



Redeemed Christian Church Of God Discipleship Booklet

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD MOTTO:
"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." HEB 13:8

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As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2: 2



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The Redeemed Christian Church of God

Our Fundamental Beliefs

**Our Motto: Heb 13:8. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.
Rev 1:17/22:13**

1. We believe in the entirety of the Bible.
2. We believe there is a God, the Creator of all things. Ps 33: 6-9, Gen 1:1, John 1:1.
3. We believe that there is only one God and Jesus Christ is his son. Psalm 33:6-9.
4. We believe everyone must be born again to make it to heaven. John 3:3
5. We believe in living a Holy life after your repentance. Heb. 12:14
6. We believe in water baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit
Matt. 28:19
7. We believe in Restitution as a sign of true repentance. Acts 24:16 , Luke 19:1-10.
8. We believe in due reverence to parents and authority. Eph. 6:1-3, Rm. 13:1,
Heb 13:17, Ex 20:12.
9. We believe Marriage should be between a man and a woman. Lev. 18:22.
10. We believe in the payment of Tithe as 10% of your income. Mal. 3: 8-12,
Gen 14: 18-20, Lev 27:30.
11. We believe in re-marriage based on the Bible alone. Matt. 5:31-32, 19:9;
Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3; Mal. 2:13-16; Gen. 2:18: Matt. 19:4-6.
12. We believe in children's dedication. Luke 2:21
13. We believe in the resurrection and the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
Matt. 24: 40-44, John 20:1, Luke 24 1:7, Mark 16: 5-7, Matt 28: 5-7,

As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2: 2



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STUDY 1

Understanding the New Birth

Memory Verse: II Corinthians 5: 17, Acts 4:12

Introduction:

To become a member of a family, you are either born or adopted into it. The new birth is the way you are both born and adopted into the family of God. It is a spiritual experience that transforms you from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God. It is both a spiritual and moral change. Christ lives in you by the Holy Spirit. It is so vital an experience that no one can enter into God's Kingdom without it.

John 1:12-13; Gal. 4-5, John 3:3.

1. Understanding the fall of man through Adam

Adam was the head of the human race. Just as the head of a country can cause his country to fall or succeed through his leadership, Adam changed the course of human race by falling into sin. Rom. 5:12 Satan deceived Adam **Gen: 2:15-20, Gen 3:1-8.**

2. Understanding the Consequences of the fall!

- a. Loss of communion and fellowship with God Isaiah 59:2, Eph.2:12
- b. Spiritual Death: Rom.6:23a; Physical Death: Ez 18:20 Eternal Death: Rev. 20:15
- c. Received the nature of sin and debt to sin. Rom 4:23, 5:12, Heb 9:27.
- d. Transferred our fatherhood to the devil JOHN 8:44
- e. Slavery to Satan. Col.1:13, II Tim.2:26, John 8:34.
- f. Loss of God given authority to the devil Eph. 6:12
- g. Loss of Dominion over all of God's hand work Gen: 1:28 Gen 2:19-20
- h. Loss of freedom from disease, sorrow, hardship and sufferings Gen. 3:16-19

3. What the New Birth is not:

- a. Being religious or churchy - Acts 10: 1-9
- b. Keeping the law - Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16-21; Acts 13:39
- c. Being Self-righteous - Is. 64:6; Phil. 3:8-9
- d. Education and culture - I Cor. 1:18-27
- e. Water Baptism - Acts 8:36-39
- f. Good works and good morals - Is. 64:6; Acts 10: 1-2, 22

These things are good and important but they will not substitute for the new birth (Matt. 23: 23)



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4. What is the New Birth?

1. It is a spiritual birth Jn. 3:1-7. Our spirit, not flesh, becomes born again.
2. It is the quickening of our spirit that was dead to sin by the word of God Jn 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:23.
3. It is the process of being translated from darkness into light. Col. 1:12-13; Eph. 2:8-10
4. It is the process of being transformed the Adamic nature i.e. the sinful nature, to the nature of Christ (Holiness) Rom 5:12-15, 2 Cor 3:18, Rom 8:29.

5. Why is the New Birth So Important?

The human nature in any human being will stand against him or her at the gate of heaven if not substituted or exchanged for a Godly nature - Heb 12:14

1. The natural Man is spiritually dead and cannot obey, understand or please God. Rom. 8:6-8; Jer. 17:9; Eph. 2:3
2. The new birth gives eternal life. John 3:16.
3. He must be re-born if he is to "see" or "enter" the kingdom of God. John 3: 3
4. *The natural man is on a sloppy course to destruction Prov. 14:12. Rom 3:23*
5. The new birth guarantee that our name is written in God's book of life Rev.20:15 Rev 3:5
6. Without the new birth the natural man is the child of the devil. Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 3:10
7. The natural man is corrupt in his affections and perverse in his will. Gal. 5:19-21; Mk 7:21-23
8. The new birth affects our taste, habit, opinion, desire, vocabulary appearance and hope etc. 2 Cor. 5:1 7
9. Through the new birth, we are raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness Rom 6:23

6. How Can I be Born again?

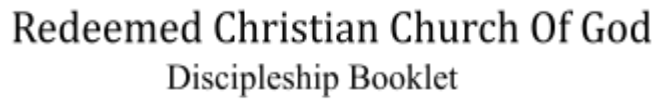
1. Acknowledge that you are a sinner - Rom. 3:23; Luke 18:13; Ps. 51:1-5.
2. Sincerely repent of your sins - Acts 3:19; Luke 13:3.
3. Confess your sins to God - 1 John: 1:19, Rom 10:9-10.
4. Turn away from your sins and old ways – Is. 55:7; Prov. 28:13 Acts 3:19
5. Believe Him and His substitutionary sacrifice - John 3:16; II Cor. 5:21
6. Receive Him into your heart by faith and thereafter thank God for saving you -John 1:11-12; Eph. 2:8

7. What are the Evidences of the New Birth?

The following characteristics will be manifested in the believer who is born again:

Discuss noticeable evidences of the new birth in your life since you openly confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior

1. A changed life - II Cor 5:17 Col. 3: 1-3
2. A Righteous and Holy life - **I John 2:29**, 3:7, 5:18 **1Peter 1: 14-16**
3. Victorious Living - I John 5:4 John 16:33, Rom. 8:37
4. Power to live the Christian life John 1:12

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STUDY 2:

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

Memory Verse: Proverbs 28:13: Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. & HEB. 6:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

This is the first fundamental doctrine of Christ in the scripture. Nobody can lay claim to being born again without the step of genuine repentance. John the baptist urged the people to repent.

1. What does Repentance mean?

It is a firm conscious personal decision to change from sin (obedience to the devil) to righteousness in obedience towards God, living holy, it is not just remorse. Heb. 6:1-2 Acts 3:19; 1Thes. 1:9, 2 Chr. 7:14

2. Repentance must involve the steps of:

1. Conviction Acts 2:37
2. Acknowledge the fact that you have sinned. Rom 3:23
3. Confess your sins. 1 John 1:9
4. Ask God for forgiveness and His mercy. Isa. 55:7 ,
5. Ask for Divine ability to forsake your sins. Prov. 28:13; Phil 2:13

3. How important is the subject to us as believers?

Genuine repentance is followed by desirable fruits of love, peace, patience, faith etc. Luke 3: 8-9, Gal. 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Jesus our Lord and master commanded us to repent and be saved. Mark 6: 12,
Luke 24: 46-47, Matt 4:17
Peter commended it Acts 2:37-38
Paul commended it Acts 17:30-31
John urged it in Matt 3:2

Nobody can say he is born again without genuine repentance. Dead works = Acts borne of self-righteousness. Heb 11:6, Is. 64:6.



