

Creation to Christ Bible Study



Dear Friend,

The Bible is God's recorded message to the peoples of the world. To most people the Bible is like a big jigsaw puzzle. Have you ever put a jigsaw puzzle together? First, most people find the four corner pieces of puzzle. Then they find the edge pieces and put together the frame. Then they go to work to fill in the middle and a picture begins to develop. Not until you have placed the last piece in the puzzle do you get to see the whole picture.

The Creation to Christ Bible study is a series of 4 books. Book number 1 lays out the four corner pieces to our Bible puzzle. Book number 2 builds the outer frame. Books 3 and 4 fill in the middle to reveal a beautiful picture of God's grace and mercy.

At the end of the booklet is a short series of questions from each lesson to help you better understand what you just read. I suggest looking at the questions at the end before you read. Then after reading the lesson, go back and try to answer the questions.

As you complete each lesson and answer the questions on the following pages, please mail the sheets with the answered questions to the address below. **Please keep this book number 4 as our gift to you.** If you have any spiritual questions or would like further help, please write to us – we would like to help:

[Your Address Line 1]

[Your Address Line 2]

Lesson 19: “The Way of God and the Way of Man”

Mark 7:1-5 Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders....And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

When a Pharisee gave money to the poor, he made sure that everyone was aware that he was going to give so they could watch him give the money. He liked to pray in public places so everyone could see him. The thing he was doing was not wrong. It was the attitude of his heart that was wrong. He was not doing these things because he believed and trusted in God to save him from his sins. Instead, he thought he was good enough to please God, and he wanted people to see just how good he was. The Pharisees were hypocrites. They prided themselves on doing all the outward things, such as washing their hands, pots, and tables before they ate. They did not realize that God saw all the evil in their hearts.

The Pharisees disapproved of Jesus' disciples because they did not do many things which the Pharisees said were necessary for a person to be accepted by God. The Scribes and Pharisees added many rules to God's words. They taught that a person must follow these rules in order to be accepted by God. They added literally hundreds of laws to the law of God.

Mark 7:6,7 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

The Pharisees said many good things about God with their lips, but in their hearts, they did not love God nor obey his Word. They did not come to God agreeing with Him that they were sinners and trusting in his promises regarding the Savior. Today, there are still people who teach their own ideas instead of God's Word. People are taught that if they follow these rules and do the things they teach, then they will be accepted by God. God says that such teaching is useless. Those people say they are following and worshiping God, but truly they are not. Those who trust in keeping rules will not be accepted by God.

The Scribes and Pharisees put great emphasis on not eating certain food. They thought this would help them be accepted by God. Jesus said it is not what we eat that makes us unacceptable to God, but the sin in our hearts.

Luke 18:9-14 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

A parable is a story that teaches us about God and our relationship with him. The Pharisee went up to the temple to pray. He was a very proud man. He was trusting in his own goodness and the things which he did. He thought that he was good enough for God to accept him because of what he did. The Pharisee is like Cain who came to God in his own way. Just as God rejected Cain, God also rejected this Pharisee.

This Pharisee is no different from the person today who relies on his own good works to save him. Many people today may think they will go to heaven because of what they do, such as live a good life, pray, go to church, be baptized, do not drink, do not smoke, or do not lie or steal. God says all have sinned and there is nothing anyone can do by his own efforts to reunite himself with God.

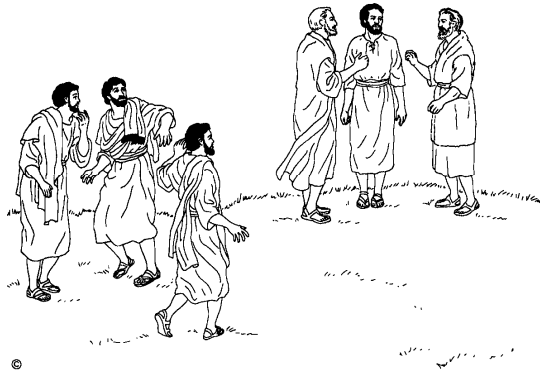
Publicans are tax collectors. They were hated by their own people. This tax collector did not try to hide his sin from God. He saw himself as God saw him. He agreed with God about his own sin. He knew that, if God did not send a Savior, he would spend all eternity being punished by God for his sins. However, he trusted in the Savior God promised to send. God had mercy on him, forgave him and accepted him. He was like Abel who agreed with God and trusted him to be his Savior.

The Pharisee would not admit that he was a guilty and helpless sinner who needed God's mercy, so his sins were not forgiven by God. God rejected him just as he had rejected unbelieving and rebellious Cain.

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Jesus clearly showed the people he was the Savior whom God had promised from the beginning. He had showed them by performing great miracles, but the majority of the people still did not believe him. He knew that Satan would use the Jewish leaders to kill him. Jesus also knew that although he would die and be buried, he would come out of the grave after three days and three nights. Jesus knew these things because he is God.

Hundreds of years earlier, the prophets foretold many details of the life of Jesus. These include that he would suffer many things, he would be rejected by the Jewish leaders, he would be killed, and he would be raised from the dead.



