated? (1)**

- Gentiles can become spiritual Israelites through naturalization process
- Gentiles can become spiritual Israelites through the new birth
- Gentiles can become spiritual Israelites by memorizing the Scriptures

**7. Who is a true Jew? (1)**

- A Jew is one that obeys God
- One that is born literally
- A Gentile that applies for citizenship

**8. Where is the law of God found in true spiritual Israelites? (1)**

- In their database
- In their library
- In their hand
- In their hearts
- On their forehead

**9. When will the promises to spiritual Israelites be fulfilled? (1)**

- When all the literal Jews are converted
- At the second coming of Christ
- At the coming of antichrist

**10. What virtuous act caused Jacob's name to be changed to Israel? (1)**

- Jacob apologized to his brother
- Jacob fulfilled his promise of tithe paying
- Jacob had overcome his sins

**11. How many of the true spiritual Israelites are to be saved? (1)**

- None
- All
- Some

**12. Do you want to become a true Israelite? (1)**

- No
- Yes

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 7. Speaking In Tongues

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.

No spiritual gift today enjoys more popularity, or harbors such inherent possibilities of deception, as speaking in tongues. So for those who have chosen to follow God, it is important to understand exactly what His word teaches about this gift in order to avoid being deceived.

When Jesus trained His disciples, He limited their training towards witnessing to the Jews living in Israel and Samaria. However, after Christ ascended into heaven, He commissioned His disciples to every nation. Jesus had told His disciples that they would speak with "new tongues" (Mark 16:17-18), and now it was time for the promise to be fulfilled.

### The Gift of Tongues

#### 1. At Pentecost, what group received "fire from heaven," and what did it cause them to do?

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4.

**Answer:** The gift of tongues.

#### 2. At Pentecost, did the apostles speak in languages or in unknown tongues?

“And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.” Acts 2:5-11.

**Answer:** They spoke in known languages of different countries. They were given the ability to speak the language of those to whom they were trying to witness to. The result of Christ's followers receiving the gift to speak in different languages was the conversion of “about three thousand souls” to Christ in just one day (Acts 2:41). So this gift of tongues was given for the proclamation of the gospel.

#### 3. Was the next occurrence of tongues like that at Pentecost?

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” Acts 10:44-47.

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?” Acts 11:15-17.

**Answer:** Here for the first time, the Gentiles have the gift of tongues, proving to the skeptical Jewish Christians that the gospel is for Gentiles too. These tongues were real languages, because Peter, in recounting the incident testifies, “the Holy Ghost fell on them, AS ON US AT THE BEGINNING” Verse 15; and also “God gave them the LIKE GIFT AS HE DID UNTO US” Verse 17. The gift of tongues at Pentecost was real foreign languages and now the Gentiles were given the same gift. So these Gentile converts spoke known discernable languages which were understood by their listeners just like with the disciples at the beginning.

By speaking in languages they had never learned, these Gentile believers showed their Jewish Christian audience that the Spirit of God was also including them in “the family of God” as His “chosen people” (see Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 10:12). It also showed that the gospel was to be preached “to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6), and not just to the Jews alone. And to more effectively accomplish this, God gave His people the ability to speak in different languages.

#### **4. What tongues were spoken for the third time in the book of Acts?**

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.” Acts 19:1-7.

**Answer:** In Acts 19:1-7, the same word for “tongues” is used as in Acts 2 and Acts 10. The Greek word for “tongues” used in verse 6 is “glossa” which translates “a language”. So these 12 men spoke in other languages not before learned by them, but were understood by the people who heard them.

Having looked at every occurrence of the true gift of tongues in the Bible, the only conclusion to which we can come to is that tongue-speaking is the miraculous gift of being able to speak another known language to people with whom we would otherwise be unable to communicate.

The manifestation of the Spirit in all three instances was not vain babbling or gibberish that could be confused for a drunken man's speech; it was not a language that no one could understand, or that had to be deciphered by the hearers; but it was the perfectly understood use of foreign languages spoken under the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the true gift.

#### **5. Was the tongues practiced among believers in 1 Corinthians in accordance with God?**

**Answer:** No, among the issues that Paul was forced to deal with these believers in Corinth was a big problem with the gift of tongues. The church services were being disrupted by people making sounds that neither they, nor anyone present, could understand or interpret. These tongues being spoken were not of a known language, and thus could not have been a true gift from God. So we can be sure that a counterfeit kind of tongues-speaking was taking place in this church, or there would have been no problem.