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4. What are the dead works from which we have to repent? Dead works are Heb 6:1, Eph 2:9.

1. Sin Eph 4:25-31
2. The works of the flesh Gal.5:19-21, Rom 12:9-18
3. Idols I Thes 1:9, Rom 1:21-23
4. Empty religion and all unrighteousness II Tim 3:1-9, I Cor. 6:9-11

5. Elements of genuine repentance

1. **Conviction** - before any sinner can repent, he must be convicted that he has an urgent need to make his way right With God. Ps 38: 4; 51: 3; Acts 2: 37-38
2. **Godly sorrow**: This comes as a consequence of conviction by the Holy Spirit leading to repentance. II Cor 7:10
3. **Renunciation**: True repentance involves grief and hatred for sin turning from it to God. Is 55:7, 2 Chron 7:14

6. Distinguish between genuine repentance and remorse

GENUINE REPENTANCE

Leads to salvation Comes from the Spirit
Godly sorrow for sin
Heartfelt confession and desire to forsake sin
Physical manifestation of holy life, thoughts
and work

REMORSE

Leads to death Comes from emotion
Regret for being caught
Shallow and transient concern about sin Turbulent
life of sorrow and failure

7. What are the results of genuine repentance; Ps 51: 1

1. Cleansing with the blood of Jesus by faith. I John 1: 7-9
2. Assurance of forgiveness. Rom 5: 1
3. No more condemnation thus ability to have fruitful fellowship with God in prayer. Rm 8:1
4. Justification as if sins never occurred. A new creation. II Cor 5: 17
5. Peace with God and man. Is 30:15, Ps 85:8
6. Burden of sin is lifted resulting in a time of refreshing. Acts 3: 19
7. Joy of salvation. Ps 51: 12-14

CONCLUSION

Remember, God is not mocked Psalm 86:5. The wages of sin is death but, God is ready to forgive if there is a genuine repentance.

NOTE



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STUDY 3:

DISCOVERING YOUR NEW SELF

Memory Verse 1 PETER 2:9

INTRODUCTION:

Before Saul had his first encounter with God on the way to Damascus, he was an avowed enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ. But after the experience on the way to Damascus, he became a different person. He was commissioned and he started preaching the same Gospel he had persecuted. Acts 9: 1-22. Saul (later Paul) was a servant or slave of the Law, culture and traditions but was turned to a servant of God in righteousness. Now that you have, by the Grace of God become a child of God, you must now learn to live and operate successfully in your new position. This is necessary because the kind of life you were living before is a sharp contrast to your new life.

1. **Knowing who you are**

1. You were a servant of sin, a child of the devil that now has been delivered from sin and its passions. Rom 6: 16-18; Rom 7: 5-6; Jn. 8: 23-24, 44; I Jn. 3:8.
2. You were taken captive, afflicted and dehumanized at will by the devil, but now have been delivered totally from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. II Tim 2: 26; Luke 13: 10-16; Col 1: 12-14
3. You were once no people, alien to the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise. Now you have been made Son, in fact, joint heir with the Lord Jesus and thereby made entitled to all divine blessings. Rom 9: 25-26; Eph 2:11-13; Rom 8:17; Eph 1:3; II Peter 1:4; Eph 2:19; I Peter 2: 9-10, Hosea 2:23
4. Satan had rule and authority over you since you lost your first position due to sin. However, the new you are now restored back to that former position and you now bear rule, power, dominion and authority over Satan and his cohorts. II Tim 2:25-26; Col 1:20-22; Luke 10:16-19; James 4:7; Luke 9:1;

2. **How does God see you now?**

1. A new person entirely, whose sins have both been washed away and forgotten. II Cor. 5: 17; Gal. 6: 15; Heb 8: 12; Rev 1:5; I John 1: 7; Is 43: 25; Is 44: 22. Sins mentioned here include every manner of sin committed in the past.
2. As being holy and peculiar to Him: He has consequently kept you as the apple of His eye. I Peter 2: 9; Titus 2:14; Ex 19: 5-6; Deut 32:10; Zech 2: 8; Is 54:15-17



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3. The Immediate Things God Expects From You

1. Put off the old man and put on the new man: Eph 4:20-32; Col 3: 5-10, Matt. 9:15-17. 2 Cor. 5:17

What are the things to put off? Discuss

2. Break all diplomatic relations with the devil and his kingdom. II Cor 6: 14-18; Eph 5: 11-12; Gal 4: 4-9; Ps 1, Deut 7: 4-6; I Cor 15: 33, Heb. 10:25.

What kinds of relationships are we to break? Gal 4:4-9 PS.1:1, Deut. 7:3-6, 1 Cor. 15:33

3. Purify yourself, your thoughts and all you have on a daily basis, in order to retain God there. I Cor 3: 16-17; Rom 12: 1-2; (**Discuss**) I Pet 2: 11; James 4: 7-8; John 17: 17.

How can these be achieved? Ps 119: 11, 15, 105 Thy word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against thee.

4. Have regular fellowship and unbroken personal relationship with God. (**Discuss**) I Jn 1:1 -3; James 4:8, thou wilt keep in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee (Jesus Christ gave us a good example) Luke 6: 12, Isaiah 26:3

5. Fellowship with other brethren at all times Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42-47; Ps 133:1-3. Why is this fellowship very important? Ecc. 4:9-10; Matt 18:18-20; Deut 32:30.

6. Do all things in FAITH in order to please God. Gal 3:11; Rom 1:17; Heb 11:6; Mk 11:23-24; **Discuss** -what is Faith? Heb 11:1

How can we receive the victorious kind of faith? Rom 10: 17 Examples of victorious Faith: Rom. 4: 19-22; Heb 11: 17-19, Luke 17:5-6.

4. The Immediate Things You Should Expect From the World

1. The world will hate you. **Discuss why?** John 15:18-19; John 17:14; Mat 5:44-48
2. The world will persecute you, **distinguish between persecution and accusation.** John 15: 20-21; John 16: 33; II Tim 3:12, 1 Peter 2:20
3. The world will want to lure you into backsliding. James 4: 7; Proverbs 1: 10-15

NOTE



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STUDY 4:

TEACHING ON BAPTISM: **T**HREE BAPTISMS FOR TRUE BELIEVERS

Memory Verse: ROMANS 6:4: "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

INTRODUCTION:

This very important study will look into three types of baptisms every believer must undergo. These are: **The Baptism into Christ and His body**
The Baptism in Water or Water baptism **The Holy Spirit Baptism**

1. **B**aptism Into Christ and His Body What does it mean to be baptized into Christ?

Discuss:

Being Baptized into Christ church by one spirit, I Cor. 12:13 By putting on Christ Gal. 3:27, By having one faith in Christ Eph. 4:5; "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism"
By being partakers of his body I Cor. 10:17.

2. **W**hy water Baptism?

Our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized. Mt. 3:13-17

The first set of converts after the Pentecost was baptized. Acts 2:41, Acts 8:12, 38

As people gave their life to Christ they were immediately baptized. Acts 16:33; Acts 18:8 All of the above gave us the scriptural evidence of water baptism

Why water baptism must be by immersion:

The word baptism in Greek is "Baptizo" which means to submerge or immerse. It expressed the reality of burial with Christ (Rom. 6:4).

