

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE SCHOOL

Introductory Course



Bible Study Is An Opportunity For A Bold Adventure To Learn Great Bible Principles For An Exciting Life!

Let's get started. *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1). *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image...'"* (Genesis 1:26). We live in a world where people have reversed what actually happened in the beginning. The Bible says that we were created in the image of the God who created all things. However, men since creation have created God after their own image. In other words, if we like our particular behavior, we will create a god who approves of our life. We create a god after our own imagination. But this should not be.

We now live in a world where everyone wants a god who agrees with their beliefs and life-style. We want a religion that either conforms to our traditions or the manner of our behavior. We thus live in a very religiously confused world, a world of religions that are as diverse as the imaginations of people who have created them.

Is God satisfied with our efforts to direct our own lives? Certainly not! God is the creator. It is He who determines the way we should live.

God says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Proverbs 14:12). We may convince ourselves that our particular behavior is correct, but when we study God's ways, it may be wrong. Therefore, the Bible instructs, *"Search from the book of the Lord, and read"* (Isaiah 34:16).

We must remember that though our religious behavior may be comfortable to our life-style, or in agreement with the traditions of our fathers, it may not be acceptable to God. Remember, God says,

"My ways are not your ways" (Isaiah 55:8).

Jeremiah said, *"O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps"* (Jeremiah 10:23). God says that we cannot determine our own ways because we often develop behavior that is self-centered, and thus, destructive to social well-being. For this reason, we must allow God to determine our values. And how can we do this? David answers, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Psalm 119:105).

HOPE!
FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Since God is our creator, do you think He has the right to give us laws to direct our lives, and then expect us to keep those laws? YES NO

The Bible Is An Exciting Book Of The History Of How God Has Worked Among People For The Salvation Of All

The Bible is a book of 66 inspired documents that were written between about 1400 B.C. and A.D. 96 (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21). The first 39 books are the Old Testament. These books were written primarily in Hebrew between 1400 and 400 B.C. They are used today by Christians for learning (Romans 15:4). There are 27 books or letters in the New Testament. These letters were written in Greek between



A.D. 48 and 96. The Old Testament writings were directed specifically to the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 4:1,2). They were written to guide Israel according to the will of God (Romans 3:1,2) and to prepare men for the coming of the Son of God, Jesus. There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament that were made concerning Jesus. All these prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus (Luke 24:44).

DIRECTION BY GOD FOR HOPE OF A BETTER LIFE

When God created man, He knew that we would seek to go our own way. He knew that we would sin in two areas:

- We would sin by following after our own fleshly desires (Romans 3:9,10; 1 John 2:15).
- We would sin by creating religions after our own traditions or emotions so as to reject God's word (Mark 7:1-9; Colossians 2:20-23).

Because we have sinned morally by selfishly living as we so choose, and religiously by rejecting God's word in order to maintain our own religious traditions or misguided emotions, God calls us back to His will through Jesus. The Bible states, "*God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son*" (Hebrews 1:1,2).

Jesus calls us to Himself and truth. He said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6). "*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life*" (John 8:12). "*And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free*" (John 8:32). Therefore, Jesus pleads, "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and*

I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

There are thousands of religions in the world today. Leaders of these religions claim to be teaching the truth of God. However, keep in mind that the inspired writers of the Bible warned that we should be careful not to be led astray by the religious craftiness of men or our own emotional misdirection (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2:1,2). Since there is in the world today numerous religious leaders who are calling religious people away after their own desires and doctrines, it is very important that we turn directly to the word of God for guidance. Therefore, we are asking you to give the Bible a chance to direct your beliefs and behavior. The Bible is our only safe guide to find Jesus who says, "*He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day*" (John 12:42). It is important, therefore, to listen to Jesus. He is the One by whom God will judge all men at the end of the world (Acts 17:30,31).



The Bible Is An Exciting Book Of Prophecies That Were Fulfilled In Order To Prove God's Messengers & His Word

Prophecy is not prediction. Predictions are made by those who base their thinking on surrounding circumstances that indicate the probability that something will happen. But with prophecy there are no current circumstances that indicate future events. This is the nature of biblical prophecy. If we find in our study of the Bible just one valid prophecy that was fulfilled, then the Bible is proved to be from God, for only God can know the future (Isaiah 42:9; 44:6-8). The truth is that the Bible is filled with prophecies concerning peoples, cities, nations, and specifically, Jesus. Historical records are also filled with reports of the fulfillment of these prophecies. The hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus and His kingdom reign have been fulfilled.