## Purpose Of The Gift of Tongues

### 6. What problem does Paul point out to the Corinthians?

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”

**Answer:** The genuine gift of tongues had been bestowed upon them but was being used for personal praise, rather than to bring foreigners to Christ - the main purpose of the gift. This real purpose for speaking in tongues was being lost sight of. When the word “tongue” is used, it refers to a foreign language. However, it is true that the tongue was unknown to those present, but not to those who, could understand the language being spoken. It is therefore true that God understood the speaker, (God understands all languages), but those present could not.

### 7. Who only benefits when an unknown tongue is used?

“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:3, 4.

**Answer:** The speaker was the only one who understood, so was the only one edified or helped.

### 8. What does Paul state the purpose of tongues should be?

“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.” 1 Corinthians 14:5.

**Answer:** The gift of languages to communicate with various nationalities. And only that which is understood by the listeners will edify the church.

### 9. In what sense is speaking in tongues useful?

“Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? . . . So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.” 1 Corinthians 14:6, 9.

**Answer:** Paul is saying that if they don't understand what he says he has not helped them, and if they do the same, they “speak into the air” and nobody is benefited. Both the speaker and the hearer must know the meaning of what is said.

### 10. In what should those with spiritual gifts excel?

“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.” 1 Corinthians 14:12, 13.

**Answer:** Some modern tongue exponents tell of the self-benefit that non-intelligible ecstatic utterance provides. They speak of an experience like an electrical current flooding the body with over-powering emotion. Here Paul is not advocating self edification but the building up of the church. The true Christian life is one of service - not self-seeking.

### 11. Although Paul was a linguist, what did he say he would rather do?

“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.” 1 Corinthians 14:18, 19.

**Answer:** Paul could speak several languages, but he never used them where they were not needed. He would rather speak five words with his hearers understanding him than 10,000 in a foreign tongue. There is no room here for putting the mind in neutral and letting the tongue idle on.

## **12. Why is the gift of tongues given to believers?**

“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.” 1 Corinthians 14:22.

**Answer:** Tongues were never meant for believers’ use, but for taking the gospel to foreigners that are unbelievers. Paul makes it clear, that where one’s native tongue is understood, the use of foreign languages is unnecessary and to be discouraged.

## **The Gift Of The Spirit**

### **13. Who controls the distribution of the gifts of the Spirit?**

“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” 1 Corinthians 12:11.

### **14. Should everyone speak together, with noone understanding?**

“How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:26-33.

**Answer:** No, Paul appeals for an orderly worship service. Only one person should speak at a time, and there should be an interpreter or they should keep quiet.

### **15. Was it God’s design that all should possess the same gifts?**

“Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?” 1 Corinthians 12:29, 30.

### **16. Is speaking in tongue the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.” 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.

**Answer:** No, each person receives different gifts (1 Corinthians 12:28-30). Romans 12:6-8 and Ephesians 4:11 give lists of the gifts of the Spirit. Only the 1 Corinthians 12 list mentions tongues at all. On the other hand, everyone needs the Holy Spirit in their life.

### **17. How do we receive the Holy Spirit?**

“ . . . that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Galatians 3:14.

“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.” Acts 5:32.

**Answer:** Through faith through obedience.

### **18. For what purpose is the Holy Spirit given?**

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” John 16:13, 14.

**Answer:** To teach us the truth.

### **19. How do we know whether a person has the Holy Spirit?**

“Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?” Matthew 7:16.

### **20. What is the fruit of the Spirit?**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22,23.

**Answer:** The evidence of the Holy Spirit in the life is not whether a person speaks in tongues, but whether his life has the fruits of the Spirit. Speaking in tongues in ecstatic utterance is not according to Scripture. It is a perversion of the genuine gift given by God at Pentecost. There are many deceptions in the world today - this is one of them. Many genuine Christians are caught up in the snare of the Charismatic movements.

### **21. 1 John 4:1 says, "Test the spirits, whether they are of God." How can we test tongues?**

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20.