Bible references indicate it being carried out by and in the river. (Mt. 3:6, 13)

The importance and or significance of water baptism:

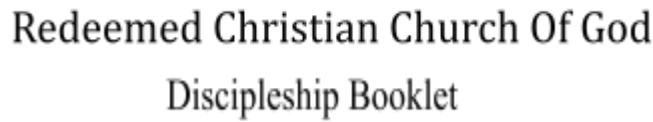
It is an outward symbol of an inward reality - genuine conversion.

It is a symbol of identification with the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 6:3-6) It is an open declaration of separation from the world.

It is to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ in fulfilling all righteousness. Mat. 3: 3-15; I Pet. 2: 21;

In whose name should water baptism be carried out?

We are to be baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Minister of God (The Pastor) is the agent of this type of Baptism. Matt. 28:19



The scripture demands repentance toward God and faith towards Christ (Acts 20:21) as basic conditions for Water Baptism and no child can do this until he or she is matured enough to understand sin and what to do to be saved.

Water baptism is a command; it is not optional, so long as a believer remains alive after conversion. Mark 16:16

The regenerating work of the Holy Spirit is different from His work of baptism. In regeneration, there is impartation of the divine life or nature of God, but in baptism with the Holy Spirit there is impartation of divine Power for effective Christian service. Lk.24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:1-4

At regeneration, we have the Holy Spirit as "resident" in the believer but at the Holy Spirit baptism, we have Him as the "President".

Who is the agent of baptism in this case? Luke 3:16. Deut. 18:22 The Lord Jesus Christ is the agent of Holy spirit baptism.

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STUDY 5:

Q U I E T T I M E , B I B L I C A L F A S T I N G A N D P R A Y E R S

Memory Verse: I Peter 2:2: Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,
Mark 9 29: Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer.

Quiet time is the time set aside to meet with God. It is the time set aside to communicate with the Father through the living Word with the assistance of the Holy Spirit. It is also a time to bring, our request to God in prayer. Through Quiet Time we cultivate a relationship with God. In this study, we shall also discuss how to have effective quiet time on a daily basis with God. **Math 6:34 Says sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

1. Why the need for quiet time (John 16:13-15)

1. We need God's power to cope with daily activities. I Kings 19:7; **John 15:4-5**; Is 40:31
2. We pattern our lives after our Lord Jesus Christ's life by following His steps. **Mt. 14:23**;
Mk 1:35; 6:46; I Pet. 2:21
3. To cultivate personal habit of worshipping; the Lord helps our personal devotion.
I Pet. 2:2; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1: 1-3; Ps. 95:6
4. To create personal adjustment to the teachings of the Bible; i.e. living by the Word,
reacting positively or negatively to the Bible. Jn. 1:21-25; Mt. 4:4; I Pet. 2:2;
James 1:21-25
5. For God's power to live an overcoming life, helps Create right reaction to trials and
temptations: Substance already imparted in us helps create right reactions to
situations and circumstances. **I Pet. 1:3-7**; Heb. 12:10-11; James 1:22-24.

2. Time and place of quiet time

1. Frequency: At least once a day. Dan. 6:10.
2. Period of the day should be an acceptable time, preferably early in the morning. Mk.
1:35; Luke 5:15-16 Prov. 8:17; Ps. 5:3; Gen. 19:27

3. Benefits of doing quiet time in the morning

1. Waking thoughts are focused on God. Ps. 5:3
2. Strength is received to meet the challenges of the day. Eph 6:10-12
3. Place: The place chosen for quiet time should be secluded from noise and
distractions.
4. Duration: To be determined by the Believer such that it does not encroach on other
activities for the day.

4. What you require

1. The Holy Bible (it is advisable to have more than one version and a good reference of
the
2. Bible at your side).
3. Hymn book/chorus book and dictionary
4. Notebook and pen
5. List of prayer points
6. Aid, Daily Power, Everyday with Jesus etc.



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5. How to observe quiet time

1. Begin with some praise and worship songs. Eph. 5:19 Ps 100:2, a short prayer.
Ps. 119:18;
2. Read slowly and meditatively through a predetermined portion of the Bible
(Ps. 119:18, 105)
3. Providing answers to the following questions where applicable:
 - a. What is the main subject of the passage or book?
 - b. Who are the persons revealed in the passage?
 - c. Who is speaking? About whom is he speaking?
 - d. What is the key verse(s) of the passage?
 - e. Is there any sin for me to confess and forsake? Prov. 28:13
 - f. Is there any commandment for me to obey?
 - g. Is there any promise for me to claim?

6. Methods of Bible study during quiet time

1. By chapters
2. By paragraphs
3. By verses
4. By books
5. By topics
6. Through biography
7. Study outlines, e.g. Daily Bread or Everyday with Jesus or Open Heavens

7. Benefits of quiet time

1. It provides an opportunity for the soul to linger in the presence of God.
2. It creates an atmosphere of God's presence
3. It brings about the working knowledge of the Bible. Ps. 119:105
4. It produces the desire to know God and to do His will. Psalm 119:11

8. How Does God speak to us?

1. By His Word Ps. 119:105; Heb. 1:1-2
2. By Dream Joel 2:28; Job 33:14-16; Gen. 31:11; 37:5-7.; Mat, 1:20-21
3. By Vision Acts 10:3, 9-11; Joel 2:28; Is. 6:1-4
4. The Still Small Voice I Kings 19:12.
5. Inward Witness Prov. 20:27; I Cor. 2: 11.
6. Audible Voice Acts 10:13; Acts 9:3-5; I Sam. 3:4;
7. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, e.g. prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, etc. I Cor. 14:3-4; II Pet. 1:19-21; Deut.18:21-22, John 16:13-15.

9. Obstacles to effective quiet time

Discuss possible obstacles to a fruitful quiet time:

Haste, disturbance, bad planning, Laziness, over-eating, monotony due to using one method of study, Telephone etc. **Neh. 6:1-4**, the enemy is revealed, you know people and what to avoid, generational curses, your oppressor are displaced, and the old king is displaced.



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Study 6

Payer

Prayer can be defined as divine communication with God. It is a dialogue and waiting to hear from God. 1 Sam 1:15, Isa. 26:16.

It is also the pouring out of the heart before God Psalm 62:8

Discuss the model prayer Mathew 6:9-13

1. **Types of Prayers:**

1. Adoration: i.e. praise and worship of God for who he is (God is good, merciful, kind, powerful, faithful, just, righteous etc. Psalm 96:6,
2. Confession: repentance from every known sin. Psalm 32:5, 1 John 1:8-9
3. Thanksgiving: i.e. be thankful for anything and everything that God has done, is doing and will do for you. Phil. 4:6, Psalm 100:4
4. Supplication: i.e. intercession, requests, petitions and all our desires can now be addressed to God, in the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. 1 Tim. 2:1,

2. **Where can I pray?**

We can pray anywhere, in the closet, in the church, in the secret, in the open, alone and or with other people or family members. 1 Tim. 2:8, MT.6:6, Lk.18:10

3. **When can I pray?**

We can pray in the Morning, at noon, in the evening, during the day and or night, daily and or always. It is not only when you are on your knees with your eyes closed that you can pray. You can pray as you drive to work, while at work, while resting; singing praises to God is a form of prayer. Pray without ceasing 1 Thess. 5:17.