JESUS IN PROPHECY

There are hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah (“the anointed One”) who would come to reign as King. Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled all these Old Testament prophecies (Luke 24:44). Keep in mind that the prophecies were written hundreds of years before their fulfillment in Jesus. They could not have been fulfilled by accident. The following are a few of these key prophecies. Jesus fulfilled these and hundreds like them.

PROPHECY

- * He would be of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
- * He would be of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
- * He would be of the seed of David (2 Samuel 7:12,13,16).
- * He would be born in the city of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- * He would have a forerunner (Malachi 3:1; 4:5).
- * He would be King on David's throne (2 Samuel 7:12,13,16).
- * He would be priest on His throne (Zechariah 6:12,13).



FULFILLMENT

Galatians 3:16
Hebrews 7:14
Matthew 1:1-17
Matthew 2:1,8
Matthew 3:1-3
Acts 2:29-31
Hebrews 8:1

THE KINGDOM IN PROPHECY

It was prophesied that Jesus would come and reign as King (Isaiah 9:6,7; 22:20-25; Psalm 110:1). He would be given a universal reign over all things. This would be fulfilled in the days of the Roman Empire, for Daniel prophesied, “*And in the days of these kings [Roman kings] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed*” (Daniel 2:44). This would happen when Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father. Daniel also prophesied: “*I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and*

they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” Jesus has ascended to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9-10)! He is now reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords (Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Timothy 6:15)! All men should now bow to His authority which He has over all things (Philippians 2:9-11)! Everyone should now submit to Jesus as their King and Lord (James 4:6-10)!

If you were convinced that the Bible contained true prophecies and their fulfillments, would you change your life to do what the Bible says you must do? YES NO

God Worked Powerfully Throughout History In Order To Give Evidence Of His Presence And His Work

There are thousands of religions in the world. All are different. All claim to be true faiths that were revealed from a higher power. Have all these religions confused you? It is certainly confusing for unbelievers who refuse to submit to God. They accuse that the great diversity of religions among men is evidence that religion is only the invention of people who seek to be religious. It is true that people invent their own religions. However, we think that it is wrong to believe that God allows people to do whatever they think or feel when it comes to worshipping and pleasing Him. God has revealed Himself in history. He has revealed His will to us in a way that will produce unity among those who believe His message. We also believe that He has miraculously proved Jesus to be His Son. He has also miraculously proved the message of the New Testament writers.

THE SUPERNATURAL EVIDENCE OF GOD

- ▶ True miraculous works of God are referred to in the Bible as *wonders* (Mark 6:51; 7:37), *signs* (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:4), *powers* (Acts 19:11) and *works* (John 5:36).
- ▶ True miracles could be recognized by the senses of people and were not hidden from unbelievers (Acts 26:26). Unbelievers could not deny them (Acts 4:14-16).
- ▶ True miracles were recognized to be something that was not considered an ordinary occurrence of natural laws (See 1 Kings 18:17-46; John 11:43-45). When God miraculously worked in miracle, witnesses knew that the miracle was not of this world.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MIRACLES OF GOD

- True miracles proved that Jesus was the Son of God (John 20:30,31; Acts 2:22).
- True miracles proved the messengers of Jesus (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:1-4).
- True miracles proved the spoken word of Jesus and His messengers (Mark 16:20).

BEWARE!

The Bible warns against believing false miraculous works. Jesus said, ***“For false christ and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect”*** (Matthew 24:24). One must not be deceived into believing to be miraculous that which he or she does not understand. Our eagerness to believe such may indicate that we suffer from a lack of love of the truth. Therefore, when considering something today to be miraculous when actually it is not, think of the following warning that is given in the Bible. This warning should be heeded by all today for there are many false prophets.

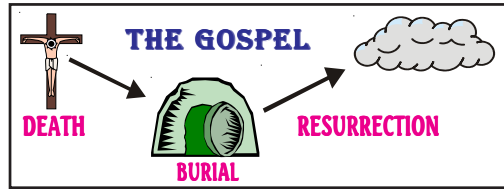
The presence of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan with all deceiving power and signs and wonders, and with all deception of wickedness among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion so that they should believe a lie, that they all might be condemned who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

If God miraculously proved His word to be true in the first century, does He have to continually do such today in order to convince you to believe and obey Him? YES NO

God Lovingly Sent His Only Son Into The World In Order To Save The World

Since you believe in God and the Bible, here is what you must now do. When Jesus came, He proclaimed, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel”* (Mark 1:15). You must also repent and believe the gospel!



