

# NEW BEGINNINGS BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

The perfect companion Bible study guide to *New Beginnings* DVD resources!

The *New Beginnings Bible Study Guide* takes you on a tour through the Holy Bible—the Word of God. Each lesson shows how God has communicated to humankind through the inspired writers of the Bible, and how these messages apply to our lives today. Studying the Bible with the help of this guide will make biblical concepts easier to grasp, and has led many to discover the awesome, life-changing power found in the Bible. Whether this is your first time picking up a Bible, or the thousandth time, the *New Beginnings Bible Study Guide* makes it easy for you to find your way through Scripture.

# NEW BEGINNINGS



Bible Study Guide



IT IS WRITTEN

## Finding Bible Passages

Each question in this study guide also includes a specific Scripture reference where the answer may be found. If you are not familiar with the way the Bible is arranged, at first you may find it a little difficult to look up the passages found in each study topic. Don't let that stop you! The best way to learn is by practicing, so we encourage you to try to find every passage in each study.

Here are some tips for finding a specific Bible passage. Each Scripture reference has three elements:

### Daniel 2:27



**Book.** There are 66 books in the Bible, with 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Every Bible has a contents page at the very front, listing the books in order and indicating the starting page of each book. You might put a book marker in the contents page for a while to help you find it quickly.

Note that several book names are divided into two or more different books. A number in front of a book name tells you which book it is. For example, there are two books with the title "Kings": 1 Kings is called "First Kings," and 2 Kings is called "Second Kings." And there are four books with "John" in their name: John is its own book, and there are also 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John too. (Can you guess who wrote those four books?)

**Chapter.** The number immediately after the book name is almost always the chapter number. Books vary considerably in size—Psalms is the largest with 150 chapters. There are five books with just one chapter: Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John and Jude. References for these books simply leave out the chapter number (for example, 3 John 2 refers to the second verse in 3 John).

**Verse.** The last number is the verse. Again, chapter sizes vary considerably, ranging from just a few verses to 176 in Psalm 119. A comma between verse numbers (for example, John 3:16, 17) indicates two verses in the passage, while a dash (such as Matthew 24:3-31) indicates a range of verses.

## *Program 1: How to Know the Future*

**God is in control! God has a wonderful plan and He wants you to be part of it.**

*There is a very interesting dream found in the Bible where God revealed the future of this world to a secular king. So far, history has confirmed God's predictions. Some of the predictions are yet to come, it is no secret what will happen next.*

Read the story, found in Daniel chapter 2. Which king had this strange dream (Daniel 2:1)? Over which nation did he rule (Daniel 1:1)?

When the king woke up, he couldn't even remember the dream. His advisors could not tell him what the dream was. Daniel told the king his dream, but who revealed it to Daniel (Daniel 2:27, 28)?

In his dream, the king saw an image made from various materials (Daniel 2:32, 33):

Head of \_\_\_\_\_

Chest and arms of \_\_\_\_\_

Belly and thighs of \_\_\_\_\_

Legs of \_\_\_\_\_

Feet partly of \_\_\_\_\_ and partly of \_\_\_\_\_

Why was this dream revealed (Daniel 2:30)?

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

**2 Timothy 3:16, 17**





## Program 2: Signs You Can't Ignore

**Jesus is coming sooner than you think, and He will do everything He can to help you be ready for His soon coming.**

*There is a captivating topic that more and more people are talking about these days. Take a look at TIME or Newsweek. People are wondering, "Will Jesus really come back? How soon?" The good news is that Jesus has not left us in the dark. Look carefully! Jesus is coming much sooner than most people think.*

Read the words of Jesus found in Matthew 24:3-31. What two questions did the disciples ask (Matthew 24:3)?

*The disciples asked about both the destruction of the Temple and the end of the world. They blended these two questions together because they thought both would happen at the same time. Jesus used the destruction of the temple to illustrate and represent the ultimate destruction and end of this world.*

Matthew 24:5-14 lists several signs indicating that Jesus will come soon. Some are listed here:

Verse 5: Many will claim, "I am \_\_\_\_\_."

Verse 6: \_\_\_\_\_ and rumors of \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel interpreted the dream for the king, but it was not his own interpretation. Whose was it (Daniel 2:45)?

Isaiah 46:9-10 distinguishes God from all other gods. Only God in heaven can reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Daniel 2:27, 28 reveals three important truths:*

1. *The dream is revealed only by God. The interpretation is not human.*
2. *God is the revealer of secrets and mysteries.*
3. *The dream not only applies to Nebuchadnezzar's day but also to our day.*

At the end of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, a stone was cut out of a mountain without human hands then smashed the image into small pieces. What does this stone represent? How long will this kingdom last (Daniel 2:44, 45)?

*This world is not in the hands of human beings. It is in the hand of God. The rulers of this world do not control our destiny—the God in Heaven does. You can have confidence in this God. Will you trust His plan for your life?*



### Program 3: The Great Escape

Jesus is coming again—because He promised! Jesus wants you to live with Him forever.