Mark 9:2-4 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

Jesus was a real man, but he also was God. This is the only time while Jesus was on earth that the "God part" of Jesus showed through his human body. His body usually hid the "God part" so he looked like an ordinary man. Moses and Elijah began to talk with Jesus. Elijah was a prophet who lived 850 years before Jesus came to earth. We know Moses died about 1,400 years before Jesus came to earth. They had been with God for hundreds of years in

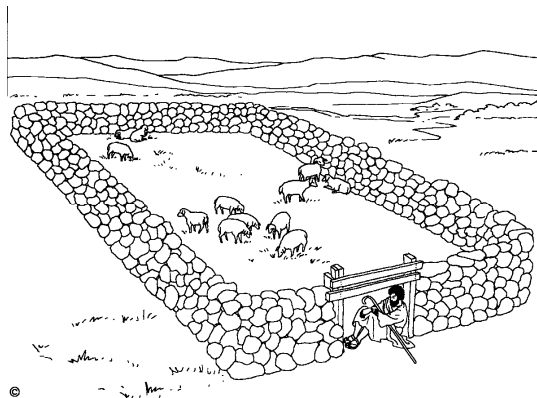
Heaven.

God accepted them along with Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and everyone else who had agreed with God that they were helpless sinners and trusted in God to send a Savior. God now allowed Elijah and Moses to come back to earth to talk to Jesus. Elijah and Moses also knew the promised Savior had to die. They knew about God's promises concerning the Savior and were talking to Jesus about his coming death. Heaven is a real place and it is God's home. Everyone who agrees with God and trusts Jesus, the Savior, will go to live with God in Heaven when they die.

* Please answer lesson 19 questions on page 19 *

Lesson 20: "The Way to Eternal Life"

Much of the land of Israel is dry and barren, and sometimes it was very hard to find grass for the sheep. Shepherds often had to leave their homes and lead their sheep a long way in search of food. Many times, the shepherds would be so far from their homes at nightfall that they had to sleep out in the fields with their sheep. It was dangerous to sleep out in the open because there were robbers who would try to steal the sheep, and there were wild animals which would kill them. So the shepherds would find a cave or make a sheep pen made of stones and thorn bushes. The shepherd would put their sheep in this protected area and lie down to sleep at the entrance. There was only one door into the sheepfold and the shepherd was acting like the door or gate.



John 10:7,8 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

Jesus meant that he was the way into the place of safety and security. Outside, in this world, are Satan, his evil spirits, sin, and death. They are like the robbers and the wild animals which want to kill and eat the sheep. Satan wants to convince those "outside the sheepfold" that it is much safer in his territory. He whispers in the ears of those wanting to come into God's sheepfold that "what will other people think of you?"

Satan doesn't want you to enter the safety and security of God's sheep fold. He will use your pride and fears to keep you from entering. As we have read in God's Word, Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He appeals to our sinful desires. Satan has been deceiving and destroying people for thousands of years. We are born under his control. His purpose is to destroy us so we will be separated from God forever. He does everything he can to make his way look best, but it is the way of death.

There is only one door into the sheepfold of God. Inside is the true place of safety, security, and eternal life. Jesus is God, and he is the only Savior. Jesus is the only door to eternal life. There is no other way to heaven. He wants to be your Savior from Satan, sin, and eternal separation from God.

John 10:9-11 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out,

and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Just as there was one door into the sheepfold so Jesus is the only doorway into eternal life. Some people may say to you that what the Bible teaches is all right for Christians, but there are other religions that also lead people to God. That is a lie of Satan. There are not many ways or many doors to be accepted by God. There are not many ways to eternal life. There is only one door to God and to eternal life. Jesus is that door. He came to be the Savior of all people in every place, no matter what language they speak. Remember when God told Noah to build the ark. God commanded Noah to build only one boat and to build only one door in it. Only those who came through that one door into the ark were saved from God's judgment. The way to enter the door to everlasting life is to repent regarding your sin and trust only in Jesus the promised Savior. Jesus is the doorway to God and there is no other way.

Jesus said that he is not like Satan who only wants to destroy people. Jesus came into the world to give eternal life to all who believe him. One of Satan's lies is that his way is the best, the most interesting and fun way to live. He gives people just enough pleasure to make them think that his way is better than the way offered by Jesus Christ. What a terrible lie! The Bible makes it very clear that all who refuse to repent and believe Jesus Christ will be separated from God and punished forever in the Lake of Fire. Jesus came to give eternal life to those who will believe him.

Jesus already told his disciples that the Jewish leaders would not believe that he was the Savior and would therefore kill him. Jesus said that he was like a shepherd who loved his sheep so much that he would die for them in order to save them from the robbers and wild animals.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is the only way to God and everlasting life. All that Jesus said is truth. He is God and cannot lie. Jesus is the Savior of all who believe. He is the only one who can save us from sin, death, and separation from God in the Lake of Fire.

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Very few people want to talk about death. We spend money trying to get well and stay well and trying to look young and stay young. Jesus talked about death, and what he had to say should change forever our thought about life and death.

Jesus had a good friend near Jerusalem named Lazarus. At one time, Jesus received news that Lazarus was very sick and about to die. Jesus healed many people, and the messengers were sure Jesus would come right away and heal his good friend. Jesus was a long way from where Lazarus was living. Jesus knew Lazarus was going to die. He could have healed Lazarus without even going to where he was. Instead, Jesus waited two days because he knew that this situation was going to be an opportunity for him to show his mighty power as God.

It may seem as though Jesus did not love Lazarus and his two sisters Mary and Martha, but that was not true. He loved them and was concerned for them. He had a good reason for allowing Lazarus to die. Through Lazarus' death, Jesus was going to show his power to give life to those who

believe.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Jesus was speaking to Lazarus' sister Martha. He wanted her to understand that he is the only one who can give life to the dead. Satan can not give life to the dead. Only God can give life, for he is the almighty Creator who gave life to everyone. Jesus also told Martha that every person who believes Him as their Savior may still die physically, but they will never be separated from God and never be punished for their sins. They only leave this world to go to live with God in heaven.

Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus and there he wept. He was grieved because of the horrible results of sin. The result of sin is sickness and death. This was the very reason he came into the world: to deliver people from death, and to give eternal life.

John 11:41-44 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said... with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.



Jesus Christ spoke, and Lazarus was raised from the dead. Jesus Christ is God. He is all powerful. God created all things in the beginning by speaking. So it is no surprise that Jesus was able to bring life back into Lazarus by speaking.

* Please answer lesson 20 questions on page 20 *

Lesson 21: “Foolishness of Trusting in Riches”

Mark 10:13-15 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

The disciples did not think that Jesus would want to take time to show love and care for little children. However, Jesus loves children. He wanted them to believe his Word and trust him, too. We

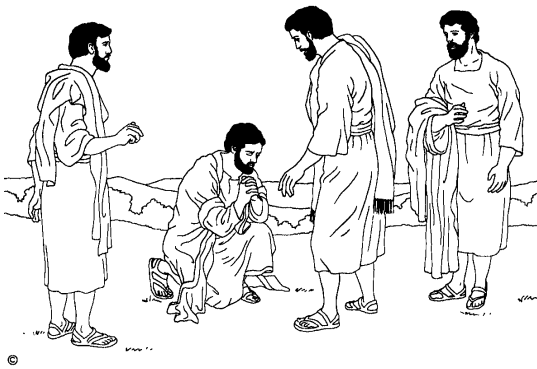
are all born sinners and under the power of Satan and death. The only way for any of us to be rescued is by putting our trust in Jesus as our Savior.



Those who are not willing to come to God and trust in him like a little child will not enter Heaven. A little baby loves to be held in your arms. He's not afraid of being dropped. He trusts you to hold him and take care of him. When you were a baby, you believed whatever your parents told you. You didn't try to figure things out for yourself, but as you grew older, you became more independent.

God did not design us to be independent of him. He made man in his image, to know, love, and obey him. As sinners, we cannot do that. We are separated from God by our sin. We are naturally independent and self-centered. Jesus Christ came to save sinners. He said that we must be born again. Just as it is impossible for anyone to bring about his own physical birth, so it is impossible for us to bring about our own spiritual birth. God alone is able to give us new life. Only he can save us from our sins.

We may find it difficult to accept the simplicity of the Gospel because we are naturally independent and want to be in control of everything that happens to us. That is why Jesus said we must come to him in childlike dependence. Many people will go to the Lake of Fire because they simply will not trust God. When anyone humbles himself and believes God like a little child, God will accept that person into Heaven.



Mark 10:17-20 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

This young man thought he could be accepted by God by his own goodness. He thought that by doing good things, he could be good enough to deserve eternal life. This man was like Cain who thought that bringing the things which he grew to God, he would be accepted by God. But God did not accept Cain because of the things which he brought.

This man did not understand that no one has ever been good enough to please God. He did not realize that God is the only one who is good. When Jesus answered him, he was not denying that he was good or that he was not God, but he wanted the man to realize that no ordinary man is good. If this man believed Jesus was good, then he should also have realized that Jesus was God, because the only one who is good is God.

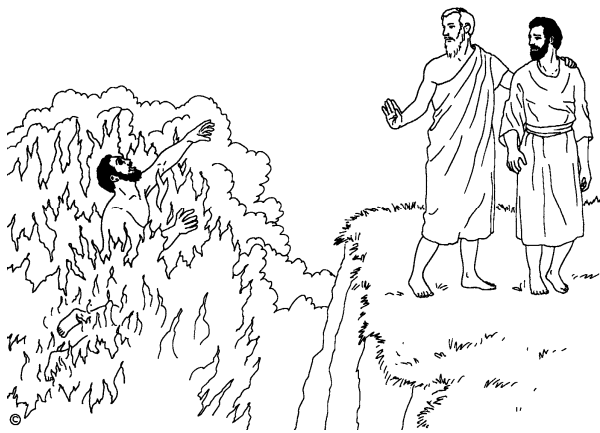
This man did not realize that he was born a sinner and under Satan's control. Therefore, he could never perfectly obey God's laws. He thought he had kept the Ten Commandments perfectly

because he had obeyed them outwardly. Even if he did obey the laws of God outwardly, he had not obeyed them in his heart. Jesus already taught the meaning of the Law by explaining that if a person simply hates another person in his heart, that he has committed murder. If a man looks at a woman and desires her, he has committed adultery in the heart. God does not judge a person according to his outward acts alone. God gave the Ten Commandments to prove to every person that all have sinned and come short of God's standard of goodness. You may think that you are a good person and that you do not deserve to go to the Lake of Fire, but you too have failed to do what God requires.

Mark 10:21,22 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Jesus knew that the man was covetous and loved his riches more than he loved his neighbors. Jesus was trying to show him that he had broken God's law which says that we must love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. Jesus wanted him to admit that he was a sinner and needed a Savior. Jesus was trying to help this young man realize that he had put his wealth in the place of God. This man chose his riches and turned away from eternal life with God. He loved his money more than God. The rich and poor are the same in God's sight. No one is able to take their money with them when they die.

Jesus told the following true story because he wants us to realize that our relationship with God is far more important than the riches of this world. Even if a man had all the wealth in the world, it would be no benefit to him if he would go to the Lake of Fire. Believing God and having everlasting life is of far more value than being rich in this life.



Luke 16:19-24 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send

Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

The rich man had everything he wanted. Did his riches keep him from dying? Were his riches any benefit to him after he died? When people die they either go directly to be with God in Heaven, or they go to Hell. Lazarus was accepted by God and went to Heaven, but the rich man went to Hell, where there is great suffering.