OBEY THE GOSPEL

When Jesus said that we must believe the gospel, He meant that our belief must move us to obey the gospel, for if we love Him we will keep His commandments (John 14:15).

2 THESSALONIANS 1:7-9

“You who are afflicted, rest with us when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These will be punished with everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord and away from the glory of His power” (See also 1 Peter 4:17).

Since the above passage states that one must obey the gospel in order to escape the coming punishment of Jesus, we ask:

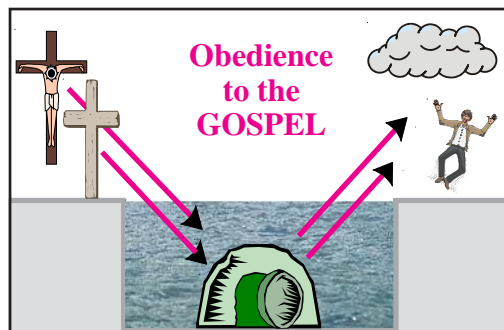
**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
HOW CAN ONE OBEY THE GOSPEL?**

THE GOOD NEWS!

The gospel was an **event** in history. Paul explained, *“... I declare to you the gospel ... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”* (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The gospel is the historical event of the **death of Jesus on the cross for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection to give us hope of eternal life.**

BAPTISM

If one must obey the gospel in order to escape the coming punishment of judgment, **how can one obey the historical event of the gospel?** Here's how. Paul wrote. *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him ...”* (Romans 6:3-6).



You must be immersed with Jesus for remission of sins in order to be raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). By doing this, you have obeyed the gospel!

If you do not obey the gospel by immersion with Jesus into His death, burial and resurrection, can you expect His judgment of vengeance when He comes again? YES NO

The Church Is God's Community Of Believers Who Have Responded With Submission To King Jesus

When you believe in Jesus as the King and Saviour of your life, and obey the gospel by immersion in water for remission of sins, Jesus reigns in your heart. In this way the kingdom reign of Jesus is established in you (Luke 17:20,21), for the will of the Father is then done on earth in your heart as it is done in heaven (Matthew 6:9,10). The Father thus adds you to the universal body of Christ, the church (Acts 2:47). In this way, therefore, you have been immersed (baptized) into the one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).

FACTS ABOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST

- * Jesus is the only head of the body, the church (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).
- * There is only one universal body of Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-25).
- * Among other terms in the New Testament, the body is described as the *church of God* (1 Corinthians 1:2), the *church of Christ* (Romans 16:16), the *house of God* (1 Timothy 3:15), the *flock of God* (1 Peter 5:2,3), and *temple of God* (2 Corinthians 6:16).
- * New Testament references describe members of the body as *Christians* (Acts 11:26), *saints* (Romans 1:7), *children of God* (Galatians 3:26) and *priests* (1 Peter 2:5,9).

ONE BODY: Jesus is the only head of the one body. In order to be saved, one must be a member of this body, for when Jesus comes He is coming for His body, the church of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).



TRUTH VERSES TRADITIONS

When people seek to follow God according to their religious traditions, departure from God's truth always occurs. Jesus said, *"All too well you reject the commandment of God so that you may keep your tradition"* (Mark 7:9). Some religious traditions may appear harmless in reference to God's will. We may consider them a part of our heritage. But remember, when religious traditions are bound on the consciences of men, they lead one away from God (Colossians 2:20-23). If one is not willing to sacrifice those religious traditions that keep us away from God, then he or she has been led away from the truth of God. We must therefore be careful of those about whom Paul wrote, *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith"* (1 Timothy 4:1-3). It is our desire that this brief course will challenge you to search the Scriptures in order to find the truth (Acts 11:17).

UNITY OF THE BODY

- Jesus prayed that all believers be united as one church of Christ (John 17:20,21).
- The apostles taught unity among believers (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:4-6).
- The early Christians practiced unity of the universal church (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32).
- We must strive for unity (Philippians 1:27).

In the following statement, Jesus explained how His disciples would be identified throughout the world: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13:34,35).