*Even though our world faces major problems, the good news is that the human race is not going to die out because of war or starvation, or by colliding with another object in space. A long time ago the Bible prophesied exactly how the world will end. And for you, the end can be just the beginning!*

When the Apostle Paul was being held in prison, awaiting his execution, what did he say he was looking forward to (Titus 2:13)?

Read the words of Jesus found in John 14:1-6. What is one of the things that Jesus is doing right now in heaven (John 14:2)?

Jesus said that if He goes to prepare a place for us, what else will He do (John 14:3)?

*Either Jesus was lying, or else He is coming back!*

#### Characteristics of Jesus Return

The Bible reveals several specific things that will happen when Jesus returns. When Jesus appears again, who will see Him (Revelation 1:7)?

Verse 7: \_\_\_\_\_ will rise against \_\_\_\_\_. And there will be \_\_\_\_\_ in various parts of the world.

Verse 11: False \_\_\_\_\_ will deceive many.

Verse 12: \_\_\_\_\_ will increase, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ will grow cold.

Verse 14: This \_\_\_\_\_ will be preached in all the \_\_\_\_\_.

How many of these signs have been fulfilled today?

Revelation 11:18 is a significant text showing that Jesus is about to come. It says that the time has come to “destroy those who \_\_\_\_\_.” With the proliferation of nuclear weapons, our generation is the first that is capable of destroying the planet in short order.

When we see all these signs, how close is Jesus return (Matthew 24:33)?

*Jesus is coming soon. The signs are clear, and the stakes are high. Is there anything in your life that would keep you from being ready for Jesus' coming? Will you surrender it to God right now?*





## ***Program 4: By Chance or Design?***

With what natural phenomenon does Jesus compare His Second Coming (Matthew 24:27)?

In Luke 21:27, Jesus said that when He returns, He will come in a \_\_\_\_\_.

What sound will be heard when Jesus comes back (1 Thessalonians 4:16)?

How big is the earthquake that will occur at Jesus' return (Revelation 16:18)?

### **Two Groups**

There are two groups of people alive when Christ comes. What does one group do when they see Jesus coming (Revelation 6:15-17)?

What happens to the other group (1 Thessalonians 4:17)?

Which group do you want to be part of?

**God is an all-powerful and all-loving Creator. God loves you for who you are, not what you do.**

*We all long for someone to believe in us, to be proud of us, to love us, and to accept us no matter what. There is Someone who does all this. He loves you, not because of what you do or don't do, but because He created you!*

Read the poem written by King David about our Creator God, found in Psalm 139:1-18. What does God know about you (Psalm 139:1-4)?

Where can you go that God cannot be found (Psalm 139:7-12)?

Who formed you in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13)?

What was King David's reaction to the thought that God made him so wonderfully (Psalm 139:14)?

Scientists say there are billions of galaxies, each containing billions of stars. Who created them all? Are any of them missing (Isaiah 40:25, 26)?



## Program 5: Secrets of Ancient Scrolls

**The Bible is trustworthy and reliable. In the Bible, God shows us how He wants to set us free from our addiction to sin.**

In another psalm, King David considered the vastness of the heavens. How did it make him feel (Psalm 8:3, 4)?

Yet God notices and cares about the smallest things. In Matthew 10:29-31, Jesus says that not a \_\_\_\_\_ falls to the ground without God knowing. And He has counted the \_\_\_\_\_ on your \_\_\_\_\_!

In Revelation 4:11, what response is suggested to the thought that God created and sustains all things?

Read Isaiah 49:15, 16. With whom is God compared? Where does He have us written?

How long will God's love for us last (Psalm 100:5)?

*We were formed, fashioned, shaped and redeemed by God Himself. He loves you, and He wants to have a deep relationship with you. What a God! He's big enough to rule the mighty universe, yet small enough to live within your heart. Will you let Him?*

*In today's world we see more evidence for distrust than for trust. Trust has to be earned these days. We have to see the evidence—and here is some evidence that will boost your confidence in the trustworthiness of the Bible.*

The Apostle Peter was one of Jesus' closest disciples, and in one of his books he wrote about the trustworthiness of God's Word. Read what he wrote in 2 Peter 1:16-21.

Peter says that they weren't following "cunningly devised fables," but that he was an \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' majesty (2 Peter 1:16).

Peter was a witness to a number of special events when Jesus was on earth. Here he mentions one specifically. What words were spoken to Jesus from heaven (2 Peter 1:17)?

This event was also recorded elsewhere in the Bible. How do these other passages compare with what Peter wrote?

Matthew 17:5 -

Mark 9:7 -

Luke 9:35 -





Peter makes a key point in 2 Peter 1:20, 21. Where does Scripture come from?

How much of Scripture was inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16)?

What are four appropriate uses for Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16)?

When someone uses Scripture for these four purposes, what happens to them? What do they become equipped for (2 Timothy 3:17)?

How much of God's Word is true (Psalm 119:160)?

How long will the Word of God stand (Isaiah 40:8)?

The Bible is a powerful force. What did Jesus promise we will find when we spend time in His word? And what will that bring us (John 8:31, 32)?

*The Bible is not just a collection of myths. It is the Word of God, and we need to take the Bible at face value for what it is: instructions from a loving Father to His children. It makes a difference what we do with this Book. Will you trust God's Word, and apply it to your life?*

## ***Program 6: Why So Much Suffering?***

**Satan is the source of all evil in our world. God has a plan to fix our messed up world. He wants to recreate it so that it can be brand new. But most of all, He wants you to be part of this phenomenal plan!**

*In this world there are two "green thumbs"—or so it seems. But they are sowing and growing very different seed. One specializes in weed seed while the other specializes in good seed. People often ask why there is so much evil growing in this world. The Bible gives the answer.*

Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. What two things grew in the farmer's field (Matthew 13:26)?

Why did the farmer let the weeds ("tares") grow with the wheat until the harvest (Matthew 13:29)?

Who did Jesus say was the farmer? Who planted the weeds in the farmer's field (Matthew 13:37, 39)?

God does not sow evil. Satan is responsible. Where did Satan ("the Dragon") used to live? Who fought against him (Revelation 12:7-9)?

When Satan rebelled against God, how many of the angels joined him (Revelation 12:4)?



## *Program 7: One Life Changed the World*

**Jesus Christ is more than a good man, an ethical teacher or a philosopher. He is the divine Son of God—the Messiah. Only Jesus has the power to save you and change your life.**

*In this world, sometimes we wonder if anyone really cares for us. The Bible tells us that there is Someone who really, really cares for you and loves you.*

Read Isaiah 53:3-8. What does this passage describe Jesus as (Isaiah 53:7)?

All of us have done something wrong. What is that (Isaiah 53:6)?

What did Jesus carry for us (Isaiah 53:4)?

Jesus was wounded and bruised for something. What was it (Isaiah 53:5)?

Because Jesus was whipped (causing "stripes" on His back), what happens to us (Isaiah 53:5)?

*We have all gone off the path. Everything that Jesus experienced on the cross, we deserved.*

In Ezekiel 28:12-19, Satan is called the "King of Tyre." What was Satan like when he was first created (Ezekiel 28:15)?

How did Satan sin (Ezekiel 28:17)?

*God created Satan as a perfect angel and gave him the power of choice. If you take away the power of choice, you take away the ability to love, because love can never be forced.*

Where is Satan now (Revelation 12:12)?

What is Satan's future (Hebrews 2:14)?

*When Jesus died, Satan was defeated. And someday Satan will be destroyed. The issue today is, who will you follow? A loving God, or a fallen angel?*

*John 6:37 says, "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." Anyone who comes to Jesus will be accepted with open arms. Period. Will you come to Him? Will you allow Jesus to be your Lord and Master?*



## Program 8: Born to Live Forever

**No matter how good or bad you think you are, God loves you and wants to save you. Nobody, including you, is beyond Christ's forgiveness.**

*There is a gift that has been given to you. Like all gifts, you must accept it to receive it. Many people try to pay for this gift. Others try to work in exchange for it. And there are some who flat out write "return to sender" on the gift. What is this gift? This study discusses the answer.*

All human beings share a common condition. What is it (Romans 3:23)?

What does this condition lead to (Romans 6:23)?

Who offers us eternal life? Through whom (Romans 6:23)?

Can we save ourselves (John 15:5)?

When did Christ die for us (Romans 5:8)?

Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the Bible predicted His birthplace. What town is named (Micah 5:2)?

Where was Jesus actually born (Matthew 2:1)?

Six hundred years before Christ was born, the Bible predicted the price that would be paid for His betrayal. How much was predicted (Zechariah 11:12)?

How much was actually paid (Matthew 26:15)?

One time, Jesus shared some Scriptures with two men. What were these Scriptures about (Luke 24:27)?

*Jesus Christ fulfilled more than 300 Bible prophecies. Even Jesus believed that the Old Testament prophecies pointed to Himself.*

*Jesus chose to come to earth, where He suffered and died. He didn't have to. He could have called 10,000 angels to rescue Him, but He couldn't save Himself and save us, too. Jesus loves you that much. Will you accept that love?*







## Program 9: Facing the Judgment with Confidence

**Facing God's judgment is a good thing when God is on your side. Jesus wants you to be saved! When Jesus stands with you in court, you will appear as though you never sinned.**

*Every human being has been legally summoned to appear before the Judge of the universe. Initially, we might think this is horrible news. But for those who have accepted Jesus Christ, the judgment is some of the best news you could hear!*

Read Zechariah 3:1-10. What was taken away from Joshua? What did that represent (Zechariah 3:4)?

How quickly will the sins ("iniquity") be removed from the land (Zechariah 3:9)?

Who must appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)?

What portion of our actions will be judged (Ecclesiastes 12:14)?

What happens to those who believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16)?

What saves us? What do we need to do (Ephesians 2:8, 9)?

How does grace enable us to live (Titus 2:11-13)?

Read Romans 8:31-39. What can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38, 39)?

*Jesus says in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he will be with Me." Jesus is at the door of your heart. He is listening and waiting. Will you invite Him to come in and be the Savior and Lord of your life?*



## **Program 10: What Happened to Right and Wrong?**

**If you love God, you keep His commandments. It's that simple. Jesus wants to give you the power to be free from sin and to live the victory.**

*In our world today, few people seem to know right or wrong. Some say God's standard no longer applies, that His commandments have been abolished, or are no longer relevant. So often, when we think about rules or laws, we think of what we cannot do. But God's 10 Commandments are relevant, and they are about setting you free from captivity.*

Can we be our own judge of what is right and wrong (Proverbs 16:25)?

Read Exodus 20:1-17. With whom do the first four commandments relate? What about the last six commandments?

Is it enough to simply know God's law? If not, what else must happen (Romans 2:13)?

According to Jesus, what will we do if we love Him (John 14:15)?

By what standard are we judged (James 2:10-12)?

Who is our lawyer ("advocate") in the judgment (1 John 2:1)?

How do we select Jesus as our lawyer (Matthew 10:32, 33)?

For those who "walk in the light," what does the blood of Jesus do (1 John 1:7)?

When is the judgment hour coming (Revelation 14:7)?

*The judgment hour is here now, and Jesus longs to be your Lawyer in the final judgment. He longs for you to accept His sacrifice on Calvary. He longs for you to confess your sins to Him, so He can blot them out of the records. He offers us "new clothes," unstained by our past. Will you accept them?*



## Program 11: Created for Something Better

**God is inviting you to worship Him on the Sabbath. More than anything, Jesus wants to have a relationship with you, so He chose a special day each week and set it aside to spend with you.**

*Almost everyone likes to be remembered on their birthday. Every week, our world has a birthday. Most people have forgotten about this special day, but it is much more than just a birthday. It is the sign of a loving relationship with our Creator God.*

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3. According to this story, how long did it take God to create everything in heaven and on earth (Genesis 1:31-2:1)?

What model did God use when He created humans (Genesis 1:26, 27)?

What did God do on the last day? Which day was it (Genesis 2:2)?

What did God do to that last day? Why (Genesis 2:3)?

Who was the Sabbath made for? Who is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27, 28)?

*Jesus does not say, "If you love Me enough, you don't have to obey Me." He says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." He is crystal clear on this point, isn't He?*

Can we obey God's law on our own (Romans 3:20)?

Who can give us the desire and the power to obey God's will (Philippians 2:13)?

What will God do with His laws, if we let Him (Hebrews 8:10)?

At the end of time, what two things will the saints keep (Revelation 14:12)?

What does God offer us to live a life of godliness and obedience (2 Peter 1:3)?

*God's law is still relevant today. God still asks us to live by His standards. Even though it is impossible for us as sinful human beings to live the perfect life required by God's law on our own, Jesus promises to put the desire in your heart to want to be set free from sin's captivity and to give you the power and strength to obey. Will you accept that power in your life?*



## Program 12: Millions Fooled by a Myth

What did Jesus do on the Sabbath (Luke 4:16)?

Which of the 10 Commandments begins with the word "remember"?  
What are we to remember (Exodus 20:8)?

Scripture says that the Sabbath should be a "delight." How do we honor God on the Sabbath (Isaiah 58:13, 14)?

If we love Jesus, what does He ask us to do (John 14:15)?

*"If you love me, keep My commandments." One of them says, "Remember the Sabbath day"—a sign between man and God forever. The same Jesus who asks you to "remember," stretches out his nail-scarred hands once nailed to the cross of Calvary and gently calls, "Follow me." Will you?*

**God is trustworthy. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. More than anything, Jesus wants to have a relationship with you. So He chose a special day each week and set it aside to spend with you.**

*Over the course of history, many people have been taken in by myths. Some fairytales, like Humpty-Dumpty, might be considered harmless. The men who accompanied Columbus feared that the earth was flat and they would fall off the edge. But there are other tales that are much more serious, and only truth can put these myths to rest.*

What does the Bible say may be added or taken away from God's commandments (Deuteronomy 4:2)?

In what ways will God's covenant be altered (Psalm 89:34)?

How did Jesus say He would change the law of God (Matthew 5:17-19)?

Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years before it happened. He told His disciples to pray that it would not happen on what day (Matthew 24:20)?



# Additional Lesson/Lecture Notes

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## Program 13: Turn Back the Clock

*If Jesus was expecting that His disciples would still be keeping the Sabbath 40 years later. He clearly did not intend to change the Sabbath.*

Years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, whose custom was it to worship each Sabbath (Acts 18:1, 4)?

What did Jesus condemn the religious leaders for doing (Matthew 15:3)?

*God is trustworthy. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He does not break, change or alter His law. And more than anything, Jesus wants to have a relationship with you. He chose a special day each week and set it aside to spend with you. Will you spend it with Him?*

**God wants you to enjoy good health. It's never too late to be healthier!**

*Is it possible for you to live longer, feel better and be healthier for the rest of your life? Yes! The Bible has a lot to say about healthful living. God is concerned about our health and happiness here and now.*

What was one reason Jesus gave for His coming (John 10:10)?

