

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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The Bible: The Word of God (MP3 #1)

- Introduction
 - It is called “The Bible” from the Greek word βιβλος which simply means “book”.
 - Its unusual nature is due to the fact that it is the Word of God even though penned by human authors.
 - Two lines of evidence are usually offered supporting the conclusion that the Bible is the Word of God:
 - ✦ Internal evidence – the Bible’s own claim to be the Word of God.
 - ✦ External evidence – the nature of the facts given in Scripture which support its supernatural character.
- Internal Evidence
 - The Bible declares or assumes itself to be the Word of God in many passages (Deut 6:6-9, 17-18; Josh 1:8; 8:32-35; 2 Sam 22:31; Ps 1:2; 12:6; 19:7-11; 93:5; 119:9, 11, 18, 89-93, 97-100, 104-105, 130; Pr 30:5-6; Isa 55:10-11; Jer 15:16; 23:29; Dan 10:21; Mt 5:17-19; 22:29; Mk 13:31; Lk 16:17; Jn 2:22; 5:24; 10:35; Acts 17:11; Rom 10:17; 1 Cor 2:13; Col 3:16; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 2:15; 3:15-17; 1 Pet 1:23-25; 2 Pet 3:15-16; Rev 1:2; 22:18).
 - Ps 19:7-11 asserts the Bible as the Word of the Lord and cites six transformations of human character it accomplishes.
 - In Matt 5:17-19 Jesus declares that the Law and the Prophets (two sections of the O.T.) must be fulfilled.
 - Heb 1:1-2 affirms that God spoke to our fathers through the prophets who wrote the Word of God (in the Old Testament) and also to us in the person of His Son Jesus Christ (written about in the New Testament).
- External Evidence
 - The Bible supports its claim as the Word of God by abundant evidence that has convinced many a skeptic.
 - ✦ The Bible, though composed of 66 books written over a period of about 1,600 years by over 40 human authors from all walks of life (kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, physicians, statesmen, scholars, poets and farmers) in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek), maintains a continuity from cover to cover. Type is followed by antitype, prophesy by fulfillment.

- ✦ In its unfolding of truth, the Bible is inexhaustible. Biblical truth goes far beyond human discovery, revealing facts which only God could know. Although not a science book, no biblical truth has ever been refuted by scientific discovery. No other book even attempts to present comprehensive truth as the Bible does.
 - ✦ The Bible is the most influential book in human history. No other book has been published in as many languages and for as many different peoples and cultures as the Bible. Many skeptics (such as Voltaire) have predicted that the Bible would become obsolete and yet it continues to be widely distributed throughout the world.
 - ✦ The Bible deals as freely with the unknown (and unknowable) as it does with that which is known. It describes eternity past including creation before man was even in existence. Biblical prophecy unfolds God's plan for all of human history and even into eternity future. On every subject presented, the Bible's statement is final, accurate and timeless.
 - ✦ Even when considered as literature, the Bible reigns supreme. It includes historical narrative, poetry, stories of love and war, etc. No other book as literature has captivated readers of all ages and of all degrees of scholarship.
 - ✦ Though penned by human authors, the Bible does not contain a bias in favor of mankind. It records the sin and weakness of even the best of men. It warns of judgment and discipline in a message which is clearly from God to man rather than from man to man. Even if man could write such a book, he would not choose to do so apart from divine direction.
 - ✦ The Bible reveals the person and glory of God as manifested in His Son. A person such as Jesus Christ could never have been invented by man because His attributes and perfections could never have been comprehended by even the wisest and holiest in all the world. Both the Bible and the Son of God are supernatural in origin, presenting an inscrutable and perfect blending of that which is divine and that which is human.
- Non-biblical authors (such as the 1st century Jewish historian Josephus) attest to the events of the Bible and confirm the existence of people of the Bible such as John the Baptist, Jesus of Nazareth Himself, Jesus' brother James, and so on.
- Questions
 - What is the meaning of the word "Bible"?
 - What are the two general lines of evidence that the Bible is the Word of God?
 - Name five passages in the Old Testament and five passages in the New Testament in which the Bible declares or assumes itself to be the Word of God.
 - Name six perfections and six corresponding transformations of human character which the Word of God accomplishes according to Psalm 19:7-11.
 - Why is the continuity of the Bible evidence of its inspiration?
 - What are some of the evidences of continuity in the Bible?
 - How does the Bible differ from other books in the extent of its revelation of truth?

- How does the extensive publication of the Bible relate to its transforming power?
- Relate the supernatural character of the Bible to its subject matter.
- Evaluate the Bible as literature.
- How can the human authorship of the Bible be related to the unbiased authority of the Bible?
- Relate the Bible as a supernatural book to Jesus Christ as a supernatural person.

The Bible: Inspired of God (MP3 #2)

- Introduction
 - God directed the human authors such that, without destroying their own individuality, literary style, or personal interest, His complete and connected thought toward man was recorded.
 - Although passages of the Bible may differ greatly in their character, every word of Scripture is equally inspired.
 - Various opinions have been advanced as to the extent of divine control over the human authors.
 - Because the view of inspiration is the foundation upon which all Bible interpretation is built, careful attention must be given to understanding how God inspired the Bible.
- Theories of Inspiration
 - Verbal, plenary inspiration
 - Verbal inspiration means that the Holy Spirit guided the human author in the choice of words used in the original manuscripts.
 - Plenary inspiration means that every word of the Bible is as God intended even though the personalities, writing styles and vocabularies of the human authors are preserved. Keep in mind that God chose the people who would write down His word.
 - Scripture is infallible meaning there were not any errors in the original manuscripts: every word is faithfully recorded even when citing false teaching and statements of men which are untrue.
 - Inspiration applies to the original manuscripts only and, although none are in existence today, their content can be derived from the numerous copies that are available.
 - Mechanical or dictation theory
 - God dictated the Scripture to the writers who were effectively nothing more than stenographers.
 - The writing styles and personalities evident in the various books of the Scripture are difficult to explain.
 - The fears, feelings, emotions, prayers, etc. of the human authors which are included in the Biblical record are difficult to explain.

- Certain passages, such as Paul's heartfelt prayer for Israel in Romans 9:1-3, lose their meaning and significance if merely dictated by God.
- Some portions of the Bible were indeed dictated by God, but these passages are recorded as such.
- Concept theory
 - God inspired concepts only and the precise words were chosen by the human authors.
 - This opens the door for human error in the authors' attempts to restate God's message in their own words.
 - This doesn't line up with Scripture which asserts that words are very important (John 6:63; 17:8; 1 Cor 2:13; Gal 3:16).
 - The grave warning in Rev 22:18-19 about adding to or taking away from the words of the prophecy of that book does not make sense if the words are those of the Apostle John rather than God.
- Partial inspiration theory
 - Only portions of the Scripture are inspired.
 - Examples:
 - The portions dealing with divine truth are accurate, but we cannot depend upon statements in Scripture that refer to history, geography, science, etc.
 - The N.T. gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are inspired, but the epistles are simply the writings of men.
 - This leaves it up to the reader to decide which portions of the Bible are divine truth inspired by God and that which may not be true and can simply be ignored.
- Neo-orthodox view
 - The Bible contains errors and cannot be taken as literally true.
 - The Scriptures are merely a channel of revelation and, though errant, become truth only as comprehended by each individual.
 - This again leaves the reader as the final authority concerning what is true and what is false.
- Naturalistic view
 - The Bible is like any other book written without divine guidance.
 - It is just another book about religion, expressing ancient views of spiritual experiences of men in the past.
 - Under this theory the Bible can be lumped in with the Koran, Veda, Five Classics, Tao-te-ching, etc.
- The Testimony of Christ
 - Whenever Christ quoted Scripture (and He did so frequently) He quoted it as having authority and in full recognition that it had come by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- In Matt 5:18 Jesus states that not one jot or tittle of the Law would go unfulfilled, thus affirming the authenticity of the O.T. Scripture as well as its accuracy even down to the finest detail.
- In John 10:35 Jesus affirmed that “the Scripture cannot be broken”.
- His quotations from the O.T. extend throughout (frequently from books that are most disputed by liberal critics) making it impossible to question the inspiration of O.T. Scripture without questioning the character and veracity of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus predicted the writing of the N.T.
 - He spoke of the truth that would be delivered to the disciples in John 16:12-13.
 - He told His disciples they would be witnesses to the truth (John 15:27; Acts 1:8).
 - He gave authority to His disciples in their speaking of the truth (Luke 10:16; Heb 2:1-4).
- Other evidence of the inspiration of the N.T.
 - In 1st Tim 5:18 both Deut 25:4 and Luke 10:7 are quoted as equally inspired Scripture.
 - In 2 Pet 3:15-16 the writings of Paul are classified as Scripture which should be received as the word of God.
- Important Passages on Inspiration
 - 2 Tim 3:16 states that “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” where Scripture refers to the sacred writings mentioned in 2 Tim 3:15.
 - The phrase “inspired by God” is literally “God-breathed” from the Greek word θεοπνευστος.
 - In 2 Pet 1:21 we learn that the men who wrote the Scripture did not come up with the words through their own will, but were “moved by the Holy Spirit.”
 - Many passages plainly state that “the word of the Lord came to” the author (Jer 1:2; Hos 1:1; Jonah 1:1; Micah 1:1; ...).
- Qualifying Considerations
 - The Bible is true and inspired by God even when it documents a lie as a lie (Gen 3:4) since this is an accurate record of the lie.
 - This is also the case where the Bible documents the experience and reasoning of men such as in Job and Ecclesiastes since these things are also accurately represented.
 - Even though such passages do not reveal the deep things of God, He has nonetheless inspired the writing of these passages for our instruction and growth.
 - Some critics have tried to negate the veracity of Scripture by highlighting difficult passages in the Bible, but in every case such passages can be understood through careful study.
- Questions
 - Define what is meant by the inspiration of the Bible.
 - To what extent is the Bible inspired?

- What is meant by verbal, plenary inspiration?
- To what extent is the Bible infallible?
- How can you explain that the Bible records the false statements of men?
- To what extent does inspiration extend to copies and translations of the Bible?
- Define the mechanical or dictation theory of inspiration and explain why it is inadequate.
- What are some problems of the concept theory of inspiration?
- What are some problems of the theory of partial inspiration?
- How does the neo-orthodox view of inspiration differ from the orthodox view?
- Why must the naturalistic view of the Bible be rejected?
- What did Christ teach concerning the inspiration of the Bible?
- How do quotations of the Old Testament uphold its inspiration?
- What indications are given in the New Testament that it is also inspired of God?
- Discuss the importance of 2 Timothy 3:16.
- What does 2 Peter 1:21 contribute concerning the method of inspiration?
- Explain the extent to which the Bible affirms its own inspiration.
- How does inspiration relate to the truth of human experience and reasoning as illustrated in the Book of Job and Ecclesiastes?
- What should be our response to what seem to be difficult passages in the Bible?
- Taking the subject of inspiration as a whole, why is it so important?

The Bible: Its Subject and Purpose (MP3 #3)

- Jesus Christ as the Subject
 - Jesus Christ as the Creator.
 - ✦ The early chapters of Genesis record the creation of the world as accomplished by God, using the term *elohim* which includes God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ In the N.T. we learn that all things were made by Christ (Jn 1:3).
 - ✦ Col 1:16-17 states that all things were created “by Him... through Him and for Him” making Christ the main actor in the creation.
 - Jesus Christ as the supreme ruler in the world.
 - ✦ God the Father’s purpose is that Christ should rule the world (Ps 2:8-9) and that every tongue will confess that Christ is Lord and every knee will bow (Ph 2:9-11).
 - ✦ One of His titles is Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16).
 - Jesus Christ as the supreme ruler in the world.
 - ✦ Christ is the head of the Church (Eph 1:22-23).
 - ✦ Christ is the supreme judge of all mankind (John 5:27).

- ✦ During the Millennium Christ will sit on the Davidic throne and reign as the King of Israel (Luke 1:31-33).
 - ✦ Although God has permitted earthly rulers to occupy thrones and throughout history many nations have risen and fallen, the final kingdom will be from heaven and ruled by Christ (Dan 7:13-14).
 - Jesus Christ as the Incarnate Word.
 - ✦ Jesus Christ is the Word (John 1:1) who became flesh (John 1:14).
 - ✦ The incarnation of Jesus Christ has revealed to us the nature of God, the radiance of His glory (Heb 1:3).
 - Jesus Christ as the Savior.
 - ✦ The work of Christ as Savior is the prominent message of the Bible.
 - ✦ Christ is the promised seed who would conquer Satan (Gen 3:15).
 - ✦ In the O.T. it is prophesied that Christ will be crushed by our sins which will fall upon Him (Is 53:4-6).
 - ✦ In the N.T. it is declared that Christ died on the cross and suffered the judgment for the sin of the whole world (1 Cor 15:3; 2 Cor 5:19-21; 1 Pet 1:18-19; 1 John 2:2; Rev 1:5).
 - ✦ Jesus Christ is declared as the only Savior (Acts 4:12).
 - ✦ As Savior, He is also our High Priest (Heb 7:25-27).
- The History of Man in the Bible
 - Scripture unfolds God's plan and purpose for the human race and records the history of man.
 - ✦ The creation of Adam and Eve (Gen 1-2).
 - ✦ The destruction of almost all mankind in the flood (Gen 6-8).
 - ✦ The dispersion after the Tower of Babel (Gen 11).
 - ✦ The call of Abraham and the nation of Israel (Gen 12ff).
 - ✦ The O.T. records the many successes and failures of Israel.
 - ✦ The N.T. records the coming of Jesus Christ and the formation of the Church.
 - ✦ Eschatological passages describe the culmination of the Church at the Rapture, the 2nd coming of Christ, the millennial kingdom, the destruction of this world and the creation of a new one.
- The Purpose of the Bible
 - The Bible is God's message to man, so its purpose is His purpose – which is that He may be glorified.
 - The Bible records that:
 - ✦ The heavens themselves declare the glory of God (Ps 19:1).
 - ✦ The nation of Israel is for His glory (Isa 43:7; Jer 13:11).
 - ✦ Salvation is for His glory (Rom 9:23) as it is a manifestation of His grace (Eph 2:7) and wisdom (Eph 3:10).

- ✦ All our service should be to the glory of God (Matt 5:16; John 15:8; 1 Cor 10:31; 1 Pet 2:12; 4:11) and the Bible is the instrument by which God prepares the man of God for service (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- ✦ Believers share the glory of Christ (John 17:22; Col 3:4).
- ✦ Even in the death of a believer Christ may be glorified (Ph 1:20).
- Questions
 - What evidence is found that Christ participated in creation?
 - In what sense is Christ the supreme ruler of the world and how is it expressed?
 - Explain how Christ is the supreme revelation of God.
 - Trace the line of Scripture dealing with Christ as Savior in both the O.T. and N.T.
 - What does the Bible record concerning the history of man in Genesis 1-11?
 - For what purpose did God select Abraham?
 - How does the history of Israel culminate in Christ?
 - What new entity in God's plan and purpose is revealed in the N.T.?
 - What great nations characterize history?
 - Distinguish the purpose of God as it relates to the nations, Israel, and the Church.
 - In what respects does the Bible reveal the glory of God as its supreme purpose?

The Bible: As a Divine Revelation (MP3 #4)

- Forms of Divine Revelation
 - The Bible is intended to be a revelation of the being, works and program of God.
 - Revelation of God in creation:
 - ✦ The eternal power and divine nature of God are revealed by the things which He created (Rom 1:20).
 - ✦ The revelation of God through nature has its limitations as there is no clear disclosure of the love of God or the holiness of God.
 - ✦ The revelation of God in nature is sufficient to make His creatures aware of their Creator, but it does not reveal the way of salvation by which sinners can be reconciled to a holy God.
 - Revelation in Christ:
 - ✦ A supreme revelation of God was provided in the person and work of Christ (Heb 1:1-3).
 - ✦ By His becoming man in the act of the incarnation, facts about God which otherwise would have been difficult for man to understand are translated into the limited range of human comprehension.
 - ✦ In Christ, not only is the power and wisdom of God revealed, but also the love of God, His holiness and His grace.
 - ✦ If you know Jesus Christ you know God the Father (John 14:9).

- Revelation in the written Word:
 - ✦ The Bible not only teaches us about Jesus Christ, but also discloses God's plan and program for Israel, for the nations and for the Church, and deals with many related subjects as the history of mankind and the universe unfolds.
 - ✦ The Bible enlarges the divine revelation into great detail regarding God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, angels, demons, man, sin, salvation, grace and glory.
 - ✦ Accordingly, the Bible may be regarded as completing the intended divine revelation of God which is partially revealed in nature, more fully revealed in Jesus Christ and completely revealed in the written Word.
- Special Revelation
 - Many instances are recorded in Scripture of God speaking directly to man as He did in the Garden of Eden or to the prophets of the O.T. or the apostles in the N.T.
 - Upon completion of the sixty-six books of the Bible this type of special revelation has ceased.
 - Today, the Holy Spirit illuminates the Scriptures to make the teachings of the Bible clear. In addition, the Holy Spirit provides guidance by taking general truths of the Bible and applying them to the particular needs of an individual.
 - Apart from this teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, no man can truly understand the Bible because it is "of the Spirit of God" (1 Cor 2:10-14).
- Interpretation
 - While there is reliance upon the Holy Spirit for instruction in the Word of God, certain principles of interpretation (or hermeneutics) may be enumerated.
 - ✦ The purpose of the Bible as whole.
 - In interpreting the Bible, every text must be taken in light of the overall context of Scripture.
 - In no case does the Bible contradict itself.
 - ✦ The particular message of each book of the Bible.
 - The purpose of each book must be taken into consideration and the interpretation must be in keeping with that purpose.
 - Accordingly, a study of Ecclesiastes is quite different from a study of Revelation or the Psalms.
 - ✦ To whom addressed.
 - The question must be raised concerning who is in view in a particular passage.
 - Primary and secondary application must be distinguished.
 - Example: passages given to Israel are primarily for Israel and not the Church, yet there are certainly secondary applications for us today.
 - It is important to consider and allow for the particulars which are necessarily different in the secondary application.

- ✦ The context.
 - The immediate context often gives us a clue as to what was intended by a particular statement.
 - Scripture which immediately precedes and follows any given text helps the reader understand the verse.
 - Beyond the immediate context, consider the theme of a given chapter or chapters and the overall message of the book.
- ✦ Similar teachings elsewhere in the Word of God.
 - Any theological statement made in one verse should be harmonized with other similar statements elsewhere.
 - Clearer passages help explain those that are less clear.
- ✦ Accurate exegesis of the words of a particular text.
 - The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
 - While a good English translation is sufficient for most purposes, the full meaning of the Bible can only be derived from study of the original texts.
- ✦ Literal interpretation.
 - The land promised to Israel is land, not a reference to heaven.
 - A text should be viewed as literal in meaning unless the context clearly indicates that a figure of speech or allegory is intended.
- ✦ Guard against prejudice.
 - Understanding which comes from the study of the entire Bible is proper to consider when interpreting a passage.
 - Preconceived notions which arise from extra-Biblical sources or an incomplete knowledge of the Bible must be avoided.
- Questions
 - Why is it reasonable to assume that God would reveal Himself to man?
 - What is the extent and the limitation of revelation in nature?
 - To what extent is Christ a revelation of God?
 - Why was the written Word necessary to reveal God completely?
 - What are some of the major subjects of divine revelation which could not be learned in nature?
 - What is meant by special revelation?
 - What work of the Spirit has replaced special revelation today, and why is this necessary?
 - Why must the purpose of the Bible as a whole, as well as the particular message of each book of the Bible, be taken into consideration?
 - What are the dangers of misapplying Scripture, and why must primary and secondary application be distinguished?
 - What is contributed by the context of any passage?
 - Why must interpretation of one text be in harmony with other Biblical passages?

