

GRADE 11 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

UNIT IV: SALVATION

LESSON # 1: SALVATION FROM SINS THROUGH GOD'S SON, JESUS CHRIST

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine what the Bible teaches about Salvation from sins through God's Son, Jesus Christ.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define "Salvation".
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why there is a need for Salvation.
3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe what God did through His Son, Jesus Christ, to bring Salvation.
4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why Salvation is found only in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

CONTENT: 1. What is Salvation? Salvation is God rescuing people from the dangers their disobedience to Him have brought them into (See Jn.3:16-18).

2. Why is there a need for Salvation? Ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, by eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, they sinned against God, that is, they offended Him. As a result of this sin, they were not allowed to live forever. They were no longer allowed to eat fruit from the tree of life, which had kept them from aging and dying. Consequently they eventually died. Also, all of their descendants are born and later die (Gen.2:15-17; 3:1-6; Rom.5:12). Their sin has affected the way all of their descendants naturally think, feel, speak and act. It is naturally easier to do what is wrong than to do what is right. We were "made sinners" by the sin of Adam and Eve (Rom.5:19; Rom.7:14-18). Sin is dangerous because it can separate us from God, make us His enemies, control us, and eventually lead not only to physical death, but to an everlasting separation from God in a place of eternal torment called "hell-fire" (Isa.59:2; Col.1:21; Jn.8:34; Lk.12:4-5; Rev.20:10)!

3. What did God do through His Son, Jesus Christ, to bring Salvation? God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to take the blame of all sins which have and which will ever be done! This is how those who receive Salvation, are not blamed, nor accused, nor found fault with by God (Isa.53:6; 2nd Cor.5:21; Col.1:21-22)! God also sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to take the punishment of all sins which have and which will ever be done! This is why He suffered and died on the cross. Those who receive Salvation will not be punished for their sins in hell-fire (Isa.53:5,8; 1st Thess.5:9-10)! God also raised His Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead, on the third day after His death, to remove the punishment of physical death at His Return, so that those who receive Salvation, will rise from the dead and live forever in the Kingdom of God! They will receive new, spiritual, imperishable, glorious and heavenly bodies! Also those who are alive at Jesus Christ's Return, and who have received Salvation, will not die at all, but their physical bodies will be changed so that they will be able to live forever (1st Cor.15:42-54)! The Holy Spirit is the Power of God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. This same Power will live in a saved person's body and give to them the strength to overcome temptation and to do what God has commanded, so that they will be free from the control of sin (Rom.8:11-13)!

4. Salvation is found only in God's Son, Jesus Christ, for He is the **only** One whom God sent to be the Saviour of the world through His death on the cross, His burial and resurrection from the dead (Jn.14:6; Acts 4:12; 1st Jn.5:12)! Salvation is not as a result of how many good works which we have done; but it is a free gift from God **through Jesus Christ alone** (Eph.2:8-9)!

GRADE 11 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

UNIT IV: SALVATION

LESSON # 2: WHAT A NON-CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO DO TO BE SAVED

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine what a non-Christian needs to do to be saved by Jesus Christ from their past sins

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe five steps a non-Christian needs to take to be saved from their past sins.

CONTENT: 1. They need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ (See Acts 11:14; compare Mk.16:15; 1st Cor.15:1-4). The Good News of Jesus Christ is the rescue from the charge of sin, the control of sin and the punishment of sin, and the gift of everlasting life in the Kingdom of God, made possible through Jesus Christ's death for all who have sinned, His burial and resurrection from the dead on the third day.

2. They need to put their faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ (See Rom.10:17; Rom.5:1-2). Faith is trust in God's promise of rescue from the charge of sin, the control of sin and the punishment of sin, and God's promise of everlasting life in the Kingdom of God, made possible through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ, and His resurrection from the dead. It is not trust in one's own righteousness; but it is trust in God to give you His righteousness because His Son has taken the blame and the punishment of your unrighteousness, that you may be given God's own righteousness or faultlessness or blamelessness! Faith also shows itself in obedience to God. A living faith is trust in God that leads a person to do whatever God has commanded them to do.