Would you be willing to sacrifice any divisive religious tradition of men in order to enjoy the unity that comes by being a member of the body of Christ? YES NO

YOUR PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Your reception of this Introductory Course is the result of our desire that you join with us in restoring undenominational Christianity. If all Bible believers unite together on the authority of God's word alone, then we will be a strong force against the work of Satan. Therefore, our plea to you is the following:

- Accept the Bible as your only authority in religious matters (Read Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18,19).
- Reject those religious traditions that are the invention of men and cause one to depart from the word of God (Read Mark 7:1-9).
- Accept Jesus as your King and Saviour who will through His word guide you to enjoy the abundant life (Read John 14:15; 15:14).
- Obey the gospel by immersion into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus for the remission of your sins (Read Acts 2:36-38).
- Maintain the unity of the body of Christ, the church, by faithful study and obedience to the word of God (Read Ephesians 4:1-6).

Complete the following Exam. Detach it from the course and post it to the International Bible School. Be sure to complete the information on the back of the Exam.



DIRECTIONS: Complete all of the following questions. There are three possible answers to each question. Darken the circle of the letter that represents the correct answer to each question.

EXAMPLE:	ABC
Jesus came to give us a life that is more ... (A) abundant, (B) exciting, (C) challenging.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
1. The self-determined ways of men are the ways of ... (A) hope, (B) death, (C) faith	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
2. How many books are there in the Bible? (A) 66, (B) 39, (C) 27	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
3. Jesus said He is the way, the truth and the ... (A) faith, (B) life, (C) peace	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
4. By whom will God judge the world? (A) angels, (B) Christians, (C) Jesus	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
5. Telling the future by present circumstances is ... (A) prophecy, (B) prediction, (C) faith	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
6. The Messiah would be born of the seed of ... (A) David, (B) Ephraim, (C) Issachar	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
7. God set up a kingdom in the days of what kings? (A) Roman, (B) Assyrian, (C) Persian	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
8. Miracles are called wonders, signs, powers and ... (A) magic, (B) tricks, (C) works	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
9. God allows those who do not believe truth to believe ... (A) lies, (B) stories, (C) tales	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
10. Of what does Jesus say beware? (A) false prophets, (B) zealous men, (C) ambition	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
11. The centrality of the gospel is the death, burial and ... (A) faith, (B) resurrection, (C) hope	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
12. One will not be saved if he does not obey the ... (A) gospel, (B) traditions, (C) faith	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
13. The body of Christ is the ... (A) church, (B) faith, (C) church building	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
14. The new commandment of Jesus was ... (A) faith in God, (B) love one another, (C) hope	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
15. Some reject God's commandments in order to keep ... (A) faith, (B) traditions, (C) truth.	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
16. In order to have unity, what must be our only authority? (A) traditions, (B) Bible, (C) faith	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
17. One head of the church indicates there is one ... (A) denomination, (B) church, (C) Nation	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
18. Why is one baptized? (A) to obey tradition, (B) remission of sins, (C) because he is saved	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
19. Jesus said to repent and believe in the ... (A) church, (B) traditions, (C) gospel	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
20. When one is baptized, he is added to ... (A) a denomination, (B) the church, (C) nothing	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

MILLIONS NOW BELIEVE!

Millions of people in the world today have already discovered what you have now briefly studied in this course. Millions have obeyed the gospel. God has added them to the universal church of Christ. They now have hope of heaven that is beyond this world (Titus 1:2), a better place that is free of the pain and suffering we now endure (2 Corinthians 5:1-8). They are thus waiting for the glory that will be revealed to the children of God (Romans 8:18). Our plea is that you join with this great multitude. Take advantage of this opportunity for hope in a hopeless world. You can do this by turning to God in obedience to the gospel. All of us who have already obeyed the gospel encourage you to do the same!



– GOD’S PEOPLE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD –

You will want to continue your studies in the word of God. The Bible says of the Bereans, *“These were more noble-minded . . . in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily”* (Acts 17:11). In order to continue your nobility as a student of God’s word, write today for the next exciting course.

Ref. _____

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Before you post the exam for this course, please fill in the following information in order that we might better know you. Please write your name and address clearly. When you post this form to us, we will send you **FREE** the **Master Course** of the *International Bible School*.

Surname: _____

Given Name: _____

P.O. Box: _____ Postal Code: _____

City: _____ Province or State: _____

Country: _____ Phone/fax/email: _____

Date of birth: _____ Male Female Single Married

Occupation: _____ Name of your church: _____

Send to: