

# Bible workbook

Year 9

Term 4

Attribute of God: God is...	Page	Number of weeks	Number of pages
God is Protector	2	3	9
God is Truth	12	3	21
God is Lord & King	32	3	7

Total: 37

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# God is Protector

## The book of Joshua

### The new leader of Israel

The book of Joshua takes the story of Israel's history on from the death of Moses through to the conquest of Canaan, to the death of Joshua. Chapters 1-12 cover the first five or six years after Moses' death. (*Lion handbook to the Bible*)

Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim (Numbers 13:8). His name means Jehovah is salvation. As a young man, Joshua was chosen by Moses to be his minister (Exodus 24:13).

He went with Moses to Mount Sinai where God gave Moses the Law (Exodus 24:12 and 13).

Joshua was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses from Kadesh to Canaan. When Moses died, God chose Joshua to follow as Israel's leader. He led Israel in the conquest and division of the land.

### Vocabulary

conquer - To overcome by force; to defeat.

conquest - The act of overcoming by force or defeating.

covet - To desire something that belongs to another.

fortify - To strengthen against attack; to provide for defense with forts, walls, etc.

idolatry - The worship of something in place of the true God.

occupy - To take, to keep, to live in.

### Read Joshua Chapters 1–3 and Chapters 6–8

### Conquest of the land

The nation Israel was stationed near the land God had promised them. The armies of Canaan were strong. They were experienced in war and were well equipped. The Canaanites had iron chariots and fortified cities.

Just before Joshua led Israel into Canaan and in their battles for conquest of the land, the Lord appeared to him. The appearance of the Lord surely reminded Joshua that the Lord was the source of his strength and victory. This is so for us today - the Lord is our source of our spiritual strength and victory.

### Chapter 2: Rahab and the spies

Before Israel crossed the Jordan River into Canaan, Joshua sent two men as spies to the city Jericho. The men went secretly into Jericho and were hidden by Rahab. Rahab became a believer in the Lord. She was spared later by Israel when Jericho was destroyed. She is

mentioned three times in the New Testament: Matthew 1:5, Hebrews 11:31, and James 2:25.

The spies returned from Jericho with word that the hearts of the Canaanites were melting with fear of the Israelites (Joshua 2:22–24).

### **Chapter 3: The Israelites cross the Jordan**

As He had done at the Red Sea, God performed a miracle at the Jordan River. Israel crossed the Jordan during the rainy season when the river overflowed its banks (Joshua 3:15). As the feet of the priest bearing the Ark touched the rushing river water, the water stopped flowing. It rolled back into a great wall of water providing passage on dry ground (Joshua 3:17).

### **Chapter 5:13 – Chapter 6:27: The fall of Jericho**

In Canaan, Israel would occupy the land God had given them. They would also be used by God to judge the wicked Canaanites for their sin and idolatry. Israel conquered central Canaan first. Then they moved south against the Amorites. Finally, God delivered to Israel all their enemies in northern Israel's conquest of central Canaan involved the cities of Jericho and Ai.

Jericho was a stronghold located about six miles west of the Jordan and was on a main route through central Canaan. It had two walls around it. The outside wall was about six feet (two meters) thick and stood about 4 ½ metres) from the inside wall. The inside wall was about 4 metres thick. Both walls were about 9 metres high.

Israel's method of victory over Jericho was faith and obedience. Usually, cities were conquered by means of larger numbers of soldiers or through use of better and stronger weapons— by means of greater forces. Israel's source of victory was God. God gave Joshua unusual instructions for taking the city. The single reason for following such a plan was faith in God and obedience to His Word.

Israel was instructed to march around Jericho once a day for six days, and seven times on the seventh day. During their marches around Jericho, the Israelites could not make any noise with their voices. On the seventh day, after the thirteenth march, seven priests before the army, each carrying a trumpet, were to blow those trumpets with a long blast. Then people would shout with a great shout, and the walls would fall down flat (Joshua 6:2–5). When Israel had done all that God told them to do, the walls fell, and the city was taken. Israel was instructed to destroy everyone in Jericho except Rahab and her family and everything except the silver, gold, brass, and iron. The silver, gold, brass, and iron were to be placed into the treasury of the Lord.

### **Chapter 7: Sin in the camp – God's protection lost;**

The city Ai was located about ten miles west of Jericho. Ai was also located on main routes through central Canaan. Joshua sent spies to Ai, and then he sent a small army of men to take the city. Instead of victory at Ai, Israel met defeat. The Lord told Joshua that Israel's

problem was sin in the camp (Joshua 7:11). Israel's problem was not the strength of the people in Ai, but sin among the people of Israel.

### Chapter 8: Ai conquered

Achan had coveted, had disobeyed and had stolen from the Lord's treasury. When sin was judged (7:2–26), defeat was turned into victory (8:18). God wanted Israel to be a holy nation in Canaan.

After their victory over Ai, Israel traveled twenty or thirty miles to Mounts Ebal and Gerizim (8:33). Mounts Ebal and Gerizim were two great mountains that faced each other in central Canaan. Israel went to those mountains to obey a commandment of the Lord by Moses (see Deuteronomy 27:1–13). There, Israel publicly honored their God and pledged allegiance to Him.

### Questions and Activities

Complete the following statements.

- 1.1 Joshua was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.2 Joshua's name means \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.3 God chose Joshua to follow \_\_\_\_\_ as leader of Israel.
- 1.4 Just before Joshua led Israel into Canaan, \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to him.
- 1.5 Two spies Joshua sent to Jericho were hidden by \_\_\_\_\_ , who was later spared when Jericho was destroyed.

**Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

- 1.6 What condition of the Jordan River made God's miracle at the river even greater?

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- 1.7 What is the meaning of the word conquest?

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**Answer true or false.**

- 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_ After conquering central Canaan, Israel then moved north against the Amorites.
- 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_ Jericho was a walled city located on a main route in southern Canaan.

- 1.10 \_\_\_\_\_ The total thickness of Jericho's two walls was about eighteen feet.
- 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_ Both of Jericho's walls were about fifteen feet high.
- 1.12 \_\_\_\_\_ During their marches around Jericho, the Israelites could not make any noise with their voices.
- 1.13 \_\_\_\_\_ Israel was instructed to destroy everything in Jericho except the silver, gold, brass, iron and Rahab's family.
- 1.14 \_\_\_\_\_ Idolatry is worship of something in place of the true God.

**Complete the following activity.**

1.15 Pretending that you were a child in either Jericho or Israel (specify which), describe the conquest of Jericho from your point of view (on a separate sheet of paper).

- 1.16 Ai was located about \_\_\_\_\_ miles west of Jericho.  
 a. five                      b. ten                      c. fifteen                      d. twenty
- 1.17 At Ai, Israel's army first met \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. defeat                      b. sin                      c. victory                      d. strength
- 1.18 Israel's problem at Ai resulted from \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. defeat                      b. sin                      c. victory                      d. strength
- 1.19 God wanted Israel to be a \_\_\_\_\_ nation in Canaan.  
 a. strong                      b. large                      c. great                      d. holy
- 1.20 At Jericho, Achan had \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. coveted                      b. disobeyed                      c. stolen                      d. a, b, and c

**Write the following events in correct order.**

- a. Israel traveled to Mounts Ebal and Gerizim.
- b. The people shouted with a loud shout.
- c. Achan stole from the Lord's treasury.
- d. Israel crossed the Jordan River.
- e. Joshua sent two spies to Jericho.
- f. Israel was defeated at Ai.
- g. The walls of Jericho fell down flat.
- h. Israel marched around Jericho thirteen times.
- i. Rahab hid two spies.
- j. Seven priests blew trumpets with a long blast.