Lazarus did not go to Heaven because he was poor on earth. He agreed with God that he was

a sinner and trusted in the promised Savior. The rich man went to Hell because he did not agree with God that he was a sinner and did not trust in the promised Savior to rescue him from Satan, sin, and death. He just lived his life on earth to enjoy his riches. He lived for himself and did not care about God.

Abraham could not grant this rich man's request for Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue. Abraham said,

Luke 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Once a person dies and goes to Hell, there is no way he can be delivered. There is no way to escape. He will be there forever and ever. For all those who die without being accepted by God, they too will go to Hell. Those who die separated from God remain separated from God forever.

Satan has really deceived people about living today. Most people feel that money, things, and health are more important than God. After two thousand years, Lazarus is still with God in Heaven and the rich man is still in Hell suffering great pain. There is no changing place. They will be where they are forever and ever.

Mark 8:36. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

* Please answer lesson 21 questions on page 21 *

Lesson 22: “The Betrayal and Trial of Jesus Christ”

Crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere he went. Some wanted healing for physical problems. Others wanted political freedom from the Romans. Very few were thinking about their spiritual needs. Very few were willing to admit that their greatest need was to be saved from Satan, sin, and death. As Jesus and his disciples walked toward Jerusalem, they came to the little town of Bethany, just outside the city of Jerusalem. Bethany was the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Only a short time before, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead.



Mark 11:7-10 And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him. And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

© Jesus sat on the young donkey and rode into Jerusalem just as God had said hundreds of years earlier in Zechariah 9:9. The crowds welcomed

Jesus as the promised Savior from God. They praised him as the one whom all the prophets of God had promised that God would send to be their king. Most of the people, however, did not trust in Jesus to save them from Satan's power, their sins, and God's punishment. They only wanted Jesus to be their king so he would deliver them from their enemies. The Jewish leaders were determined to kill Jesus, but they were frightened of the crowds. Jesus was very popular because of all the great miracles he had done.

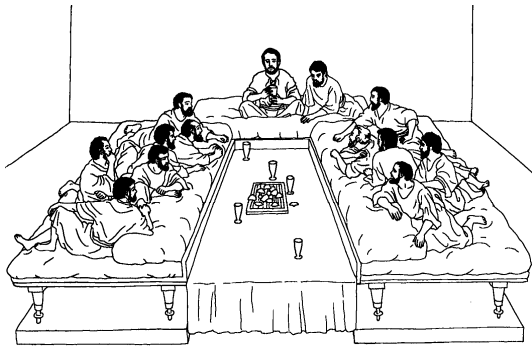
Mark 14:10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Judas was one of the twelve men whom Jesus had chosen, but Judas was not a true believer. He did not trust in Jesus as the Savior. Judas followed Jesus for his own personal gain. The Bible even tells us that Judas was a thief. He was entrusted to keep the money bag, but he would steal a part of the money and keep it for himself. When it seemed that he was not going to receive any personal benefits from following Jesus, he was willing to sell Jesus to his enemies.

Satan was guiding Judas to betray Jesus. Satan hates Jesus because Jesus is God, and he speaks the truth. Satan thought that if he could get the Jewish leaders to kill Jesus, he would hinder God's plan. Judas went to the enemies of Jesus and told them that he was willing to betray Jesus for money. The Jewish leaders paid Judas thirty pieces of silver.

Mark 14:12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

Many years after the first Passover in Egypt, the Jews were still celebrating this particular feast. Jesus had some of his disciples prepare a place for them to eat. Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray him. At the feast, Jesus said to his disciples that there was one among them who was going to betray him to the Jewish leaders. When Jesus said that it would be one of the twelve, he wanted make Judas realize what a horrible thing he was planning to do and give him a chance to change his mind.

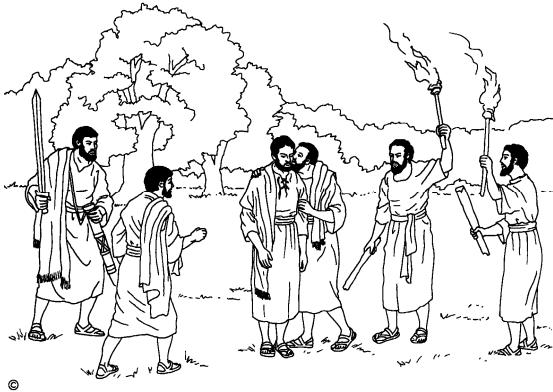


Mark 14:22-24 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

In this portion of Scripture, Jesus started what many call the Lord's Supper. He broke the bread and then explained that the broken bread was an illustration of his body which would be broken by evil men. Jesus said the wine was an illustration of his blood which would flow out of his body. Jesus said that he was going to sacrifice his life in the place of every person.

Before the supper, Judas departed from Jesus and the rest of the disciples to betray Jesus. After the supper, Jesus and the rest of the disciples went to a beautiful garden where Jesus often prayed. He knew that in order to be our Savior, he would have to go through terrible suffering more than anyone has ever experienced. After Jesus prayed, he said unto his disciples,

Mark 14:42-43 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand. And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.



Those who came to arrest Jesus did not realize they were being guided by Satan. The disciples all ran away and left Jesus, just as God predicted would happen. The disciples were afraid, disappointed, and confused. They believed that Jesus was the Savior sent from God, but they could not understand how he could be the Savior if he was going to be killed by his enemies. They did not understand how his death could deliver them from Satan, sin, and death.