- To what extent is accurate exegesis required?
- To what extent should the normal reading of words determine the meaning of the passage?
- What are the dangers of prejudice in interpreting Scripture?

God the Trinity (MP3 #5, #6)

- Belief in the Existence of God
 - The belief in a divine being greater than man has been common to all cultures and civilizations.
 - The work of the Holy Spirit which extends to every creature (common grace) helps to explain this.
 - Atheism is a perversion of thinking and the Bible calls the atheist a fool (Ps 14:1).
 - The evidence for the existence of God in creation is so clear that suppressing this truth is grounds for the condemnation of unbelievers (Rom 1:18-20).
 - God's revelation through the prophets and the Scriptures has permeated the thinking of the world with the result that almost all of mankind has some notion of a higher being.
 - Various systems have attempted to explain the existence of our universe with or without the reality of a higher being.
 - ✦ Polytheism – the belief in many gods.
 - ✦ Hylozoism – the life principle found in all creation is god.
 - ✦ Pantheism – god is impersonal and identical to nature itself (all is god and god is all), immanent but not transcendent.
 - ✦ Materialism – matter is self-functioning according to natural laws and the universe itself (the earth, the sun, nature, etc.) is a life source requiring no higher being to exist (evolution).
 - In attempting to argue for the existence of God from the facts of creation apart from the Scripture, four general lines of reasoning are commonly found
 - ✦ Ontological – God must exist because man generally believes that He exists.
 - ✦ Cosmological – every effect must have a cause and, since the universe is an effect, its cause must be the Creator.
 - ✦ Teleological – the creation is so intricate and interwoven that it must have been designed and God is the Designer.
 - ✦ Anthropological – man's very nature (capacity to think, feel, make moral choices) is unexplainable apart from a creator God who has these same capabilities only to a greater degree.
 - Although such arguments for the existence of God have considerable validity, they are not sufficient to bring fallen man into a proper relationship with God.

- Scriptural revelation confirms all of the facts found in nature, but adds many truths without which it would be almost impossible to lead someone to a real faith in God and His provision for salvation.
- The Unity of the Divine Trinity
 - Both the O.T. (Ex 20:3; Deut 6:4; Isa 44:6) and N.T. (Jn 10:30; 14:9; 17:11, 22-23; Col 1:15) emphasize the unity of God.
 - While the N.T. gives more information about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the O.T. has references to the Trinity.
 - The plural Hebrew word *elohim* as a name for God is used with singular verbs indicating the unity of the triune God.
 - Ps 2:7 (where “I” is the Father) indicates the purpose of God the Father to have His Son reign sovereign over all the earth.
 - In Ps 104:30 God sends forth His Spirit.
 - The Angel of the Lord (Jehovah) references in the O.T. speak of the Son of God as sent by the Father (Christophanies).
 - In John 14:16-17 the Helper (Holy Spirit) and the Father are clearly distinguished from Jesus Christ the Son of God.
 - The Great Commission passage (Matt 28:19-20) names all three members of the Trinity explicitly.
 - While the word “trinity” is not found in the Bible, the evidence of a triune God in Scripture permits no other conclusion.
 - The doctrine of the Trinity is a fundamental element of Biblical truth, yet it is beyond human comprehension and has no parallel in human experience.
 - The simplest and clearest definition is this: God is One and He exists as three Persons.
 - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are equal, having the same attributes, and are equally worthy of our worship.
 - The three Persons of the Godhead are not three separate gods, but are One in essence, purpose, etc.
 - The Trinity is not one God manifesting Himself in three ways.
 - The doctrine of the procession makes clear distinctions in that the Father sent the Son, and the Father and Son together sent the Holy Spirit.
 - The reality of the Trinity must be accepted by faith on the basis of Scriptural revelation even if we do sometimes find it difficult to comprehend, define and/or explain.
- The Names of God
 - In the O.T. three principal names are ascribed to God.
 - ✦ The tetragrammaton (YHWH), which is translated as Yahweh or Jehovah, first appears in Gen 2:4 and is explained in Ex 3:13-14 as the “I am who I am” describing God as self-existent.
 - ✦ The most common name, *elohim*, is introduced in Gen 1:1. It most likely means “ruler” or “mighty one” referring to one who should be feared/respected.

- ✦ The title *adonai* which means “master” or “lord”. It is frequently joined to *elohim* as in Gen 15:2 to emphasize that God is our Lord.
 - Other compounds are found in the O.T., such as Jehovah-jireh (the Lord will provide), Jehovah-rapha (the Lord who heals), Jehovah-shalom (the Lord our peace), etc.
 - In the N.T. additional titles of God are found.
 - ✦ The Father.
 - ✦ The Son.
 - ✦ The Holy Spirit.
 - The Attributes of God
 - God is Spirit (John 4:24).
 - God is self-existent (Ex 3:14).
 - God is infinite (Ps 145:3).
 - God is immutable (Ps 102:27; Mal 3:6; Jas 1:17).
 - God is truth (Deut 32:4; John 17:3).
 - God is love (1 John 4:8).
 - God is eternal (Ps 90:2).
 - God is holy (1 Pet 1:16; 1 John 1:5).
 - God is omnipresent (Ps 139:8; Jer 23:23-24).
 - God is omniscient (Ps 147:4-5).
 - God is omnipotent (Matt 19:26).
 - God is merciful and gracious (Ps 86:15).
 - God is jealous (Ex 34:14).
 - God is sovereign (1 Tim 6:15).
 - And so on...
 - The Sovereignty of God
 - God is supreme over all.
 - God yields to no other power or authority.
 - God will accomplish His eternal A to Ω plan with certainty.
 - Without sacrificing His authority or jeopardizing the final realization of His perfect will, it has pleased God to give men a measure of freedom of choice, and for the exercise of this choice God holds man responsible.
 - Examples:
 - ✦ God the Father draws and the Holy Spirit convicts, yet man is held responsible for unbelief and is commanded to believe (Acts 16:31).
 - ✦ God works to accomplish His will in believers (Ph 2:13), yet He does not make men obey, but asks them to do so (Rom 12:1-2).
 - Questions
 - How can we account for the common belief in the existence of God?

- Why is atheism unreasonable?
- How clear is the revelation of God in nature?
- Define four systems of thought which attempt to explain the universe on the basis of a higher being.
- What is the ontological argument for the existence of God?
- What is the cosmological argument for the existence of God?
- What is the teleological argument for the existence of God?
- What is the anthropological argument for the existence of God?
- To what extent do the O.T. and N.T. emphasize the unity of God?
- To what extent does the O.T. teach the doctrine of the Trinity?
- To what extent does the N.T. teach the doctrine of the Trinity?
- Distinguish the doctrine of the Trinity from tritheism.
- Why is the Trinity not to be explained as three modes of existence of God?
- Explain how the Trinity is distinguished by certain properties.
- State and define the three most important names for God in the O.T.
- What are some of the compound names for God in the O.T.?
- What are the distinguishing titles of the three persons of the Trinity in the N.T.?
- Name some of the important attributes of God as revealed in Scripture.
- What is meant by the sovereignty of God?
- Give some examples of God's sovereignty and man's freedom of choice co-existing.

God the Father (MP3 #7)

- The Father as the First Person
 - The title of First Person comes from the irreversible order of the Father sending the Son and the Father/Son sending the Holy Spirit.
 - This title in no way lessens the ineffable deity of the Son or the Holy Spirit.
 - Four distinct aspects of the fatherhood of God:
 - ✦ God as the Father of all creation.
 - ✦ God the Father by intimate relationship.
 - ✦ God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ God as the Father of all who believe in Jesus Christ.
- Fatherhood Over Creation
 - Although all three persons of the Trinity participated in the creation, God the Father in a special way is the Father of all creation.
 - Eph 3:14-15 tells us that angels and men constitute a family of which God is the Father.
 - Angels are referred to as "sons" of God (Job 38:7).
 - All things are from the Father (1 Cor 8:6).

- God is the Father of lights (Jas 1:17) and the Father of spirits (Heb 12:9).
- These passages tell us He is the Father of all creation, but only those who are His true children call to Him as Father (Gal 4:6).
- Fatherhood by Intimate Relationship
 - In Ex 4:22 we see Israel declared as God's son.
 - ✦ This is more than fatherhood as Creator.
 - ✦ This is less than spiritual fatherhood for not all of Israel was saved.
 - ✦ This denotes a special relationship of divine care.
 - God has a special fatherhood over Solomon (2 Sam 7:14).
 - In general, God declares that His care as a Father will be over all who trust Him as their God (see Ps 103:13).
- The Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - He is "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 1:3).
 - Jesus Christ is frequently referred to as the Son of God.
 - The intimacy of the First and Second Persons of the Trinity is described in the father-son relationship.
 - Not every aspect of father-son is applicable since the Second Person of the Trinity is eternal and has always been the Son.
 - He was given to the world as a Son, not that He might become one (Isa 9:6; Jn 3:16-17).
 - The relationship of Father and Son relates to the unity and deity of the Holy Trinity from all eternity.
 - In contrast, the relationship of the Father to the humanity of Christ began in time when His humanity came into existence.
 - The fact that the Father is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, though mentioned infrequently in the O.T., is one of the most general teachings of the N.T.
 - ✦ The Son of God is said to be begotten of the Father (Ps 2:7; John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9).
 - ✦ The Father acknowledged the Lord Jesus Christ to be His Son (Matt 3:17; 17:5; Luke 9:35).
 - ✦ The Father is acknowledged by the Son (Matt 11:27; 26:63-64; Luke 22:29; John 8:16-29, 33-44; 17:1).
 - ✦ The fact that God the Father is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is acknowledged by men (Mt 16:16; Mk 15:39; John 1:34, 49).
 - ✦ The demons recognize the father-son relationship (Matt 8:29).
- The Father of All Who Believe in Christ
 - God is the Father in a special sense of those who believe in Christ and have eternal life.
 - It is by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit that the believer is made a legitimate child of God.

- It is our second birth, our spiritual birth, that gives us the right to be children of God (John 1:12; Gal 3:26; Eph 2:19).
- Not all men are true children of God by natural birth – Jesus Christ identified some as children of the devil (John 8:44).
- The Fatherhood of God is an important doctrine of the N.T. (John 20:17; 1 Cor 15:24; Col 1:12-13; 1 John 1:3; 2:1, 22; 3:1).
- The care of our Heavenly Father should be a great comfort.
- Questions
 - How are the works of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit contrasted in the N.T?
 - What are the four distinct aspects of the fatherhood of God?
 - Summarize the evidence that God is the Father of all creation.
 - What is meant by the fatherhood of God by intimate relationship?
 - Discuss the question of the eternity of the relationship of father and son between God the Father and Jesus Christ.
 - What are some of the evidences supporting the concept of God the Father in relation to Jesus Christ the Son?
 - What is meant by God being the Father of all who believe in Christ?
 - How does man become a son of God?
 - What are some of the results of becoming a son of God?
 - What is the error involved in stating that all men are the children of God?
 - How does the fatherhood of God provide comfort to a believer in Christ?

God the Son: His Deity and Eternity (MP3 #8)

- Introduction
 - The Scriptures present the Lord Jesus Christ as being at the same time perfectly human and perfectly divine.
 - Because of this, Jesus is both like and unlike other men.
 - ✦ Jesus was revealed to be a man among men who was born, who lived, suffered, and died (John 1:14; 1 Tim 3:16; Heb 2:14-17).
 - ✦ He is unlike other men in that He is eternally preexistent, He was entirely sinless in His human life, His death was a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and He demonstrated His divine power in His glorious resurrection and ascension.
 - On the human side, He had a beginning and was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary.
 - On the divine side, He was from all eternity.
 - Isaiah 9:6 says, “a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us” which clearly distinguishes between the child which is *born* and the Son who is *given*.
 - Gal 4:4 tells us that God *sent forth* His Son, *born* of a woman.

- The eternity and deity of Christ are established by two lines of revelation:
 - ✦ Direct statements
 - ✦ Implications from Scripture
- Direct Statements of the Eternity and Deity of the Son of God
 - In the beginning was the Word (John 1:1-2).
 - From long ago, from the days of eternity (Micah 5:2).
 - Before Abraham was born, I am (John 8:58).
 - Glory which I had with you before the world was (John 17:5).
 - Before all things (Col 1:15-17).
 - Was with the Father and was manifested to us (1 John 1:2).
 - Before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4).
- Implications that the Son of God is Eternal
 - The works of creation (John 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:10).
 - The titles of the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - ✦ Son of God
 - ✦ The Only Begotten Son
 - ✦ The First and the Last
 - ✦ The Alpha and the Omega
 - ✦ God with Us (Emmanuel)
 - He is called God (John 1:1; Rom 9:5; Ti 2:13; Heb 1:8).
 - His attributes:
 - ✦ Life (John 1:4)
 - ✦ Immutability (Heb 13:8)
 - ✦ Truth (John 14:6)
 - ✦ Love (1 John 3:16)
 - ✦ Holiness (Heb 7:26)
 - ✦ Eternity (Col 1:17; Heb 1:11)
 - ✦ Omniscience (Col 2:3)
 - ✦ Omnipotence (Rev 1:8)
 - He is worshiped as God (John 20:28; Acts 7:59; Heb 1:6).
- Questions
 - Contrast the evidence for the human and the divine natures of Christ.
 - What are some of the evidences for the eternity of the Son of God?
 - How does the eternity of the Son of God prove His deity?
 - What additional implications are there from His works that the Son of God is eternal?
 - How do the works of the Son of God prove His deity?
 - How is the eternity of Christ supported by His titles?

- How is the eternity and deity of Christ supported by His attributes?
- How important to our Christian faith is the doctrine of the deity and eternity of Christ?

God the Son: His Incarnation (MP3 #9)

- Introduction
 - When considering the Incarnation, two important truths should be realized:
 - ✦ Christ became at the same time and in the absolute sense very God and very man.
 - ✦ In becoming flesh He, though laying aside His privileges and glory, in no sense ceased to be deity.
 - John says that God became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn 1:14).
 - Christ existed in the form of God, but emptied Himself and became in the likeness of men (Phil 2:6-7).
 - Luke presents the historical fact of His incarnation, as to both His conception and His birth (Luke 1:26-38; 2:5-7).
 - Biblical contrasts of His deity and humanity:
 - ✦ He was weary (John 4:6), yet He called the weary to Himself for rest (Mt 11:28).
 - ✦ He was hungry (Mt 4:2), yet He was “the bread of life” (Jn 6:35).
 - ✦ He was thirsty (Jn 19:28), yet He was the water of life (Jn 7:37).
 - ✦ He grew, became strong, and increased in wisdom (Luke 2:40), yet He was unchanging (Heb 13:8).
 - ✦ He was made lower than angels (Heb 2:7), yet He and the Father are one (John 10:30).
 - ✦ He asked, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” (Mt 16:13), yet He “did not need anyone to testify concerning man” (Jn 2:25).
 - ✦ He died (Lk 23:46), yet He is eternal life (1 John 1:2; 5:20).
- The Fact of Christ’s Humanity
 - The humanity of Christ was purposed from eternity (Eph 3:11).
 - Every type and prophecy in the O.T. concerning Christ was an anticipation of the incarnate Son of God.
 - The fact of the humanity of Christ is seen in His annunciation and birth (Luke 1:31-35).
 - His life here on earth revealed his humanity.
 - ✦ His human names “The Son of man,” “The Son of David,” etc.
 - ✦ His human parentage as “her firstborn,” “made of a woman,” etc.
 - ✦ He possessed a human body, soul and spirit (1 John 4:2; Mt 26:38; Jn 13:21).
 - The humanity of Christ is seen in His death and resurrection.
 - The fact of the humanity of Christ is seen in that He ascended to heaven and is now, in His human glorified body, ministering for His own.

- When He comes again it will be the “same Jesus” coming as He went, in the same body (though glorified).
- He is “the last Adam” (1 Cor 15:45).
- The “body of His glory” is an abiding fact (Phil 3:21).
- Reasons for the Incarnation
 - He came to reveal God to man (Matt 11:27; John 1:18; 14:9).
 - He came to be an example for believers (1 Pet 2:21).
 - He came to provide a sacrifice for sin (Heb 10:1-10).
 - He came to destroy the works of the devil (Heb 2:14; 1 Jn 3:8).
 - He came that He might be our High Priest (Heb 2:17; 8:1).
 - He came to fulfill the Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7:16; Ac 2:30).
 - He came to be the head of the Church (Eph 1:22).
- Questions
 - What two important truths must be realized in understanding the incarnation of the Son of God?
 - Why is it important to uphold the full deity and the full humanity of Christ?
 - What evidence is there that Christ had full humanity?
 - What evidence is there that Christ had normal human experiences?
 - How is the fact of His deity also asserted even while Christ was on earth?
 - How is the incarnation related to God’s revelation to man?
 - How is the incarnation related to Christ’s sacrifice for sin?
 - What is the relationship between destroying the works of the devil and the incarnation?
 - How is the incarnation related to Christ’s office as High Priest?
 - What is the relationship of the Davidic covenant to the incarnation?
 - How is the position of Christ as Head over the Church related to His incarnation?

God the Son: His Substitutionary Death (MP3 #10)

- Introduction
 - Although “substitute” is not a biblical word, the idea that Christ is the sinner’s substitute is constantly affirmed.
 - By His substitutionary death, the unmeasured, righteous judgments of God against a sinner were borne in Christ.
 - In receiving the salvation which God offers, men are asked to believe this good news, recognizing that Jesus Christ died for their sins and thereby claiming Him as their personal Savior.
 - The word “substitution” only partially expresses all that is accomplished by the death of Christ.

- The word “atonement” is actually an Old Testament term which means that sins are covered over in anticipation of the coming of the Christ.
- What the Son’s Death Accomplishes
 - The death of Christ assures us of the love of God toward the sinner (John 3:16; Rom 5:8; 1 John 3:16; 4:9).
 - The death of Christ is a ransom paid to the holy demands of God for the sinner (Matt 20:28; 1 Tim 2:6), a necessary penalty which He bore (Rom 4:25; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 1:4; Heb 9:28).
 - Three important Greek words express this idea...
 - ✦ ἀγοράζω (agorazō) – man is under the sentence of death (John 3:18-19; Rom 6:23), but purchased by Christ through the shedding of His blood (1 Cor 6:20; 7:23; 2 Pet 2:1; Rev 5:9; 14:3-4).
 - ✦ ἐξαγοράζω (exagorazō) – purchased and removed from sale indicating once for all redemption (Gal 3:13; 4:5).
 - ✦ λυτρόω (lutroō) – set free (Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 1:18).
 - In His sacrifice Christ bore our sins forever (Isa 53:7-12; John 1:29; Eph 5:2; Heb 9:22, 26; 10:14).
 - Christ’s death constitutes a propitiation (satisfaction) of all of God’s righteous demands against the sinner (1 John 2:2; 4:10).
 - The death of Christ provided the basis by which the world is reconciled to God (Rom 5:10-11; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Col 1:20-22).
 - The death of Christ removed any barrier to God being just in freely accepting anyone who believes in Christ (Rom 3:26).
 - Faith in Jesus Christ is more than a general belief that that He died for the sins of the world; a personal conviction that one’s own sin has been perfectly borne by Christ the Substitute is required.
- Fallacies Concerning the Son’s Death
 - It is claimed that the doctrine of substitution is immoral because God could not, in righteousness, lay the sins of the guilty on an innocent victim. This is wrong because...
 - ✦ Christ willingly gave Himself for us (John 13:1; Heb 10:7).
 - ✦ God was in Christ reconciling us to Himself (2 Cor 5:19).
 - It is claimed that Christ was merely a martyr and an example of courage and loyalty. This is wrong because man did not take His life from Him (John 10:18; 19:30).
 - It is claimed that Christ died to create a moral effect. In considering the cross, men will be motivated to turn from sin. This is wrong because the cross is the basis of *regeneration* of men, not the *reformation* of men.
- Questions
 - What is meant by the assertion that Christ is the sinner’s substitute?
 - What is the O.T. doctrine of atonement?
 - How is the death of Christ related to the love of God?