## Chapter 10: God protected the Israelites in battle, and helped them to win.

Joshua chapter 10 begins with a king named Adonizedek. He became upset with the inhabitants of Gibeon because they had made peace with the children of Israel. Gibeon was a great city, one of the royal cities, even greater than Ai.

Adonizedek gathered other kings to get in league with the ambition to crush Gibeon for their rebellion against the rest of the Amorite and Canaanite nations. They came to make war with Gibeon, but Gibeon urged Joshua to protect his name and his covenant he made with them.

Joshua had to fight for the nation he made a league with. God was with him and told him He'd deliver them into his hand.

God greatly aided Israel as He made it difficult for their enemies, with hailstones, (verses 10 & 11). This was a great day in the history of mankind. In this day, Joshua spoke to God in the sight of all the people and commanded the sun to stand still (verses 12-15). God extended the day to give the Israelites the extra time they needed to win the battle. He also commanded the moon to stand still. The timing of the whole universe was put on hold.

This was important because the Lord listened to the voice of a man and fought for Israel. Israel had victory over their enemies and captured the five kings who came against Gibeon. They killed and hung the five kings, symbolizing what God will do to all of Israel's enemies.



## Division of the land

### Read Joshua Chapters 15–19

The Israelites finally gained control of Canaan, generally by conquest. Joshua then turned to the next important assignment: dividing the land between the twelve tribes. (Remember that the 12 tribes of Israel are descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob). The land was given to Israel by God (Joshua 1:3–5). They had conquered the land as a nation. Each individual tribe must receive its inheritance and possess its land. Before dividing the land among the 9½ tribes, Joshua reviewed the division of the land east of the Jordan among the 2½ tribes. The tribe of Levi received no inheritance of land. The Lord God of Israel was their inheritance. God made provision for the Levites. Their chief concerns were such spiritual matters as worship of God and service to Him.

The tribes assembled at Gilgal to receive their inheritance. The division of the land began with Judah in Joshua 15, the borders are described and the cities are listed. The inheritance of Joseph (Ephraim and the half tribe of Manasseh) is described in Joshua 16 and 17.

The Tabernacle was set up in Shiloh in the center of Canaan. In their journey from Sinai to Canaan, the Tabernacle had been in the center of the tribes. Recall that the Tabernacle was God’s dwelling place among His people, Israel. In this land also, God would continue to dwell in the midst of His people. He wanted to be central in their lives and activities. Today, God dwells in the lives of believers, and He still wants to be central in our lives and activities (see 1 Corinthians 6:19 and 20 and Matthew 6:33).

The division of the land among the remaining seven tribes—Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan—was made at Shiloh (Joshua 18 and 19).

### Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1.34 How did God suggest to the Israelites that He wanted to be central in their lives and activities?

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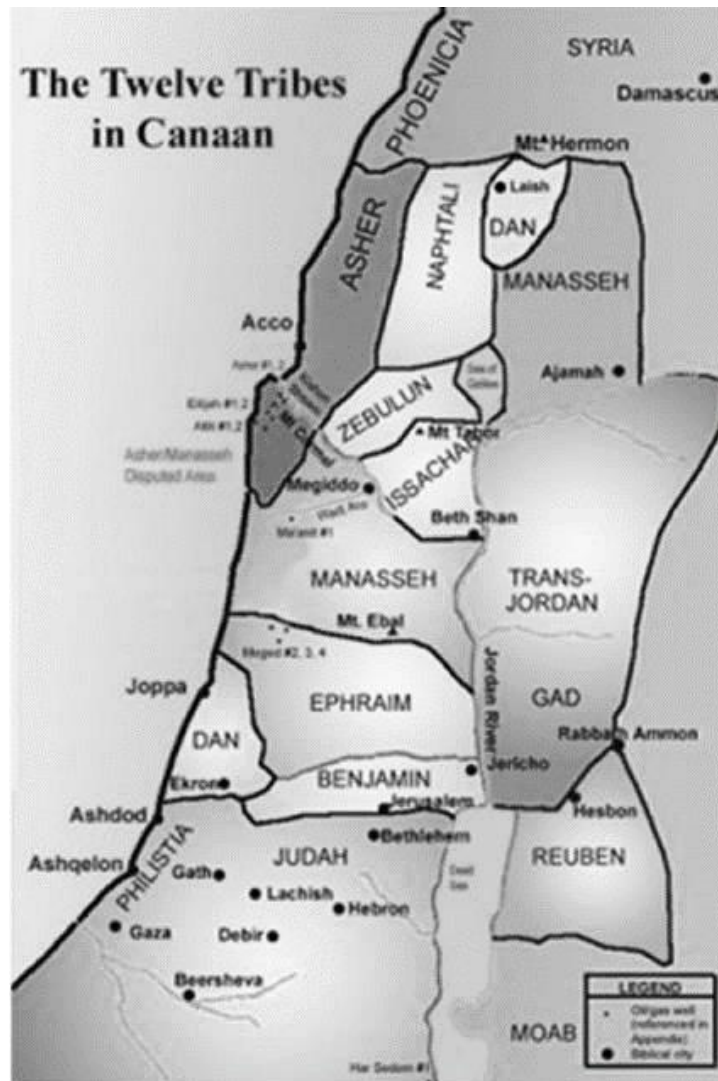
1.35 Where does God the Holy Spirit dwell today, and how does God want to relate to believers (1 Corinthians 6:19 and 20 and Matthew 6:33)?

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## Farewell and death of Joshua

### Read Chapters 15 -19

The two closing chapters of Joshua contain a farewell address, a charge by Joshua to Israel, and a report of his death. In chapter 23, Joshua assured Israel that God would continue to fight for them and would give them full possession of the land. However, they must love Him and keep His Word. If they were disobedient, He would remove them from the land. Joshua charged Israel (23:6), "... to keep and to do all that is written in the Books of the Law of Moses ..." God's judgment for disobedience was just as certain as His blessing for obedience.

In chapter 24, Joshua reminded Israel of all that God had done for them in the past. He called upon the people to fear the Lord and to serve Him with sincerity and truth. Joshua made a covenant with Israel at Shechem). The people promised to serve the Lord and to obey His voice. As a witness of that covenant, Joshua took a great stone and set it up by an oak tree. Altars had previously been built there by Abraham, Jacob, and Isaac. Joshua died at



the age of 110 years. Probably the best description of Joshua's life and ministry was that he had left nothing undone that the Lord had commanded (Joshua 11:15).

**Complete the following statements.**

1.36 Joshua charged Israel "... to keep and to do all \_\_\_\_\_  
..."

1.37 Joshua warned that if Israel became disobedient, God would \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

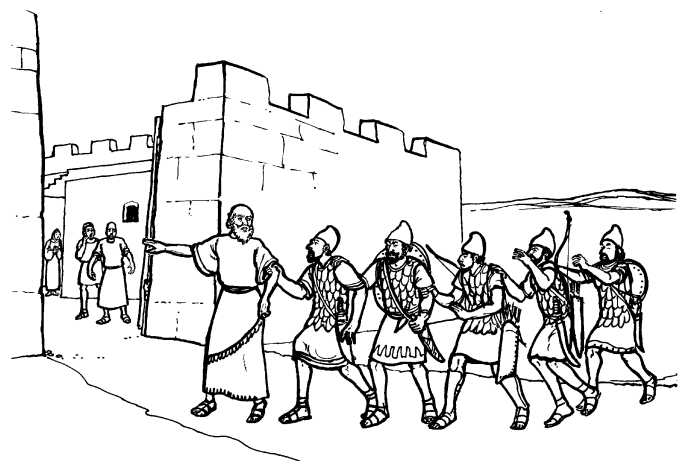
1.38 In chapter 24, Joshua called upon Israel to fear the Lord and to serve  
Him in a. \_\_\_\_\_ and in b. \_\_\_\_\_.

1.39 Joshua made a covenant with Israel at \_\_\_\_\_.

1.40 Probably the best description of Joshua's life and ministry was that he had \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Crossing the River Jordan



The walls of Jericho

## Test

### Answer true or false

- 1.01 \_\_\_\_\_ As a young man, Joshua was chosen by Moses to be his minister.
- 1.02 \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua went with Moses to Mount Sinai where God gave Moses the Law.
- 1.03 \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua was one of ten spies sent by Moses from Kadesh to Canaan.
- 1.04 \_\_\_\_\_ The Canaanites had iron chariots and fortified cities.
- 1.05 \_\_\_\_\_ The source of Joshua's strength was his wisdom and leadership ability.
- 1.06 \_\_\_\_\_ Jericho was a stronghold located about six miles east of the Jordan.
- 1.07 \_\_\_\_\_ Rahab became a believer in the Lord.
- 1.08 \_\_\_\_\_ Israel was instructed to march around Jericho once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day.
- 1.09 \_\_\_\_\_ Israel was told to destroy everyone in Jericho except Rahab and her family.
- 1.010 \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua sent a large army against the city of Ai.

### Write the correct letter and answer on each blank.

- 1.011 Israel was defeated in Canaan at \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. Jericho                      b. Ai                      c. Gilgal d. Shechem
- 1.012 The inheritances of Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan are listed in Joshua, chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. 14                      b. 16 and 17                      c. 15 d. 18 and 19
- 1.013 Judah's inheritance is described in Joshua, Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. 14                      b. 16 and 17                      c. 15 d. 18 and 19
- 1.014 The inheritance of Joseph (Ephraim and the half tribe of Manasseh) is described in Joshua, chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. 14                      b. 16 and 17                      c. 15                      d. 18 and 19
- 1.015 The Tabernacle was set up in \_\_\_\_\_ in the center of Canaan.
- a. Shechem                      b. Shiloh                      c. Gilgal d. Hebron
- 1.016 Joshua made a covenant with Israel at \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. Shechem                      b. Shiloh                      c. Gilgal                      d. Hebron

1.017 Joshua was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a. Manasseh                      b. Judah                      c. Ephraim                      d. Levi

1.018 The act of overcoming by force or defeating is the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a. fortify                      b. idolatry                      c. occupy                      d. conquest

1.019 After conquering central Canaan, Israel then moved south against the \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a. Amorites                      b. Perizzites                      c. Hivites                      d. Jebusites

1.020 During their marches around Jericho, Israel could not make any noise with their \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a. swords                      b. trumpets                      c. voices                      d. feet

**Complete the following statements.**

1.021 Jehovah is salvation is the meaning of \_\_\_\_\_ name.

1.022 God chose Joshua to follow Moses as \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.

1.023 Rahab hid two spies sent by Joshua to \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.024 The inside wall of Jericho was about \_\_\_\_\_ feet thick.

1.025 Both walls of Jericho were about \_\_\_\_\_ feet high.

1.026 Israel was instructed to destroy everything in Jericho except the a. \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ , brass, and iron.

1.027 Ai was located about ten miles \_\_\_\_\_ of Jericho.

1.028 Israel's first defeat in Canaan resulted from \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.029 Covetousness at Jericho led to disobedience and theft by \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.030 Joshua warned that, if Israel became disobedient, God would

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1.031 Write a summary of all the situations in the book of Joshua where God protected the Israelites.

# God is Truth

## The Bible is the true word of God

The Bible is the most important book in the whole world! In the Bible, God speaks to all people as a most loving Father to His beloved children. God's plan and purpose for human beings are revealed in the Bible. We learn about God from the deeds and words recorded in the Bible. Most of all, in the Bible, we meet God as He is revealed in Jesus Christ.

The Bible is different from all other books. Most books are written by one author over a short period of time such as a few months or years. The Bible, however, was written by approximately forty-one writers over a period of more than a thousand years!

Although there were many human writers involved in writing the Bible, God is its real author, for the Holy Spirit inspired the human writers. Therefore, the Bible is truly the Word of God.

The Bible's authors came from varying professions and backgrounds. Some were kings and some were shepherds. Others were poets, fishermen, doctors, military leaders, scholars, statesmen, and philosophers. Most of the writers never knew each other, yet the Holy Spirit guided them to tell one continuous story. The Bible tells one continuous story about God and the way of salvation. Each part of the Bible agrees with every other part, for the Bible is the complete plan of God's purpose for the human race. The Bible has unity because God is the one true Author of the Scriptures.

## Vocabulary

Author - A person who writes stories or books.

Bible - The Holy Scriptures containing the books of the Old and New Testaments.

character - A person in a play, book, or story.

continuous - Unbroken; without a stop.

covenant - An agreement between two or more persons.

foretold - Something that was told or predicted beforehand.

fulfillment - Finish or completion.

Gospel - The "Good News" of Jesus Christ; one of the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.

Hebrew - The language of the Jewish people.

inspire - To influence or cause to be written.

philosopher - A person who studies philosophy and who seeks wisdom.

prophet - A person who serves as a messenger of God. He speaks or writes the words of God.

redemption - Buying back; ransom.

revealed - Made known through divine inspiration.

salvation - The condition or experience of being saved from harm or destruction; being saved by believing in Jesus Christ.

scholar - A person who studies and has much knowledge on one or more subjects.

Scriptures - The books of the Old and New Testaments; God's Word.

structure - The way parts are put together; a building.

theme - Subject; topic.

## One Book

The Unity of the Bible. The Bible can be considered as one complete book. In fact, the word "Bible" comes from a Greek word meaning "book." The Bible is The Book. Sometimes you may hear the Bible referred to as "The Good Book," or as "The Book of books." It is the most important and the best-selling book in the world. It was the first complete book ever to be printed on a printing press by Johannes Gutenberg of Germany in about 1455. This one Book has been translated into more languages than any other book.

There are other reasons to consider the Bible as one book, such as the basic unity of its various parts, which tell the truth about God and man. Its author is God, and its theme is His plan of salvation. The main character of the Bible is Jesus Christ, who was foretold in the Old Testament and then revealed in the New Testament. The Bible's purpose is to reveal God's Word to man, which is His loving plan of salvation in Jesus Christ.

### Complete these sentences.

1.1 The word "Bible" comes from a Greek word meaning \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.2 In the Bible, God speaks to all people as a \_\_\_\_\_ to His beloved children.

1.3 The Bible was written by approximately a. \_\_\_\_\_ writers over a period of b. \_\_\_\_\_ years.

1.4 The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the human writers of the Bible.

1.5 God is the real \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.

**List answers to these questions.**

1.6 What were some of the varied writers of the Bible? (List at least seven occupations.)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_

1.7 What are some things that can be said about the Bible as one book? (List four.)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

1.8 In what ways can we speak about the unity of the Bible? (List three.)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorize this verse.**

1.9 (Psalm 119:105) "Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path."

## **The One Continuous Story of the Bible**

Like any good story, the Bible has a beginning, a middle, and an end. The first book, Genesis, is the book of beginnings. Genesis tells about the beginning of creation, man, sin, government, the family, languages, the Hebrew race, and the promise of a Savior (Genesis 3:15).

The middle of the story of the Bible tells us about the growth of the nation of Israel and God's dealings with His people. It also tells of God's continuing promise of a Savior. The middle tells us of the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of the Savior, Jesus Christ. The middle continues with the story of the new people of God, the Church, and how the Gospel of Jesus Christ began to spread throughout the world.

The end of the Bible is contained in its last book, Revelation. The Book of Revelation is one of hope and fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus Christ. For the Christian, this book is like a beautiful story in which the good characters lived "happily ever after." At the very end of

the book, sin will be no more. Satan will be overcome once and for all. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. Jesus Christ will rule with peace and joy forever.

## **A Picture Story of the Bible**

The continuous story of the Bible may be compared to a river flowing to the sea. It begins as a spring in the Garden of Eden. The spring becomes a stream in the life of Abraham and continues in the lives of Isaac and Jacob. With the life of Joseph, the stream flows southward through Egypt.

Then, in the life of Moses, it leaves Egypt and winds its way through the wilderness to Mt. Sinai and on to the promised land of Canaan. During this time, God's people become a nation, and the stream becomes a river.

The river, the continuing story of the Bible, grows larger and more varied. Sometimes the river rushes noisily through narrow canyons and over large boulders as the nation of God's people meets problems. Sometimes it flows into quiet lakes as God's people find times of rest and peace. Then, the river changes its course suddenly and flows eastward as the children of Israel are taken captive and removed from Israel to Babylon. But after 70 years, God brings the people back to the promised land. It continues to flow to the sea, where God's people are to fulfill His plan for them.

At last, after thousands of years, the sea is in sight. First, the river empties into a bay by the little town of Bethlehem. Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Savior, is born. Now the waters grow wider and deeper. Jesus lives a perfect life, dies, and rises again to take away the sins of the world. The Church is born. Christians start at Jerusalem and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8). The ocean currents carry the message of Jesus in every direction until it touches the shores of every island and continent. How great the waters have become!

Finally, the journey—and the story of the Bible—is about over. The sun drops down over the horizon in a beautiful sunset.

### **The vision of God is near.**

The little spring that began so long ago has flowed to the sea. The sea has carried God's love to all parts of the world. Now we stand on the "other shore" of heaven with people of every tribe and nation who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior. Suddenly, even the sea is gone. We turn and look at heaven. Now we know what John meant when he said, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

And he said unto me, "Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life" (Revelation 21:1–6).

**Complete these activities.**

1.10 In your own words, tell how the Bible is like a good story.

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1.11 The Book of Revelation is one of a \_\_\_\_\_ and  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ of God's promises in Jesus Christ.

1.12 Name two things that began in Genesis that will be made new in Revelation.

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_

1.13 The Bible story pictured in this study is a river. The river began in the

a. \_\_\_\_\_. When Jesus was born, it flowed into a  
b. \_\_\_\_\_. The river ended in the Book of  
c. \_\_\_\_\_.

The One Main Theme and Character of the Bible. Although there are many interesting stories about several people, places, and events in the Bible, there is really only one theme and one main character. The Bible's theme is God's loving plan of salvation. It is sometimes called the story of redemption.

God created human beings out of love. When they disobeyed God and fell into sin, God did not destroy mankind, but instead promised them a Savior. God said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15).



**Match these items.**

- 1.01 \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible
- 1.02 \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament
- 1.03 \_\_\_\_\_ New Testament
- 1.04 \_\_\_\_\_ approximately forty-one people
- 1.05 \_\_\_\_\_ God
- 1.06 \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis
- 1.07 \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation
- 1.08 \_\_\_\_\_ God's loving plan of salvation
- 1.09 \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ
- 1.010 \_\_\_\_\_ a river

- a. Bible writers
- b. theme of the Bible
- c. author of the Bible
- d. fifty-two books
- e. main Bible character
- f. second Bible book
- g. God's Word
- h. picture of the Bible
- i. largest Bible book
- j. thirty-nine books
- k. book of beginnings
- l. eighteen books
- m. book of fulfillment
- n. twenty-seven books

**Answer true or false.**

- 1.011 \_\_\_\_\_ It took about 500 years to write the Bible.
- 1.012 \_\_\_\_\_ Most of the Bible writers knew each other.
- 1.013 \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit inspired the whole Bible.
- 1.014 \_\_\_\_\_ The word testament means covenant or agreement.
- 1.015 \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible is mainly a book of geography.
- 1.016 \_\_\_\_\_ The Greek word for Bible means book.
- 1.017 \_\_\_\_\_ The Old Testament tells the beginning, middle, and end of the Bible Story.
- 1.018 \_\_\_\_\_ The first Bible written divided the books into chapters.
- 1.019 \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible is sometimes called "The Good Book".
- 1.020 \_\_\_\_\_ The first book to be printed was the Bible in about 1455.

**Complete these statements.**

- 1.021 The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the human writers of the Bible.
- 1.022 The Bible has been \_\_\_\_\_ into more languages than any other book.
- 1.023 All Christians agree on the \_\_\_\_\_ books of the New Testament.
- 1.024 God is the real \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bible.
- 1.025 At the end of the Bible story in the Book of Revelation, \_\_\_\_\_ will be no more.

**Choose the correct answer.**

- 1.026 The Bible has a \_\_\_\_\_ ; that is, the parts are put together in an order.
- a. title                                      b. structure                                      c. theme
- 1.027 Some of the human writers of the Bible were \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. police officers                                      b. nurses                                      c. shepherds
- 1.028 The Holy Spirit guided the human authors of the Bible to tell one \_\_\_\_\_ story.
- a. continuous                                      b. long                                      c. short
- 1.029 The Bible is truly what it is often called: the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. Great Story                                      b. Word of God                                      c. Jewish history
- 1.030 The Old Testament tells how God prepared the world for \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. judgment                                      b. a new heaven                                      c. the first coming of Jesus Christ

**Write these Bible verses.**

1.031 Psalm 119:105

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1.032 Hebrews 1:1–2

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**Answer these questions.**

1.033 What are some things that can be said about the Bible as one book?

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1.034 In what ways can we speak about the unity of the Bible?

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# Christian Evidences: Fulfilled Prophecies About Christ

## The first advent of the Messiah

Throughout the Old Testament, God prepared His people for the first advent (coming) of His Son. Hundreds of years before Jesus actually arrived as an infant born of a virgin, the story was foretold in Old Testament prophecy. Biblical history teaches the divinity of Jesus Christ and His Messianic mission as Savior of the world (John 3:16).