**Answer:** A spirit must uphold God's law, including the Sabbath, or it is a counterfeit. See Matthew 7:15, 20-23.

### **22. What kind of ecumenical spirits are going to unite the world?**

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:13, 14.

**Answer:** These spirits come out of the "mouth" and are likened to "frogs." Frogs catch their prey with their *tongues*! See Revelation 18:1-5.

# Have you determined to test each gift by the word of God and the fruit of the Spirit?

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 7. Speaking In Tongues

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Lesson #7](#)

## QUIZ

**1. What are the two types of tongues under question today? (1)**

- Truth tongues or lying tongues
- Tongues of fire or tongues of the Spirit
- The counterfeit and genuine

**2. Can one distinguish the difference between true and false tongues? (1)**

- Yes
- No

**3. If the difference can be known how can it be known? (1)**

- Yes, genuine speaking in tongues will not stop to think what they have to say, it comes out naturally from the spirit.
- Yes, the genuine gift can be understood by those present, while the false gift is not.
- No, the difference cannot be known except by those who possess the gift of speaking in tongues.
- No, the difference cannot be known except by those filled with the spirit.

**4. How does Paul sum up the tongues situation? (2) ( 2 answers )**

- The Bible gift of tongues has its place in saving souls, but in God's church everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.
- Speaking in tongues to prove baptism of the holy Spirit.
- Only one person should speak at a time, and there should be an interpreter or they should keep quiet.
- One must be eager to excel in tongues speaking as it will build one's faith.
- One must be eager to excel in tongues speaking as it will build one's faith.

**5. What was Paul's aim in writing 1 Corinthians 14? (1)**

- To encourage all members to speak in tongues.
- To explain the benefits of speaking in tongues.
- To emphasize that the gift must be understood by those listening.

**6. In reasoning with the church at Corinth what did Paul say concerning the speaking of a language not understood by the listeners? (1)**

- Except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?
- It is the holy Spirit that is speaking; for this reason it is only important that God understandeth what ye saith.

**7. Speaking in tongues is said to be the baptism of the Holy Spirit. How does the Bible describe the way we receive the Holy Spirit? (1)**

- By fasting
- By being good
- By faith

**8. To whom are tongues a sign? (1)**

- To the youth
- To the unbelievers

- To the believers

**9. Which of the following statements explains the importance of being understood? (1)**

- Paul would rather speak five words with his hearers understanding him than 10,000 in a foreign tongue.
- Paul cautions that it is not necessary to be understood as God understands.
- Paul warns that speaking in tongues is important so that the devil cannot understand.

**10. What is the purpose of the gift of tongues at Pentecost? (1)**

- To communicate with heaven
- To edify each other
- For taking the gospel to foreigners

**11. Have you determined to put your trust in God's Word? (1)**

- Yes
- No

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 8. The Great Commission

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Quiz \(offline/online\)](#)

**The King James Version (KJV) is mostly used in these lessons. [Click here](#) to access the KJV online.**

The last words of Christ [to His disciples] were, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15). And spreading His hands above them in benediction, He ascended to heaven, surrounded by hosts of heavenly angels who had come to escort Him on His way to the portals of God. His last commission to His disciples made them the agents whereby His gospel of glad tidings was to go to the nations. This was Christ's last will and testament to His followers who walked with Him during the years of His earthly ministry, and to those who should believe on Him through their word." *Ye Shall Receive Power*, page 315.

The following excerpt is based on "Testimonies for the Church, Volume Eight," pages 14-18:

The commission that Christ gave to His disciples just before His ascension is the great missionary charter of His kingdom. In giving it to the disciples, the Saviour made them His ambassadors and gave them their credentials. If, afterward, they should be challenged and asked by what authority they, unlearned fishermen, went forth as teachers and healers, they could reply: "He whom the Jews crucified, but who rose from the dead, appointed us to the ministry of His word, declaring, 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.'"

The disciples were not to wait for the people to come to them. They were to go to the people, hunting for sinners as a shepherd hunts for lost sheep. Christ opened the world before them as their field of labor... It was of the Saviour that they were to preach, of His life of unselfish service, His death of shame, His unparalleled, unchanging love. His name was to be their watchword, their band of union. In His name they were to subdue the strongholds of sin. Faith in His name was to mark them as Christians.