3. They need to repent of their sins and return to God (Lk.24:47; Acts 3:19). Repentance is a change of heart, produced by a sincere sorrow or regret that one has displeased God. This change of heart will lead to a change of conduct, that is, a turning away from sins, and a return to God. If a person repents of dishonesty, they will make every effort to speak the truth, and not to deceive themselves nor others. If a person repents of dishonesty, they will make every effort to avoid stealing anything from others. If a person repents of dishonesty, they will make every effort to stop telling lies on others. If a person repents of hatred, they will make every effort to stop making fun of others. If a person repents of hatred, they will make every effort to stop bullying others. If a person repents of hatred, they will make every effort to stop fighting others and hurting others. If a person repents of lust, that is, decide to give up imaginations and actions to do what God says that they should not do, they will make every effort to stop looking at pictures of naked men and women, and they will avoid actions that could lead to sex outside of marriage, and they will avoid sex outside of marriage. A person cannot be saved and remain in their sinful state. Salvation is a chance God is giving us to do better, not to continue to do whatever offends Him!

4. They need to confess their faith in Jesus as Lord or as the Christ, the Son of God (Rom.10:8-10,13; compare Acts 8:37). It is important that you really recognize Jesus as your Lord. "Lord" means that Jesus is in charge of you. He has the authority to determine how you should or should not live. He is your Master. You are expected to behave as His servant, that is, to be ready and willing to carry out His Commands. The resurrection of Jesus proves that Jesus is truly Lord, for not even death itself could keep Him under its grasp. Furthermore, He shares with the Father the Characteristic of Immortality. He is therefore by Nature, God. He has God's Authority to rule or to govern your life!

5. They need to be baptized into Jesus Christ (Rom.6:1-7,17-18). Baptism brings a person into a spiritual union with Christ's death, burial and resurrection so that they are set free from sin and become servants of God.

GRADE 11 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

UNIT IV: SALVATION

LESSON # 3: WHAT A CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO DO TO HOLD ON TO SALVATION

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine what a Christian must do to hold on to Salvation

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe four steps a Christian needs to take to hold on to Salvation.

CONTENT: When a person sins after baptism, they need to take the following steps to get rid of their sins:

(i) **They need to repent of their sins** (Acts 8:22; 2nd Cor.7:9-10). In Acts 8:22, Simon, a person, who had believed the Word of God and had been baptized in water, but who had sinned after baptism, was commanded by the apostles, Peter and John, to “repent of ... wickedness”. This wickedness was his “thought” that he had the right to buy God’s gift of laying his hands on people who had become Christians so that they may receive some spiritual gift. This gift of laying hands on new converts was an apostolic right, and did not belong to every member of the church. Furthermore, Simon had an evil motive. He used to work magic and get popularity. He wanted to use the apostolic gift for his own popularity. Therefore he was told to repent.

In 2nd Cor.7:9-10, the previous letter Paul had written to the church at Corinth, in which he criticized them of dividing the church, exalting one minister of God’s Word over another, tolerating incest, practicing sex with temple prostitutes of the non-Christian Grecian Religion, taking one another to court and embarrassing Christianity before non-Christian judges, eating food offered in sacrifice to idols, not using their spiritual gifts out of love to strengthen one another, and believing that there would be no future resurrection of Christians who have died, had led the Christians there to a state of sorrow over disrespecting and disobeying God, which in turn led them to turn from their sins and to do what is right. Paul said that their repentance of their sins would lead to their Salvation, and it was not something that they would regret.

(ii) **They need to confess their sins in prayer to God** (Acts 8:22; 1st John 1:8-9). If we say that we have no sin, we will not repent of it. We also make God look as if what He says about us is not true, for God says that no one is perfect or sinless! God will not forgive sins if sins are not admitted to. If we admit to having thought wrong, spoken wrong, or done wrong, there is the promise that God will forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we do this on a daily basis, we will be daily in a state of purity before God. However, if you as a Christian feel so unworthy to pray for yourself, you may ask the Church Leaders or Church Leader to pray for you, as Simon in Acts 8:24, asked the apostles, Peter and John to pray for him, or as the Christians in general were encouraged to do in confessing their sins to one another and in praying for one another, for example, the elders of the church praying for members of the church who have sinned (James 5:14-16).

(iii) **They need to ask God in prayer to forgive them of their sins** (Acts 8:22), or to ask Church-Leaders or some faithful member of the church, to pray on their behalf that God may forgive them of their sins (Acts 8:24; James 5:14-16). Jesus Christ will intercede for them (1st Jn.2:1-2). He sympathizes with us, for He Himself was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin (Heb.4:14-16). He will always be around to intercede with God for your forgiveness, so long as you have repented of the sin(s), confessed it, and asked God for forgiveness of it (Heb.7:25).