4. **For what am I to pray?**

Many people cannot pray long because their prayer is selfish, that is they pray only for themselves

1. Pray for the sick James 5:13-16
2. Pray for your country, and the government
3. Pray for all men: the president, governors, legislators, pastors, church , workers, the pregnant in the church, ministries etc 1 Tim.2:1-4
4. Pray for every Christian to be made perfect. Col. 1:28
5. Pray for your enemies. Mt.5:38-48
6. Pray for wisdom and understanding. 1 Kings 3:5-9 James 1:5
7. Pray for personal safety and that of others, the will of God, forgiveness, guidance, victory over temptation, Matt. 6:9-13
8. Pray for a long, healthy life. Isa. 38:1-5,
9. Pray for the second coming of Christ. Matt. 6:9-13.

You can see that it is not difficult to pray without ceasing

5. **How can I pray effectively?**

1. Pray in faith Heb. 11:6 Mark 11:22-24,
2. Pray with boldness. Heb.4:16;3:26 43:26,



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3. Pray with Humility. Luke 18:10-12; Isa. 57:15; 2 I Chro. 7:14, James 4:6
4. Pray with a renewed mind. Jer.3:15; 1 Sam. 2:35; Romans 12:2
5. Pray persistently Lk. 18:1-8
6. Do not pray or ask God for something that is contrary to his will or that contradicts the Bible Matt. 26:39, James 4:3
7. Forgive others if you want God to answer your prayers Mk. 11:25, Matt 18: 21-25
8. Be guided by the Holy spirit in praying: Rom.8:26-27
9. Pray in Jesus name John 16:24, Acts 3:6, Phil 2: 9-11
10. After you have prayed wait on the Lord Isa. 40:31; Prov. 20:22, Ps. 27:14
- 6. Why are some prayers not answered**
There are four major causes of unanswered prayers
 1. Unbelief. James 1:6-7
 2. An unforgiving spirit. Mk. 11:25
 3. Sin. Psalm 66:18 Romans 6:1
 4. Asking against the will of God James 4:3 or asking amiss or with wrong motives.

CONCLUSION

A fruitful and consistent quiet time brings out a balanced spiritual development in at least three different areas:

1. Healthy and fruitful Bible Knowledge: Ps. 119:9, 11, 105; Eph. 3:14-17; II Tim 2:15; Ps. 19:8, Hos. 4:6
2. Fruitful Prayer Life: Pr. 28:9; 15:8,29
3. An enviable Christian character: Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 3:2, I Pet. 3:15-16

BBIBLICAL FASTING

Introduction:

Fasting is imperative for Christians. It is essential, among other things, to deal with the flesh, the human nature that prevents us from prospering in the things of the spirit. Apostle Paul said "But I keep my body under and bring it into subjection..." (1 Cor. 9:27)

What is Fasting?

Fasting means abstinence and Biblical fasting means abstaining from food and drinks for a period. Thus fasting is an act of denying our selves of things that give us pleasure with a view to suppressing the flesh and uplifting the spirit.

Fasts could be divided as follows:

Absolute fast: Abstinence from food and water for a stipulated period of time. After 3 days it is medically advisable to drink water

Normal fast: A meal is taken after 12 hours; water may be taken in between depending on the duration of the fast.

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1. **Who should fast?** A Christian or a Believer: Acts 13:1-3, Matt 17:21, J
A whole nation Jonah 3:5 Esther 4:15-17

2. **Purpose of a fast:** Isa. 58:6-9 “

“No, this is the kind of fasting I want:

Free those who are wrongly imprisoned;

lighten the burden of those who work for you.

Let the oppressed go free,

and remove the chains that bind people.

Share your food with the hungry,

and give shelter to the homeless.

Give clothes to those who need them,

and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

“Then your salvation will come like the dawn,

and your wounds will quickly heal.

Your godliness will lead you forward,

and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind.

Then when you call, the LORD will answer.

‘Yes, I am here,’ he will quickly reply.

“Remove the heavy yoke of oppression.

Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors!”

1. To lose the bands of wickedness, to undo heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke, to give bread to the hungry, to restore the poor, to clothe the naked.

2. To put down our flesh and increase our spiritual capacity, strength and awareness, “but they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength ...” Isa. 40; 31,

3. To make the purpose of God in your situation clearer as you become more receptive in the spirit Acts 13:1-3

4. To gain and possess keener perception of divine issues and clarity of thought,

5. To help kindle and develop faith; through fasting spiritual fire is kindle and faith operates well. Esther 4:15-17

6. To help break the power of Satan, and bring about deliverance and healing,
Mark 9:28-29

7. To help improve your prayer life. Luke 11:9-11

8. To enhance continuous flow of God's anointing;

9. We fast so that our spirit will readily be alive to hear when God speaks. Acts 13:3-4
Matt 4:2

10. Note: whether you are fasting or not, you are expected to live a practical daily life of holiness 1 Peter: 1:15-16

3. **When do we fast?**

1. When asking for divine secrets. Dan. 9:3, 20-22; 10:2-3

2. When in danger; Acts 27:21-25

3. When about to take a crucial decision; Esther 4:15-16

4. When sick and in need of deliverance Mark 9:29

5. When preparing for a great task, revival, etc Mathew 4:1-3

6. When asking God for intervention; Nehemiah 1:3-4, 2 Chro. 20:3-10

7. When interceding for others; Daniel 9:3

8. Whenever you need to hear from God; Acts 13:3-4

4. **How to operate Biblical fasting**

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When fasting, you need to be very close to God, seeking his face in prayers and supplication for the duration of the fast.

If the fast goes beyond 3 days it is not medically advisable to continue without drinking water

Where the person fasting need to undertake some heavy tasks or undertake long distance journeys, drinking of liquid is advisable

The duration of a fast should be a covenant between you and God, with a clear purpose; else, the fast may be as waste of time, a hunger strike or dieting

Abstain from sex during fasting as agreed between husband and wife. 1 Cor. 7:5

Be prayerful and continuously meditate on the word of God, listen to hear from the Holy Spirit during the fast.

When you are done fasting, ending the fast should be done with caution and discipline, exercise more self control so that your health is not impaired.

5. **Medical Benefit of fasting?** Discuss

Conclusion

Apostle Paul declared that he fast often 2 Cor. 11:27. Every believer should have a regular period of fasting every week, month etc. Pray daily. Jesus, David and Paul fasted and prayed. Do nothing to indicate to people that you are fasting if you desire a reward from it. Mathew 6:16-18

NOTE

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Believer's Class Manual

STUDY 6:

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Memory Verse PROVERBS 11:30, I COR.9:16

INTRODUCTION

Personal Evangelism is the person to person sharing of the gospel message with the aim of leading the individual to Christ. There is no greater joy than seeing a soul coming to Christ. Moreover, the Bible says, "he that wins a soul is wise" (Pro. 11: 30). One of the primary reasons we are still alive after we received Christ is to be fishers of men (Matt. 4: 19).

1. **What is Evangelism?** Matt. 28:18-20;

Evangelism is a command given by Jesus Christ to all his disciples to go into all nations and make others his disciples by telling them about Jesus Christ, baptizing them in the process and teaching them to observe all his teachings.

2. **Why must we win souls?** Eze.33:7-9; Mk. 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20; Jn. 15: 16; 14:6; 20:21-23

1. The worth of a soul: a soul is worth more than the world and you may be the only one who can make an impression on that particular soul. Heaven rejoices at the a soul that comes to Christ, Christ does not want any soul to perish 2 Peter 3:9, 1 tim.2:4

2. The reality of Hell: Hell is real, it is not imaginary. If you truly believe that unsaved souls are heading for a lost eternity of hell fire, torture, blackness, anguish and pain forever, then you should do all in your power to persuade them to turn from sin to Jesus Christ.