The central theme of the Bible is the coming of God's only Son into the world as Savior. The Old Testament people of God were looking for God's Son to come as a strong king and not as a little baby born of a virgin in a stable. Jesus was born exactly as prophesied hundreds of years before by many of God's prophets. In the Gospel of Matthew these prophecies were fulfilled.

## Vocabulary

advent - Coming; arrival.

curse - To bring great evil upon.

divinely - Heavenly; superbly.

Immanuel - Means God with us.

inspiration - Divine manifestation enabling a person to receive and give sacred revelation.

inspired - Guided by God.

intercession - Prayer of petition in favor of another.

Messianic - Pertaining to the expectant king and the deliverer of Jews.

noble - Of high quality.

prophet - One who gives divinely inspired revelations.

redemption - Act of buying back; releasing from blame and guilt.

scepter - Staff carried by a king as a symbol of authority.

Testament - A main division of the Bible.

tithe - A tenth part.

ultimate - Final.

virgin – a woman who has not had sexual intercourse.

## **The Method of the First Advent**

Read Genesis 3:15; Number 24:16–19; and Isaiah 11:1–10.

Hundreds of years before the actual advent of Christ, the Old Testament prophets foretold that Christ was to be born of a virgin from the family of David. This unique way in which the Savior of the world arrived upon the earth will now be examined.

### **Prophecy of the First Advent Foretold in the Old Testament.**

The Bible contains many verses that foretold the birth of Jesus. God judged Adam and Eve because of their willful disobedience to God's law, and He cursed the serpent, Satan. He stated, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

God pronounced a curse upon the devil by telling him there would be a division between him and the seed of the woman. God then gave a specific word of how this event would occur by telling Satan that his defeat would come through the seed of the woman. The devil would manage to bruise the heel of Jesus by His crucifixion. However, the seed of the woman, Christ, would be raised from the dead.

The resurrection of Christ is implied in the verse when God reveals what the seed shall do to the devil. The ultimate victory belongs to Christ because He will "bruise thy [the devil's] head," thus inflicting a mortal wound.

In this early Old Testament verse, we find God's promise of hope in Jesus Christ. Adam and Eve were driven from God's beautiful paradise because of their disobedience. However, the Messianic seed mentioned in the first book of the Bible tells us that through the woman will come a Savior who will restore that which was lost through disobedience.

Another Old Testament Scripture related to the first Advent of Christ is Numbers 24:17. Four things are told in this passage concerning the coming Savior:

1. A star of Jacob
2. A scepter out of Israel
3. He shall come out of Jacob's seed
4. He shall have dominion

Let us more carefully study exactly what is being predicted in this part of Old Testament Scripture. The verse predicts a star (light) of Jacob. It is foretold here that a light and direction will come forth from Jacob's seed. This light will have the right of rule (scepter) which implies He will be of noble birth. Certainly we find little difficulty in seeing that Christ fulfills this description. Jesus' purpose was to be the light for blinded mankind who had lost God's fellowship.

Related to this Scripture is Isaiah 11:1–10, which also foretold the birth of Christ. Isaiah 11:1 states, “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” This passage refers to the human lineage of Jesus through the royal line of David, the son of Jesse.

One final Old Testament Scripture to be considered which foretold the coming of Jesus is Isaiah 7:13–14. Notice that verse 13 states His origin as the house of David. In verse 14 the prophet states that the Messiah would be born of a virgin and be named Immanuel.

This portion of the Scripture gives specific details about the birth of Christ. Jesus would come from the seed of David, be born of a virgin, and his name would be Immanuel, or God with us. The book of Isaiah is considered one of the greatest prophetic books in the Bible. Isaiah is especially noted for the redemptive prophecies concerning Christ.

As more prophecy was given concerning the Messiah, more details of His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection became known.

### **Prophecy of the First Advent Fulfilled in Matthew**

In Matthew’s gospel we see how many of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the first Advent of Christ were fulfilled. In Matthew 1, the family line of Jesus is recorded.

Matthew 1:1 begins by stating: “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” In this very first verse, we can see that Matthew seeks to establish the earthly bloodline of Christ through His mother, Mary.

Genesis 3:15 promised that the Messiah would come through the seed of the woman; that is, the Messiah would come by childbirth.

Numbers 24:17 teaches us that this star will come out of Jacob’s house. Jesus is the star, the light of men, and in Matthew’s gospel (Matthew 1:2) we read that “Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob...” Thus, the generations of Jesus began and continued all the way through His legal father, Joseph. We find that Jesus is a descendant of Jacob’s through His earthly and legal father, Joseph. Although Jesus was born of a virgin, God supplied Joseph to be the guardian and legal father of Jesus. We realize that God is the real father of Christ, but He provided Joseph, a man of Jacob’s house, to care for Jesus.

The supernatural element of God’s Word is evident as Old Testament prophets predicted a coming Messiah. A specific Old Testament prophecy concerning the coming of Christ as the Savior of the world is found in Isaiah 11:1.

This passage tells us that “...there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” We find that a rod, a ruler, and a guide shall develop and come forth from Jesse, the father of David. This verse gives indication that Jesus—the Branch, a main life center—shall come forth from Jesse.

Many would ask why God would choose to bring His Son through mankind. To become man’s Redeemer, Jesus had to be born a man to suffer and to bear man’s sins. God’s ways are not man’s ways, and He does all things well and perfectly. God knows the beginning and

the end, and His justice was satisfied when Jesus fulfilled the role of Old Testament sacrifice. He was without blemish and could carry our sins to the cross once and for all, that we "...might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Isaiah 11:1 is fulfilled in Matthew 1:5–6. Matthew writes that Jesus came from the seed of Jesse, just as the Old Testament prophet predicted hundreds of years earlier. We have proof that God's Word was divinely inspired by God as His Spirit moved upon men to write.

The book of Isaiah is considered to be one of the greatest prophetic books in the entire Bible. Isaiah is regarded as one of the greatest Old Testament prophets. The reason for this generous title is that Isaiah is the prophet of redemption. The name Isaiah means "Salvation of Jehovah" and is appropriately the central message of the entire Bible. We shall study Isaiah 11 in more detail at a later time when we consider the mission of Jesus. At this point, it is sufficient to say that Isaiah's prophecy was in harmony with all Scripture that Jesus would come from a woman. Isaiah 7:13–14 gives specific details of the birth of Christ. In Isaiah 7:13 the coming of Jesus from the house of David is prophesied.

In Isaiah 7:14 it is foretold that Jesus is to come from a virgin and His name would be called Immanuel.

In Matthew 1:23 the prophecy of Isaiah is quoted: "behold, a virgin shall be with child...." Matthew 1:25 provides us with the fulfillment of this prophecy: "And [Joseph] knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS [Immanuel]."

#### **Some Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus:**

Born of a Virgin: Isaiah 7:14

Born in Bethlehem: Micah 5:2

Jesus' death: Isaiah 53

These prophecies and their fulfillment are some of the Christian evidence of the inspiration of the Word of God and the theme of salvation found throughout the Bible.

## Activities

Match the new words with their meanings.

1.1 \_\_\_\_\_ advent

1.2 \_\_\_\_\_ curse

1.3 \_\_\_\_\_ virgin

1.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Messianic

1.5 \_\_\_\_\_ prophet

a. a spokesman for God

b. a woman who has never had sexual intercourse

c. pertaining to Christ and His mission

d. coming or arrival

e. occurrence or happening

f. a pronouncement of judgment or evil

Answer this question in your own words.