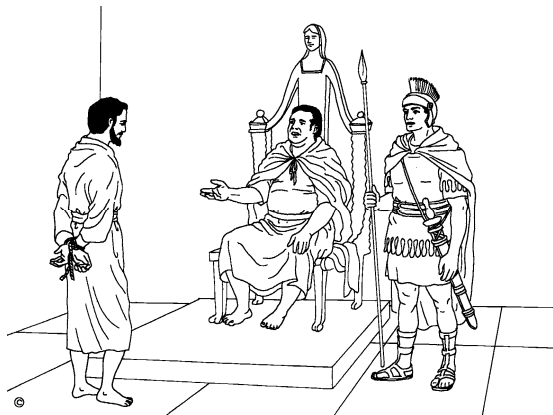
Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin, the high court of the Jewish people. Jesus had not done anything wrong. Therefore, they could not find any lawful reason to condemn him. They did not have any reason to hate Jesus except that they loved their own sin and did not want repent.

Hundreds of years earlier, God's prophets had said that false witnesses would tell lies about the Savior. Now as Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin, the exact words of these prophets were being fulfilled. The Jewish leaders found false witnesses to tell lies about Jesus Christ. Jesus was quiet and did not answer the false witnesses. Then they asked him if he really was the promised Savior and Jesus answered very plainly that he was. The high priest became very angry and said,

Mark 14:64-65 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

This is exactly what God's prophets said would happen to the Savior hundreds of years earlier. The Romans who ruled Israel would not allow the Jews to kill anyone unless they gave permission. The Roman Emperor had appointed Pilate to be the governor of Samaria and Judaea. The Jewish

leaders took Jesus to Pilate, hoping that, on the basis of the false charges they had prepared, Pilate would sentence Jesus to death.



It was a custom at the Passover that Pilate would release one prisoner for whom the Jews asked. Pilate knew that Jesus did nothing wrong. He knew that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus only because they were jealous of his popularity. Pilate hoped the Jews would choose to let him go free rather than a murderer named Barabbas.

The Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to be crucified. Crucifixion was used by the Romans for the

very worst criminals. Today it might be compared to the gas chamber or the electric chair. Crucifixion was even worse because the person did not die immediately. The criminal endured hours and sometimes days of intense physical agony before dying.

The Jewish leaders moved the people to have Jesus crucified. Pilate, under pressure, consented to have Jesus crucified. Jesus was whipped and mocked by the Romans before he was led away to be crucified. Records from this period tell us about scourging. The whip consisted of many lashes of leather. Pieces of sharp metal and bone were tied onto the lashes so they would cut the back of the prisoner when he was beaten. Repeated blows of the lash laid open the skin, cutting flesh, muscle, and nerves.

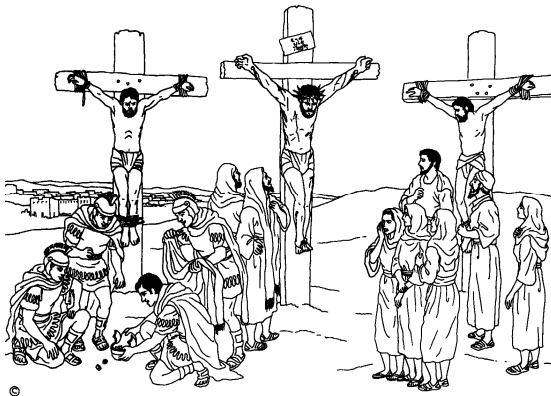


After the terrible scourging, the soldiers mocked Jesus. They dressed him in a purple robe, which was the color kings wore during that time. They made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. After this, they led Jesus to Golgotha where he was to be crucified, suffer, and die to deliver us from Satan, sin, and death.

* Please answer lesson 22 questions on page 22 *

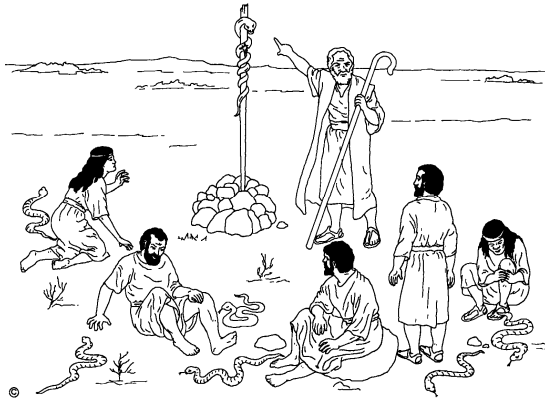
Lesson 23: “The Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ”

Of all the events of history, the one we are going to study now is the most important. Nothing else has ever or will ever affect the lives of people as this one event. We are going to study what Jesus did for us so that we can be accepted by God and go to live with him eternally in Heaven forever.



Mark 15:22-25. And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not. And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

Golgotha was just outside the walls of Jerusalem. The drink was prepared by women of Jerusalem as an act of mercy to help numb the pain of those being crucified. Nails were driven through Jesus' hands and feet into the wooden cross. The cross was then placed in an upright position.



Jesus told Nicodemus that as Moses in the wilderness lifted up the serpent on a pole, even so the Savior had to be lifted up so that sinners could be saved from Satan, sin and death.

Nearly a thousand years before, God guided King David to write that the Savior's hands and feet would be pierced. David also said the Savior's clothes would become the prize in a gambling game.

Usually a sign was put above the criminal to indicate what crime he had been found guilty of committing. But Jesus had committed no crime. Pilate could find nothing with which to charge him and so they made a nameplate which said Jesus was the King of the Jews. Jesus was dying for my sins, your sins, and the sins of the whole world. You and I are the ones who deserved to be on that cross. He was taking our place and was punished for our sin.