- What are the three basic concepts included in the doctrine of redemption?
- Define the doctrine of propitiation and explain what is accomplished by it.
- Define the doctrine of reconciliation and explain what is accomplished by it.
- If the entire world is reconciled to God, why are some lost?
- How do redemption, propitiation, and reconciliation free God to save the sinner?
- Why does the N.T. emphasize that salvation is by faith alone?
- Name some of the wrong interpretations of the death of Christ and explain why they are wrong.

God the Son: His Resurrection (MP3 #11, #12)

- Resurrection in the Old Testament
 - Job, a contemporary of Abraham, affirms the doctrine of resurrection in his statement of faith in Job 19:25-27.
 - Specific prophecies predict the resurrection of the human body (Job 14:13-15; Ps 17:15; Isa 26:19; Dan 12:2; Heb 11:17-19).
 - The resurrection of Christ is taught in Ps 16:9-10 (quoted in Acts 2:24-31 & 13:34-37).
 - In Ps 118:22-24 the elevation of Christ as corner stone is defined in Acts 4:10-11 as signifying the resurrection of Christ.
 - The typology of the feast of the first fruits (Lev 23:9-14) was fulfilled when Christ led a sample resurrection (Mt 27:52-53).
 - All men will be raised (John 5:28-29 and Rev 20:4-6; 12-13).
- Christ's Predictions of His Own Resurrection
 - Frequently Christ predicts His own death and His resurrection (Matt 16:21; 17:23; 20:17-19; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:22; 18:31-34; John 2:19-22; 10:17-18).
- Proofs of the Resurrection of Christ
 - The N.T. presents overwhelming proof of the resurrection of Christ.
 - There are many appearances of Christ after His resurrection...
 - ✦ To Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:11-17 cf. Mk 16:9-11; Mt 28:9-10)
 - ✦ To Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5)
 - ✦ To the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
 - ✦ To "the eleven" disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-24)
 - ✦ To "the eleven" a week later (John 20:26-29)
 - ✦ To the seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-23)
 - ✦ To the five hundred (1 Cor 15:6)
 - ✦ To James the Lord's brother (1 Cor 15:7)
 - ✦ To the disciples on the mount in Galilee (Mt 28:16-20; 1 Cor 15:7)
 - ✦ To Stephen prior to his martyrdom (Acts 7:55-56)

- ✦ To Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 26:12-18; 1 Cor 15:8)
 - ✦ To Paul in the temple (Acts 22:17-21)
 - ✦ To Paul in prison in Caesarea (Acts 23:11)
 - ✦ To the Apostle John (Rev 1:12-20)
- Additional supporting evidence can be found...
 - ✦ The tomb was empty (Matt 28:6; Mark 16:6).
 - ✦ The witnesses were slow to be convinced of His resurrection, but once convinced, they were willing to die for their faith in Christ.
 - ✦ The countenance of the disciples changed from sorrow to joy and hope after they learned of His resurrection.
 - ✦ There were many who had an interest in disproving the fact of the resurrection, but none were able to do so.
 - ✦ The early church shifted its day of gathering together from Saturday to Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2).
- Reasons for the Resurrection of Christ
 - Christ could not be held under the power of death (Acts 2:24).
 - Christ arose to fulfill the Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7:12-16; Ps 89:20-37; Isa 9:6-7; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:25-31).
 - Christ arose to be the giver of resurrection life (John 11:25-26; Eph 2:6; Col 3:1-4).
 - Christ arose that He might become the source of resurrection power and head over the Church (Eph 1:19-23).
 - Christ arose because our justification had been accomplished (Rom 4:25).
 - Christ arose to be the first fruits of the resurrection (1 Cor 15:20-23).
- The Significance of the Resurrection of Christ
 - The resurrection of Christ constitutes the most important proof of the deity of Christ.
 - It is the cornerstone of our faith – without the resurrection, our faith would be in vain (1 Cor 15:17).
 - Because Christ is raised, our Christian faith is sure, the ultimate victory of Christ is certain, and our Christian faith is completely justified.
- Questions
 - Does the Bible teach that all men who die will be resurrected?
 - Summarize the O.T. teaching on the resurrection of the human body.
 - To what extent does the O.T. anticipate the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
 - To what extent did Christ predict His own resurrection?
 - Name some appearances of Christ between His resurrection and ascension.
 - What appearances of Christ appeared after His ascension?
 - Why are the many appearances of Christ and the circumstances surrounding them a strong confirmation of the fact of His resurrection?

- What support do the empty tomb, the character of the witnesses of His resurrection, and the extent of their convictions contribute to the doctrine of His resurrection?
- What changes took place in the disciples after the resurrection of Christ?
- Name at least seven reasons why Christ rose from the dead.
- Why is the resurrection of Christ important to the Christian faith?

God the Son: His Ascension (MP3 #13)

- The Fact of the Ascension of Christ
 - The ascension of Christ is recorded in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:50-51, and Acts 1:9-11.
 - The phrases “lifted up,” “received Him out of their sight,” and “taken up from you into heaven” in Acts 1 verify that this was a literal ascension.
 - There are references to other ascensions that must have taken place prior to this final ascension...
 - ✦ After Mary Magdalene touched Christ (John 20:17) and before Thomas touched Him (John 20:27).
 - ✦ When Christ prepared the heavenly temple (Heb 9:23-24).
 - ✦ When Christ led the host of captives captive (Eph 4:8-10).
- Evidence of the Arrival of Christ in Heaven
 - The fact that Christ is repeatedly said to have arrived in heaven confirms His ascension.
 - Many passages testify that Christ is in heaven after His ascension (Acts 7:55-56; Phil 3:20; 1 Thess 1:10; 4:16; Heb 9:24; Rev 1:13-18; 5:5-12; 7:9-17; 19:11-16).
- The Meaning of the Ascension
 - The ascension marked the end of Christ’s earthly ministries, His victorious return to His previous glory, and the beginning of His work at the right hand of the Father (Eph 1:20).
 - He currently occupies a heavenly throne, but one day He will sit on the earthly Davidic throne (Matt 25:31).
- The Present Work of Christ in Heaven
 - In His position at the right hand of the Father, Christ fulfills seven figures relating Him to the Church...
 - ✦ As the last Adam and head of the new creation.
 - ✦ As the Head of the body of Christ.
 - ✦ As the Great Shepherd of His sheep.
 - ✦ As the true vine in relation to the branches.
 - ✦ As the Chief Cornerstone in relation to the Church as stones of the building.
 - ✦ As our High Priest in relation to the Church as a royal priesthood.
 - ✦ As the Bridegroom in relation to the Church as the bride.
 - Of these, His chief ministry is as our High Priest representing the Church before the throne of God.

- Four important truths are seen in His work as High Priest...
 - ✦ As High Priest over the true tabernacle on high, the Lord Jesus Christ has entered into heaven itself, there to minister as Priest in behalf of those who are His own in the world (Heb 8:1-2).
 - He is now serving as Priest, not King.
 - He is not now establishing a kingdom on earth.
 - ✦ As our High Priest Christ is the granter of spiritual gifts.
 - To each believer some gift is given (1 Pet 4:10).
 - Gifted men are “given” and placed into service (Eph 4:7-11).
 - ✦ As Priest He lives to make intercession for His own (Heb 7:25).
 - ✦ He now appears for His own in the presence of God (1 John 2:1) defending them against the accusations of Satan (Rev 12:10).
- The Present Work of Christ on Earth
 - Christ is at work in His Church on earth while He is in heaven.
 - Christ indwells every born-again believer (Col 1:27).
 - Christ is the Light of men (John 1:4).
 - Christ is the giver of eternal life (John 10:10; 1 John 5:12).
 - Christ sent the Holy Spirit to indwell every believer so that they might be empowered to accomplish His present work of calling out a people to form the body of Christ and witness about Him to the ends of the earth (John 15:26-27).
 - Christ opens doors of ministry for gifted believers (1 Cor 12:5).
- Questions
 - How does the ascension of Christ relate to His exaltation?
 - Discuss the question of whether Christ ascended more than once.
 - What evidence may be offered to prove that the ascension in Acts 1 is a literal ascension?
 - To what extent does Scripture testify to the arrival of Christ in heaven after His ascension?
 - How does the ascension of Christ relate to His earthly ministry?
 - In what sense was the ascension of Christ a triumph?
 - Distinguish the throne of Christ in heaven from the Davidic throne.
 - Name the seven figures relating Christ to His Church.
 - How is Christ as our High Priest related to the bestowal of spiritual gifts to men?
 - Contrast the priestly intercession of Christ with the priests of the Old Testament.
 - Describe the work of Christ as our Advocate in heaven.
 - To what extent is Christ also working on earth during the present age?

God the Son: His Coming for His Saints (MP3 #14)

- Unfulfilled Prophecy
 - Almost ¼ of the Bible was predictive prophecy when it was written, although much has already been fulfilled.
 - The fulfillment of biblical prophecy has always been literal (As prophesied, Christ was a “son” of Abraham, from the tribe of Judah, a descendent of David, born in the city of Bethlehem).
 - The Word of God also presents prophecies which have not yet been fulfilled at the present time and we should have full expectation that these will be literally fulfilled as well.
 - Prophecy concerning Christ’s return include both His return *for* His church (the Rapture) as well as His return *with* His saints (to set up His earthly kingdom).
 - Nowhere in the O.T. is the Rapture prophesied.
- Prophecies of the Rapture
 - The first revelation that Jesus Christ would come for His saints was given in the Upper Room the night before His crucifixion (John 14:2-3) where He said they would be taken into heaven.
 - The disciples knew about the glorious return of Christ to set up His kingdom on earth (Matt 24:26-31), but this was different.
 - Paul gives details of this important event (1 Thess 4:13-18)...
 - ✦ Christ descends from heaven, accompanied by the souls of all the believers who have died in Christ (i.e. part of the Church).
 - ✦ He gives a “shout” of command accompanied by the voice of the archangel Michael and the trumpet of God.
 - ✦ The dead in Christ rise first to join the living saints.
 - ✦ Together, they go to meet Christ in the air on the way to heaven.
 - Further details are given in 1 Cor 15:51-58...
 - ✦ This event is a mystery, that is previously unrevealed in the O.T.
 - ✦ It takes place in a moment of time (the twinkling of an eye).
 - ✦ The dead in Christ are raised in their new, imperishable, resurrection bodies.
 - ✦ The living saints are “changed” to receive their resurrection bodies as well, since these earthly bodies are not suited for glory.
 - The Rapture is the resurrection of Church age saints only – those who are “in Christ”.
 - O.T. saints will be raised at the 2nd Advent (Rev 20:4).
 - Unbelievers are raised after the 1000 years of the Millennial Kingdom are complete (Rev 20:5-6).
- Contrasts Between Christ Coming for His Saints and His Coming with His Saints

- Christ's coming for His saints is to take them from earth to heaven (His Father's house) whereas His coming with His saints is a movement from heaven to earth.
- At the Rapture, living saints are "translated" while no such translation occurs at the 2nd Advent and they remain on earth.
- At the Rapture, the world is unchanged and remains in sin while at the 2nd Advent the world is judged and righteousness is established on earth.
- The Rapture of the Church is a deliverance from the wrath to come while the 2nd Advent is a deliverance of those who have believed in Christ during the tribulation and have survived.
- The Rapture is described as imminent with no unfulfilled prophecy standing between the Church and its deliverance while the 2nd Advent is preceded by many signs and events.
- The Rapture is a truth revealed only in the N.T. while the 2nd Advent is a prominent doctrine in both testaments.
- The Rapture relates to believers being taken up from the earth while the 2nd Advent deals with both believers and unbelievers who are judged while both are on the earth.
- At the Rapture Satan is not bound (and is very active in the period which follows) while at the 2nd Advent Satan is bound.
- The Rapture, the Blessed Hope
 - We have not been destined for wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9).
 - This truth should be comforting to us (1 Thess 4:18).
 - It is our blessed hope to look for His return (Titus 2:13).
 - This hope should motivate us to purify ourselves as He is pure to bring Him honor and glory in our lives (1 John 3:1-3).
- Questions
 - What proportion of the Bible was prophecy when it was written?
 - What is the significance of the fact that many prophecies have already been literally fulfilled?
 - What is the distinction between Christ coming for His saints and Christ coming with His saints?
 - What important events will occur between these two events?
 - When did Christ first reveal the Rapture of the Church and what did He reveal about it?
 - Why did the disciples have difficulty understanding the first mention of the Rapture?
 - Describe the order of events of the Rapture as given in 1 Thess 4:13-18.
 - Why does Christ bring the souls of Christians who have died with Him from heaven at the time of the Rapture?
 - Why is the truth of Christ coming for His saints declared a mystery in 1 Cor 15:51-52?
 - What additional facts concerning the Rapture are brought out in 1 Cor 15:51-58?
 - What kind of bodies will those translated or those who are raised from the dead receive?
 - If the O.T. saints are not raised at the Rapture, when will they be raised?

- When are unbelievers raised?
- Name some of the important contrasts between the Rapture and the 2nd Advent.
- Given these contrasts, does Scripture support a pre-tribulation or post-tribulation Rapture?
- What is the practical application of the truth of the Rapture to our daily lives?

God the Son: His Coming with His Saints (MP3 #15)

- Important Events Preceding the 2nd Advent
 - The revived Roman Empire.
 - ✦ Ten nations come together to form this union.
 - ✦ A dictator arises, controlling first three, then all ten nations.
 - A period of peace is established after the dictator makes a covenant with Israel planned for seven years (Dan 9:27).
 - A time of persecution for Israel and for all believers in Christ will be brought about when the dictator breaks the covenant after 3 ½ years – the Great Tribulation (Dan 12:1; Mt 24:21).
 - ✦ He becomes a world dictator.
 - ✦ He abolishes all religions in favor of worship of himself.
 - ✦ He takes controls of all economic activity.
 - ✦ This period ends in rebellion and war (Rev 16:14-16).
- Vital Facts Regarding the 2nd Advent
 - The Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth.
 - ✦ He will return in person (Matt 25:31).
 - ✦ He will return on the clouds of the sky and everyone will see and many will mourn (Matt 24:30; Rev 1:7).
 - His coming will be like lightning flashing (Matt 24:27) preceded by spectacular astronomical events (Matt 24:29).
 - He will be accompanied by saints and angels (Rev 19:14).
 - He will return to the Mount of Olives and will split the mountain in two forming a valley (Zech 14:1-4).
 - He will judge the armies of the rebellion (Rev 19:15-21), the people of Israel (Ezek 20:34-38) and Gentiles (Matt 25:31-46).
 - He will bind up Satan and establish His kingdom on earth.
- Contrasts Between Rapture and 2nd Advent

Rapture	2nd Advent
Our gathering together to Him (2 Th 2:1)	The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Th 2:1)
The Day of Christ (1 Cor 1:8; Phil 1:6, 10)	The Day of the Lord (2 Th 2:2; 2 Pet 3:10)

No judgment of evil	The Man of Lawlessness destroyed (2 Th 2:8)
The Church removed from earth (1 Th 4:17)	The Church returns with Christ (Jude 14-15)
Israel unchanged	Covenants fulfilled (Jer 23:5-8; 30:3-11; 31:27-37)
Creation unchanged	Creation restored (Isa 11:6-9)
Christ as Bridegroom, Head of the Church	Christ as King, Immanuel to Israel (Isa 9:6-7)
The Church judged (2 Cor 5:10-11)	The nations judged (Matt 25:31-46)
Looking for His imminent return (Phil 4:5)	Looking for the kingdom to come (Matt 6:10)

- Questions
 - Describe the period of preparation which will follow the Rapture of the Church.
 - What is the extent of the period of peace which will follow and how will it come about?
 - What are the major characteristics of the time of persecution for Israel which will follow the time of peace?
 - What is the precise meaning of the time of the Great Tribulation and what will bring this period to a close?
 - Why would it be impossible for Jesus Christ to come and establish His kingdom on earth today?
 - Describe the appearance of the second coming of Christ as it will be seen by the world.
 - What will be the situation on earth and in the heavens at the second coming of Christ?
 - Why do all the tribes of the earth mourn at the time of the second coming?
 - Who accompanies Christ in His second coming?
 - To what place on earth will Christ return at His second coming and what will occur at the moment His feet touch the earth?
 - What is the first act of judgment of Christ upon His return?
 - What will Christ do in relation to Israel at His return?
 - What will Christ do in relation to the Gentiles at His return?
 - Why does literal interpretation of Scripture make it impossible to view the Rapture of the Church and the 2nd Advent the same event?

God the Holy Spirit: His Personality (MP3 #16)

- The Importance of His Personality
 - The Holy Spirit speaks whatever He hears (John 16:13) and has come into the world to glorify Christ (John 16:14) whereas the Father and the Son speak for themselves.
 - This tends to make us less aware of the personality of God the Holy Spirit.
 - The personality of the Holy Spirit was slighted for centuries, but was recognized after the Nicene Creed (A.D. 325) defined the doctrine of the Trinity.
 - The Scriptural truth of the Godhead in three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is generally recognized today.

- The Personality of the Holy Spirit in Scriptures
 - The Holy Spirit is said to do only that which is possible only for a person can do.
 - ✦ He reproves (John 16:8).
 - ✦ He teaches (John 14:26; 1 John 2:27).
 - ✦ He speaks (Ac 8:29; 10:19; 13:2-4; Gal 4:6).
 - ✦ He intercedes (Rom 8:26).
 - ✦ He leads (Ac 16:6-7; 20:23; Gal 5:18; Rom 8:14).
 - ✦ He has ministries...
 - He regenerates (John 3:6).
 - He seals (Eph 4:30).
 - He baptizes (1 Cor 12:13).
 - He fills (Eph 5 18).
 - The Holy Spirit is affected as a person by other beings.
 - ✦ The Father sends Him into the world (John 14:16, 26) and the Son sends Him into the world (John 16:7).
 - ✦ Men may grieve the Spirit (Isa 63:10; Eph 4:30), quench (resist) Him (1 Thess 5:19), blaspheme Him (Matt 12:31), speak against Him (Matt 12:32), lie to Him (Acts 5:3), insult Him (Heb 10:29).
 - All Bible terms related to the Spirit imply His personality.
 - ✦ He is called “another Helper” (John 14:16) which indicates that He is as much a person as Christ.
 - ✦ The word “spirit” in the Greek is a neuter noun. Some pronouns referring to the Holy Spirit use the neuter form as the Greek language requires, but many others are masculine in gender emphasizing the fact of the personality of the Spirit.
- As a Person of the Godhead the Holy Spirit is Co-equal with the Father and the Son
 - He is called God (Isa 6:8-9 cp. Ac 28:25-26; Jer 31:31-34 cp. Heb 10:15-17; Ac 5:3-4).
 - He has the attributes of God (1 Cor 2:9-11; Heb 9:14).
 - He performs the works of God (Job 33:4; Ps 104:30; Luke 12:11-12; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Pet 1:21).
 - He is presented in Scripture as an object of faith (Ps 51:11; Matt 28:19). As an object of faith, He is also One to be obeyed (Acts 10:19-21).
 - The believer in Christ, walking in fellowship with the Spirit, experiences His power, His guidance, His instruction, and His sufficiency.
- Questions
 - Why is it necessary to emphasize the personality of the Holy Spirit?
 - What are some of the important works of the Spirit which demonstrate His personality?
 - To what extent does Scripture indicate that the Holy Spirit is affected as a person by other beings?