1.6 How has Genesis 3:15 foretold of the birth of Jesus and His mission?

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1.7 Read Isaiah 7:13–14 and list three key phrases which indicate Jesus' first Advent.

a. verse \_\_\_\_\_ b. key phrase \_\_\_\_\_

c. verse \_\_\_\_\_ d. key phrase \_\_\_\_\_

e. verse \_\_\_\_\_ f. key phrase \_\_\_\_\_

1.8 Explain how Isaiah 7:13–14 predicts the first Advent of Jesus Christ on the earth.

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1.9 Find five Scriptures from the Old Testament and New Testament showing prophecies (O.T.) and their fulfillment (N.T.).



**Old Testament**

a.

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b.

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c.

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d.

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e.

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**New Testament**

a.

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b.

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c.

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d.

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e.

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1.10 What specific details did Isaiah provide concerning the birth of Jesus Christ?

List three.

a.

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b.

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c.

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## **The Purpose of the First Advent**

**Read Genesis 14:13–20; Leviticus chapter 16; Numbers 21:6–9; Psalms 110 and 118; Isaiah 4:2–6; 25: 6–9; 26:1, 19; and chapter 60.**

You will now study the specific purpose and mission for which Christ came to earth. Truly it can be said that Christ was a man born to die, the just for unjust, that we might live!

### **The Mission of the First Advent.**

Genesis 14:13–20 provides us with a picture or a shadow of something which was yet to occur.

Melchizedek (mel chis' ə dek), king of Salem, met Abraham returning from a war and blessed him. Abraham paid a tithe (tenth) to this priest.

Now, the Bible teaches us to honor God only. Who was this strange priest called Melchizedek? Hebrews 7:2–3 tells us that this priest was a king of righteousness and peace. He was without father or mother, having neither beginning nor ending of his life. He was made like the Son of God.

Hebrews 7:15 states that another priest will arise. The Bible shows Melchizedek as a fore-type of Jesus Christ and of His priestly office for His people. The mission of a priest is to bring the people's sins before God and to offer a sacrifice which would bring His forgiveness. In the Old Testament, a sacrifice was needed to cover the sins of the people; for God is a just God and cannot look upon sin and by his nature must punish it.

The Old Testament priest had to present a lamb without blemish as sacrifice to God for sin. Hebrews 7:22–28 describes the priestly office which Christ would hold. Hebrews 7:25 states that Jesus is able to save His people to the uttermost if they will come to Him. He makes intercession on our behalf, ever pleading our case before the judgment seat of God.

Christ becomes our lawyer (1 John 2:1–2) when we receive Him as our Savior. He transforms our lives and provides the abundant life to those who are His own. Romans 3:10 reminds us that the reason all human beings need Jesus as their personal Savior and Priest is because of sin: "...There is none righteous [having a right standing], no, not one."

Another prophetic portion of Scripture is found in Numbers 21:6–9. In that account, God's people had come into a serious situation; they were being bitten by serpents and some were dying. This tragedy occurred because God's people had sinned by speaking evil against God and against His servant Moses. This message is applicable today since there are those who are quick to speak evil against God's servants instead of upholding them in prayer.

God's mercy is seen (Numbers 21:9) as He instructs Moses to make a serpent out of brass like the one which had bitten God's people.

Moses was instructed to place it high on a pole above God's people, and whoever would place their eyes upon it would be healed. This brass serpent became a type of savior for

God's people as it was lifted up above them. Whomever would look toward the brass serpent in hope would be healed from the real serpent's bite.

Here we see the mission of Jesus as the Savior of mankind. Christ has been lifted up as the world's hope and those who look unto Him for their salvation shall be saved.

Psalm 110 portrays the role of Jesus as a priest for His people after the pattern of Melchizedek.

Psalm 110:4 speaks of Christ taking upon Himself the role of Priest forever.

One part of the mission of Jesus in coming to earth was to cleanse mankind from their sins and restore them into fellowship with God. The prophet Isaiah foretold this aspect of Christ's mission in Isaiah 4:2–6. Jesus Christ is the Branch mentioned in Isaiah 4:2: "In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious...."

Isaiah 4:4 sets forth the purpose of Christ's death. Christ would purge mankind from their sins by His blood: "When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst...."

### **The Fulfillment of the First Advent Mission.**

We must study the New Testament carefully to see if the Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus were fulfilled. The Gospel of Matthew gives us specific examples of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

#### **New Testament fulfillment in Matthew's gospel.**

In the following brief parallel comparison tables, you are able to see how various aspects of the mission of Jesus—His death and resurrection as Savior—were fulfilled. The fulfillment occurred and was completed in every detail.

### Old Testament prophecy

Isaiah 9:7: Heir to throne  
Zechariah 11:12: Sold for thirty pieces of silver  
Psalm 27:12: At the last came two false witnesses ...  
Isaiah 53:4–5: Wounded for our transgressions — bruised for our iniquities  
Isaiah 53:12: Crucified with sinners  
Psalm 16:10: His resurrection

### New Testament fulfillment

Matthew 1:1: Book of generation of Jesus as Son of David  
Matthew 26:15: "...And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver."  
Matthew 26:60–61: "...At the last came two false witnesses ...  
Matthew 8:16–17: "...Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."  
Matthew 27:38: Two thieves crucified with Him  
Matthew 28:9: Resurrected

### Activities

Find the Bible verse to answer these questions.

1.11 Which Bible passage used Melchizedek to portray Jesus Christ as priest?

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1.12 Which passage tells of Israel being bitten by serpents and Moses making a brass serpent to deliver them?

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Complete this activity.

1.13 Explain the comparison between the brass serpent and Jesus.

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**Match the words with their meanings.**

- 1.01 \_\_\_\_\_ advent  
1.02 \_\_\_\_\_ intercession  
1.03 \_\_\_\_\_ noble  
1.04 \_\_\_\_\_ tithe  
1.05 \_\_\_\_\_ scepter  
1.06 \_\_\_\_\_ favor of another  
1.07 \_\_\_\_\_ ultimate  
1.08 \_\_\_\_\_ redemption  
1.09 \_\_\_\_\_ divinely  
1.010 \_\_\_\_\_ inspired

- a. act of buying back, release from blame  
b. guided by God  
c. heavenly, superbly  
d. of high quality  
e. bring great evil upon  
f. prayer or petition in favor of another  
g. a tenth part  
h. coming, arrival  
i. final  
j. staff carried by king as symbol of authority  
k. one who gives divine information

**Write true or false for each statement.**

- 1.011 \_\_\_\_\_ The central theme of the Bible is prophecy.  
1.012 \_\_\_\_\_ God cursed the serpent.  
1.013 \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 24:17 refers to Jesus as “a star of Jacob.”  
1.014 \_\_\_\_\_ Immanuel means “God with us.”  
1.015 \_\_\_\_\_ The family line of Jesus is established in Isaiah.  
1.016 \_\_\_\_\_ There are prophecies in the Psalms concerning the Messiah.  
1.017 \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah means “salvation of Jehovah.”  
1.018 \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament prophets made intercession for the people.  
1.019 \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew gives the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ.  
1.020 \_\_\_\_\_ One part of Jesus’ earthly mission was to cleanse His people from their sins.

**Complete these sentences.**

1.021 God's pronouncement of Satan's defeat is stated in \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.022 The Old Testament people of God were looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
not a little baby.