3. The third reason is the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for the lost soul on the cross for each sinner so that they can be saved: with a crown of thorn on his head, nails in his hands and feet, he went through so much agony for the sinners, you do not want the death of Jesus to be in vain regarding them. Christ suffered and died for their souls.

4. The fourth reason is the vanity of this world. You have discovered that this world is vain, that the world with its lust is passing away but that those in Christ shall stand forever; it is your duty to tell your friends the truth. If in Christ you have found something beautiful and enduring it is your duty to tell your friends and relations too! The greatest gift you can give anyone is Christ. Whoever has Christ has all things Ph. 4:19

5. All born again Christians were given a personal command by Jesus Christ to witness to the lost; therefore, there is a personal responsibility to God Eze.33:7-9; Mk. 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20;

3. **Why is it urgent?** Jn. 4:35-38; Matt. 9:36-37

1. The harvest is plenty but the laborers are few, yet we need to preach to all nations

2. The appointed time for a soul is only known by God, yet Jesus does not want any soul to perish



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4. **How long does it take after new birth to witness?** Jn. 1:40-42; 4:25-30, 39
5. **How often and where should a Christian witness?** Acts 5:42; 2:46-47; 20:20; II Tim. 4:2
6. **What are the results of these?** Acts 6:7; 19:10; II Cor. 5:15-20
7. **What things make for effective Personal Evangelism?**
 1. You have to be saved yourself and be sure of your salvation or be born again. The blind cannot lead the blind. A sinner cannot lead another sinner to Christ.
 2. Secondly you must be a man of faith; whoever will lead others to Christ must first believe.
 3. You must have compassion for the others to be saved just like you, otherwise you will work with a dead, mechanical, dispassionate concern and sinners (those yet to receive Christ) know those who are truly concerned for them.
 4. You need to have an infilling of the Holy Spirit and depend on the Holy Spirit to do the conversion, your duty is just to tell them and try to lead them to Christ if they are willing and ready to listen.
 5. You need to have at least a fair knowledge of the Bible; you do not need to be an expert. Psalm 1:1-2, James 1:5; in addition you can also share your own personal testimonies.
 6. You must be prayerful, because Satan will not let go easily off those under his bondage that you are trying to set free, with prayers before setting out obstacles that Satan may have setup in the lives of the soul to prevent their conversion and liberation can easily be removed through prayer by the help of the Holy spirit 1 Peter 5:8
Acts 20:31, Ps. 126:5-; Matt. 10: 16; I Cor. 13: 1-3;
 7. You must be living a Holy or pure life yourself, and not be hypocritical. Your life can be a testimony that will bring others to Christ.
Lk. 9: 5-55; Matt. 8: 5-13; II Cor. 5: 14; Pro. 16.1; I Tim. 2: 1-4; Luke. 24:47; I Tim. 1:15; Rom. 1:16;
1Jn. 4:8; Matt. 8:5-13; Luke. 9:53
Discuss practical problems that are likely to be encountered in Personal Evangelism.
What rewards await a faithful Christian witness? I Thess. 2:19; Dan 12:3; II Tim 4:7-8; Jn. 15:1-2

CONCLUSION

This study is not just a theory; something in anticipation of an examination. It is not the hearer only that will be justified but the doer of the Word. Start personal evangelism after this study.

NOTE



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STUDY 7:

Restitution, Moral Issues and Money Matters

Memory Verse ISAIAH 1:19

RESTITUTION:

What is Restitution and how do we retribute?

Restitution involves restoring to the owner all things taken by falsehood, confessing all lies told and bringing all those we have deceived into the true pictures of things.

Proverbs 6:30-31, 28:13, Acts 24:16, Ezek. 33 :14-16, 2 Sam. 12:1-6, Lev. 6:1-7.

It is being willing to let the Lord expose and then heal painful areas of our past. God commands that restitution be made.

Restitution leaves behind an indelible testimony with the one whom restitution is made, which when an unbeliever is involved becomes a means of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When a delicate restitution is to be made involving a non Christian, undoing wrongs done against organizations, or those that affect marriage relationships, etc. much prayer and counseling from men of God may be required.

MORAL ISSUES:

God's standard does not change with time and His views have not change on the following:

Adultery:

What is adultery? Does it belong to the Old Testament period? Exodus 20:14, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 15-16 it involves breaking solemn marriage vows and defiling the conjugal bed. Heb.13:4,

Prov. 6:20-35

Fornication:

What is fornication? Is virginity outdated? 1 Cor. 6:13, 18a, Eph. 5:3, Rom.12:2. The fact that fornication is a common practice does not make it acceptable to God. Keep yourself pure, no sex before marriage, and no sex with someone you are not married to.

Sexual Perversion:

What does it mean? Lev. 18:22-23, Rom. 1:26-27. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah

Flirting:

Flirting is defined as showing attention or affection without serious intentions or emotional commitment; love is too serious for play acting. Paul warned Timothy, 1 Tim. 5:2 don't send out the wrong signals. Rom. 14:15-16; Eph. 4:27. Be wise; ensure you keep a safe distance from members of the opposite sex you are not convinced you are going to marry. Danger of Moral Indecency God regards it as a waste of resources. Prov. 29:3 As a vow breaker, you are under a curse, Mal.2:14

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It desecrates the blood purchased property of Jesus and attracts destruction. 1 Cor. 6:19-20
It is a sin against one's body. 1 Cor. 6:18
It opens doorway for Satan's attack. Eccl.10:8b. People may outwardly laugh at you yet inwardly admire you as a Christian who has the courage to stand up for their moral chastity.

1. **Holy Marriage:**

God initiated marriage. Gen. 2:18, 24-25.

Marriage should be between a man and a woman. Lev. 18:22-24 homosexuality is an abomination to God, God detest sexual perversion. Rom. 1:26-28

A Christian should marry only one wife. 1 Tim.3:2, Gen. 2:18, 24-25

2. **Why should we marry?** We should marry for the following reasons and more: **1Cor.7:1-15**

To obey the commandment of God Gen. 1:28

For fellowship and partnership, it takes two to make „one flesh“ Eccl. 4; 9-11, Gen. 2:18, 24-25. For the propagation of the human race Gen 9:1

To satisfy creation and sexual desires that are good, holy, and legitimate but it can only be satisfied in marriage **1Cor.7:1-15**

Courtship:

3. **What is Courtship?**

Courtship is a time for the man and woman of getting better acquainted and ascertaining whether or not they are prepared for marriage.

4. **What is the Bible approved way of getting engaged to be married as a Christian?**

1 Sam. 16:7, Gen. 24:1-4, 1Thess. 4:1-7.

Ensure that you and your intending spouse have a common understanding of the key doctrines of the Bible. Heb. 6: 1-2; Petting, romance, sex, should be strictly avoided during courtship. Prov.

9:17-18, Heb.13:4.

5. **Who should we marry?**

Can a Christian marry a non Christian?

A Christian should marry a Christian only.

No marriage should be contracted with an unbeliever. 2 Cor. 6; 14-17, Amos 3:3, Deut. 7:3-6.

Any marriage contracted outside of God's plan will often give birth to troubles.