Here is what God did so that we can be delivered from Satan, sin, and death: God could never forgive our sin and accept us unless the punishment for our sin was completely paid. Therefore, the only way Jesus could deliver us was for him to take our place before God, and be punished for our sins.

Jesus was able to sacrifice his life for our sins because he was sinless. From the beginning, God said that whenever a person sacrificed an animal to God, it had to be perfectly healthy. It could not be sick or injured. Remember when Isaac was bound to the altar and Abraham was about to slay his son? God stopped Abraham and caused a ram to be caught by his horns in a bush behind them. God put it there so it could die in the place of Isaac. If the ram was injured, then it would not be acceptable to God. That is why the ram was caught by his horns. Just as the ram died in Isaac's place, so Jesus came into the world to die in our place.



Jesus suffered the complete punishment for our sins so God can freely forgive and accept all those who repent and believe on Jesus the Savior.

Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

Jesus did all that was necessary to deliver us from Satan, sin, and death. He shed his blood as the payment for our sins. All those who repent and trust in Jesus are forgiven by God of all their sins. God gives them the gift of everlasting life. Jesus Christ did for us what we could not do, that is make a way to be accepted by God. The work Jesus did for us is the only work that God will ever accept as payment for our sins.

Jesus was taken down from the cross and put in a tomb of a rich man named Joseph of

Arimathaea. A massive stone was rolled in front of the entrance. Jesus' body was in the tomb for three days and three nights. At the end of this time, on the morning of the first day of the week (Sunday), some of the women who had believed in Jesus returned to the burial cave. It was the custom of the Jews to put fragrant spices on the bodies of the dead. These women came early Sunday morning to anoint the body of Jesus. They expected to find his body still in the tomb. But what a shock they received!

Luke 24:2,3 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

The women did not know that God had sent his angel to roll the heavy stone away from the entrance of the grave. The body of Jesus was not in the tomb! And to add to this shock, they were greeted by two angels.

Luke 24:4-7 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he said he would. Jesus is God. He came down to earth and became a man to deliver us from Satan, sin, and death. Jesus knew before he left heaven that he must give his life and rise again. All of his followers should have been waiting for him and expecting him to rise from the dead because he had told them many times he would rise on the third day. Either they did not understand or remember what he had said, or else they just did not believe that it was possible that he would come out of the grave alive.

We are sure that Jesus is God and the promised Savior because he was raised from the dead. The Jewish leaders crucified Jesus because he claimed to be the Savior, but God raised Jesus from the dead so that everyone would know that Jesus was who he claimed to be. We are also assured that God was completely satisfied with the payment for our sins which Jesus made with his blood because God raised him up from the dead. The only way for us to be accepted by God was for Jesus to pay the complete price of our sins.

So, how can you be delivered from Satan, sin, and everlasting separation from God? You must repent and agree with God that you are a helpless sinner and unable to save yourself. Then place your complete trust in the Lord Jesus, believing that he gave his blood as the full payment for your sins and rose again from the dead to give you eternal life. Jesus died for all people and God wants everyone to know that they can be delivered from Satan, sin, and death. God does not want anyone to suffer everlasting punishment. This is the purpose of this Bible Study: so you can hear and understand and believe this wonderful news and be able to share it with others.

I have not seen Jesus with my eyes, but I believe that Jesus came into the world and that he died for our sins and rose again on the third day. I know this and believe it because God has written it in the Bible. I have agreed with God that I am a helpless sinner, and I have repented of my sins and trusted in Jesus the Savior. God accepted me on February 26, 1995 when I was born again. When I die, I know I will go to live with God forever in Heaven.

It is important that you believe this message which God has written in his Word. God says

that those who believe Jesus is the Savior who died for their sins, was buried, and rose again from the dead can know that their sins are forgiven by God and that he will accept them.

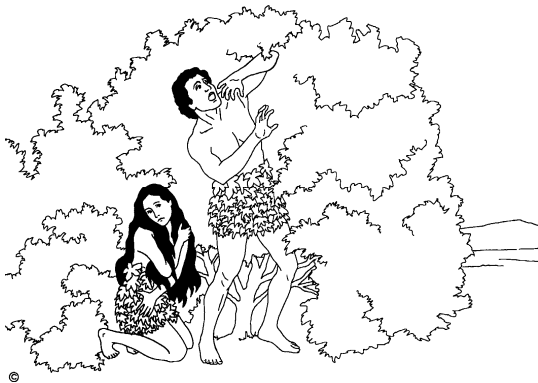


After Jesus commanded his disciples to take this Good News to every person, he left them and returned to Heaven. Jesus is coming back to the earth again, but this time it is not to deliver sinners from Satan, sin, and death because he completed that work. The next time Jesus comes, it will be as the judge of the whole earth. God now commands everyone to repent, that is, to agree with God that they are helpless sinners deserving his punishment and to trust only in the payment which Jesus has made for them. All those who have not repented and trusted in Jesus the Savior will be thrown along with Satan and his demons into the Lake of Fire.

* Please answer lesson 23 questions on page 23 *

Lesson 24: “The Meaning of Christ's Death from the Old Testament”

The Old Testament is like a signpost on the side of the road giving directions. God knows that everyone has been lost. He made sure the way back to him is well marked. The Old Testament is like God's signpost because a great many of the historical incidents recorded in the Old Testament pointed forward to the birth, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. In this last lesson, we will review some of these past events and see how they pointed forward to the Lord Jesus Christ and his death for us on the cross.