What did the Apostle John pray for in one of his letters (3 John 2)?

What did God promise would be taken away if we serve Him (Exodus 23:25)?

God said, "I am the LORD who" does what (Exodus 15:26)?

What will God withhold from "those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11)?

## Additional Lesson/Lecture Notes

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## Program 14: What Happens When You Die?

*The Bible is like an owner's manual for us. God's Manual does not keep any good thing from us.*

What are some things the Bible says we should avoid (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10)?

How is the body described in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20?

No matter what we do, how should we be living our lives (1 Corinthians 10:31)?

Without Jesus, what can we do (John 15:5)?

*There may be a lifestyle habit that God is asking you to give up. But He does not expect you to make those changes in your life by yourself. In our own strength, we cannot overcome wrong habits. Jesus is there, longing to help us! With His help, we can live an abundant, healthful, joyful life here and now.*

**Death is a temporary, unconscious state, like sleep. You need not fear death, because Christ has conquered the tomb.**

*We have all felt the fear of death and its sting. All of us have lost loved ones and friends to the grave. To many people, death is even more terrifying because they fear the unknown. Above all, we long to know that death will not have the last word.*

Read John 11:1-44. What did Jesus say Lazarus was doing after he died (John 11:11)?

When Jesus met with the family of Lazarus, what did He do (John 11:35)?

How long had Lazarus been in the tomb before Jesus arrived (John 11:39)?

What happened when Jesus called to Lazarus (John 11:43, 44)?

*Jesus cares when death's sting hurts us. And Jesus is more powerful than death itself.*

Death was not part of God's original plan. What was the one thing that could cause death in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:17)?



## Program 15: Evil in Chains

What did Adam and Eve do that brought death into this world (Genesis 3:6)?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-22. Who defeated death (1 Corinthians 15:22)?

If Christ did not conquer death, what would that do to our faith (1 Corinthians 15:17)?

What happens to the dead in Christ when He returns (1 Thessalonians 4:16)?

Who has given us victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:57)?

Who has the keys to hell and death (Revelation 1:13, 18)?

*When Jesus returns, the dead in Christ will rise. Whether living or dead at the time of Jesus' Second Coming, His people will be taken to live with Him forever. Decide now that you will be among that group!*

**There will be two resurrections, with two classes of people—the saved and the lost. Whether His people are dead or alive when He comes, Jesus has a plan to take them to be with Him and to end evil...forever.**

*Everyone who has died will one day be raised from the dead. Yes, everyone! But there are two very different reunions. One is good news, but the other is bad news. God wants you to choose to be part of the first resurrection—the good news one—if you should die before Jesus comes.*

Jesus said that there would be two resurrections. Who will be raised from the dead? What are the two resurrections (John 5:28, 29)?

When will the "dead in Christ" be raised to life? How long will they then be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)?

When Christ returns, how long will Satan be bound? What will happen to him at the end of that time (Revelation 20:2, 3)?

During the time that Satan is bound, what will those who are part of the first resurrection be doing (Revelation 20:4-6)?





## *Program 16: When the Smoke Clears*

When are the rest of the dead resurrected (Revelation 20:5)?

What will Satan do after he is released (Revelation 20:7, 8)?

What will then happen to Satan (Revelation 20:10)?

What will happen to death, the grave ("Hades"), and those whose names are not written in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:14, 15)?

*At the end of this age, Satan and all that is sinful will be gone forever. Those who fight against Jesus will now fight against Him with Satan at the end of the 1,000 years. The only way we will rule with Him forever is if we invite Him to rule our hearts right now. Will you?*

**God does not burn people in hell forever. God will destroy sin and Satan and all his followers. The sin mess will be over. Best of all, Jesus wants you to live forever with Him and to enjoy a world made new.**

*This lesson is about hell, sometimes referred to as "the hot place." While hell is often mentioned casually or in jest, it raises all kinds of questions about God. Does God have a torture chamber? Who is there now? If hell isn't real, is Heaven?*

When will the weeds ("tares") be gathered and burned? What do the weeds represent (Matthew 13:40-42)?

The punishment of the unjust is being reserved for what day (2 Peter 2:9)?

When will each person receive the reward they deserve (Matthew 16:27)?

According to Jesus in Matthew 25:46, for those judged to receive punishment, what will last forever: the punishment, or the punishing?

# Additional Lesson/Lecture Notes

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## Program 17: Making a New Start

### Baptism symbolizes how Jesus washes your sins away and how you now stand accepted by God.

*Water is interesting stuff. We play in it, bathe in it, freeze it, cook with it, drink it, wash clothes in it—even ski on top of it! But there is one other important use for water that we often overlook.*

Read Matthew 3:1-17. Where did John the Baptist baptize people? What did people do as part of their baptism (Matthew 3:6)?

When Jesus came to be baptized, what was John's reaction (Matthew 3:14)?

In some of His final instructions to His disciples, what did Jesus tell them to do with new believers (Matthew 28:19, 20)?

How many kinds of baptisms does God approve of (Ephesians 4:5)?