- What biblical terms imply the personality of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the fact that the Holy Spirit is called God demonstrate His equality with the Father and the Son?
- What evidence supports the conclusion that the Holy Spirit has the attributes of God?
- How do the works of the Holy Spirit demonstrate His deity?
- How do the personal pronouns used of the Holy Spirit affirm His personality?
- To what extent does Christian experience in which the Holy Spirit is the object of faith and obedience support His equality with the Father and the Son?

God the Holy Spirit: His Advent (MP3 #17)

- Introduction
 - The coming of the Holy Spirit into the world on the day of Pentecost must be seen in relationship to His work in prior dispensations.
 - In the O.T. the Holy Spirit was in the world as omnipresent God, yet He is said to come into the world on the day of Pentecost.
 - During the present age He is said to remain in the world, but will depart out of the world – in the same sense as he came on the day of Pentecost – when the Rapture of the Church occurs.
 - In order to understand this truth of the Holy Spirit, various aspects of His relationship to the world must be considered.
- The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 - Before the first coming of Christ, the Holy Spirit was present in the world and worked in and through the people of God according to His divine will (Gen 41:38; Ex 31:3; 35:31; Num 27:18; Job 33:4; Ps 139:7; Hag 2:4-5; Zech 4:6).
 - In the O.T. the Spirit of God is seen as active, having a part in the creation, inspiration of the Scriptures which were written, enabling believers for service, and performing miracles.
 - But there is no indication that O.T. believers were indwelt by the Spirit – there is evidence to the contrary (1 Sam 16:14).
 - The sealing/baptism of the Spirit were not mentioned prior to the day of Pentecost, so it follows that after Pentecost the Holy Spirit would have an even greater work than in preceding ages.
- The Holy Spirit During the Life of Christ on Earth
 - In relation to Christ Himself...
 - ✦ The Holy Spirit was the generating power by which the God-man was formed in the virgin's womb (Matt 1:18).
 - ✦ The Spirit descended upon Christ at His baptism (Mk 1:10).
 - ✦ Through the Spirit Christ offered Himself to God (Heb 9:14).
 - In relation to mankind...

- ✦ At first, Christ told His disciples that they could receive the Spirit by asking the Father (Luke 11:13). This was different from the time prior to Christ's coming and there is no record of anyone actually availing themselves of the Spirit by asking for Him.
 - ✦ At the end of His earthly ministry and just before His death, Jesus told His disciples He would ask the Father to send the Spirit that he might be with them forever (John 14:16-17).
 - ✦ After His resurrection, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22), but in spite of this temporary gift of the Spirit they were to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came and they were clothed with power from on high (Lk 24:49; Ac 1:4).
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
 - The Holy Spirit – who is omnipresent and has always been in the world – came on the day of Pentecost that He might make His abode in the world.
 - The significance here is that the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit was changed from heaven to earth when He came, thereby establishing the new ministry of this age of grace.
 - The Holy Spirit came, first of all, to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-11).
 - ✦ The unbeliever is made to understand that the sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior is the one sin that stands between him and salvation (John 3:18). It is not a question of his worthiness, his feelings, or any other factor.
 - ✦ The unbeliever is informed concerning the righteousness of God. This includes the fact that God is perfectly righteous and that no work of man can rise to the level of His righteousness. Also, the Spirit reveals that God's righteousness is available to us through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16-17; 3:22; 4:5-6).
 - ✦ The fact is revealed that Satan himself has been defeated – judged at the cross and doomed to eternal punishment.
 - In His coming to the world on the day of Pentecost, the work of the Spirit in the Church began.
 - ✦ He regenerates every believer (John 3:3-7).
 - ✦ He indwells every believer (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:15-17; Rom 5:5; 8:9-11; 1 Cor 6:19-20).
 - ✦ He seals the believer for the day of redemption (Eph 4:30).
 - ✦ He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:13).
 - ✦ All of the above ministries apply equally to every true believer in this present age.
 - ✦ Believers also have available to them the possibility of the filling of the Spirit and walking by the Spirit, but this requires that they do not grieve (Eph 4:30) nor quench (1 Thess 5:19) the Holy Spirit.

- When the purpose of God in this age is brought to completion by the Rapture of the Church, the Holy Spirit will have accomplished the purpose of His special advent into the world and will depart from the world in the same sense that He came.
- This present age, then, is in many respects the age of the Spirit, an age in which the Spirit of God is working in a special way to call out a company of believers, both Jew and Gentile, to form the body of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit will continue to be omnipresent after His departure at the Rapture and He will continue to work, although in different ways, throughout the time of tribulation, the millennial kingdom, and the fullness of the times.
- Questions
 - In what sense was the Holy Spirit in the world before Pentecost?
 - What important works of the Holy Spirit are found in the Old Testament?
 - Distinguish the meaning of the Holy Spirit being “with” the O.T. saints in contrast to the present age when the Holy Spirit is “in” the saints.
 - How is the Holy Spirit related to the conception and birth of Christ?
 - What ministry did the Holy Spirit have in the period of the gospels?
 - Why did the disciples have to wait until the day of Pentecost for the coming of the Spirit even though the Lord had breathed on them (John 20:22)?
 - In what sense did the promise of Christ concerning the giving of another Comforter who would abide with the disciples forever promise a new ministry of the Spirit?
 - In what sense did the Holy Spirit come on the day of Pentecost and how does this relate to His omnipresence?
 - What three doctrines are taught by the Spirit in convicting the world?
 - In coming on the day of Pentecost, what important works of the Spirit are contemplated?
 - How important is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the present purpose of God?
 - What change in the ministry of the Holy Spirit will take place at the time of the Rapture?
 - Will the Holy Spirit continue to work in the world after the Rapture?

God the Holy Spirit: His Regeneration (MP3 #18)

- Introduction
 - Our life of faith begins with being born again, so regeneration is one of the fundamental doctrines in relation to salvation.
 - An accurate definition of this work of the Spirit and an understanding of its relation to the whole Christian life are important for our progress toward spiritual maturity.
- Regeneration: Defined
 - The word “regeneration” appears only twice in the Bible.
 - ✦ In Matt 19:28 this refers to the renewal of the earth in the millennial kingdom and does not apply to salvation.

- ✦ In Titus 3:5 this word refers to a new birth, a new supernatural life that believers receive as sons of God – this is an instantaneous change from a state of spiritual death to a state of spiritual life.
- Regeneration by the Holy Spirit
 - By its very nature, regeneration is a creative work of God (John 1:13; 2 Cor 5:17-18; Eph 2:4-5, 10; 4:24).
 - All three members of Trinity are involved.
 - ✦ The Father (James 1:17-18).
 - ✦ Jesus Christ (John 5:21).
 - ✦ The Holy Spirit (John 3:3-7).
 - The Holy Spirit, however, is described as the principle agent of regeneration in Titus 3:5.
 - A parallel can be seen in the birth of Christ in which all three members were involved, yet it was the Holy Spirit that brought about the actual conception.
- Eternal Life Imparted by Regeneration
 - The central concept of regeneration is that a person who believes in Jesus Christ is no longer spiritually dead, but now has eternal life.
 - Three figures of speech are used to describe this.
 - ✦ Born again (John 3:3).
 - ✦ Alive from the dead (Rom 6:13; Eph 2:5).
 - ✦ A new creature (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:24).
 - Regeneration is not accomplished by any work of man (such as water baptism) and is entirely a supernatural act of God.
 - Likewise, regeneration is instantaneous and inseparable from salvation – any experience we may have that follows salvation is merely a response to regeneration, our new life in Christ.
- The Results of Regeneration
 - Upon regeneration we are a “new man” which has been created in righteousness (Eph 4:24) and, as believers, we should avail ourselves of this new capacity for walking in righteousness.
 - This new nature is patterned after the nature of God and is different from Adam’s nature before he sinned – our new nature cannot sin and always longs for the things of God.
 - While regeneration is not an experience, the new life we have in Christ gives us new capacity for experience.
 - ✦ We can now enjoy fellowship with God.
 - ✦ We now have the capacity to understand spiritual things.
 - ✦ We have received a spiritual gift (or gifts) from the Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ How much we benefit from these depends on our volition.
 - The nature of eternal life and regeneration forbids a reversal of this work of God and forms the basis for eternal security.

- While faith is necessary for salvation, it is not considered a good work by God and does not render a person worthy of salvation, so the act of regeneration is completely on the basis of God's grace toward a completely unworthy individual and no act of disobedience on the part of a believer could ever make him less worthy than he was at the moment of salvation.
- The eternal life we possess can be "experienced" here and now when we walk in the Light and glorify God with our lives, but the ultimate fulfillment of God's purpose in giving us eternal life will occur when we are face-to-face with God in glory.
- Questions
 - What is meant by regeneration?
 - What important passages on regeneration are found in the New Testament and what, in general, do they teach?
 - How are the three persons of the Trinity involved in the regeneration of the believer?
 - Describe regeneration as it is revealed in the figures of rebirth/resurrection.
 - How is the fact that a believer in Christ is a new creation a result of regeneration?
 - Why is it impossible for the human will in itself to produce a new birth?
 - In what sense is regeneration not an experience?
 - How is experience related to regeneration?
 - How is the new nature a result of regeneration?
 - What new experiences will come to a regenerated believer?
 - How does regeneration relate to eternal security?

God the Holy Spirit: His Indwelling and Sealing (MP3 #19)

- A New Feature of the Present Age
 - Although the Spirit of God was with men in the O.T., the source of their new life, and the means of spiritual victory, there is no evidence that all believers were indwelt by Him.
 - Jesus Christ expressly taught this in the upper room discourse, contrasting the O.T. situation with the present age, when He said, "He abides with you and will be in you" (John 14:17).
 - The indwelling of the Spirit in every believer is a distinctive feature of the present age which is repeated in the millennial kingdom, but is found in no other period of history.
- The Universal Indwelling of the Spirit in Believers
 - Although Christians may vary greatly in manifesting the fruit of the Spirit, Scripture teaches plainly that every believer since Pentecost is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
 - The temporary delays in indwelling seen in a few instances in Acts 8:14-17 and 19:1-6 were unusual instances, not normative, and due to the transitional nature of the Book of Acts.
 - The following passages make it clear that prior to the day of Pentecost the O.T. order – in which only some were indwelt – was still in effect, but after Pentecost the normal work

of the Spirit has been to indwell every Christian (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:15-17; Rom 5:5; 8:9-11; 1 Co 2:12; 6:19-20; 12:13; 2 Co 5:5; Gal 3:2; 4:6; 1 John 3:24; 4:13).

- Challenges to the Doctrine of Indwelling
 - Some believe that the Holy Spirit can be taken away based upon 1 Sam 16:14 and Ps 51:11, but these passages refer to the O.T. order where indwelling was not universal or permanent.
 - Some claim that the Holy Spirit is given only to faithful believers based upon Acts 5:32, but the obedience described in that verse is obedience to the gospel unto salvation.
 - Some use Acts 8:17 and 19:6 to claim that the laying on of hands is necessary to receive the Spirit, but Scripture records many who received the Spirit apart from laying on of hands.
 - Some point to 1 John 2:20, 27 and say that a separate process of anointing is required, but a study of this anointing makes it clear that this is an initial act at the moment of salvation.
- The Indwelling of the Spirit vs. Other Ministries
 - Because a number of works of the Spirit occur simultaneously at the moment of the new birth of the believer, careful distinctions must be made between these different activities.
 - Regeneration, baptism, and filling are distinct from indwelling, whereas sealing is related and anointing is identical.
 - By the indwelling of the Spirit believers are set apart for God and this was typified by the anointing oil in the O.T.
 - ✦ Anything touched with the oil was sanctified (Ex 40:9-15) as the Spirit now sanctifies (Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Th 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2).
 - ✦ The prophet was sanctified with oil (1 Kings 19:16) as Jesus was a prophet by the Spirit (Luke 4:18).
 - ✦ The oil of joy (Ps 45:7) is now the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22).
- The Sealing of the Spirit
 - At the moment of salvation God places His seal upon the believer (Eph 1:13; 4:30) and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit represents His pledge (2 Cor 1:22).
 - This seal is entirely the work of God and symbolizes the finished transaction that took place the moment we placed our faith in Jesus Christ and God performed the work of salvation.
 - This seal signifies that...
 - ✦ We are God's possession.
 - ✦ We are secure until the day we are taken up into glory.
 - ✦ We are protected from being tampered with by our adversaries.
- Questions
 - What evidence supports the conclusion that the indwelling of the Spirit in every believer is a distinctive feature of the present age?

- What important passages in the New Testament unquestionably teach the universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit in believers?
- How may the anointing of the Spirit be defined?
- What questions about indwelling are raised by 1 Sam 16:14 and Psalm 51:11?
- What is the explanation of Acts 5:32 in relation to the universal indwelling of the Spirit?
- How can the indwelling of the Spirit be contrasted with regeneration?
- How can the indwelling of the Spirit be contrasted with the baptism of the Spirit?
- How can the indwelling of the Spirit be contrasted with the filling of the Spirit?
- How does the anointing oil of the O.T. typify the work of the Holy Spirit?
- What is the relationship between the indwelling and sealing of the Spirit?
- How does the sealing of the Spirit relate to eternal security?

God the Holy Spirit: His Baptism (MP3 #20)

- The Meaning of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - The baptism of the Spirit should not be confused with regeneration, indwelling, sealing, filling, etc.
 - There are eleven specific references to the baptism of the Spirit in the N.T (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16; Rom 6:1-4; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; Eph 4:5; Col 2:12).
- The Age of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - There is no mention of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the O.T. and the four gospels unite with Acts 1:5 in anticipating the baptism of the Spirit as a then future event (Pentecost).
 - The mention of baptism with fire in Matt 3:11 and Luke 3:16 is a reference to 2nd Advent judgments, but it is not uncommon for a single prophetic verse to reference two distinct times.
- All Believers Baptized by the H. S. in the Present Age
 - This fact is plainly stated in 1 Cor 12:13.
 - This verse states that “we all” are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ which clearly encompasses all believers.
 - The baptism of the Spirit is a work of God at the moment of salvation which is why we are never commanded in Scripture to be baptized by the Spirit.
- The Baptism of the Spirit Into the Body of Christ
 - Two main results are accomplished by the baptism of the Holy Spirit...
 - ✦ The believer is placed into the body of Christ.
 - ✦ The believer is baptized into Christ Himself.
 - By Spirit baptism into the body of Christ, the believer is in the living union of all true believers.

- This means that the believer has been placed in, initiated into, and given a new and abiding relationship.
- The ever increasing body of believers formed by this baptism is mentioned frequently in Scripture (1 Cor 12:12-14; Eph 2:16; 4:4-5, 16; 5:30-32; Col 1:24; 2:19).
- Christ is the head of this body (Eph 1:22-23; 5:23-24; Col 1:18).
- This body is cared for by Christ (Eph 5:29; Col 2:19).
- All believers are given special gifts and functions as part of the body of Christ (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:27-28; Eph 4:7-16), thus allowing every believer an opportunity to serve God.
- The Baptism of the Spirit Into Christ
 - In addition to his relationship with other believers in the body of Christ, the one who is baptized by the Spirit has a new position in that he has been declared to be in Christ.
 - Because the believer is in Christ, he is identified in what Christ did in His death, resurrection, and glorification.
 - This is the emphasis of Rom 6:1-4 (also seen in Col 2:12) and is the picture being painted in the ritual of water baptism.
 - Apart from the reality of Spirit baptism which occurs at the moment of salvation, water baptism is without meaning.
 - Our identification with Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the basis for all that God does for the believer in time and eternity.
- Baptism of the Spirit Related to Spiritual Experience
 - The baptism of the Spirit is a work of God accomplished at the moment a person places his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.
 - Although subsequent spiritual experience may confirm the reality of this baptism, the baptism itself is not an experience.
 - Since Spirit baptism occurs for all believers at the moment of salvation, there is no need for any believer to seek this baptism or some experience supposedly associated with it.
- Concluding Thoughts
 - Although there are two facets to the baptism of the Spirit, this is a single baptism that accomplishes both works of God.
 - The baptism of the Spirit is an important doctrine concerning our position in Christ and relationship to other believers.
- Questions
 - How would you distinguish the baptism of the Spirit from the work of the spirit in regenerating, indwelling and sealing?
 - How would you distinguish the baptism of the Spirit from the filling of the Spirit?
 - What is the significance of the fact that the baptism of the Spirit in the four gospels and in Acts 1 is mentioned as a future work?
 - What evidence do we have that all believers are baptized by the Spirit in the present age?

- Why are believers never exhorted to be baptized by the Spirit?
- What is the meaning of being baptized into the body of Christ?
- How does the figure of the body of Christ bring out our special gifts given to individual believers?
- What special truths are brought out by the baptism of the Spirit into Christ?
- How does baptism into Christ relate to our identification with His death, resurrection and glorification?
- Why is the baptism of the Spirit not in itself a spiritual experience?
- Summarize the importance of the baptism of the Spirit as a work relating to our salvation.

God the Holy Spirit: His Filling (MP3 #21, #22)

- The Filling of the Holy Spirit Defined
 - In contrast with the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation – such as regeneration, indwelling, sealing, and baptism – the filling of the Holy Spirit is related to Christian experience, power, and service.
 - The works of the Spirit in salvation are once and for all, but the filling of the Spirit occurs repeatedly in the life of the believer.
 - Prior to Pentecost the Holy Spirit filled believers (Ex 28:3; 31:3; 35:31; Luke 1:15, 41, 67; 4:1), but on the whole relatively few individuals received this empowerment.
 - There is no indication in the Scripture that the filling of the Spirit was available to every believer before Pentecost.
 - Beginning with the Day of Pentecost, a new period began in which the Holy Spirit would work in every believer – each is indwelt by the Spirit and can be filled with the Spirit.
 - Numerous examples are given in the N.T. to confirm this conclusion (Ac 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9, 52; Eph 5:18).
 - The filling of the Spirit is a spiritual state where the Holy Spirit is supernaturally empowering the believer such that he is able to produce fruit (divine good) in his life.
 - Instead of being a rare occurrence as it was before Pentecost, today the normal spiritual state for the believer is to be filled with the Spirit and we are commanded to be so (Eph 5:18).
 - The state of being filled with the Spirit must be contrasted with spiritual maturity...
 - ✦ A brand new baby believer may be filled with the Spirit and manifest the power of the Holy Spirit in his life.
 - ✦ Maturity, on the other hand, involves growth in knowledge through the study of God's word and the wisdom that comes from the application of accumulated doctrines to life's various trials, all the while being consistently filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Numerous passages speak of the need for spiritual growth...
 - ✦ Gifted men edify the saints that they might grow up (Eph 4:11-16).

- ✦ Spiritual milk is what newborn believers need to grow (1 Pet 2:2).
 - ✦ We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Pet 3:18).
- There is an obvious relationship between the filling of the Spirit and growth to maturity...
 - ✦ The believer that spends most of his time filled with the Spirit will mature more rapidly than one who does not.
 - ✦ The filling of the Spirit and growth to maturity are two of the most important factors in achieving the will of God in your life and fulfilling God's purpose in creating you for good works (Eph 2:10).
- While there may be degrees of the manifestation of the filling of the Spirit and degrees of divine power in the believer's life, the fundamental principle remains that a believer is filled with the Spirit only when the Spirit of God is able to operate in and through him without hindrance.
- Being filled with the Spirit, like receiving salvation by faith, is not accomplished by human effort; rather, it is by permitting God to accomplish this work in the life of the believer.
- The filling of the Spirit, while it does occur at the moment of salvation, is not part of the permanent estate of the believer and will occur again and again in the life of the believer.
- The proper translation of Eph 5:18 would be "keep on being filled with the Spirit" indicating the repeated nature of filling rather than a once-for-all occurrence (like indwelling).
- The Christian desiring to do the will of God must enter fully into the privilege of being Spirit-indwelted by being filled.
- Conditions for the Filling of the Holy Spirit
 - Three simple commands have been given as the conditions for being filled with the Spirit...
 - ✦ Do not quench the Spirit (1 Thess 5:19).
 - ✦ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Eph 4:30).
 - ✦ Walk by the Spirit (Gal 5:16).
 - Quenching the Spirit uses the imagery of quenching a fire (Heb 11:34) and means to stifle or suppress Him, thus preventing Him from accomplishing His work in the life of the believer.
 - ✦ When we are filled, God the Holy Spirit is in control of our life.
 - ✦ Quenching the Spirit is rebellion against God in choosing to do our own will instead of submitting to the will of God (the Holy Spirit).
 - The believer's submission (yielding) to God and His will
 - ✦ We are commanded to present ourselves (submit) to God and righteousness rather than sin (Rom 6:12-16).
 - ✦ We are commanded to present our bodies (submit) a living and holy sacrifice (Rom 12:1-2).