The commission given to the disciples is given also to us. Today, as then, a crucified and risen Saviour is to be uplifted before those who are without God and without hope in the world.

Not with tame, lifeless utterance is the message to be given, but with clear, decided, stirring utterances. Hundreds are waiting for the warning to escape for their lives. The world needs to see in Christians an evidence of the power of Christianity. Not merely in a few places, but throughout the world, messengers of mercy are needed.

The words "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) are spoken to each one of Christ's followers. All who are ordained unto the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. The same longing of soul that He felt for the saving of the lost is to be manifest in them. Not all can fill the same place, but for all there is a place and a work. All upon whom God's blessings have been bestowed are to respond by actual service; every gift is to be employed for the advancement of His kingdom.

To us also the promise of Christ's abiding presence is given. The lapse of time has wrought no change in His parting promise. He is with us today as truly as He was with the disciplines, and He will be with us "even unto the end."

May the Lord help His people to realize that there is earnest work to be done. May He help them to remember that in the home, in the church, and in the world they are to work the works of Christ. They are not left to labor alone. The angels are their helpers. And Christ is their helper. Then let them labor faithfully and untiringly. In due season they will reap if they faint not.

## Bible Study Lessons (part #7)

### 8. The Great Commission

[Go to Part #7 Lessons Index](#)

[Go To Lesson #8](#)

## QUIZ

- 1. After Jesus completed His mission on earth, what plan did He give for His work to continue? John 17:18 (1)**
  - That modern-day prophets would be sent from heaven to further the work that Jesus began
  - As the Father sent Jesus to the world, Jesus sends us to the world continue His work
- 2. How did Jesus come to save sinners? John 17:3, 4 (1)**
  - By dying on the cross to save them from their sins
  - By allowing sinner to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ who the Father sent
- 3. Jesus' first work was to reveal His Father's character. This is to be our first work. What are the character traits that we are to develop? Gal 5:22, 23 (1)**
  - Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance
  - Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies
- 4. What will God do to those who do not bear this fruit? John 15:1, 2 (1)**
  - He will show them mercy
  - He will cut them off
  - He will forgive them
- 5. What will God do to those who do bear this fruit? John 15:1, 2 (1)**
  - He will not allow them to suffer trying experiences
  - He will prune them so that they bring forth more fruit
- 6. What connection must be maintained if one is to bear fruit to God's glory? John 15:4-8**
  - We must be continually connected to Jesus as a vine is to the branch
  - We must be connected to Jesus most of the time
- 7. We can abide in Christ and grow in grace through daily... (5) ( 5 answers )**
  - Striving to be good through our own efforts
  - Study of the Bible
  - Going to church
  - Prayer
  - Keeping Christ in our thoughts
  - Praising God even in the midst of trials
  - Faithfully contributing tithe and offering
  - Witnessing
- 8. What will Jesus do for us if we share our faith? Matt. 10:32, 33 (1)**
  - He will confess us before His Father in heaven
  - He will give us the gift of tongues
- 9. Is it possible to have a "neutral" influence for Jesus? Matt. 12:30 (1)**
  - Yes, if you do not do good or bad
  - No, you are either with or against Christ

**10. Who did Jesus promise to send to give power to what we share? Acts 1:8**

- Angels
- The holy Spirit
- Supporters
- Our pastor

**11. After Christ's ascension, what condition among the disciples made it possible for God to give them the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:1 (1)**

- They were praying and fasting for the holy Spirit continually
- They were all in agreement and harmony with each other

**12. What results were produced by the Holy Spirit's influence? Acts 2:37-41 (1)**

- The listeners desired to stone the disciples and conspired a way to do so
- The listeners were convicted and they repented, gladly received the word and were baptized

**13. What are some of the gifts that the Spirit gives after conversion? 1 Cor. 12:4-12 (9) ( 9 answers )**

- Food
- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Clothes
- Marriage
- Faith
- Healing
- Prosperity
- Working of miracles
- Prophecy
- Money
- Discerning of spirits
- Political positions
- Different languages
- Translations

**14. Do you have abilities that the Holy Spirit could use to win souls?**

- Yes
- No

**15. We are saved for service, and only through service can we maintain a living, growing relationship with Christ. Will you make it a life-long goal to work and witness for Christ, starting today? (1)**

- Yes
- No