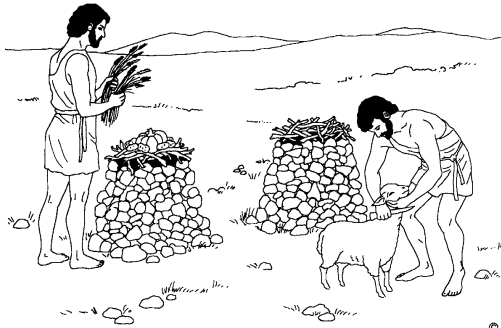
Do you remember what Adam and Eve did when they sinned and became aware they were naked? They made themselves coverings of leaves. Did God accept the clothing they made? No, God refused to accept what they made because he wanted to teach them that they could not do anything to make themselves acceptable to him.

God wants each of us to realize this. There is nothing we can do to make ourselves acceptable to God. Going to church, providing for our families, doing good deeds, giving to the needy, taking care of the environment are things we should do, but none of these things will make us acceptable to God. Are you trying to do something to make yourself right before God? If you are, you need to realize that what you are doing is no more acceptable to God than the clothes Adam and Eve made.

In the place of their clothes, God killed animals and made clothes for them. Similarly, God refuses to accept anything we do to make ourselves pleasing to him, but because he loved us, he sent Jesus Christ to die for us so we could be made acceptable to him. If you trust only in him, then, just as God put the clothes on Adam and Eve, he will forgive your sins and accept you. God will accept you, not because you are sinless, but because the Lord Jesus who died in your place is sinless. All who trust in him alone are forever accepted by God because they are clothed with the righteousness

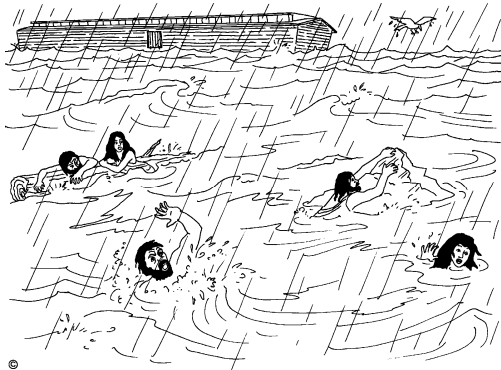
of Jesus Christ.

The next story we need to consider is the one about Cain and Abel. God rejected Cain because he came to God in his own way, according to his own ideas, and not in the way God had commanded.



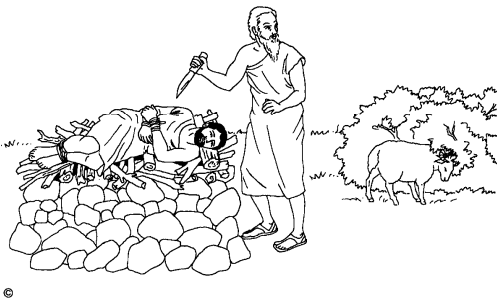
God made it clear from the beginning that, whenever anyone came to worship, he must bring an animal, kill it, and allow its blood to run out. God said to do this because he knew one day Jesus Christ would give his blood to pay for the sins of the world. Abel was a sinner too, but he was accepted by God because he trusted in God to save him and brought the blood sacrifice God required. In the same way, God will accept all those who believe on Jesus the Savior.

Do you remember reading about the way people were living in Noah's time, before the flood? People refused to listen to God's warning given through Noah. God said he was going to destroy the world by a flood. Did God intend to destroy Noah who, like Abel, knew he was a sinner and trusted in God to send a Savior? No. Do you remember how many doors God told Noah to make in the ark? Just one.



There was only one way they could enter the ark and be saved from God's judgment. Before the flood came, the animals, Noah, and his family all entered the ark by the one door, and God shut them in. Inside the ark, they were safe from God's punishment on the sinful world. God only sent one Savior just like there was only one ark.

Everyone outside the ark died in the flood, because they refused to believe God and enter the ark by the one door. That one door reminds us of the Lord Jesus who is the only way to eternal life. When anyone believes that Jesus died for his sins and puts his trust only in him, God forgives his sins and gives him eternal life. Don't be foolish like the people in Noah's day that refused to enter the ark and be saved.



himself. As John the Baptist said of Jesus Christ, He is "...the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

One day, God instructed Abraham to take his only son Isaac and offer him for a burnt sacrifice. The place where God told Abraham to go was very near, if not the very same place, where Jesus Christ was sacrificed. Abraham laid the wood for the burnt sacrifice on the back of Isaac and went up the hill. Jesus Christ carried the wooden cross up the hill to where he would be crucified. When Isaac asked his father where the sacrifice was, he responded, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb." Jesus Christ is God the Son. God did indeed provide

Another incident recorded in the Old Testament that was a picture of Jesus Christ was during the last plague God brought upon Egypt. The last plague would kill the firstborn child in every

family. The Israelites would have lost their firstborn too, but God made a way for them to escape. Each family had to choose a lamb.

First, the lamb had to be without blemish. God commanded the Israelites to choose a lamb that was in perfect physical condition. These perfect lambs of the Israelites picture Jesus Christ. He was without sin.

Second, the lamb had to die. The Israelites kept the lamb until the time God said they should kill it. The lamb had to die and its blood shed if the firstborn child was to be saved from death. In the same way, it was necessary for the Lord Jesus to give his blood as the payment for our sins. There was no other way we could be saved from God's judgment on our sins.