- ✦ This submission to God is the antithesis of the prideful attitude that quenches the Holy Spirit and is a prerequisite for being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ When we are submitted to God, His will is first and foremost in our thinking and we are willing to do anything God wants us to do – whenever, wherever, and however He directs.
 - ✦ In order to submit to God we must first submit to the word of God and its commandments and exhortations – refusal to do so makes it impossible to be filled with the Spirit.
 - ✦ In addition, we must submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:14) who teaches us the truth and gives us guidance (in harmony with the principles of the word of God) in areas of life where the word of God does not explicitly delineate the right course of action.
 - ✦ True submission involves accepting God’s providential acts which often include situations and experiences we do not desire.
 - ✦ Just as Christ chose the Father’s will (Luke 22:42), the believer who desires to be filled with the Spirit must submit to His will.
- Grieving the Spirit occurs when we succumb to temptation and allows sin to enter into our lives.
- ✦ When the Spirit is grieved, the fellowship, guidance, instruction and power of the Spirit are hindered.
 - ✦ The Holy Spirit, although still indwelling, is not free to accomplish His full range of work in the life of the believer.
 - ✦ In order to return to the state of being filled with the Spirit, the believer must stop grieving the Holy Spirit by repenting of (changing his mind about) his sins and confessing them to God.
 - ✦ When the believer is cleansed of all unrighteousness and restored to fellowship with God, he will once again be filled with the Spirit since the Holy Spirit is now free to accomplish His work.
- The believer’s confession of sins to God
- ✦ 1 John 1:9 builds on O.T. passages that teach of confession of sins and gives us assurance that all unrighteousness will be cleansed, not just the sins we explicitly confess.
 - ✦ The issue in confession is restoration of intimate fellowship between the believer and God.
 - ✦ While some sins affect others and may require going to individuals who have been wronged to correct difficulties, the confession itself is done in private between a believer and God.
 - ✦ While it may take some time for us to reach the point where we are ready to repent and confess our sins, the moment we confess our sins to God we are restored to fellowship with Him.

- While there is immediate loss when we lose fellowship with God through sin, Scripture tells us that if we continually grieve the Spirit we will be disciplined by our Father in heaven who loves us (Heb 12:5-6).
- Therefore, we should be diligent to examine ourselves and judge ourselves rightly, so that God need not step in and discipline us (1 Cor 11:28-32).
- In both the grieving of the Spirit and the quenching of the Spirit, God has made provision for us to once again be filled with the Spirit when we confess our sins and humbly submit to God and His perfect plan for our lives.
- Walking by the Spirit is a command to appropriate the power and blessing that is provided by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- This command in Gal 5:16 is in the present tense, meaning that we are instructed to *continually* walk by means of the Spirit.
- The standard of spiritual life is high for Church age saints and believers today will be unable to fulfill the will of God apart from utilizing the power available from the indwelling Spirit.
- We cannot love the way Christ loves (John 13:34; 15:12), take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5), or produce the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) without the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- Our growth toward spiritual maturity which results in the ability to rejoice always, pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks (1 Thess 5:16-18) is impossible unless one is walking by the Spirit.
- Our constant battles against the world, the flesh and the devil will result in defeat unless, by faith, we continually depend upon the power of the Spirit of God to achieve the victory.
- We will never achieve sinless perfection here on this earth and we can be assured that the spiritual warfare will continue unabated, but if we appropriate the power of God in walking by the Spirit we may achieve the will of God in our lives.
- The Results of the Filling of the Holy Spirit
 - A believer walking in the power of the Spirit experiences a progressive sanctification, a holiness of life in which the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) are evident.
 - A believer who is filled with the Spirit avails himself of the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit who guides us into the truth (John 16:13) and teaches us the word of God which must be spiritually appraised (1 Cor 2:12-14).
 - When we are in fellowship with the indwelling Holy Spirit, He guides us (Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18) in accordance with the word of God so that we will always know what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom 12:2).
 - When the work of the Spirit is unhindered, He assures us of our salvation as He testifies with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom 8:16).
 - True worship and expression of our love for God are possible only when we are filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18-21) because we must worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

- An effective prayer life depends upon walking by the Spirit since we do not always know what to pray for (Rom 8:26).
- Our life of service and the exercise of our spiritual gifts depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39) which can only be manifested in us when we are walking by the Spirit.
- Questions
 - How would you contrast the filling of the Spirit with the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation?
 - What instances of the filling of the Spirit may be observed before the Day of Pentecost?
 - Was the filling of the Spirit open to all believers before Pentecost?
 - How did the coming of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost change the availability of the filling of the Spirit?
 - Define the filling of the Spirit.
 - Contrast being filled with the Spirit and spiritual maturity.
 - Can any believer today be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - What is the relationship between the filling of the Spirit and spiritual maturity?
 - In what sense are there degrees of manifestation of the filling of the Spirit?
 - What outstanding illustrations of being filled with the Spirit are found in the book of Acts?
 - What is the significance of the comparison of being filled with wine and being filled with the Spirit?
 - Why is it inaccurate to refer to the filling of the Spirit as a second work of grace?
 - What is meant by the command “Do not quench the Spirit”?
 - Why is submitting to God necessary to be filled with the Spirit?
 - Describe the various aspects of a believer’s submission to God.
 - In what sense is Christ the supreme example of submission to God?
 - What is meant by the command “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”?
 - What is the remedy for grieving the Spirit?
 - Why may a believer confess his sin in confidence that he will be forgiven?
 - What are some of the serious results of continuing in a state of grieving the Spirit?
 - Define what is meant by walking in the Spirit.
 - How does the high standard of spiritual life today make walking by the Spirit necessary?
 - Why is walking by the Spirit necessary in light of the fact that we live in a sinful world?
 - Why is walking by the Spirit necessary in view of the believer’s sin nature?
 - Why does the need of walking by the Spirit demonstrate that it is impossible for a believer to achieve sinless perfection in this life?
 - Describe the results of the filling of the Spirit.
 - Summarize all of the important reasons for a believer being filled with the Spirit.

The Dispensations and Ages (MP3 #23 - #36)

- The Meaning of Dispensations and Ages
 - In the study of Scripture it quickly becomes obvious that revelation falls into well-defined periods.
 - The recognition of these divisions and their divine purposes constitutes one of the most important factors in the accurate interpretation of the Scriptures.
 - The term “dispensation” refers to a period during which a given group is assigned stewardship responsibilities under God’s plan.
 - The term “age” refers to a period within a dispensation during which God’s chosen stewards operate under a given set of circumstances and conditions or rules of life.
 - Ages are mentioned often in the Bible (Eph 2:7; 3:9; Ti 2:12; Heb 6:5) and changes in the arrangement of things are clearly delineated in the Bible (John 1:17; 2 Cor 3:7-11; Heb 7:11-12).
 - Understanding the dispensations and ages results in a clearer understanding of Scripture and often sparks a newfound interest in studying the Bible.
 - While God does not change (Mal 3:6), the instructions He gives to mankind and the responsibilities He assigns to mankind are specific to a given dispensation/age.
 - This means that we must be prepared to distinguish between the primary and secondary application of the Word of God.
 - While there are spiritual lessons to be drawn from every portion of the Bible (2 Tim 3:16-17), it does not follow that believers today are appointed by God to conform to those governing principles which were the will of God for people of other dispensations/ages.
 - The child of God under grace is not situated as was Adam, or Abraham, or the Israelites under the law, nor is he called upon to follow the manner of life that will be required of believers when the King has returned to set up His kingdom on earth.
 - Therefore, it is important to recognize those portions of the Scriptures which directly apply to us and those which do not.
 - By rightly dividing the truth in this way, we can be properly oriented to the present purpose of God and, therefore, better able to understand and pursue the will of God in our lives.
 - The dispensations outlines in the Scriptures are...
 - ✦ The Stewardship of the Angels
 - ✦ The Stewardship of Man
 - ✦ The Stewardship of Israel
 - ✦ The Stewardship of the Church
 - ✦ The Stewardship of Christ
 - This study will focus on the four dispensations in which man is given stewardship responsibilities.
- The Dispensation of Man

- This dispensation places stewardship responsibilities on all of mankind and has three distinct ages...
 - ✦ The Age of Innocence.
 - ✦ The Age of Conscience.
 - ✦ The Age of Human Government.
- The Age of Innocence begins with the creation of man (Gen 1:26-27) and continues until the fall of man (Gen 3:6).
 - ✦ Man was expected to be fruitful and multiply, fill and subdue the earth, rule over the animals, use vegetables for food, and care for the garden of Eden (Gen 1:28-29; 2:15).
 - ✦ The only prohibition given to man was to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:17).
 - ✦ This age comes to an end when man fails to obey the one simple command he was given resulting in divine judgment, spiritual death, knowledge of human good and sin, loss of fellowship, and fear of God (Gen 3:6-8).
 - ✦ In the midst of this failure of man God introduced the principle of grace with the promise of a Redeemer (Gen 3:15) and coats of skin which are a type of the provision of redemption (Gen 3:21).
 - ✦ Although Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden, they were allowed to live out the rest of their natural lives (Gen 3:23-24).
 - ✦ With God's righteous judgment upon them a new age had begun.
- The Age of Conscience begins after the fall of man and continues until the flood event is complete (Gen 8:19).
 - ✦ Man was required to live according to his conscience and in keeping with such knowledge of God as was given to him.
 - ✦ The conscience can convict, but it cannot bring victory (Rom 2:14-15; 1 Cor 8:7).
 - ✦ Adam's children demonstrated his sin nature when Cain refused to bring a blood offering to God and murdered Abel (Gen 4:3-8).
 - ✦ Over time the wickedness of the human heart reached such a stage that judgment was necessary (Gen 6:5, 11-13) so God brought upon the earth the universal flood (Gen 7:21-24).
 - ✦ In the midst of this failure God manifested His grace in that some were saved like Enoch (Gen 5:24) and Noah and his family were saved by the ark (Heb 11:7).
 - ✦ God thus preserved the line of the Redeemer while demonstrating His sovereignty in judging the world by the flood.
- The Age of Human Government begins after the flood and continues until God's calls Abram (Gen 12:1).
 - ✦ At the culmination of the flood event God establishes the first element of human government (Gen 9:5-6).

- ✦ Man was once again commanded to fill the earth (Gen 9:1).
 - ✦ God made an unconditional covenant with Noah (Gen 9:8-13) promising never again to destroy the world by flood (Gen 9:11).
 - ✦ God also promised that the seasons would not cease (Gen 8:22).
 - ✦ Sin continued to make its presence known as shown by Noah's drunkenness (Gen 9:21) and Ham's irreverence (Gen 9:22).
 - ✦ Pride led men to build the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-4) which brought God's judgment in the confusing of their language (Gen 11:5-7) and the scattering of men across all the earth (Gen 11:8-9).
 - ✦ In the midst of this failure God manifested His grace in that a godly remnant was preserved (Gen 11:10-32) from whom Abram was chosen (Gen 12:1-3).
- It is important to note here that the roles of the conscience and the divine institution of human government continue on into later dispensations.
- Each age of the Dispensation of Man ends with failure resulting in divine judgment and yet God's grace is evident throughout this stewardship.
- The Dispensation of Israel
 - This dispensation places stewardship responsibilities on a select subset of mankind and has five distinct ages...
 - ✦ The Age of Promise.
 - ✦ The Age of Law.
 - ✦ The Age of the Incarnation.
 - ✦ The Age of Tribulation
 - ✦ The Age of Millennial Reign
 - The first three of these ages have been completed, but the final two have not yet taken place.
 - The stewardship responsibilities during this dispensation are placed upon a people of earthly lineage – the Jewish people.
 - The Jewish people are chosen by God as the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (renamed Israel, Gen 32:28) – a people which include both believers and unbelievers.
 - The Age of Promise begins with the covenant God makes with Abraham (Gen 12:1-2; 13:16; 15:5; 17:6-8).
 - ✦ This covenant brings blessing to the entire earth (Gen 12:3).
 - ✦ This covenant was only partially fulfilled in Abraham's lifetime and the effects of this covenant extend throughout human history.
 - ✦ This covenant does not depend upon human faithfulness, but only upon the faithfulness of God (Gen 15:9-17).
 - ✦ This covenant is declared to be everlasting (Gen 17:7, 13, 19).
 - ✦ This covenant bestowed stewardship responsibilities on the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (1 Chr 16:16-17; Ps 105:10), but the overriding

principles of human government and conscience still remain in effect for people in general.

- ✦ Abraham showed a lack of faith when he left the land God promised to him (Gen 12:1-20) and failed to trust in God's promise of a child (Gen 16:1-16), but later demonstrated tremendous faith in his willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac (Gen 22:1-18).
 - ✦ Isaac followed after his father's failures when he ventured as close to Egypt as he could and lied about his wife (Gen 26:1-17).
 - ✦ Jacob failed to trust in the promise that God had given his mother at his birth (Gen 25:23; 28:13-15, 20-21) and proved himself to be a schemer and a liar (Gen 27:1-29).
 - ✦ The people of Israel were continually grumbling (Ex 15:24; 16:2) and showed a lack of faith in God's provision for their escape from Egypt (Ex 14:10-12) and rejected God's promise of victory in taking the promised land (Num 14:1-10).
 - ✦ In the midst of these failures, God showed His people Israel abundant grace in His constant care, their deliverance from Egypt, and the institution of the Passover feast.
 - ✦ The Age of Promise ends with the giving of the Law (Ex 19), but the unconditional promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob continue to be in force as an object of faith and hope.
 - ✦ The Age of Promise clearly established the sovereignty of God, provided a channel of special divine revelation to the nation of Israel, revealed the grace of God, and further clarified the promise of the coming redeemer.
- The Age of Law begins with the giving of the Law to the people of Israel (Ex 19:3ff).
- ✦ Unlike the covenant given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Mosaic Law is conditioned upon the obedience of the people.
 - ✦ The Mosaic Law contains three major divisions...
 - The Commandments – the express will of God (Ex 20:1-26).
 - The Judgments – the social/civil life of Israel (Ex 21:1-24:11).
 - The Ordinances – the religious life of Israel (Ex 24:12-31:18).
 - ✦ The Law gave the people of Israel a complete system of worship and prayer and taught them about cleansing and forgiveness.
 - ✦ Under the Law there was continual failure and judgment...
 - The idolatry during the period of the judges.
 - The division of the nation into two kingdoms.
 - The Assyrian and Babylonian captivities.
 - ✦ In the midst of the failure of the people of Israel under the Law, God showed His grace in accepting the genuine repentance of His people, giving them a sacrificial system that highlighted His forgiveness, preserving the nation and providing them with leaders in the prophets, judges and kings.

- ✦ The purpose of the Law was to provide a righteous rule of life and bring sin out into the open, not to provide for man's salvation.
 - ✦ Through the Law God demonstrated that everyone is guilty and accountable, highlighting the need for Christ (Gal 3:21-27).
 - ✦ The Age of Law ended with the coming of the Messiah, but the Law remained as a governing principle during the life of Christ.
 - ✦ The Law was given specifically to Israel and is not the rule of life for the Church, although many principles of application can still be drawn from the Law today.
- The Age of the Incarnation begins with the birth of the Christ child (Matt 1:18-25).
 - ✦ The coming of the Messiah had been anticipated by those who diligently studied God's word (Matt 2:1-2).
 - ✦ His arrival fulfilled many prophecies (Seed of the Woman, Abraham's seed, Lion of Judah, Root of David, born in Bethlehem, etc.) and certainly changed the circumstances and conditions for His people, but Israel remained God's stewards on the earth.
 - ✦ One significant change with the incarnation of Christ is that God was now speaking to His people through His Son (Heb 1:1-2) who, in His humanity, was a Jewish prophet.
 - ✦ As a whole, the people of Israel rejected Christ (Matt 21:42-45; Rom 9:30-33).
 - ✦ In the midst of this failure of the Jewish people, God showed His grace by blessing the Jews who did accept Christ and employing the rejection of the majority to bring Christ to the Cross and fulfill His perfect plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles alike.
 - ✦ The Age of the Incarnation ended with the crucifixion of Christ, His resurrection and ascension, and the advent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.
- God has not rejected Israel (Rom 11:1-2), but He has placed their stewardship on hold for the present time (Rom 11:25).
- Thus, the Age of the Tribulation and the Age of Millennial Reign occur when Israel's stewardship is restored following the "mystery" stewardship – The Dispensation of the Church.
- The Dispensation of the Church
 - This dispensation places stewardship responsibilities on a select subset of mankind and has two distinct ages...
 - ✦ The Age of the Apostles.
 - ✦ The Age of the Local Church.
 - The stewardship responsibilities during this dispensation are placed upon a people of heavenly lineage – the Church.
 - The Church are a people chosen by God as members of the body of Christ based solely upon faith in the Savior – a people which includes both Jews and Gentiles (1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28).

- The people of the Church have some unique characteristics...
 - ✦ Universal baptism into Christ and the body of Christ.
 - ✦ Universal indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ Universal priesthood with Jesus Christ Himself as High Priest.
 - ✦ Freedom from the Law, ritual worship, calendar of feasts, etc.
 - ✦ Called to “multiply” by giving the gospel to the world.
- The Age of the Apostles begins at Pentecost when the apostles of the Lamb become the first apostles of the Church.
 - ✦ At the beginning of this age the apostles were responsible for establishing the practices of the believers in this new dispensation of grace (Acts 2:42).
 - ✦ The apostles’ authority concerning the matters of the Church was being confirmed by the signs and wonders God was performing through them (Acts 2:22, 43; 5:12; 2 Cor 12:12).
 - ✦ The Church soon found itself under persecution (Acts 4:1-3; 5:18) which resulted in the need for the saints to come together and support one another in an extraordinary way (Acts 4:32-35).
 - ✦ The need to maintain the unity of the early Church was so critical that the apostles participated in the handing out of some extreme judgment for those who sought to introduce deceit (Acts 5:1-10).
 - ✦ As the Church began to grow additional apostles were called (Paul, Barnabas, etc.) and sent out to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and establish local churches throughout the region.
 - ✦ The apostles were also responsible to maintain the integrity of the doctrines being taught (Acts 15:1-12; 16:4) since there was no established canon of Scripture to use as a doctrinal standard.
 - ✦ One of the requirements to be an apostle is to have seen the Lord Jesus Christ in person (1 Cor 9:1) and Paul was the last of the apostles to be called (1 Cor 15:8), even though some have falsely tried to claim to be apostles of the Church (2 Cor 11:13).
 - ✦ The end of the apostles authority over local churches was declared in John’s vision when Jesus Christ is seen holding the messengers (pastors) of the local churches in His right hand (Rev 1:16, 20).
 - ✦ The Age of the Apostles officially came to its end when John, as the last living apostle, died around 100 A.D.
- The Age of the Local Church officially begins when John, the last living apostle, dies around 100 A.D.
 - ✦ Many local churches had become “independent” prior to John’s death as the other apostles died or were martyred for their faith.
 - ✦ In this age the pastors of local churches were supposed to be directly accountable to Jesus Christ (Rev 1:16, 20).