(iv) **They need to be faithful to Christ.** When the Israelites came out of Egyptian Slavery, and were journeying to the Promised Land of Canaan, many were not faithful to God, and they died before they could

GRADE 11 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

UNIT IV: SALVATION

LESSON # 3: WHAT A CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO DO TO HOLD ON TO SALVATION (CONTINUED)

enter their Land of Rest. Christians need to be faithful to Christ if they are going to share in the Eternal Rest, which He has promised to them (Heb.3:12-14)! They need to hold on to their confidence in God, and to do His will patiently, in order to receive what God has promised. They must not draw back from God, but they must believe to the end in order to be saved (Heb.10:35-39). There are certain steps which will ensure that you remain faithful to Christ to the end. **Firstly, you must grow in your faith.** Faith is confidence in God to do what He has promised for you, and to help you in your Christian life. Do not doubt God's promise of a place reserved for you in heaven. Do not doubt God's promise that you will have deliverance from hell-fire. Do not doubt God's promise that you will be rewarded in heaven for living a life of virtue and of turning away from vice. Do not doubt God's promise that you will be honoured for being patient in suffering wrong for doing what is right. Never give up. Stand your ground (2nd Pet.1:3-5). **Secondly, you must have and practise virtue.** Virtue is goodness. If you have faith, you must show it in doing what is good. Be honest. Do not tell lies. Do not deceive yourself or others. Do not cheat on tests or exams. Be fair. Treat other people right. Do not take advantage of them. Be patient. Do not get angry quickly, but be slow in getting angry. Do not pay back evil for evil to anyone, but always overcome evil by doing good. Be forgiving. Avoid youthful lusts. Do not fill your mind with playboy or playgirl magazines. Do not watch t.v. shows that show scantily dressed people engaged in fornication or adultery. Do not engage in fornication, adultery, incest, lesbianism, or any other kind of sexual sin. Do not dress in such a way as to cause someone to lust at you, who otherwise would not be lusting. Do not listen to any kind of music that promotes prejudice, violence, sexual sin, or any other kind of wrong doing (2nd Pet.1:5). **Thirdly, you must grow in your knowledge of God and of what He wants.** This may be done by reading the Bible daily and meditating on it. It may be done by praying to God for the wisdom to know Him better and how to apply what He wants from the Bible in your life. It may be done by practising what God has commanded. It may be done by going to a Bible-believing and obeying group of Christians, who are regularly engaged in a programme of Bible-Teaching (2nd Pet.1:5). **Fourthly, you must grow in temperance.** Temperance means Self-Control. Control your thoughts. Try your best to put out all of the bad thoughts from your heart. Control your feelings, such as your anger, or your hatred, or your desire for revenge, or your envy, or your jealousy, or your lust. Control what you say. Think carefully before you speak. Try to say what is helpful for other people. Do not use abusive and unclean words. Control your actions. Do not be in a rush to do something that may hurt another person. Remember to overcome evil by doing good (2nd Pet.1:6). **Fifthly, you must grow in patience.** Do not give up. Do not get tired of doing what is right. Wait on the Lord. Rest in the Lord. Remain firm under trials of every kind (2nd Pet.1:6). **Sixthly, you must grow in godliness.** Godliness is reverence or respect for God. This means that you respect God so much that you try your best not to displease Him (2nd Pet.1:6). **Seventhly, you must grow in brotherly kindness.** This means doing what is good to and for members of the church, or fellow-Christians. For example, giving food to hungry members of the church. Another example is giving clothes to members of the church who are destitute of clothing (2nd Pet.1:7). **Eighthly, you must grow in charity.** Charity means God's kind of love. This kind of love, wishes well of everyone, friends and enemies. It blesses when others curse. It does good when others do evil. It is kind when others are unkind and ungrateful. It cares when others do not care. It does not depend on the good will of another in order for good will to be shown. It puts the interests of others above one's own interests. It is sacrificial, that is, it is willing to go the extra mile, even to the extent of laying down one's life to save another person's life. This is the highest kind of love in the whole Bible, for this is the very Essence of who God is (2nd Pet.1:7)! If faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity are in you and are growing, you will never fall, but you are guaranteed an entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. However, those who lack these things, are spiritually blind and have forgotten that they were purified from their past sins (2nd Pet.1:8-11)!

GRADE 11 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES**UNIT IV: SALVATION****LESSON # 4: SALVATION AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST IN THE FINAL JUDGEMENT**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: To examine Salvation at the return of Christ in the final judgement

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe Salvation at the return of Christ in the final judgement.

CONTENT: 1. When Jesus Christ returns in the final judgement, He has promised to take His faithful followers to His Father's House, that is, to Heaven, God's Dwelling Place (Jn.14:1-3; 1st Pet.1:3-9).

2. The Lord Jesus Himself will come down from heaven, raise His faithful followers from the dead, give them new bodies that will never die, change the bodies of His faithful followers who have not died, so that they can never die, and take them both from this earth to meet Him in the air, and then carry them to Heaven, so that they may always be with Him (1st Thess.4:16-18; 5:9-10).