When an Ethiopian official understood and accepted the Word of God, what did he do (Acts 8:30-38)?

In the Mosaic law, how long will a servant serve his master if he chooses not to go free (Exodus 21:5, 6)?

In Jude 7, Sodom and Gomorrah are said to be examples of eternal fire. Are they still burning today?

*The term "forever" in Scripture does not mean "time without end." It literally means "until the end of the age." In the case of slaves, forever meant until death. In the case of evil cities, forever meant until the fire had consumed everything in the city.*

According to an Old Testament prophecy, what will happen to the proud and the wicked? Has that day come yet (Malachi 4:1)?

What will be left of the wicked after they are burned up (Malachi 4:3)?

What will God do for those in Heaven (Revelation 21:4)?

*God does not want anyone to be lost. God offers you eternal life. There will be a real Heaven and a real hell. Which do you choose?*



## Program 18: The Battle for the Throne

What two things did Jesus say someone should do to be saved (Mark 16:16)?

In what two things did Jesus say one must be born to enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:5)?

What great historical event does baptism represent (Romans 6:3, 4)?

What is washed away in baptism (Acts 22:16)?

*Baptism symbolizes how Jesus washes your sins away and how you now stand accepted by God. Jesus was baptized as an example for us, and He invites us to follow Him in this special act. As you search your heart, do you sense Christ asking you to follow Him in baptism?*

**God is still in control of our world. We are living in the time of earth's history when God's kingdom will win, and soon we'll be going home!**

*Some animals are cute and cuddly. Others are large, unpredictable and downright scary. Here we will see how God used some unusual animals to accurately depict the future. Most of that "future" is now history, but some is yet to come. And God is still in control!*

In Matthew 24:15, Jesus mentions an Old Testament prophet. Who is he, and what did Jesus refer to in his writings?

*Jesus specifically recommended one book of the Bible for us to read to help us understand what would happen in the future: the book of Daniel.*

Read Daniel 7:1-28, where Daniel records a vision of four beasts. What is this vision about (Daniel 7:16-18)?

What are the four beasts (Daniel 7:4-7)?

- 1 -
- 2 -
- 3 -
- 4 -





## Program 19: The Great Deception

What came up among the 10 horns on the fourth beast? What was its mouth doing (Daniel 7:8)?

Who was this little horn waging war against? Who was winning (Daniel 7:21)?

What ends the little horns power (Daniel 7:13)?

Who called Himself the Son of Man (Matthew 17:22)?

*Jesus is referred to as "Son of Man" 40 times in the New Testament.*

In the end, who takes possession of the kingdom (Daniel 7:22)?

*There is a battle raging in the universe, a battle between good and evil. But God is in control, and His cause will ultimately triumph. "The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one." (2 Thessalonians 3:3). God will protect us from evil, and God will give us a powerful victory over sin. All we need to do is accept the strength of the Holy Spirit in our lives and let God do the rest.*

**Satan's great deception on earth will counterfeit the true and real worship of God. But God has told us exactly what to expect and has promised to provide us with the strength to stand strong.**

*Since the very beginning, Satan has proven to be a very good liar. Satan is trying to con you today, but there is good news. God has pulled back the curtain and has showed us how Satan will try to deceive you.*

What did Satan say to Eve in the Garden of Eden, when talking about the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:4)?

What actually happened (Genesis 5:5)?

In the perfect environment of heaven, how many angels ("the stars of heaven") did Satan deceive (Revelation 12:4, 7-9)?

How many times did Satan try to deceive Jesus Himself after Jesus was baptized (Matthew 4:1-11)?

In the last days, what will Satan use to deceive? Who will he try to deceive, if possible (Matthew 24:24)?





In Daniel 7:25, who does the little horn speak against? Who does he persecute?

What does the little horn intend to change (Daniel 7:25)?

Who will the man of sin (or "lawlessness") pretend to be? Where will he sit (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4)?

What is the spirit of the antichrist? When was it already in the world (1 John 4:3)?

What will happen to the little horn in the end? To whom will the kingdom be given (Daniel 7:26, 27)?

*When Jesus returns, there will be two classes of people: those who chose to follow Christ and His Word, and those who chose to follow the arch-deceiver, the antichrist. Take hold of that nail-scarred hand right now and tell Jesus you want Him as your Lord and King!*



## Program 20: Forever Marked

**God will place a special seal on His people. God wants to give us His seal of eternal life, a seal of being fully devoted and fully obedient to God.**

*Deep in our hearts we long to be like those who stand up for their beliefs. That is God's dream and desire for us, too. Although God will never force us to do what He wants, He is doing everything He can to encourage us, to inspire us and to help us stand.*

Read Daniel 3:1-30. What did Nebuchadnezzar command everyone to do (Daniel 3:5)?

What was the punishment commanded for disobedience (Daniel 3:6)?

Who disobeyed the king's order? What did they say to the king (Daniel 3:16-18)?

King Nebuchadnezzar was furious, and ordered them punished. But what happened (Daniel 3:23-27)?