Third, the lamb's blood had to be placed on the top and sides of the door frame. Even though the Israelites killed the lamb and caught its blood in the basin as God had commanded them, the firstborn child would still have died unless they put the blood on the top and sides of the door frame. This teaches us that merely knowing that we are sinners and that Jesus died for our sins will not save us from God's terrible judgment. The Israelites had to put the blood of the lamb on the door frames of their houses to show God they were trusting in the blood to protect them from the angel of death. In the same way, we have to trust personally in the Lord Jesus and his death as the payment for our sins. We must believe that what the Lord Jesus did on the cross was for us as individuals. Jesus died for me personally. Jesus died for you personally.

Did the angel of death kill any firstborn child inside a house where the blood had been applied? No. God said he would pass over every house where he saw the blood and he did. In the same way, you can be absolutely certain that if you trust in Jesus Christ you will never be punished for your sins. Jesus blood paid for all your sin and you can be certain that God will never demand a second payment. All who trust only in Jesus Christ have everlasting life.

After God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians, he led them through the wilderness until they came to Mount Sinai. Here, God gave them his commandments which showed them they were helpless sinners under the condemnation of death. However, God is also loving, merciful, and gracious. He instructed Moses to have a tabernacle built where he would meet with his people and forgive their sin.

Once a year, the high priest was to enter the inner room of the tabernacle and sprinkle the blood of a lamb on the mercy seat. Year after year animals were sacrificed and their blood sprinkled on the mercy seat in the tabernacle, but the blood of animals could never pay for sin. These offerings only pictured Jesus Christ who was to come to provide the one complete sacrifice for sin by sacrificing his own life.

How foolish the Jews were who refused to accept that Jesus was the Savior sent from God. How foolish they were not to believe that his blood had fully paid for all sin. People today are just as foolish when they try to save themselves by the things they do instead of simply trusting in what

Jesus has already done. Are you going to trust in what you do or in what Jesus has done for you on the cross? What are you going to do?

Millions of people from countries all over the world have looked back to what Jesus Christ did when he died for them and they have trusted him as their Savior. What about you? Will you repent of your sins? Agree with God that you are a sinner and deserve eternal separation from him in the Lake of Fire. Change your mind about what you are trusting in to make yourself acceptable to God, and trust completely and trust only in Jesus Christ as your Savior.

* Please answer lesson 24 questions on page 24 *

Directions:

As you finish reading each of these lessons, answer the lesson questions on the following pages. When each question sheet is complete, please mail the sheet to the address indicated.

Please keep this book number 4 as our gift to you. Include your return address, and we will return your corrected answer sheet with helpful comments. You should receive your certificate of completion within a couple weeks.

Lesson 19 Questions:

1. Why were the Pharisees angry with Jesus' disciples?
2. Is it right for anyone to add his own ideas and rules to the Bible?
3. Does what we eat or wear make us acceptable to God?
4. Why did God accept the tax collector and refuse the Pharisee?
5. What did Jesus tell his disciples was going to happen to him?

Please answer all questions and mail this page to:

[Your Address Line 1]

[Your Address Line 2]

Include a return mailing address, and we will return this sheet with helpful comments.

Lesson 20 Questions:

1. Why did Jesus call himself the door of the sheep?
2. What did Jesus say he would do for his sheep?
3. Who are Jesus' sheep?
4. Is there another way to God than through Jesus Christ?
5. Why did Jesus plan to raise Lazarus back to life?

Please answer all questions and mail this page to:

[Your Address Line 1]

[Your Address Line 2]

Include a return mailing address, and we will return this sheet with helpful comments.

Lesson 21 Questions:

1. What did Jesus mean when he said that we must become as little children if we are to enter Heaven?
2. How did the young man who came to Jesus think he would please God and get into Heaven?
3. Why did this man go away sad?
4. What is much more important than being rich?
5. Where do people go when they die?
6. Can anyone ever escape Hell?

Please answer all questions and mail this page to:

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Include a return mailing address, and we will return this sheet with helpful comments.

Lesson 22 Questions:

1. Did Judas ever realized his sinfulness, repent, and trust in Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say the broken bread was an illustration of?
3. What did Jesus say the wine was an illustration of?
4. Who was leading Judas and the Jewish leaders to arrest and kill Jesus?
5. Did Jesus ever do anything wrong?

Please answer all questions and mail this page to:

[Your Address Line 1]

[Your Address Line 2]

Include a return mailing address, and we will return this sheet with helpful comments.

Lesson 23 Questions:

1. Why was Jesus crucified?
2. What did the women find on Sunday morning when they went to the grave?
3. What does the resurrection of Jesus show us?
4. How can we be forgiven by God and receive the gift of everlasting life?
5. Will Jesus ever return to this earth?
6. What will he do when he returns?

Please answer all questions and mail this page to:

[Your Address Line 1]

[Your Address Line 2]

Include a return mailing address, and we will return this sheet with helpful comments.

Lesson 24 Questions:

1. What did Adam and Eve do when they sinned?
2. What did God do when he saw their clothing?
3. What does this remind you of what God has done for you?
4. Why did God reject Cain's offering?
5. How many doors did God tell Noah to make in the ark?
6. How is this a picture of Jesus Christ?
7. What kind of lamb did God command the Israelites to choose so the firstborn would be saved from death?
8. How does this lamb remind us of the Lord Jesus?
9. Was there any way we could have been saved from God's punishment for our sins if Jesus had not died for us?
10. How does the fact that they had to put the blood on the door posts remind us what we must do if we are to be saved from for our sins?

Please answer all questions and mail this page to:

[Your Address Line 1]

[Your Address Line 2]

Include a return mailing address, and we will return this sheet with helpful comments.