1.023 Jesus dealt a "fatal" blow to Satan by His \_\_\_\_\_

1.024 Numbers 24:17 calls Jesus a a. \_\_\_\_\_ out of  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.025 The book of \_\_\_\_\_ is considered one of the  
greatest prophetic books in the Bible.

1.026 Isaiah is noted for its \_\_\_\_\_ prophecies  
concerning Christ.

1.027 Matthew's gospel begins with the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Jesus Christ.

1.028 Some Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus are fulfilled in the Gospel of  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

1.029 The priest who was a fore-type of Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.030 We need Jesus as our personal priest because of \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the following activities.**

1.031 List how the New Testament fulfills each of the following Old Testament prophecies  
(you do not have to list chapter and verse).

a. Zechariah 11:12: Sold for thirty pieces of silver

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b. Isaiah 9:7: Heir to throne

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c. Isaiah 53:12: Crucified with sinners

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d. Psalm 16:10: His resurrection

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e. Psalm 27:12: False witnesses

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1.032 List five facts about Melchizedek.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

# God is Lord and King

## FAMILY OF JESUS

The Bible tells us in Luke 1:5–80 about four people in Jesus' family: Mary, the mother of Jesus; Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus; Elisabeth, the cousin of Mary; and Zacharias, the husband of Elisabeth.

**Zacharias and Elisabeth.** Zacharias was a priest. He and his wife Elisabeth were old people and did not have any children. Luke 1:6 describes this couple: "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."

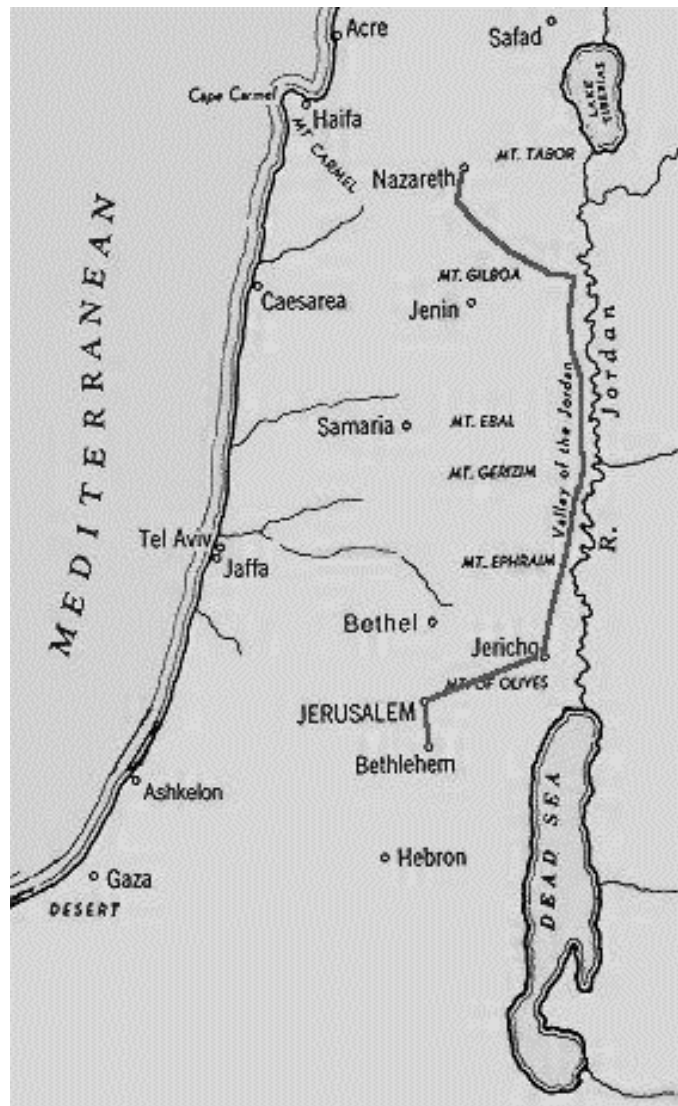
While Zacharias was in the Temple, an angel appeared to him. This angel told Zacharias not to be afraid, for they were to have a son whose name would be John. John would be filled with the Holy Spirit and would prepare the way of Jesus. Then the angel said (Luke 1:19), "... I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings."

Because Zacharias did not believe the angel, he was told that he would not be able to speak until all of these events had happened.

**Joseph and Mary.** Six months later, Gabriel, the angel, was sent by God to the city of Nazareth in Galilee. Gabriel appeared to the young **virgin** Mary, who was planning to marry Joseph.

The angel's words are important and are found in Luke 1:30–33.

*And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*



When Mary questioned the angel, he said (Luke 1:37), "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Then Mary replied to let it be so and the angel departed.

Mary went to visit Elisabeth and Zacharias. They rejoiced together about what God had done.

John was born, and his father was given back his speech. Zacharias said that John would be the one to prepare the way for Jesus.





**Write the correct letter and answer on each blank.**

**1.24** Why was Zacharias not able to speak until after the birth of John?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- a. because he believed the angel
  - b. because he did not believe the angel
  - c. because he did not want to speak

**1.25** The angel appeared to Mary in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Nazareth
- b. Bethlehem
- c. Jerusalem

**1.26** Zacharias was a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. doctor
- b. priest
- c. physician

**Answer the following questions.**

**1.27** Who was Mary planning to marry? \_\_\_\_\_

**1.28** What does *virgin* mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1.29** What did Zacharias say John would do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the following statements.**

**1.30** The wife of Zacharias was \_\_\_\_\_.

**1.31** An angel named \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to Zacharias.

**1.32** The book of Luke says that Zacharias and his wife were both \_\_\_\_\_ before God.

**1.33** When Mary questioned the angel, she was told, "For with God nothing shall be \_\_\_\_\_."

**1.34** Mary went to visit a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIRTH OF JESUS

Only the book of Matthew records the visit of the angel to Joseph. When Joseph learned that Mary was expecting a child, he thought about putting her away in privacy. Then an angel appeared to Joseph saying (Matthew 1:20 and 21):

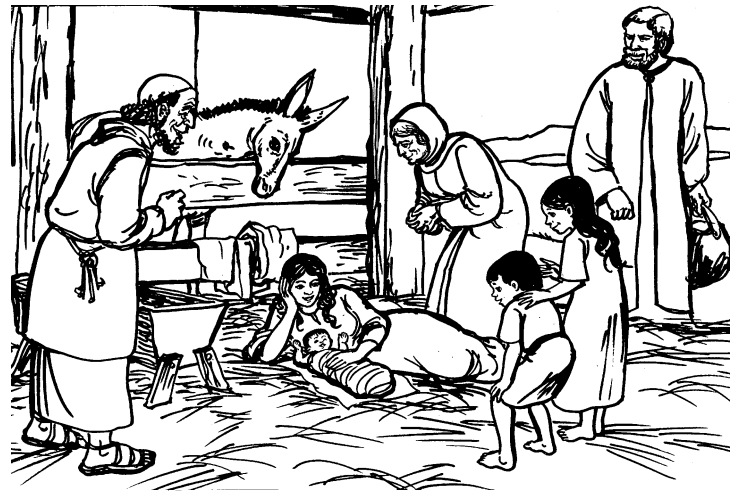
*... Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her (the child to be born) is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Caesar Augustus made a decree that all the world should be taxed. Everyone had to return to his city, which meant Joseph must go to Bethlehem since he was of the lineage of David. Mary went with Joseph to Bethlehem. While Joseph and Mary were there, Jesus was born in fulfillment of Micah's prophecy (Micah 5:2):

*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Luke 2:7 says, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

An angel appeared to the shepherds to tell them that Jesus had been born. Then a multitude of angels appeared saying (Luke 2:14), "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The shepherds went to see baby Jesus. They glorified and praised God for all the things they had heard and seen.