6. **When should a Christian marry?** Discuss

7. **Marriage done before becoming a Christian:**

If you are already married to an unbeliever God can use you to bless your unbelieving partner. 1Cor. 7:14, 10-17

8. **Divorce and Separation:**

God initiated marriage. Gen. 2:24. God is against divorce. Mathew 19:6, 5:32, Mal. 2:13-16.

Putting away and remarriage constitute adultery. Mark 10:11-12. Only death should separate a couple. Rom 7:2-3, Love renders divorce irrelevant in marriage. 1 Cor. 13:4-7



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Money Matters:

1. The Bible does not condemn money but gives some safe guidelines on the attitude of a Christian towards money
2. Do not love money. 1 Tim. 6:6-10. The remedy is contentment with what God has provide you
3. Do not be too preoccupied with searching for money at the expense of God. Mathew 6:33
4. Do not hoard Money. Matthew 6:19-21, 1Tim. 6:17. your financial strength has no bearing in heaven or hell.
5. Take note of the following. 1 Tim. 5:8, Eccl. 7:12
6. **Do not worship money.** Mathew 6:24, Prov. 11:28. Money should not be your God. No idolater shall inherit the kingdom of God.
7. **Do not live in debts as a way of life.** The only Bible recommended debt is love. Rom. 13:8
8. Remember you have been bought with a price 1 Cor. 6:20, your money is the property of your master. You are only a custodian 1Cor. 4:2-7, Deut. 8:18
9. Do not put your trust in money. 1Tim. 6:17, Psalm 62:10b
10. Do not be involved in extortion, bribery and corruption. Isa. 33:15.

Biblical Principles of Giving

The following principles of giving should be observed:

OFFERING

Throughout the bible, God encouraged us to bring offerings to Him which is different from the Tithe. Today we do not bring Sin, Burnt, Guilt offerings because Jesus has done it all for us. However we Still bring thanksgiving offering.

It is an expression of gratitude to our God. More so, He is honored. Ps 50:23

1. What is offering? Deut. 12:16

They are gift that you give to God in addition to your tithe. Endeavor not to come into God's presences empty handed. Deut. 16:16. Note that offering is mentioned together with tithes. While tithe opens the windows of heaven, offering determines how wide it should be opened. Luke.6:38. Your offering should be given prayerfully and systematically

2. Why do you give?

1. To demonstrate God's love and follow his example. John 3:16, God is the ultimate giver. Deut. 8:16
2. It opens up an opportunity to receive from God. Luke 6:38
3. It is an opportunity to sow a seed of help and bless someone. Prov. 14:21
4. It is more blessed to give than to receive, avoid the trap of stinginess. Acts 20:35 Prov. 11:25- 26, 2Cor. 9.6

3. What do you give?



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You can give your skill, time, prayers, money, etc. Exo. 35:4-35, Acts 3:1-7, Peter and John had no money but gave healing in the name of Jesus; Peter gave his boat for Jesus to preach in. Luke 5:1-3, nothing is too small, no matter how small it will make a difference. Luke 21:1-4, John 6:1-13

4. To whom do you give?

1. God's work, Exo. 35:29, 36:2-7, Ezra 2:69
2. Spiritual Leaders Gal. 6:6, Phil.4:15-19
3. The Less privileged. Prov. 19:17, 21:13
4. Anyone you are in a position to help. Luke 10:25-37
5. Fellow Christians. Rom.12:13, Acts 11:29, 9:36-41

5. How do you give?

1. Freely and cheerfully: Prov. 11:24, 2 Cor. 9:7-8. It attracts Gods favorable attention
2. Give generously: 2 Cor. 9:6
3. In proportion to, at times beyond your means: Acts. 11:29, 2 Cor. 8:13 Mark 12:44.
4. Give without publicity: Mathew. 6:1-4

TITHE

INTRODUCTION:

Should a Christian pay tithes? The answer is yes. There is a huge debate raging among Christians as to whether tithes should be paid or not. Besides, many Christians give very little and sometimes nothing at all to support the work of God.

1. What is the tithe?

It is the giving a tenth of one's income as an offering to God.

Abraham was the first man ever recorded in the bible to give tithes to God, Genesis 14: 17-20. Melchizedek was the priest of the Most High God. The bread and wine he offered to Abraham has a close resemblance to the Lord's Supper. (Luke 22: 14 -23)

Hebrews 7: 1-22 sheds more light on Melchizedek. He was the priest of the Most High God. He was the only one qualified to receive tithes from Abraham. All this happened before the law was established. There is no record of Abraham, who was at this time still called Abram, being told to give tithes to God, nor is any explanation given.

Jacob gives us the second reference to paying tithes when he made a vow to God. Genesis 28:22 The biggest argument against giving tithes seems to be with its association with the law. Lev 27: 30 - 32 Numbers 18: 21 – 29 says tithes go towards supporting the Levites who in turn give part of it as an offering to the Lord.

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2. Purpose of the Tithe

1. To support the work of God Leviticus 27:30 – 32
2. To provide for his laborers (the Levites)
3. To support strangers, homeless or disadvantaged the fatherless, and widows. Deut 26:9-12.

Note the term '**first fruits**' are mentioned in Deuteronomy. Indeed this is what tithes are. They are the first portions that we take out of our income and offer in gratitude to God. Give it in the support of the church and ministry.

3. The first fruits

When God brought Israel into the land of Canaan the first city they took was Jericho. God told them not to touch any of the spoil. (Joshua 6: 17 - 19) It was the Lord's. It was the first fruits of battle. It was their tithe. The next city to fall was Ai. Here they were allowed to take as much spoil as they needed (Joshua 8: 1 - 2). They had paid their first fruits or tithes with Jericho, Hence the difference.

Malachi 3: 3 - 12 gives God's mind with regards to paying tithes

4. But what does the New Testament say about tithes

Not a lot. In fact the only references to tithing in the New Testament are Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42, Luke 18:12 and Hebrew 7: 5 - 9.

The giving of the law helped to establish the importance of many of the unwritten truths already known by god-fearing men. But when Jesus brought us faith there is no longer the need for the supervision of the law. Galatians 3: 23 - 25.

In other words, the law was given to make things clear. Without the law we would not understand sin. Sin was around before the law but the law exposed it. The giving of tithes was also around before the law. Again the law helped in the establishing its importance and relevance. The law did not invent tithing, it only exposed it. We could say the same of sacrifice and obedience.

5. Why do we pay tithes?

Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek, King of Salem, at his return from battle. Gen. 14:20

Jacob also imitated his grandfather's piety. Gen. 28:22

Moses ordained that all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or fruit of the land be given to God. Lev. 27:30-32.

God commanded us to bring our tithes into His storehouse. Mall 3:10

6. How do we pay our tithes?

A starting place for all of us is one tenth, nothing less than that.

We must bring it into the house of God promptly and cheerfully 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 8 with all our hearts and gratefulness to God.

It should be the first fruit. In other words, the first thing you pay, an offering to God is not subject to other bills and needs you have; remember He owns it all.

Tithing is your act of worship to God. Gen 4:1-5

Pay the tithe to the church where the whole truth is preached, the church where you are being fed with the word of God.

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7. Benefits of tithing

1. God will rebuke the devourer for your sake. Mal. 3:11 God will open the windows of heaven and pour His blessings more than you can accommodate. Mal. 3:10
2. Unfaithfulness in the area of tithing can make a believer to lose blessings that God himself has pronounced, because it is stealing from God directly.

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STUDY 8

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The sequence of the End time Events.