- ✦ As the canon of Scripture was being established, the Bible itself became the true doctrinal standard for all believers.
- ✦ Sadly, the history of the Church reveals many man-made systems of local church governance (many still exist today) and a myriad of traditions that were given precedence over the Scriptures.
- ✦ God’s focus in this present age is on the local churches where He assembles flocks of believers with a variety of spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:4) which are to be employed in serving one another (1 Pet 4:10) for the edification of the believers in the church (1 Cor 14:12, 26).
- ✦ With the completion of the canon of Scripture the “partial” gifts (word of knowledge, prophecy, etc. which were necessary during the Age of the Apostles) were “done away” (1 Cor 13:8-10).
- ✦ God’s priorities for the local church are teaching, fellowship, the taking of communion, and prayer (Acts 2:42).
- ✦ God provides for these activities by sending spiritually gifted men to the local churches (Eph 4:11) to...
 - Equip the saints for their work of service (Eph 4:12).
 - Build up the body of Christ (Eph 4:12).
 - Unite believers in the common bond of their faith and the knowledge of the Son of God (Eph 4:13).
 - Help us grow to spiritual maturity as we become more Christ-like in our walk (Eph 4:13).
- ✦ In spite of all of God’s amazing provisions for the people of His Church, this present age will end with a falling away from the faith (1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3:1-5; 4:3-4; 2 Pet 3:3-4).
- ✦ In the midst of this failure of the Church, God will show His grace by rescuing us from the wrath to come (1 Thess 1:10), gathering the Bride of Christ at the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess 4:16-17).
- Upon the Rapture of the Church the Dispensation of the Church comes to an end and stewardship responsibilities return to the previous stewards – the Jewish people.
- The Dispensation of Israel (A Reprise)
 - The Jewish people will resume their role as God’s stewards on the earth once the “mystery” stewardship of the Church has been culminated at the Rapture.
 - Because the Jewish people are defined by earthly lineage there has typically been a mixture of believing and unbelieving Jews on the earth, but once the Rapture occurs there will be nothing but unbelievers left, so all of God’s stewards will be unbelievers for the first time since the fall of man – at least for a brief time.
 - The period of time that elapses between the Rapture and the beginning of the Age of Tribulation is not revealed in the Bible, but given the circumstances it is likely to be relatively short.

- The Age of Tribulation begins with the signing of the covenant between the Antichrist and Israel (Dan 9:27).
 - ✦ This covenant marks the beginning of Daniel’s 70th “week” which is a seven year period also known as Jacob’s Distress (Jer 30:7).
 - ✦ During this age God will pour out His judgments upon His people Israel to bring about their repentance as well as the Gentile nations because of their opposition to the Jewish people.
 - ✦ The Lord Jesus Christ Himself will open the seven seals (Rev 6:1) unleashing judgment upon the earth, the seventh seal unleashing seven trumpets (Rev 8:1-2) and the seventh trumpet unleashing seven bowls of wrath (Rev 15:7).
 - ✦ There will be 144,000 Jewish believers (12,000 ea. from 12 tribes) marked out and sealed by God for Divine preservation in the midst of this judgment (Rev 7:4-8).
 - ✦ Midway through this seven year period the Antichrist will put an end to sacrifices and offerings (Dan 9:27) and will setup the Abomination of Desolation (Dan 11:31; 12:11), taking His seat in the temple and displaying himself as being God (2 Thess 2:4).
 - ✦ The False Prophet will deceive many with signs and wonders to worship an image of the Beast and take “the mark” (Rev 13:13-17).
 - ✦ At the end of this age Jesus Christ will return to the earth to destroy the armies of the Antichrist (Rev 19:11-21) which will have gathered together at Armageddon (Rev 16:13-16).
 - ✦ During the Age of Tribulation ½ of the people on earth will be executed (Rev 6:8; 9:18) and the vast majority of the remainder will not respond to the judgments and repent (Rev 9:20-21).
 - ✦ In the midst of this failure, God will show His grace by bringing many to repentance, preserving the 144,000, and saving those who survive until the end of the age (Mt 24:13) when Christ returns.
- The Age of Millennial Reign begins after Jesus Christ returns at the Second Advent to set up His kingdom on earth.
 - ✦ Before the kingdom is established...
 - Satan will be bound and sealed up in the abyss where he will remain until the end of the 1000 years (Rev 20:1-3).
 - Unbelieving Jews (Ezek 20:33-44) and Gentiles (Matt 25:31-46) will be judged and removed from the earth leaving behind only the believers who survived the Age of Tribulation.
 - All those who were martyred for their faith in the Tribulation (Rev 20:4-6) and all the Old Testament saints (Dan 12:2) will be resurrected to reign with Christ during the 1000 years.
 - ✦ NOTE: The saints of the Church will also reign with Christ during the millennium. The royal wedding will take place in heaven in between the Rapture

and the 2nd Advent and the Bride of Christ (a.k.a. the Church) will return with Him (Jude 14; Rev 19:14) to reign with Him during the 1000 years.

- ✦ During the Age of Millennial Reign Jesus Christ will rule over Israel on the throne of David (2 Sam 7:16; Matt 25:31) and rule the Gentile nations with a rod of iron (Rev 19:15) requiring them to pay tribute to Him annually or suffer punishment (Zech 14:16-19).
 - ✦ The Age of Millennial Reign will begin with believers only, but during the 1000 years many generations will be born and myriads of those people will reject Jesus, willfully join Satan, and surround Jerusalem in a final uprising against the Christ (Rev 20:7-9a).
 - ✦ Jesus will respond by destroying the rebels by fire (Rev 20:9b) dealing Satan his ultimate defeat (Rev 20:10).
 - ✦ The Age of Millennial Reign ends with the destruction of the current universe by fire (2 Pet 3:7, 10-12; Rev 20:11).
 - ✦ The end of this age also marks the end of the Dispensation of Israel, another dispensation which ends in failure.
 - ✦ This failure is remarkable because this age is characterized by...
 - A perfect beginning (a world full of believers with universal knowledge of God and the terms of salvation).
 - The glorious presence of Christ Himself.
 - A perfect government and perfect justice system.
 - Satan and his minions rendered inactive.
 - ✦ In the midst of this failure, God will show His grace in re-gathering Israel (Isa 11:11-12; Jer 30:1-3; Ezk 39:25-29; Mt 24:31; Mk 13:27), the salvation of His people (Isa 12), and the fulfillment of the new covenant with Israel (Jer 31:31-34).
 - ✦ Upon completion of this dispensation, man has been tested in virtually every circumstance and condition and has proven that he will fail regardless of how favorable the conditions might be, proving once and for all that man can be successful only when he is lifted up by the almighty hand of God in His matchless grace.
- The Dispensation of Christ
 - The Dispensation of Christ places stewardship responsibility upon Christ Himself.
 - ✦ Jesus Christ will set up His perfect kingdom on the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet 3:13).
 - ✦ Before the new heavens and earth are created, the Great White Throne judgment of unbelievers will take place (Rev 20:11-15) bringing a final end to all lawlessness and rebellion against God.
 - ✦ This final dispensation is also known as the Fullness of the Times, the summing up of all things in Christ (Eph 1:10).

- Note that there is no “under the earth” (Ph 2:10; Rev 5:3, 13).
 - ✦ The Fullness of the Times should not be confused with the fullness of the time (singular) which is a reference to the point in human history when God sent His Son at 1st Advent (Gal 4:4).
 - ✦ This dispensation will be characterized by unabated righteousness in an environment where volition still exists, but only choices that glorify God will be made.
 - ✦ At the end of this dispensation Jesus Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father (1 Cor 15:24) and He Himself will be the Eternal Father to the saints of every dispensation (Isa 9:6).
- Note that within this dispensation no ages have been defined because the circumstances and conditions remain the same throughout this stewardship of Jesus Christ.
- Some believe that the establishment of the new heavens and the new earth marks the beginning of the eternal state, but as we have seen there is an “end” in which Christ hands over the kingdom and this must take place some time after Christ has been established as king over all of mankind.
- This dispensation culminates God’s plan for mankind in time and is the only stewardship that ends with perfect success.
- Questions
 - How important is the doctrine of dispensations and ages?
 - Define the term dispensation.
 - Define the term age.
 - Name the four dispensations which involve human beings.
 - How does understanding dispensations help us to understand the distinction between primary and secondary application of the Word of God?
 - How does understanding dispensations in interpreting the Scriptures help us to explain instructions given to mankind that seem to be contradictory?
 - How does the use of normal (or literal) interpretation relate to the doctrine of dispensations and ages?
 - How does progressive revelation relate to the doctrine of dispensations and ages?
 - How do dispensations and ages explain the changes in the rules of life?
 - Which dispensations and ages are most important?
 - What was the requirement of man during the age of innocence?
 - How was God’s grace shown in the age of innocence?
 - Summarize the revelation of God in the age of innocence.
 - To what extent did the age of conscience reveal the failure of mankind?
 - How was God’s grace shown in the age of conscience?
 - To what extent did the age of human government reveal the failure of mankind?
 - How was God’s grace shown in the age of human government?

- What role do conscience and human government play today?
- When did the dispensation of Israel begin?
- How are the people of Israel delineated from the rest of mankind?
- What was provided in the age of promise and what was required of man in regard to it?
- Describe human failure under the age of promise.
- How was God's grace shown in the age of promise?
- Who was placed under the Law?
- Name the major divisions of the Law.
- How complex was the Law as a detailed religious system?
- Describe the failure of Israel under the Law.
- How was God's grace shown in the age of Law?
- Describe the purpose of the Law.
- Did the Law end when Jesus Christ came in the flesh?
- Describe human failure under the age of the incarnation.
- How was God's grace shown in the age of the incarnation?
- When did the dispensation of the Church begin?
- How are the people of the Church delineated from the rest of mankind?
- Name some unique characteristics of the Church.
- In what ways did God reveal that the apostles were truly of Him?
- When did the age of the apostles come to an end?
- Without apostles overseeing the local churches, how is doctrinal purity maintained?
- When are the four main activities of the local church?
- In what ways does God provide for these activities?
- Describe human failure in the dispensation of the Church.
- How was God's grace shown in the dispensation of the Church?
- What event marks the end of the dispensation of the Church?
- Who becomes God's steward on the earth once the Church is gone?
- What event marks the beginning of the age of tribulation?
- What is the purpose of God's wrath during the age of tribulation?
- Who breaks the seals unleashing this wrath?
- Who rises to prominence during the age of tribulation?
- Describe human failure during the age of tribulation.
- How was God's grace shown in the age of tribulation?
- What event brings the age of tribulation to an end?
- What must occur before Jesus Christ establishes the millennial kingdom?
- Where are the saints of the Church during the millennial kingdom?
- What are Gentile nations required to do during the millennial kingdom?

- Will there be unbelievers in the millennial kingdom? At the start? At the end?
- What characteristics of the millennial kingdom should have contributed to the success of mankind during this age?
- Describe human failure in the age of the millennial kingdom.
- How was God's grace shown in the age of the millennial kingdom?
- What occurs at the end of the 1000 years?
- What takes place before the establishment of the new heavens and the new earth?
- Name some characteristics of the dispensation of Christ.
- What is another name for the dispensation of Christ?
- Describe human failure in the dispensation of Christ.
- What takes place at the end of the dispensation of Christ?

The Covenants (MP3 #37 - #41)

- Biblical vs. Theological Covenants
 - In addition to the covenants which are mentioned in the Bible theologians have advanced three “inferred” covenants...
 - ✦ A covenant of works with Adam in the garden which asserts that, if Adam had obeyed God's prohibition, he would have lived forever.
 - ✦ A covenant between God the Father and God the Son whereby the Son agreed to provide the redemption for the salvation of mankind and the Father promised to accept His sacrifice.
 - ✦ A covenant of grace with Christ as the Mediator of the covenant and representative of those who put their trust in Him.
 - In order to preserve doctrinal clarity, we will focus our study on the covenants explicitly mentioned in Scripture.
- The Biblical Covenants
 - The covenants of God contained in Scripture fall into two distinct categories – conditional and unconditional.
 - ✦ A conditional covenant guarantees that God will do His part with absolute certainty when the human requirements are met, but if man fails God is not obligated to fulfill His covenant.
 - ✦ An unconditional covenant, while it may include some human contingencies, is a declaration of the purpose of God and the promises of an unconditional covenant will undoubtedly be fulfilled in God's perfect time and in His perfect way.
 - Of the eight Biblical covenants, only the Edenic and Mosaic covenants are conditional in nature.
 - The Edenic Covenant was the first covenant that God made with man (Gen 1:26-31; 2:16-17).

- ✦ Adam was given the responsibility of subduing the earth, having dominion over the animals, and caring for the garden.
 - ✦ He was also prohibited from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
 - ✦ This was a conditional covenant because God would give either life and blessing or death and cursing depending upon the faithfulness of Adam (and Eve).
 - ✦ Because Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, the penalty of death for their disobedience was imposed (spiritual death, then physical).
- The Adamic Covenant was made with man after the fall (Gen 3:15-19).
- ✦ This was a unconditional covenant because God declared with certainty what man's new conditions and circumstances would be once the fall of man had occurred.
 - A coming Redeemer is promised (Gen 3:15).
 - The woman is promised pain in childbirth (Gen 3:16).
 - The headship of the man is declared (Gen 3:16).
 - The man is promised that producing food will now be difficult, requiring toil and the sweat of his brow (Gen 3:17-19).
 - Man/woman learn that they will face physical death (Gen 3:19).
- The Noahic Covenant was made with Noah, his descendants, and all flesh that is on the earth (Gen 9:1-18).
- ✦ In the giving of this covenant the normal order of nature is reaffirmed (Gen 8:22; 9:2).
 - ✦ Man is given permission to eat the flesh of animals (Gen 9:3-4).
 - ✦ Human government is established as a means to curb sin with man receiving authority from God to execute capital punishment (Gen 9:5-6).
 - ✦ The command to be fruitful and multiply is restated (Gen 9:1, 7).
 - ✦ God promised that He would never again cut off all flesh by flood and never again destroy the earth by flood (Gen 9:8-18).
- The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-8) is one of the great revelations of God concerning future history and in it profound promises were given along three lines.
- ✦ Land – The descendants of Abraham would possess a specific land given to them by God (Gen 12:1; 13:14-15, 17; 15:7; 17:8).
 - ✦ Seed – Abraham would have innumerable descendants (Gen 13:16; 15:5) and be the father of many nations (Gen 17:4-6).
 - ✦ Blessing – This included temporal blessings for Abraham and his descendants – through Isaac and Ishmael (Gen 17:20; 21:12-13) – as well as spiritual blessings for all the peoples of the world through Abraham's "seed" (Gen 12:3; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; Gal 3:16).

- ✦ Because of Israel's special relationship to God, God made a promise to the Gentiles, that cursing would come to those who curse Israel and blessing to those who bless Israel (Gen 12:3).
 - ✦ Like the Adamic and Noahic Covenants which came before, this covenant is unconditional.
 - ✦ Even though many generations of Israelites did not enjoy the provisions of this covenant due to their disobedience, God will ultimately fulfill every single aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.
- The Mosaic Covenant was given through Moses for the children of Israel in the wilderness (Ex 20:1 – 31:18).
- ✦ God gave Moses the Law that was to govern His relationship to the people of Israel.
 - ✦ The Law includes the commandments (Ex 20:1-26), the judgments (Ex 21:1 – 24:11), and the ordinances (Ex 24:12 – 31:18).
 - ✦ This covenant was inherently conditional because blessings were promised to Israel based upon obedience whereas cursing and discipline would come to Israel if they were disobedient (Deut 28).
 - ✦ This covenant was also temporary and will be replaced by the New Covenant with Israel (Heb 8:7-13).
- The Palestinian (Land) Covenant was given concerning Israel's ultimate possession of the promised land (Deut 30:1-5).
- ✦ This covenant highlights how an unconditional covenant has conditional elements for any particular generation.
 - Because of disobedience and failure, the people of Israel spent many years in slavery in Egypt.
 - By the grace of God Israel was brought out of Egypt and they were able to take possession of a portion of the promised land.
 - Because of disobedience and disregard for God's Law, the people of Israel were removed from the land during both the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities.
 - Again by the grace of God they were allowed to return to the land 70 years after being taken captive by the Babylonians.
 - The Israelites repossessed the land and remained there until Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D.
 - The return to the land in the present nation of Israel is not the fulfillment of God's promise, but it will take place when Jesus Christ returns to establish His kingdom (Ezek 39:25-29).
 - ✦ Therefore this covenant includes...
 - Dispersion of Israel for their unbelief and disobedience (Deut 28:63-68; 30:1).

- Times of repentance and restoration (Deut 30:2).
 - The ultimate re-gathering of Israel into the Promised Land (Deut 30:3-5; Isa 11:11-12; Jer 30:3).
 - ✦ This covenant reaffirms the “land” aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant.
- The Davidic Covenant was given to David concerning his royal lineage, throne and kingdom (2 Sam 7:8-16; 1 Chr 17:3-14).
- ✦ This is an eternal, unconditional covenant which God will fulfill, although David’s descendants would suffer loss of reign due to divine discipline for their disobedience (Ps 89:20-37).
 - ✦ This covenant reaffirms the “seed” aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant (Ps 18:50), while adding the promise of an everlasting throne (Ps 89:36), an everlasting King (Jer 33:21) and an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam 7:16; 1 Chr 17:14).
 - ✦ Jesus Christ, Son of David (Lk 18:38-39), will fulfill this promise when He returns to reign on David’s throne forever (Lk 1:31-33).
 - ✦ Jesus Christ sitting on His throne in heaven today does not fulfill this promise because David occupied an earthly throne which Jesus will sit upon when He returns to the earth (Matt 25:31).
 - ✦ When Jesus Christ rules over Israel in the Millennial Kingdom, the resurrected David will serve under Him as prince (Ezek 34:23-24).
 - ✦ The Davidic Covenant is one of keys to understanding the future plans of God in establishing His earthly kingdom as He brings to fulfillment the promises which He made to Abraham.
- The New Covenant is with the people of Israel (Jer 31:31-33).
- ✦ It is an unconditional covenant, unlike the Mosaic Covenant which was broken by the people of Israel (Jer 31:32).
 - ✦ In His infinite grace, God promises to write His word on the hearts of all the sons of Israel and they will be faithful to Him (Jer 31:33).
 - ✦ All of Israel will finally know the Lord as they should (Jer 31:34).
 - ✦ The New Covenant is not made with the Church, although we are servant-ministers of this covenant (2 Cor 3:6).
 - This is a ministry of the Spirit and righteousness (2 Cor 3:8-9).
 - As we minister to one another now we are being trained for our ministry as the Bride of Christ during the Millennial Kingdom.
 - ✦ The New Covenant has its very basis in the blood of Jesus Christ (Lk 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25) who is the Mediator of this covenant (Heb 9:15; 12:24).
 - ✦ This covenant reaffirms the “blessing” aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant by assuring the future salvation of the people of Israel (Ezek 37:23; Rom 11:26-27).
- As we have examined the Biblical covenants we have seen how critical it is to distinguish between the conditional covenants of God which highlight man’s failure and the unconditional covenants of God which highlight His sovereignty.