Only Matthew records the visit of the wise men. How old Jesus was when the wise men came is not known, but He is thought to have been between forty days and two years old. The wise men were highly educated men, probably from Babylon or near that area. They may have traveled as far as a thousand miles to see Jesus! When they arrived, they stirred the whole city.

Matthew 2:1-3 states, "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him."

The wise men brought precious gifts to Jesus. Matthew 2:12 says, "And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."

## Activities



### Answer true or false.

- 1.35 \_\_\_\_\_ The angel helped Joseph to not be afraid.
- 1.36 \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible tells how old Jesus was when the wise men came.
- 1.37 \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible does not tell how many wise men came.

### Complete the following statements.

- 1.38 Only the book of \_\_\_\_\_ records the visit of the angel to Joseph.
- 1.39 Joseph had to return to the city of a. \_\_\_\_\_ because he was of the lineage of b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.40 Luke 2:7 says: "And she brought forth her a. \_\_\_\_\_ son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a b. \_\_\_\_\_ because there was no room for them in the c. \_\_\_\_\_."
- 1.41 After seeing Jesus, the shepherds glorified and \_\_\_\_\_ God for what they had seen.
- 1.42 The wise men brought \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.

### Answer the following questions.

- 1.43 Who made a decree that everyone should be taxed? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.44 Who told the shepherds about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.45 Who warned the wise men how to leave? \_\_\_\_\_



**Match the following items** (each answer, 2 points).

- |              |                       |  |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ Matthew         | a. good news about Jesus                 |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ publican        | b. an angel                              |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ Gospel          | c. the shepherds                         |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ physician       | d. cruel king of Judah                   |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ John            | e. closest friend to Jesus               |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ Zacharias       | f. was a publican                        |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ Gabriel         | g. city where Jesus grew up              |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ Caesar Augustus | h. a priest, the father of John          |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ Herod           | i. one who collected Roman taxes         |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ Nazareth        | j. decreed that everyone should be taxed |
|              |                       | k. doctor                                |

**Write the letter for the correct answer on each line** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.011** Jesus was born in Bethlehem, according to a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Matthew                      b. Mark                      c. Luke                      d. John
- 1.012** That Jesus was the Son of God was emphasized by \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Matthew                      b. Mark                      c. Luke                      d. John
- 1.013** The New Testament has \_\_\_\_\_ books.  
a. twenty-five                      b. thirty-six                      c. twenty-seven                      d. thirty-nine
- 1.014** Zacharias was a \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. shepherd                      b. prophet                      c. physician                      d. priest
- 1.015** The shepherds were told about Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. wise men                      b. angels                      c. God                      d. Joseph
- 1.016** The wise men were warned how to leave by \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. shepherds                      b. angels                      c. God                      d. Joseph
- 1.017** An angel named Gabriel appeared to both a. \_\_\_\_\_ and b. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. Joseph                      b. Zacharias                      c. Elisabeth                      d. Mary
- 1.018** Joseph, Mary, and Jesus went to \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate the Feast of the Passover.  
a. Jerusalem                      b. Nazareth                      c. Bethlehem                      d. Egypt

# The History of Christmas: Its Biblical Roots

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Because of the pagan roots of holidays at the end of December, many Christians believe we should avoid Christmas altogether. Yet, does the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ itself have anything to do with pagans? Or is it truly a Christian holiday that is simply celebrated at the wrong time of year?

## THE HEBREW ROOTS

Jesus' birth was foretold centuries prior in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the fullness of time, God sent His Son to redeem mankind. He sent Jesus as a little baby to become God With Us.

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Watch! The virgin is conceiving a child, and will give birth to a son, and his name will be called Immanuel. — Isaiah 7:14 ISV

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the growth of his government and peace there will be no end. — Isaiah 9:6–7 ISV

## THE CHRISTIAN ROOTS

“Then the angel told her, “Stop being afraid, Mary, because you have found favour with God. Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...” — Luke 1:30–32 ISV

About 1,950 years ago, the well-educated physician Luke wrote to Theophilus, detailing the life of Jesus Christ. Luke explained he had done research on the subject so that Theophilus could know with certainty the things he had been told about Jesus were true (Luke 1:4).

Luke must have spoken with Mary herself, for he describes things only she would know. He tells of the birth of Jesus; how he was born in Bethlehem during a time when the entire Roman world was being taxed. Shepherds out in the field were surprised by a host of angels singing, ‘Glory to God in the highest!’ and found the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Those shepherds then told everybody they could find about the incredible things they had seen (Luke 2:8–18).

The child grew up and went on to have a short, three-year ministry that ended in His death on a Roman Cross. Yet, the man born in Bethlehem rose again from the dead, as witnessed by over 500 men (1 Corinthians 15:6). And He is still changing the hearts and lives of people living today.

## CHURCH HISTORY

The early Christians are not known to have celebrated Christ's birth, and the actual date of His nativity has been lost to history. The first recorded mention of the December 25 date is in the Calendar of Philocalus (AD 354), which assumed Jesus' birth date to be Friday 25 December in AD 1. Pope Julius I officially proclaimed December 25 to be the anniversary of

Christ's birth in AD 440. Giving 25 December Christian significance has been understood to have been an effort to help the pagan world embrace Christianity and trade in their worship of pagan gods for the One True God. Originally called the Feast of the Nativity, the custom spread to Egypt by AD 432 and to England by the end of the 6th century. The celebration of Christmas had spread all the way to the Scandinavian countries before the year 800.

Christ's birth is honoured on January 6 in the Orthodox Church, on Epiphany or Three Kings Day, the day that celebrates the arrival of the wise men who gave the Christ child their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Christmas did largely win out over the pagan holidays, but was still celebrated with rowdy festivities and practical jokes. Puritans in England outlawed Christmas for years, and the holiday was not popular in early America. In fact, Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday in the United States until 26 June 1870.

### **TODAY**

The holiday then underwent a conversion. Christmas was 'reinvented' into the more moderate holiday we know today. Washington Irving and Charles Dickens both wrote tales that presented Christmas as a holiday of caring for the poor and bringing families together. As the angels sang above the shepherds that first night, Christmas was about 'peace on earth, good will toward men'.

The Season is still a mixture of traditions pulled from a multitude of sources. While many of them have little to do with Jesus, most are morally neutral activities. However, even while Santa Claus Ho-Ho-Hos down Main St. on a fire truck, the reality of Christ's birth does break through. Nativity scenes bring to mind the great gift of God—the King of kings lying in a manger, attended by shepherds. Christmas carols that cry 'The Lord is come' and 'Come let us adore Him' remind us all of what God has done.

It is a time of year when people can speak more freely of Jesus the Saviour—when even the faithless are willing to attend a Christmas Eve service. It is truly a precious slot of time God has given us during which to spread the Good News of His Son. Glory to God in the highest!