The return of Christ will be preceded by:

A. **Escalation in global conflicts and calamities**

(Detailed in Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). These include

- i. There will be an increase of conflicts among nations and rumors of wars, earthquakes, and famines (Matthew 24:6-7; Mark 13:7-8).
- ii. Appearance of many false prophets and widespread lawlessness. (Matthew 24:11-12).
- iii. Christians will be persecuted for being disciples of Jesus (Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:9,13)
- iv. Increase in apostasy as many abandon the faith (Matthew 24:10; 2 Peter 3:3-4).
- v. Sin will be rampant and the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- vi. Many will rise, claiming to be the messiah, even performing great signs and wonders to deceive even believers. (Matthew 24:24; Mark 13:5-6, 22)
- vii. Darkening of the sun and the moon and other heavenly signs (Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24-25).
- viii. Betrayal among family members and rebellion against parents. Brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed (Mark 13:12)
- ix. There will be great times of difficulty (Matthew 24:21-22)
- x. The mark of the beast will be enforced on all people (Rev. 13:16-17)
- xi. The "**abomination of desolation,**"

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The phrase "abomination of desolation" in the King James version of the Bible refers to a defiling, sacrilegious act that causes a place of worship to be deserted or destroyed

Matthew 24:15 (NLT) "The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place."

It is also repeated in

Mark 13:14 (NLT)

"The day is coming when you will see the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing where he should not be."

In both cases, Jesus was referring to prophecies in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 9:27 (NLT) "The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."

Daniel 11:31 (NLT)

"His army will take over the Temple fortress, pollute the sanctuary, put a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration

Daniel 12:11 (NLT) "From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days.

What does The Sacrilegious Object that causes Desecration or as King James puts it "Abomination of Desolation" mean

1. **Old Testament Interpretation:** Historical context: Some scholars believe Daniel's references pointed to the time when Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a Greek king who, around 167 BC desecrated the Jewish Temple by sacrificing a pig to Zeus (the chief of all Greek gods) on the temple altar. This was seen as an "abomination" because pigs were unclean, and it caused massive desolation (a state of complete sadness, grief and helplessness) among the Jews.
2. **Jesus' Prophecy (New Testament):** Two interpretations:

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- i. Jesus was warning them of an event that later took place in 70 A.D. when Titus the emperor of Rome destroyed the temple (real historical fulfillment).
- ii. The eschatological or end-time interpretation prophesies that in the end-times, there will arise an Anti-Christ (Daniel 7:24-27; 2 Thes. 3: 3-12; 1 John 2: 18-22; 2 John 7; Rev. 13:1-10). This person will desecrate the temple in Jerusalem and make unholy sacrifices on the altar. The logical conclusion is that one of the end time events is that a new temple will be built in Jerusalem, and this new temple that the anti-Christ will desecrate, an event that will and cause a huge uproar among the Jews. So, the rebuilding of the third temple in Jerusalem is a one of the end-time signs.

B. What will immediately precede the coming of Christ is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached to all nations.

Matthew 24:14 “And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; **and then the end will come.**”

Mark 13:10 “For the Good News must first be preached to all nations”

C. **The Rapture of Saints.** What is The Rapture? The taking up of believers to meet Jesus in the sky.

- i. Jesus spoke about it. Matthew 24:14; 37-42; Mark 13:26
- ii. The angel spoke about it at Christ’s ascension Acts 1:10-11
- iii. Paul described how it will happen in 1 Thes. 4: 15-17
“15 We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.
- iv. The day of rapture will come unexpectedly (Matthew 24: 37-44; Rev. 3:3)
- v. Only God knows the day of rapture (Matthew 24: 36; Mark 13:32)

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D. Marriage Feast of the Lamb and Judgement seat of Christ Rev. 7:14; 19:6-10. 1 Peter 4:17. The ultimate union between Christ (the Lamb) and the Church (His Bride). This is when saints are rewarded for their works while they were on earth. (2 Cor. 5:10; Saints will be rewarded for what they did with their talents. (Matthew 25:14-30).

Crowns will be issued for various works These are

(i). Crown of Life, “The Crown of Life symbolizes the reward given to those who remain faithful through trials, temptations, and persecution. It represents the gift of eternal life for those who persevere in faith. As described in James 1:12, “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” This crown is not referring to an actual physical crown, but rather a symbolic crown or wreath placed on the head of a victor in athletic games or someone receiving honor.

Revelation 2:10 – “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.”

These verses indicate that remaining faithful in persecution and trials earns believers the Crown of Life. The reward is eternal life with Christ for enduring hardship and opposition for one’s faith without giving up.

(ii). The Incorruptible Crown,

The Incorruptible Crown represents the reward given to believers who live a disciplined and self-controlled life. It is given to those who triumph over their sinful flesh and worldly desires.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 – “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one.”. This crown is given to believers who exercise self-control over bodily passions and desires.

(iii). The crown of righteousness

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In 2 Timothy 4:8, Paul writes: “Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearance”. It symbolizes the reward given to those who long for Christ’s second coming. It represents living righteously, loving His appearing, and eagerly anticipating His return.

(iv). The Crown of Glory,

The crown of glory represents the reward given by God to church leaders who faithfully care for their congregations. As **1 Peter 5:2-4** states, elders are to willingly “shepherd the flock of God” among them by serving as examples and overseers. When the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, appears at His second coming, He will reward those leaders’ faithfulness with an unfading crown of glory.

(v). The Crown of Rejoicing.

The crown of rejoicing is referenced in 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, where Paul says “For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.”

The crown of rejoicing, also known as the soul winner’s crown, is a reward promised to believers who lead others to faith in Christ. It signifies the joy and satisfaction of seeing people come to know the Lord through one’s efforts in evangelism and discipleship

E. The Great Tribulation here on Earth Matt. 24:21; Daniel 12:1; Rev. 6:14-17. This will happen simultaneously with the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

Events that will mark the Great Tribulation will be

The Events of the Tribulation Period

(1) The church will be raptured before the great tribulation. Revelation 4:1-2.

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(2) The Anti-Christ will sign a peace agreement for seven years with Israel Daniel 9:27.

(3) Revelation 6:1-2. Christ opens the first of the seven-sealed scroll, and the rider on the white horse (probably Antichrist) appears, using diplomacy and the promise of peace to establish his one-world government.

(4) Revelation 6:3-4. The second seal introduces a great world war.

(5) Revelation 6:5-6. The third seal begins with the suffering of famine and inflation (the aftermath of war).

(6) Revelation 6:7-8. The fourth seal results, as do all wars, in death, but in this case it totals one-fourth of the people and living creatures, About one and a half billion people.

(7) Revelation 6:9-11. This passage introduces the martyrdom of those who are converted under the preaching of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses described in chapter 7. An innumerable number of people receive Christ and are martyred. Note that evangelism during this period is back in the hands of the Jews. Since the church is absent, the 144,000 apostle-Paul-type believers will make powerful evangelists.

(8) Revelation 6:12-17. This sixth seal exhibits the wrath of God poured out in the form of a mighty earthquake, the like of which has never been experienced. It is so severe that people call on the rocks to fall on them.

(9) Revelation 8:1-6. The seventh seal introduces the Seven Trumpet Judgments, ending the first quarter of the Tribulation period and preparing for an even worse period called the “day of His [God’s] wrath.”

(10) Revelation 8:7. The first trumpet judgment results in one-third of all trees and green grass being burned up by hail, fire, and blood cast upon the earth.