- Questions
 - Why is it preferable to view history through the eight Biblical covenants rather than from the viewpoint of the so-called theological covenants?
 - Distinguish between the conditional covenants and the unconditional covenants.
 - What was the Edenic Covenant and what was the result of man's failure under it?
 - What was the Adamic Covenant and to what extent does it condition our life today?
 - What were some important provisions of the Noahic Covenant and to what extent does it continue today?
 - What promises were given to Abraham in the Abrahamic Covenant?
 - What promises were given to the people of Israel in the Abrahamic Covenant?
 - What promises were given to the entire world in the Abrahamic Covenant?
 - To what extent was the covenant with Abraham unconditional?
 - To what extent was the Mosaic Covenant conditional and temporary?
 - To what extent was the Palestinian (Land) Covenant unconditional?
 - How do you explain the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities and Israel's worldwide dispersion in view of the unconditional character of the Palestinian Covenant?
 - Summarize the overall provisions of the Palestinian Covenant in relation to Israel's disobedience, restoration and re-gathering.
 - What was promised unconditionally in the Davidic Covenant?
 - How does the Davidic Covenant relate to the future Millennial Kingdom?
 - According to the Old Testament, what is provided in the New Covenant for Israel?
 - When will the New Covenant be fulfilled for Israel?
 - How does the New Covenant relate to the future salvation of Israel?
 - How do the unconditional covenants of God relate to the sovereignty of God?
 - How do the unconditional covenants of God relate to the faithfulness of God?
 - How do the unconditional covenants of God relate to the security of the believer's salvation?

The Angels (MP3 #42 - #47)

- The Nature of Angels
 - According to Scripture, before the creation of man God created an innumerable company of beings known as angels.
 - ✦ Like man, they have personality/intelligence and are moral beings who can offer up praises to God (Psalm 103:20; 148:2).
 - ✦ Like man, they continue on forever and form a prominent part of God's plan for the ages.
 - ✦ Unlike man, in their natural state they do not have physical bodies and they do not procreate – God created each and every angel.

- ✦ Contrary to popular belief, men do not become angels when they die and go to heaven – men and angels are distinct classes of beings just as men and animals are distinct.
- Apparently, angels were all created at the same time and are too many to number (Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11).
- The term “angel” is from ἄγγελος (angelos = messenger) and is sometimes used of others who are messengers.
 - ✦ The forerunner: John the Baptist (Mt 11:10 || Mk 1:2 || Lk 7:27).
 - ✦ Ordinary human messengers (Luke 7:24; 9:52; James 2:25).
 - ✦ The angels of the seven churches of Asia – i.e. the pastors of those churches (Rev 1:20; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14).
 - ✦ The Angel of Jehovah – a reference to the pre-incarnate Christ (Gen 16:1-13; 22:11-16; Ex 3:2; Num 22:22-35; Ju 2:1-5; 6:11-27; 13:1-25; 1 Kgs 19:1-8; 2 Kgs 19:32-35; 1 Chr 21:9-30; Ps 35:5-6).
- The terms principalities, powers, rulers, authorities, etc. are sometimes used to refer to angelic beings (Rom 8:38; Eph 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; Col 1:16; 2:10, 15; 1 Pet 3:22).
- Some angels are designated cherubim (Gen 3:24; Ezk 10:1-22).
 - ✦ Satan was an anointed cherub (Ezk 28:14, 16).
 - ✦ Figures of cherubim overlooked the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:18-22; 1 Kgs 6:23-27).
- Some angels are designated seraphim (Isa 6:1-7).
- With only a couple of exceptions (Michael, Gabriel) we are not given the names of the angels, including Satan (adversary).
- Fallen Angels and Demons
 - The angel we know as Satan (adversary), Lucifer (day star), the Devil (false accuser, slanderer) and the Evil One was created by God as a magnificent angel (Ezek 28:12-15a).
 - With no outside negative influence to tempt him, Satan self-imploded when he was overcome by his pride because he saw that he was such a magnificent creature (Ezek 28:17a).
 - Satan’s pride led to a precipitous fall (Ezek 28:15b-19).
 - One-third of the angels were “swept away” by Satan after he fell (Rev 12:4) and comprise Satan’s army of fallen angels working in opposition to God (along with the demons).
 - We know little about the fall of these angels, but Scripture tells us that they are locked into their fallen estate and will face eternal destruction (Matt 25:41).
 - Some of these fallen angels lusted after human women and took on bodily form such that they were able to procreate and produce creatures known as the Nephilim (Gen 6:1-4).
 - ✦ This was an attempt to thwart the “seed of the woman” promise.
 - ✦ The flood wiped out the Nephilim on the earth along with the majority of mankind that was filled with wickedness (Gen 6:5).
 - ✦ These fallen angels who had abandoned their proper abode were punished by being bound in the abyss (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6).

- The Nephilim were human-angel hybrid creatures and the souls of the Nephilim who have died are the demons.
 - ✦ Because the Nephilim do not have human fathers, they are not “in Adam” and their souls do not go down to Sheol when they die.
 - ✦ There is no mention of demons in the Bible prior to Gen 6.
 - ✦ Unlike fallen angels who were created as spiritual beings, demons crave being in a body of flesh (Matt 8:28-32) because they were born into bodies of flesh.
- Though the demons know God (Jas 2:19) their ruler is Satan (Mt 12:22-28) and they oppose God (1 Cor 10:20-21; 1 Tim 4:1).
- God’s Holy Angels
 - Two-thirds of the angelic realm did not follow Satan’s rebellion and, as a result, did not fall into unrighteousness.
 - Of these holy angels, two are given special mention in Scripture.
 - ✦ The angel Michael (Who is like God?) is the prince of Israel (Dan 10:21; 12:1) and the archangel (Jude 9) who announces the return of Jesus Christ at the Rapture (1 Thess 4:16) and ultimately wages war defeating Satan and the fallen angels (Rev 12:7-9).
 - ✦ The angel Gabriel (Warrior of God) is the principal messenger of God bringing important messages – to Daniel (Dan 8:16; 9:21; 10:10-21), to Zacharias (Luke 1:18-19) and to Mary (Luke 1:26-38).
 - Ministries of the Holy Angels.
 - ✦ Angels were present at the creation of the Earth (Job 38:7).
 - ✦ The Law was ordained thru angels (Ac 7:53; Gal 3:19; Heb 2:2).
 - ✦ Angels announced the birth of the Christ child (Luke 2:9-15).
 - ✦ Angels ministered to Christ after Satan tempted Him (Matt 4:11).
 - ✦ An angel strengthened Christ at Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).
 - ✦ An angel announced the risen Christ (Matt 28:2-7).
 - ✦ Angels were present at Christ’s ascension to heaven (Acts 1:10-11).
 - ✦ Angels carried Lazarus to Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:22).
 - ✦ Angels observe things on earth (Luke 15:10; 1 Tim 3:16; 1 Pet 1:12).
 - ✦ Angels serve those who will inherit salvation (Acts 5:19; Heb 1:14).
 - ✦ Angels are assigned to protect God’s people (Ps 91:11-12; Matt 18:10; Acts 12:15; 27:23).
 - ✦ Angels will come with Christ at the 2nd Advent (Mt 24:31; 2 Th 1:7).
 - ✦ Angels will be at the gates of the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:12).
 - The ministry of God’s holy angels throughout Scripture is an important doctrine and essential to understanding God’s providential and sovereign direction of His creation throughout history.
- Questions
 - How did angels originate?

- How are angels like men?
- How is the word “angel” used of beings other than angels themselves and how is this derived from the meaning of the name?
- What is the meaning of the term “Angel of Jehovah” in the O.T. and why is this not a reference to an angelic being?
- How frequently do angels appear in Scripture and how is it that they appear as men?
- Into what two major classifications can angels be placed and what is the nature of each?
- What are some of the categories of angels in the Bible?
- Which of the holy angels are named in the Bible?
- How did demons come to exist and why do they crave being in a body of flesh?
- Describe some of the ministries of the holy angels.
- How are angels related to God’s providential sovereign direction of His creation?
- What part do angels have in the second coming of Christ and in the eternal state?

Satan (MP3 #47 - #51)

- False Concepts About Satan
 - Many people falsely believe that Satan does not really exist and that the supposed person of Satan is nothing more than an evil principle, or influence, which is in man and in the world.
 - ✦ As we shall see in this study, the Bible provides abundant evidence that Satan is a real person.
 - ✦ The evidence in Scripture is just as convincing concerning the reality of the person of Satan as it is concerning the reality of the person of Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ Therefore, if the personality of Jesus Christ is accepted on the testimony of the Bible, then the personality of Satan must also be accepted on the same testimony.
 - Others falsely believe that Satan is the direct cause of sin in every person.
 - ✦ Satan’s goal is not to promote sin, but to make himself “like the Most High” (Isa 14:14).
 - To accomplish this goal, Satan is attempting to gain control of the world-system through whatever means necessary, including disguising himself as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14).
 - In addition to temptations in the area of sin, Satan promotes a counterfeit righteousness in the form of human good (Gen 3:5).
 - ✦ Scripture teaches us that human sin comes directly from the fallen human heart (Gen 6:5; Mark 7:18-23; James 1:13-15).
- The Personality of Satan
 - Satan was created as a person.
 - ✦ God created all things, both visible and invisible (Col 1:16).

- ✦ Among all the heavenly host, Satan's creation is the only one mentioned in particular, giving us an indication of his supreme position (initially) among the invisible creatures of God.
 - He was created perfect, wise and beautiful (Ezek 28:12-13).
 - He was created in perfect righteousness (Ezek 28:15a).
 - He was anointed as a guardian cherub (Ezek 28:14a, 16b) which means he was granted authority from God.
 - He was placed by God on His holy mountain (Ezek 28:14b) which means he was placed into a position of authority.
- Scripture reveals the personality of Satan.
 - ✦ Isa 14:13-14: Satan expresses the will of his heart.
 - ✦ Gen 3:1-5: Every word spoken is evidence of Satan's personality.
 - ✦ Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7: These conversations with God reveal that Satan has access to God (Luke 22:31; Rev 12:10) and men (1 Pet 5:8) and that he exhibits every feature of a true personality.
 - ✦ Luke 4:1-13: Satan's temptations directed at Jesus Christ show his craftiness (2 Cor 11:3) and intelligence.
 - ✦ Eph 6:10-12: Satan's ability to make plans (schemes) against the children of God is revealed. NOTE: Satan does not wage war against unbelievers as they are in his power (Eph 2:2; 1 Jn 5:19).
- The Power of Satan
 - Though Satan has been judged (John 16:11), the power he is able to wield should not be underestimated.
 - ✦ On the angelic earth Satan weakened nations, shook kingdoms, held prisoners captive, made the earth tremble, overthrew its cities, made the world like a wilderness (Isa 14:12-17).
 - ✦ Satan holds the power of death (Heb 2:14 cp. Rev 1:18).
 - ✦ Satan has power over the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:6).
 - ✦ Satan is able to inflict sickness upon us (Job 2:7).
 - ✦ Satan is able to sift us like wheat (Luke 22:31).
 - ✦ Satan is able to destroy our flesh (1 Cor 5:5).
 - ✦ NOTE: Satan's power is exercised in the permissive will of God.
 - Satan is assisted by innumerable fallen angels and demons.
 - ✦ Though Satan is neither omnipresent nor omniscient, he is in touch with the entire world through these wicked spirits.
 - ✦ Fallen angels attempt to thwart God's plans, even in the sending of a ministering angel (Dan 10:13).

- ✦ Demons possess unbelievers causing them to be violent (Matt 8:28; Mark 5:1-5), mute (Matt 9:32), blind (Matt 12:22), paralyzed and lame (Acts 8:7) and convulsive (Mark 9:17-26).
- ✦ Although the indwelling of the Holy Spirit prohibits possession of believers (2 Cor 6:15-16), demons nonetheless exert their influence upon believers (Eph 6:12; 1 Tim 4:1-3).
- The Fall of Satan
 - Satan was created as a magnificent angel (Ezek 28:12-15a).
 - ✦ He was created perfect, wise and beautiful (Ezek 28:12-13).
 - ✦ He was anointed as a guardian cherub (Ezek 28:14a, 16b)
 - ✦ He was placed by God on His holy mountain (Ezek 28:14b).
 - ✦ He was created in righteousness (Ezek 28:15a).
 - Satan saw that he was a creature of beauty and splendor and his heart was lifted up in pride (Ezek 28:17a).
 - Satan's arrogance resulted in a "declaration of independence" from God (Isa 14:13-14).
 - Satan's pride led to a precipitous fall (Ezek 28:15b-19).
 - ✦ Unrighteousness was found in him (Ezek 28:15b).
 - ✦ He was filled with violence and sinned (Ezek 28:16a)
 - ✦ He "corrupted" his wisdom (Ezek 28:17a).
 - ✦ His initial sin led to many others (Ezek 28:18a).
 - ✦ His unrighteous "trade" profaned his sanctuaries (Ezek 28:18a).
 - ✦ He was cast down as profane from God's holy mountain to the earth (Ezek 28:16b, 17b; Isa 14:12).
 - ✦ He was made to be a spectacle (Ezek 28:16c, 17c, 18b, 19a).
 - ✦ He was promised ultimate destruction (Ezek 19b).
- The Work of Satan
 - Satan's activities after his fall are guided by his supreme motive, "I will make myself like the Most High." (Isa 14:14).
 - ✦ He propagated this lie to Adam and Eve by telling them that eating from the tree would make them be like God (Gen 3:5).
 - ✦ His desire to be worshipped like God was evident in his request that Christ bow down before him (Luke 4:5-7).
 - ✦ Satan attempts to counterfeit the things of God.
 - He promotes his own religious systems (2 Cor 11:13-15), many of which incorporate elements of the Christian faith, but omit salvation by grace alone on the basis of the shed blood of Christ.
 - He has a "son" who displays himself as being God (2 Th 2:3-4).
 - Satan does all in his power to keep people from getting saved.
 - ✦ He veils the gospel, blinding the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel (2 Cor 4:3-4).

- ✦ He is the spirit at work in the children of disobedience (Eph 2:2).
 - ✦ He has power over the κόσμος system (1 John 5:19) and uses it to keep people at enmity with God (James 4:4).
- Satan opposes those who are children of God.
 - ✦ He is the tempter of men (1 Cor 7:5; 1 Thess 3:5).
 - ✦ He draws our minds away from God's interests (Mark 8:33), but this may not be into immorality – it may be to things which are on the surface “good” things, but will hinder our spiritual growth.
- The Destiny of Satan
 - Even though Satan continues in his “career” work of opposing God and His children, Satan's destiny is certain.
 - There are five judgments of Satan mentioned in the Bible.
 - ✦ Satan's moral fall, with its necessary separation from God, caused Satan to be driven from heaven (Ezek 28:16-17), although he still has access to God in the court room of heaven (Rev 12:10).
 - ✦ A perfect judgment of Satan has been secured through the Cross of Christ (John 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:14-15) as predicted in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:15), but the final execution of that judgment will be fulfilled in the future.
 - ✦ During the Tribulation, Satan will be completely banned from any and all access to heaven and will be limited to earth where he will be permitted to thrash out in great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time to continue (Rev 12:7-12).
 - ✦ Satan will be confined to the abyss during the millennial reign of Christ (Rev 20:1-3), but will be released for a short time when the 1000 years are completed (Rev 20:3, 7).
 - ✦ Satan's final doom will come at the end of the millennium when he is cast into the lake of fire and will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev 20:10).
- Questions
 - What evidence supports the conclusion that Satan exists as a person and is much more than simply an evil principle or influence?
 - What qualities did Satan possess before he fell?
 - What place did Satan originally have in God's creation?
 - Illustrate that Satan exercises the function of a person from his dealings with Adam and Eve, Job and Christ.
 - How is the personality of Satan revealed in his conflict with Christians?
 - What is wrong with the teaching that Satan directly causes sin in every person?
 - What is revealed in Isaiah 14 concerning Satan's original purpose in rebelling against God?
 - How did Satan's original purpose govern the temptation of Adam and Eve?
 - How did Satan's original purpose relate to his desire to be worshipped by Christ?
 - What (in general) is Satan doing to those who are unsaved?
 - How do fallen angels and demons aid Satan?

- What is the difference between a fallen angel and a demon?
- Describe the extent of the demonic influence on men and to what extent man can be controlled by demons.
- What difference is there between the power and influence of demons over unsaved people as contrasted with those who are saved?
- How are demons related to physical and mental disorders in men?
- How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit aid a Christian in his conflict with Satan, fallen angels and demons?
- To what extent does Satan counterfeit the things of God?
- What is Satan's objective in attacking a child of God?
- Describe the five judgments of Satan.

Man: His Creation (MP3 #52 - #54)

- Man as a Created Being
 - In the early chapters of Genesis and elsewhere in the Bible, the creation of man is clearly taught.
 - An attempt to explain the origin of man apart from Scripture is given in the theory of evolution.
 - ✦ This theory states that "somehow" a living cell came into existence and that single living cell evolved into human beings through various other life forms via the process of natural selection.
 - ✦ According to this theory all species of plants, animals and man were formed by a process of small changes known as mutations.
 - ✦ However, no series of mutations has ever been observed to have produced a new species.
 - In contrast with the theory of evolution, the Bible declares that God created the animals "after their kind" (Gen 1:21, 24, 25).
 - Also in contrast with this theory, the Bible teaches us that man was made in the image of God, according to His likeness, as a unique creation apart from the animals (Gen 1:26-27).
 - Sadly, some theologians have erroneously put forth a theory of "theistic evolution".
 - ✦ This theory claims that God used evolution as part of the process of creation, accommodating the supposed scientific evidence of millions of years of fossil records.
 - ✦ This theory denies the literal meaning of the creation passages.
 - That God is the creator of all things is clear from Genesis with chapter one alone referring to Him as creator many times.
 - The creation described in Gen 1:1 is a creation out of nothing (ex nihilo) as no previous existence of matter or creatures of any kind is mentioned in this verse.
 - Additional verses also make it abundantly clear that God is the creator of all things (Ex 20:11; John 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 11:3).

- Gen 2:7 states that Adam was created directly by God and Gen 2:21-22 states that Eve came from Adam's rib – N.T. passages confirm this (Matt 19:4; 1 Cor 11:8-9; 15:45; 1 Tim 2:13-14).
- The Nature of Man
 - Because man was created in the image and likeness of God, he is a moral creature with intellect and a will.
 - In Gen 2:7 we see that man's was created both material ("dust from the ground") and immaterial ("breath of life").
 - ✦ This is the "outer" and "inner" man of 2 Cor 4:16.
 - ✦ The outer man will return to the dust, but the inner man will live on and return to God (Ecc 12:7).
 - ✦ People can kill the outer man, but not the inner man (Matt 10:28).
 - Scripture often describes the entirety of the immaterial part of man as either soul or spirit (Gen 41:8 cp. Ps 42:6).
 - However, in some verses Scripture distinguishes between the soul and spirit of man (1 Thess 5:23; Heb 4:12).
 - ✦ The spirit is that part of man which is oriented toward God being capable of contemplating Him and enjoying fellowship with Him.
 - ✦ The soul is that part of man which is related to self and includes the various functions of intellect, conscience, volition, etc.
 - Another term used to describe the entirety of the immaterial part of man is the heart (Ps 119:2, 7, 10, 11, 32, 34, 36, 58, 69, 70, 80, 111, 112, 145, 161; Rom 9:2; 10:9-10; Eph 3:17), though this term is sometimes used to highlight man's emotions.
 - In some passages one additional term used to describe the entirety of the immaterial part of man – the mind.
 - ✦ Scripture reveals the sinfulness of the mind of unsaved man (Rom 1:28; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 4:17-18).
 - ✦ In contrast, the believer's mind is being renewed (Rom 12:2).
 - In procreation, both the material and immaterial aspects of man are passed down to the child from the parents.
 - ✦ In this process man reproduces "after its kind".
 - ✦ The sin nature which resides in the flesh (as a result of the fall of man) is passed down from the father.
 - The human body is the abode of man's soul (and spirit, if a believer) until he dies.
 - The body of a believer is declared to be a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19).
 - ✦ Christ referred to His own body as a temple (John 2:21).
 - ✦ Christ can be exalted in the body of a believer (Phil 1:20).
 - ✦ We can glorify God in this body (1 Cor 6:20).