*God honored the obedience of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. But even if God had not intervened, these three men were prepared to die rather than worship a false god.*





## Program 21: Let Freedom Ring

### The United States of America has a role to play in the final events of earth's history.

*It is often easy to take freedom for granted. We appreciate it most when we lose it. This lesson focuses on a Bible prophecy that reveals the role that the United States of America will play in the last days of earth's history.*

Read Revelation 13:1-17. A beast is presented that acts like the little horn of Daniel 7. What happened to one of this beast's heads (Revelation 13:3)?

As a result, what does all the world do to this beast (Revelation 13:3, 4)?

What group doesn't worship the beast along with the rest of the world (Revelation 13:8)?

Another beast comes out of the earth. What does this new beast cause everyone to do (Revelation 13:12)?

As we saw in Program 20, the first beast's deadly wound was inflicted in 1798. What major world power was at that time a young nation growing in power and prominence?

In Revelation 14:9, 10, what does the angel warn us not to do?

What is threatened to those who will not worship the image of the beast (Revelation 13:15)?

If someone does not receive the beast's mark, what can't they do (Revelation 13:16, 17)?

What is the punishment for those who do worship the beast and his image, and receive the beast's mark (Revelation 14:9, 10)?

What happens to those who have victory over the beast (Revelation 15:2-4)?

*The mark of the beast is about one single issue: whom do you worship? Those who worship the beast and his image receive his mark. Those who worship God receive His seal (Revelation 7:2, 3).*

*God wants to give us His seal of eternal life, a seal of being fully devoted and fully obedient to God. Even now, God is pleading with His true followers to step entirely out of our counterfeit culture and follow Him completely.*





## Program 22: Set Free by the Truth

**God has an end-time church that is true and faithful to all that He commands. Anyone can be part of this end-time church.**

*As time passes, it seems that people are less and less willing to call anything truth. But is it possible that truth does exist? And if so, what does it look like?*

Read 1 John 1:5-2:6. How much darkness does God have in Him (1 John 1:5)?

If we walk in the light, what does the Bible say we have? And what does Christ's blood do (1 John 1:7)?

If we say we have fellowship with God, but walk in darkness, what are we doing (1 John 1:6)?

If we know Jesus, what does the Bible say we will do (1 John 2:3)?

*There is a difference between light and dark. We are called to walk in the light, with no darkness to be found.*

In Revelation 12:17, we read that Satan makes war with God's last-day people. How are they identified?

Revelation 13:16, 17 tells us that this new beast will have the power to regulate world commerce. What nation has the largest economy in the world today?

What great signs does this new beast do (Revelation 13:13)?

What does this new beast do in support of the first beast (Revelation 13:14, 15)?

What do God's people do during this time (Revelation 14:12)?

Revelation 14:6 tells of an angel flying through the sky. What does this angel have?

What does this angel tell everyone to do (Revelation 14:7)?

*Before Jesus comes, the United States of America will lead the world in legislating worship. Every person's allegiance will be tested, but anyone can choose to pass the test. God is willing and able to give you what it takes to live a life completely devoted to Him, whatever the cost.*



Revelation 14:6-12 tells of three angels with three messages. What does the first angel tell God's last-day people to do (Revelation 14:6, 7)?

The second angel says that who has fallen? Why (Revelation 14:8)?

The third angel warns against doing what (Revelation 14:9)?

At the end of this passage, how are God's people identified (Revelation 14:12)?

How many churches ("flocks") did Jesus say there will be in the end (John 10:16)?

*God calls us out of the religious error and confusion that exists all around us. It is not enough to know biblical facts. To have peace and happiness that come from a complete walk with Jesus Christ, it is also necessary for you to step out and follow the truth as revealed in God's Word. Will you?*



## Program 23: Messages from Beyond the Stars

**The New Testament teaches that the gift of prophecy is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the church. God still speaks through His prophets today.**

*God has always used prophets to prepare His people for the next big event. According to the Bible, God's next big event is the Second Coming. God is dependable. Once again He has given the spirit of prophecy to help build up His people and prepare them for His soon coming.*

What does God do that He does not reveal to His prophets (Amos 3:7)?

How does God make Himself known to His prophets (Numbers 12:6)?

Does God give the gift of prophecy based on gender? Are either men or women excluded from receiving this gift (Acts 21:9-11)?

Who moves prophets to speak (2 Peter 1:21)?

What are some of the spiritual gifts God gives His church? What is their purpose (Ephesians 4:11-13)?





In the last days, what happens when God's Spirit is poured out (Joel 2:28, 29)?

### Characteristics of a True Prophet

What does a true prophet's message agree with (Isaiah 8:20)?

What becomes of the predictions of a true prophet (Jeremiah 28:9)?

What is the purpose of the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:3)?

When someone speaks by the Spirit of God, who do they acknowledge and proclaim (1 John 4:2)?

How does a prophet's actions reflect their prophetic gift (Matthew 7:15-20)?

*The gift of prophecy is an important spiritual gift given to God's church. God still speaks through the gift of prophecy today, with a message relevant to our time in history.*

## Program 24: An Investment You Can't Lose

Everything we have is on loan. God owns it and asks us to be good stewards. When we faithfully follow God's plan for our time and money, He can bless us in extraordinary ways.