(11) Revelation 8:8-9. The second trumpet sees a great mountain of sulfur falling into the sea and destroying a third-part of the sea and all living creatures in it and a third of the shipping vessels.

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(12) Revelation 8:10-11. The third trumpet causes a great star (or meteor) called Wormwood (or “bitter”) to fall on the fountains of water and third of rivers to turn bitter, resulting in the deaths of millions.

(13) Revelation 8:12. The fourth trumpet results in one-third less sun, moonlight, and stars, extending the darkness of night.

(14) Revelation 8:13. A special angel flies around the earth, warning that worse judgments are to come.

(15) Revelation 9:1-12. The fifth trumpet introduces hideous demon-like creatures such as scorpions and locusts out of the bottomless pit. Not able to kill men, they torture them so badly that they “will seek death and will not find it.”

(16) Revelation 9:13. The sixth trumpet introduces two hundred million horsemen (demon spirit-like death angels), who kill one-third of the people. This will occur between the fortieth and forty-second month of the first part of the Tribulation, which brings to 50 percent the population that is destroyed by God before the midpoint of the Tribulation. These individuals have taken the mark of the Beast and are considered incorrigible. Since estimates of upwards of a quarter of those living at that time still be saved under the preaching of the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7:9, it is possible that 75 percent of the population 25 percent by martyrdom) will have been destroyed during the first half of the Tribulation period.

(17) Revelation 11:3-14. Two witnesses will be revealed. They are believed to be Elijah and Enoch, the only two people who never died but were translated to heaven (Gen. 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11-12). The Two Witnesses prophesy for 1,260 days—a ministry which, if taken literally, would correspond with the forty-two months of judgments already described.

(18) Revelation 11:15. The seventh trumpet judgment introduces the awesome events described in chapters 12-18 and the most severe set of judgments yet reported, the Vial Judgments.

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(19) Revelation 17:1-18. Describes the destruction of the Babylonish, false religious system—the great harlot—which will merge all the religions of the world during the first part of the Tribulation (which will take place easily after the church is raptured). This system will be so powerful that it will dominate both the Antichrist (“the beast”) and the ten kings at that time. But because of their hatred for the harlot, at the midpoint of the Tribulation, they will make war on her and kill her.

(20) Revelation 13:1-3. In the process of killing the harlot Mystery Babylon, the false religious system, somehow the Antichrist is killed and gets “a deadly wound” that is healed. In chapter 12 Satan himself is cast out of heaven, where he has been “the accuser of our brethren,” (Rev. 12:10-12) and now he enters Antichrist’s body and resurrects him to a new and even more vicious life.

(21) Revelation 13:4-10. Antichrist, now incarnated, will force the remaining people of the earth to worship him, except those whose names are in the Lamb’s Book of Life (see 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10).

(22) Revelation 13:11-18. The False Prophet will replace the slain religious system, forcing people to worship Antichrist and his image, or be killed. Everyone will be compelled to display a 666 mark in order to hold a job and “buy and sell.”

(23) Revelation 16:1-2. The first vial causes giant sores on those who rejected Christ and instead accepted the mark of the Beast, signifying their worship of him.

(24) Revelation 16:3. The second vial is poured out on the sea, turning it “to blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”

(25) Revelation 16:4. The third vial turns the rivers and other sources of water to blood (an especially just judgment because the people remaining had killed so many Tribulation saints).

(26) Revelation 16:8-9. The fourth vial will intensify the sun’s heat until ungodly men blaspheme the name of God.

(27) Revelation 16:10-11. The fifth vial will cause darkness to cover the throne of Antichrist and his entire kingdom. The sores will continue unrelentingly,

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producing such agony that men will gnaw their tongues for pain and blaspheme God and refuse to repent.

(28) Revelation 16:13-16. The sixth vial sends lying demon spirits out to the kings of the whole world to bring them down to “the battle of that great day of God Almighty,” more popularly known as the Battle of Armageddon.

(29) Revelation 16:17-21. The seventh vial results in a judgment of Almighty God that destroys the entire world system and judges all unsaved men severely. But even though enormous hailstones fall, the unregenerate still refuse to repent. This judgment is so devastating that it prepares the world for the coming of Christ to set up His earthly kingdom.

(30) Revelation 18:1-24. The destruction of commercial and governmental Babylon—the New World Order for which man has yearned ever since his rebellion at Babylon—now occurs, possibly during the seventh vial since it fits there (verse 19) just before earth’s final judgment. It will totally collapse the Antichrist’s system and further pave the way for the best event of the Tribulation.

(31) Revelation 19:11-21. We finally witness the Glorious Appearing of Christ in Power and Great Glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to set up His thousand-year reign on this earth. For more details, read Tim LaHaye’s *No Fear of the Storm*, (Multnomah, Sisters, OR; 1992), pp. 51-55

F. Satan Defeated and bound. Rev. 19: 17-19; This is the Battle of Armageddon from Hebrew Har Megiddo, The Valley of Megiddo. Megiddo is a city in northern part of Israel. Rev. 16:16.

G. The Beast and the False prophet and the anti-Christ are captured and thrown in the lake of Fire. Rev. 19:20

H. Satan is bound and thrown into the bottomless pit. Rev. 20:1-3

I. The Millenium. Christ’s 1000-year reign with the saints. Rev. 20:4-6. Also known as the First Resurrection.

Theories on the Millenium

- i. **Amillennialism.** The theory that millennium is here and now. They believe after the millennium is when Christ will return to judge the righteous and unrighteous, a new heaven and new earth and God’s

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eternal state. They also believe Rev. 20:1-6 applies to the present church age. The binding of Satan happened during the time of Christ's ministry on earth and there is only one resurrection (John 5:28-29), the resurrection of the just and the unjust in a single "hour".

ii. **Postmillennialism.** The church age is now and extends into the Millennium. After that, Christ returns, the judgment, and the eternal state. It does not believe in any tribulation before the return of Christ (Matt. 24:21-30).

iii. **Premillennialism..** There are two forms of Premillennialism

(a). Classic or Historical Premillennialism also known as **Post-Tribulation Premillennialism**. It means that the church will go through the Great Tribulation before Christ returns. This is the order of events

1. The church age which is what we are going through now.
2. the great tribulation followed by
3. the return of Christ. Then
4. the millennium during which the earth is renewed, Satan is bound and thrown into the bottomless pit ((Rev. 20:1-3).
5. At the end of the millennium, Satan is released, joins forces with rebels, is defeated and thrown in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). Then the judgement of the resurrected unbelievers followed by the new heaven and the new earth and then the eternal state.

(b). **Pretribulation Premillennialism** (or Dispensational Premillennialism). Believes Christ returns before the tribulation and the millennium. Christ comes to take believers secretly after the Church age (Rapture. 1 Thes. 4:16-17). Then the 7-year tribulation when the signs for the return of Christ will be fulfilled. Great evangelism will be carried out especially among the Jews then Christ returns with the raptured saints for the Millennium. Satan leads a rebellion which results in a final battle and Satan's

This is the position of this study.

J. Satan released for a while. He will lead some astray. Rev. 20:7-10

K. A final battle. The Battle of Gog and Magog. Satan defeated and thrown into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:8- 10

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L. The White thrown judgement. Rev. 20:11-15. The second resurrection.

M. Death and Hades cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:14. Known as the second death.

N. Earth is burnt with fervent heat (2 Peter 3:10-14).

O. A New Heaven and a New Earth are created. 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1