- At the same time the human body is considered to be an “earthen vessel” (2 Cor 4:7), a “lowly” body (Phil 3:21) and an “earthly” body (Col 3:5) that must be disciplined (1 Cor 9:27).
- Our “natural” bodies are perishable and not suited for glory, so we will receive a new “spiritual” body which is imperishable at the coming of Christ for His Church (Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 15:42-57).
 - ✦ Those who have died in Christ will be resurrected first to receive the new body suited for glory (1 Cor 15:52 cp. 1 Thess 4:16).
 - ✦ Those who are alive at His coming will be transformed in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor 15:52).
- When Jesus Christ was resurrected, His new body was “flesh and bones” (Luke 24:39 – note no mention of blood) giving us at least some idea of what our new bodies will be like.
- Questions
 - Does man have any certain knowledge of his origin apart from the Bible?
 - How does the theory of evolution explain the origin of man?
 - What is theistic evolution?
 - How does man differ from animals according to the Bible?
 - How much evidence is there in Scripture for the creation of man?
 - Why do you believe that the Biblical explanation of the creation of man is superior to the theory of evolution?
 - What does it mean that man was made in the image and likeness of God?
 - What is the meaning of “spirit” and “soul” as used of man?
 - What other terms are used of man’s immaterial nature besides soul and spirit?
 - In what sense is the body of a believer a temple?
 - When will the “natural” body of a believer in Christ (Church age) be replaced with a “spiritual” body suited for glory?

Man: His Fall (MP3 #55, #56)

- Introduction
 - As we have already studied, sin first entered the universe when Satan led an angelic rebellion against God.
 - As recorded in Genesis, Satan was also involved in the events surrounding the fall into sin by Adam and Eve.
 - The fall of man into sin will be considered from three aspects.
 - ✦ Adam before the fall.
 - ✦ Adam after the fall.
 - ✦ The effect of Adam’s fall upon the human race.
- Adam Before the Fall

- At the time of the fall Adam and Eve constituted the entire human race with Adam as its corporate head.
- Before the fall Adam and Eve were free from sin and were pleasing to their Creator (Gen 1:31), although the innocence of Adam and Eve should not be confused with the perfect holiness of God who is utterly incapable of committing sin.
- Scripture does not tell us how long they remained in their original state of innocence, but Adam had time to name the animals and Adam and Eve had become accustomed to their situation in which they enjoyed daily fellowship with God.
- In Gen 3:1-6 we read the account of Satan appearing to Adam and Eve as a serpent – a beautiful creature at that time.
- Adam and Eve had only one prohibition in the garden – they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and disobedience would yield immediate death (Gen 2:17).
- This single prohibition was given by God to test Adam and Eve to see whether or not they would choose to obey Him.
- Satan began his conversation with Eve by questioning what God had commanded them (Gen 3:1).
- When Eve responded to Satan’s question she made several important mistakes that show her lack of understanding of God’s actual command (Gen 2:16-17 cp. Gen 3:2-3).
 - ✦ She omitted the emphasis God had made that they may “freely” eat of any other tree in the garden.
 - ✦ She omitted the emphasis God had made that they would “surely” die the day they ate of the forbidden tree.
 - ✦ She added a stipulation to God’s command by saying that they could not “touch” the forbidden tree.
- This calls into question Adam’s headship in the garden.
- Hearing these errors in Eve’s response, Satan seized his opportunity and used partial truths to mislead Eve regarding the consequences of disobedience (Gen 3:4-5).
 - ✦ It was true that they would not die physically on the day they ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, but they did die spiritually.
 - ✦ It was true that they would gain knowledge of (human) good and evil when they ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, but this was a not a good thing even though Satan made it sound that way.
 - ✦ It was true that God knew about good and evil, but knowing these thing would not make them “like God” as Satan had implied.
- In these verses Satan’s character as the ultimate deceiver is on full display as he denied the Word of God and twisted the truth to enhance the plausibility of his lies.
- In Gen 3:6 we see that Satan’s ploy was effective as first Eve and then Adam disobeyed God’s express command.
 - ✦ Eve was deceived, but Adam knew better (1 Tim 2:14).

- ✦ It is important to note that it was not until Adam ate of the fruit that their eyes were opened because the fall of man was not complete until Adam as the head of the human race fell into sin.
 - The description of Eve succumbing to temptation follows the pattern given in 1 John 2:16.
 - ✦ The tree being good for food -> the lust of the flesh.
 - ✦ The tree being a delight to the eyes -> the lust of the eyes.
 - ✦ The power of the fruit to make them wise -> the boastful pride of life.
 - A similar pattern was used by Satan in his temptation of Jesus Christ (Luke 4:1-13).
 - ✦ Turning stone to bread -> the lust of the flesh.
 - ✦ Seeing the kingdoms of the world -> the lust of the eyes.
 - ✦ Leaping to see if the Father would save Him -> the boastful pride of life.
- Adam After the Fall
 - When Adam and Eve sinned they lost their blessed estate in which they had been created and became subject to changes.
 - ✦ They became subject to both spiritual and physical death.
 - They passed immediately into a state of spiritual death, being spiritually separated from God for the first time in their lives.
 - Their bodies began to age and decay which would eventually lead to physical death – separation of the soul from the body.
 - ✦ Adam was assigned to hard labor in bringing forth food to eat from an earth that had been cursed (Gen 3:17-19; 5:29; Rom 8:22).
 - ✦ Eve was assigned to hard labor in bringing forth children as they had been instructed to do before the fall (Gen 3:16 cp. Gen 1:28).
 - ✦ They were removed from the garden (Gen 3:22-24).
 - If God allowed them access to the tree of life, they could have lived on forever physically in their fallen bodies.
 - Their restored spiritual life came through salvation by faith in God's promise of the seed of the woman (Gen 3:15).
 - For his part in inducing the fall of man, Satan was cursed and his ultimate demise was foretold by God right in front of Adam and Eve (Gen 3:14-15).
- The Effect of Adam's Sin upon the Human Race
 - The human nature was now depraved resulting in slavery to sin apart from God's redeeming grace (Gal 3:13; Titus 2:14).
 - God, in His infinite grace and wisdom, imputed Adam's sin to the entire human race (Rom 5:12-14).
 - ✦ This brilliant act enabled God to provide one means of salvation to all mankind by imputing the sins of all mankind to His Son Jesus Christ (Isa 53:5; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 2:2).

- ✦ God is then perfectly just in imputing His righteousness to everyone who believes in His Son (Gen 15:6; Rom 3:21-22) resulting in their justification (Rom 4:2-5).
- Because Adam's sin is imputed to every member of the human race, we are all born in the estate of sin – in Adam.
 - ✦ We do not become sinners when we commit our first sin as Adam and Eve did – we are born sinners and sin because it is our nature.
 - ✦ Just as the imputation of God's righteousness is sufficient grounds for the justification of the believer, the imputation of Adam's sin is sufficient grounds for the condemnation of the unbeliever.
 - ✦ God is perfectly just in all His dealings with mankind and provides for those individuals who never have the opportunity to accept or reject Jesus Christ (2 Sam 12:23).
- Questions
 - How does the Bible explain the origin of sin in the universe and the human race?
 - What was the state of man before he sinned?
 - How did Satan tempt Eve?
 - How did Eve misstate God's prohibition?
 - How did Satan lie to Eve and expressly deny the word of God?
 - How did Satan misrepresent the desirability of knowing good and evil?
 - What was the effect upon Adam and Eve after they had sinned?
 - What was the effect upon their descendants because Adam had sinned?
 - State the three imputations mentioned in Scripture.
 - Why is it true that every man since Adam and Eve does not become sinful by sinning?
 - Why is salvation in Christ the only hope for man in his fallen estate?
 - Why do God's holy judgments rest upon everyone who is not in Christ?

Sin: Its Character and Universality

- Human Speculation on Sin
 - Because sin is a dominant fact of human experience, it has been the subject of endless discussions.
 - ✦ A common feature of non-biblical attitudes toward sin is to regard it as a misconception based upon a false theory that there is right and wrong in the world – God and the evils of sin are denied.
 - ✦ An ancient approach denies that man really sins by confining sin to the physical world, resulting in asceticism (the denial of the desires of the body) and Epicureanism (indulgence of the body).
 - ✦ Another common concept is that sin is merely selfishness which ignores the fact that we often sin against ourselves.
 - All of these theories fall short of the Biblical definition of sin.

- The Biblical Doctrine of Sin
 - The teaching of Scripture is that sin is any lack of conformity to the holy character of God, whether it be an act, disposition, or state.
 - Various sins are defined in the word of God as illustrated by the Ten Commandments given to Israel (Ex 20:3-17).
 - Sin is always against God (Ps 51:4; Luke 15:18) even though it is often directed toward human beings.
 - Accordingly, a person who sins is unlike God and, therefore, subject to God's judgment.
 - The doctrine of sin is presented in the Bible in four ways.
 - ✦ Personal Sin – the form of sin which includes everything in the daily life which fails to conform to the holy character of God.
 - ✦ The Sin Nature – the corruption of the flesh that occurred at the fall of man and resulted in a deprave character, enslaved to sin, in Adam and all of his posterity.
 - ✦ Imputed Sin – Adam's sin credited to the account of every member of the human race resulting in universal condemnation in Adam.
 - ✦ The Estate of Sin – the positional reality of being “under sin” at physical birth and thereby having no ability to save ourselves.
 - Personal Sin
 - ✦ Relates to some particular command of God in Scripture.
 - ✦ Misses the “mark” of God's own character of holiness (Rom 3:23).
 - ✦ Includes the aspect of rebellion or disobedience.
 - ✦ Can be an act of commission or omission (Jas 4:17).
 - The Sin Nature
 - ✦ Man's entire nature was corrupted in the fall (Rom 5:19; Eph 2:3).
 - ✦ This includes man's will (Gen 8:21), conscience (1 Tim 4:2), and intellect (2 Cor 4:4) as man's understanding has been darkened and his heart is hard (Eph 4:18).
 - Imputed Sin
 - ✦ When Adam sinned, we all sinned with him (Rom 5:12).
 - ✦ Adam's original sin has been imputed to the entire human race (Rom 5:13-14).
 - ✦ The promised consequence of death (Gen 2:17) has been applied to every member of the human race (Rom 5:15-17).
 - The Estate of Sin
 - ✦ Whether Jew or Gentile, we are under sin (Rom 3:9).
 - ✦ We are all “shut up” in the estate of sin so that God can show His mercy in the promise of salvation by faith (Rom 11:32; Gal 3:22).
 - The Bible clearly indicates the devastating effects of sin upon man and the hopelessness of man's attempts to solve his own sin problem.
 - The proper understanding of the doctrine of sin is essential to understanding God's remedy for our sin problem.

- Questions
 - What are some inadequate concepts of sin that are sometimes advanced?
 - How does the Bible, in general, define sin?
 - What sins are specifically mentioned in the Ten Commandments?
 - Why is sin always a sin against God?
 - What four aspects of sin are presented in the Bible?
 - What is meant by personal sin?
 - What is meant by imputed sin?
 - What does the Bible teach about the sin nature of man?
 - To what extent is man depraved?
 - Are all children born sinners?
 - Is there scriptural evidence that the whole world is in the judicial estate of sin?
 - Why is a proper understanding of the doctrine of sin important for understanding the doctrine of salvation?

Salvation from the Penalty of Sin

- The Meaning of Salvation
 - The divine revelation concerning salvation should be mastered by every child of God.
 - ✦ This revelation discloses the full measure of God's love.
 - ✦ This is the message which God has committed to believers to proclaim to the world.
 - A principal use of the term "salvation" in the Bible is to encapsulate the entirety of the work of God by which He rescues man from the eternal ruin and doom of sin and bestows upon him the riches of His grace, including both eternal life now and eternal glory in heaven.
 - Although the revealed details concerning the Savior have varied from age to age, salvation has always been by grace through faith in God's promised Redeemer.
 - ✦ Seed of the Woman (Gen 3:15).
 - ✦ From the line of Shem (Gen 9:26).
 - ✦ The "seed" of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Gen 21:12; 22:18; 35:12).
 - ✦ From the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10).
 - ✦ A descendant of David (2 Sam 7:12-16).
 - ✦ Born of a virgin (Isa 7:14) in Bethlehem Ephrathah (Micah 5:2).
 - ✦ Jesus of Nazareth (Matt, Mark, Luke, John, Acts 10:34-43).
 - Salvation is in every aspect a work of God in behalf of man and is in no sense a work of man in behalf of God.
 - God's work of salvation in this present age includes...
 - ✦ Expiation, Propitiation, and Unlimited Atonement.
 - ✦ Imputed Righteousness, Justification, & Positional Sanctification.

- ✦ Regeneration, Eternal Life, and Eternal Security.
- ✦ The Indwelling, Sealing and Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ Redemption, Freedom from the OSN and from the Law.
- ✦ The Royal Family, Priesthood and Ambassadorship.
- ✦ Access to God, Spiritual Gifts, Problem Solving Devices, etc.
- Salvation as God's Remedy for Sin
 - Sin is always equally and completely sinful whether it is committed by a lifelong criminal or a respected businessman, a housewife or a queen, a believer or an unbeliever.
 - Sin can be "cured" only on the ground of the shed blood of the Son of God (Eph 1:7 cf. Col 1:14; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18).
 - ✦ Divine forgiveness of sin is not based upon some act of leniency by God in remitting the penalty of sin.
 - ✦ Sin is forgiven only when a substitute has met the holy demands of God against the sinner.
 - ✦ This was anticipated in the animal sacrifices of the O.T.
- Salvation Before and After the Cross
 - The divine method of dealing with sin prior to the cross is said to have been by atonement – the "covering over" of sin.
 - ✦ The Hebrew word for atonement is כִּפָּר (caphar) which means to "cover over".
 - ✦ The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins (Heb 10:4).
 - ✦ When the sinner laid his hand on the head of the animal (Lev 1:4) he was identified with the animal whose shed blood symbolically anticipated the future sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ This symbolic act accomplished nothing (in and of itself), but if the sinner was truly repentant of his sins, the animal sacrifice signified that God, in His mercy, would "pass over" his sins (Rom 3:25).
 - The divine method of dealing with sin after the cross is stated in Rom 5:6, 8 – Christ has died for helpless, ungodly sinners.
 - ✦ When Jesus was on the cross He did not cover over the sins of the world, rather He bore the sins in His body (1 Pet 2:24) and took them away (John 1:29; 1 John 3:5).
 - ✦ God the Father is now perfectly just in declaring as justified the sinner who believes in His Son (Rom 3:26).
 - ✦ This justification is applied "retroactively" to all O.T. saints who had placed their faith in God's promise (Rom 4:5, 9).
 - ✦ The work of the cross dealt completely with sin (John 19:30) such that the only thing one must do is believe in Him for salvation.
- The Three Tenses of Salvation
 - For a believer, salvation from the penalty of sin is referred to as being wholly brought to completion in the past at the moment of faith in Jesus Christ (Eph 2:8), so perfect a work that it cannot be undone (Rom 8:38-39; 1 John 5:13).

- For a believer, there is also present salvation from the power of sin in the daily life (Rom 6:11-14; 8:2; 1 John 1:7).
- For a believer, there is also the promise of future salvation (1 Pet 1:5) from the very presence of sin as we are set free from this body of death (Rom 7:24; 1 Cor 15:49) and perfectly conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:29; Phil 3:21).
- Salvation as the Finished Work of Christ
 - It is critical to distinguish between the finished work of Christ on the cross for all, which is completed to infinite perfection, and the saving work of God which is wrought for (and in) the individual at the moment he believes in Christ.
 - Jesus declared His earthly ministry complete in His prayer (John 17:4) and then declared the work of salvation on the cross complete when He said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30).
 - The Father was completely satisfied with the finished work of Christ on the cross which made redemption (1 Tim 2:6) and reconciliation (2 Cor 5:19) available to everyone (1 John 2:2).
 - The sacrificial death of Christ does not (in and of itself) save anyone, but rather provides sufficient ground for God the Father to save all who believe in His Son (even the worst of all sinners) without any compromise to His infinite holiness.
 - When an individual believes in Jesus Christ, the blood of Christ is applied to him personally as God accomplishes the work of salvation for (and in) that individual.
 - This is pictured in the Passover when the lamb was first slain, but the process was not complete until the blood was applied to the doorposts and the lintel of the house (Ex 12:1-7).
- Salvation as the Saving Work of God
 - The saving work of God is accomplished the moment someone believes in Jesus Christ & includes redemption, reconciliation, regeneration, imputation, justification, sanctification, etc.
 - By this work believers are given the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21), made children of God (John 1:12), brought near to God (Eph 2:13), made citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20), qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints (Col 1:12), made a new creation (2 Cor 5:17), made members of the household of God (Eph 2:19), made complete in Christ (Col 2:10), delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col 1:13).
 - The recipient of this saving work is forgiven all trespasses and is justified forever before God.
 - God could not forgive and justify anyone apart from the cross of Christ, but only those who believe in Jesus Christ and are recipients of this great work of salvation will reap the benefit of His sacrificial death.
 - Forgiveness of sins is never reckoned to the unsaved apart from the whole work of saving grace on the ground of believing on Christ as Savior.
- Salvation as Related to the Sin of the Saved
 - The effect of the Christian's sin, among other things, is the loss of fellowship with the Father and the Son (1 John 1:6) and the grieving of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30).
 - The believer that sins does not need to be saved again, but must once again trust in the cross of Christ by recognizing that the sins have already been laid upon Him and will be forgiven once they have been confessed to the Father (1 John 1:9).

- Sin in the life of a believer is an offense before God and a cause for loss of reward, so we should avoid sin at every turn even though we know we have an Advocate in heaven (1 John 2:1).
- Salvation Conditioned upon Faith Alone
 - There are roughly 115 passages in the N.T. which declare that the salvation of the sinner depends only upon believing and another 35 which state that salvation depends upon faith.
 - Believing in Jesus Christ constitutes more than an intellectual understanding of His life and work, but is not based upon an emotional response of some kind either.
 - Instead, believing is a definite act in which the individual wills to receive salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Believing is the opposite of doing a work; it is trusting in the work of another instead.
 - The study of Scripture does not affirm that salvation comes only to those who “believe and pray”, “believe and confess sin”, “believe and confess Christ”, “believe and be baptized”, “believe and repent”, “believe and make restitution”, etc.
 - These six added verbs are mentioned in Scripture (and they have their full intended meaning where stated), but if they were essential to salvation they would never be omitted when the way to be saved is stated (John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 5:24; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Rom 1:16; 3:22; 4:5, 24; 5:1; 10:4; Gal 3:22).
 - Thus, salvation is by grace through faith alone in Christ alone.
- Questions
 - Why should a child of God master the doctrine of salvation?
 - What is a principal use of the term “salvation” in the Bible?
 - What two universal facts are brought out in Scripture concerning sin and salvation?
 - How did God deal with sin in the Old Testament?
 - How does God’s dealing with sin after the cross differ from the Old Testament method?
 - What are the three tenses of salvation?
 - Distinguish between the finished work of Christ on the cross and the saving work of God as it applies to the individual the moment he believes.
 - Why is it true that Christ died for the sins of the whole world, yet not all are saved?
 - Name some of the important phases of God’s gracious work in saving men as embodied in some important doctrinal words.
 - What are some of the aspects of the work of God accomplished when an individual is saved?
 - How is salvation related to forgiveness of sins?
 - In dealing with the sins of Christians, what is involved in their forgiveness?
 - If a Christian fails to confess sin, what does he lose?
 - Discuss the Biblical evidence that salvation is conditioned upon faith alone.
 - Why is intellectual acknowledgement or an emotional reaction to the gospel insufficient for salvation?
 - What is the error of attaching certain works to believing?

- Discuss the fact that works are a result of believing unto salvation, not a condition of salvation.
- Summarize what man must do to be saved.