*In the United States, the currency reads, "In God We Trust." But do we? God is completely trustworthy, but instead we often choose to worry! We can use our everyday choices to write "In God We Trust" not only across our money, but our time, our possessions... and ourselves.*

Read Matthew 6:19-34. Where does Jesus say your heart will be? Where should we keep our treasure (Matthew 6:20, 21)?

Jesus says you can serve only one master. What does He say competes for our allegiance against God (Matthew 6:24)?

What are we told not to worry about (Matthew 6:31)?

What does Jesus promise we will be given if we seek the Kingdom of God first (Matthew 6:33)?

Who owns everything (Psalm 24:1)?



What did God entrust to humankind, giving us "dominion" over (Genesis 1:28)?

*The Bible declares that God is the Creator and Owner of everything on earth. We have each been entrusted to be caretakers, or stewards, of a portion of God's wealth.*

The Bible says we should return part of our wealth back to God. How much does God ask for (Genesis 28:22)?

What is this called (Leviticus 27:30-32)?

What does God promise if we are faithful in bringing tithes and offerings to him (Malachi 3:10)?

How much did Jesus say would be given to us whenever we give to Him (Luke 6:38)?

*Jesus wants to be first in every area of our lives. The wealth and possessions that the world holds so precious are not ours at all. God has entrusted each one of us with His resources, and He will bless us abundantly if we let Him have everything: our money, our time, our possessions and ourselves.*



## ***Program 25: Surviving the Coming Tribulation***

**God is in control of Planet Earth and promises to deliver His people. As in the days of Moses, God will use plagues to deliver His people right before the Second Coming.**

*When God's people were enslaved in Egypt, God had a plan to free them. Before Pharaoh would release them, God sent 10 plagues upon the land. Before the Second Coming, similar events will occur during the final time of trouble.*

When the people of Israel were trapped in oppression in Egypt, what did God plan for them (Exodus 3:7, 8)?

God sent 10 increasingly awful plagues on Egypt (found in Exodus 7:17-12:30). How did God treat His people during these plagues (Exodus 8:22, 23)?

What did God declare people would know through the events in Egypt (Exodus 7:17)?

At the end of time, the Bible predicts "a time of trouble" like never before. What will happen to God's people at that time (Daniel 12:1)?



Who will be hurt by the events during this time of trouble (Revelation 14:9, 10)?

Revelation 16 describes the final plagues that come. How many are there? What does a loud voice say after the last angel pours his bowl (Revelation 16:17)?

Will God's people be delivered before or after the last plagues (Revelation 19:1)?

What does God promise to be for us during times of hardship (Psalm 91:1-4)?

*The Bible warns us that there is a time coming of intense distress and suffering. God is in control of Planet Earth and promises to deliver His people. God will protect His people during the plagues—He will use the plagues to deliver His people just before the Second Coming.*

## ***Program 26: The Best is Yet to Come!***

**Heaven and the new earth will be better than you can imagine! Nothing needs to keep you from being in Heaven and the earth made new.**

*On this earth there are some gorgeous, awe-inspiring and breathtaking places. But 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." God loves us so much that He is doing everything He can to help us be ready for Heaven.*

Read Revelation 21:1-7. This passage is about a new heaven and a new earth. What happened to the first heaven and first earth (Revelation 21:1)?

What will there be no more of in the new heaven and earth (Revelation 21:4)?

How much will be new (Revelation 21:5)?

What will those who overcome inherit? What will their relationship be to God (Revelation 21:7)?



How does the Apostle John describe the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2)?

What will be forgotten by those in the new heaven and earth (Isaiah 65:17)?

What kind of activity will take place in the new earth (Isaiah 65:21, 22)?

Who must we belong to in order to be heirs of heaven (Galatians 3:29)?

What is the invitation of the Spirit and the Bride (Revelation 22:17)?

*Heaven is real, and it will be better than you can imagine! Are you homesick for that beautiful tomorrow—for Heaven? Don't you want to be there? You can be part of God's fabulous tomorrow. Invite Him into your heart, and Heaven will be your home!*

## *About It Is Written*

It Is Written is a deeply spiritual ministry passionate about communicating the Gospel to the world. It Is Written seeks to impact lives for Christ in four ways:

- through the weekly telecast
- through a worldwide evangelistic ministry
- through the Internet
- through Christian living and faith-sharing resources.

It Is Written is an international Christian television ministry dedicated to sharing insights from God's Word with people around the world. Founded in 1956 by George Vandeman, the theme of this non-profit ministry can be found in Matthew 4:4: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

The warm conversational styles of Speaker/Director Shawn Boonstra and Speaker Emeritus Mark Finley address contemporary issues in a refreshing new way. Each week, Pastor Boonstra and Pastor Finley take timeless biblical truths and apply them to everyday life.

Programs regularly deal with such issues as loneliness, fear, low self-esteem, health, family values and spiritual principles. People of all faiths and creeds—even those with