3. The unrighteous, on the other hand, will be sent into Hell-Fire, away from the presence of the Lord (2nd Thess.1:8-9).

4. In Heaven, those who have received Salvation, will praise God for their Salvation, they shall serve God day and night, and God shall dwell among them, and remove forever from them hunger, thirst, heat, and tears (Rev.7:9-17)!

GRADE 11 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES
UNIT V: THE BIBLE (NEW REVISED EDITION)
INTRODUCTION

2nd Tim.3:15-17 from the Good News School Bible reads: "...ever since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed."

The first and most important reason the Holy Scriptures were written is to give to us "the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus". This is why the previous Unit, Unit IV, was on the topic of Salvation. The second reason the Holy Scriptures were written is to teach the truth, rebuke error, correct faults and give instruction or rules for right living.

How does the Holy Scriptures have this "Authority", that is, the right to show us how to be forgiven by God, and how He wants us to live? The Holy Scriptures is "inspired by God". This means that "God breathed" or spoke His Messages, and the writers whom He chose, wrote down what God spoke in the different books that make up the Holy Scriptures. This is why the Holy Scriptures is called "The Holy Bible", which means "The Holy Book". It is God's Book. It is God's Word. A good illustration of what it means for the Holy Scriptures to be "inspired by God" is found in Jer.30:1-2. "The LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: 'Write down in a book everything that I have told you...'" God spoke to Jeremiah, one of God's prophets, and told him what to write. These words came from God Himself. The knowledge is God's knowledge. The wisdom is God's wisdom. These words did not come from Jeremiah's limited knowledge, nor from Jeremiah's limited wisdom. These words were not based on what the people at that time thought was right; but it was based on what God says is right. This is why the Bible has the authority to show us what to do to be saved, and it has the authority to show us how to live.

In this Unit, we will be examining evidences that the Bible came from God, such as:

1. Prophecies have been fulfilled.
2. Scientific foreknowledge is in the Bible.
3. Laws governing human behaviour are different from what human beings would have made for themselves.
4. Archaeological discoveries confirm that the Bible is not a book of myths or made up stories.
5. The copyists of the Bible copied it down accurately from generation to generation.
6. The Bible has the most copies of all ancient books, and has the largest amount of Commentaries, in which all of the text of the Bible has been preserved.
7. The Versions of the Bible are not different Teachings of the Bible, but different Translations of the same Bible, which was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and the Common Greek Language.
8. The Bible does not contradict itself.

In this Unit, we will also be examining Selected Guidelines for Living

Since the Bible is God's Book, with His own words and ideas, we should read the Bible differently from how we read books, whose words and ideas came from human beings. We should read the Bible with great respect, so that whenever God's words and ideas are different from our own, we will put aside our views and accept God's views. We should read the Bible with humility, since God knows far more than any human being knows. If therefore there is a contradiction between our present knowledge of science and what the Bible teaches, we should realize that scientific knowledge changes over time with new discoveries, but that God's Word does not change, since God already knows everything.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES: 1. To examine evidences that the Bible came from a Being who is higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings. 2. To examine evidences that the Bible is accurate in its history. 3. To examine evidences that the Bible has been well preserved so that its messages are unchanged. 4. To examine reasons there is an Old and a New Testament.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to relate SIX prophecies in the Bible. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify SIX cases of scientific foreknowledge in the Bible. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify SIX laws governing human behaviour in the Bible, which are different from what human beings would make as laws for themselves. 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give FIVE examples from archaeology which show that the Bible is accurate in its history. 5. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give THREE evidences that the Bible has been well preserved so that its messages are unchanged. 6. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain four reasons there is an Old and a New Testament.

CONTENT: 1. Prophecy in the Bible are messages which God gave to His Messengers, the Prophets, who spoke in His Name and on His Behalf. These messages were mainly encouragement given to people to turn from their sins and to obey God. Promises of blessings from God were made to those who would listen to and obey God's Word; but warnings of punishment from God were made to those who would refuse to obey God's Word. It is in these promises of blessings and in these warnings of punishment, that there is the foretelling or the predicting of what is to come. This is the aspect of the definition of prophecy that this lesson is focusing on. In the Bible, persons are called by name hundreds of years before they are born. What these persons were going to do are specifically stated. What would happen to different nations, are also predicted. Even what is happening now all over the world, was predicted in the Bible thousands of years ago. In many of these prophecies, there were situations which were taking place which would have led an educated person to believe that the **opposite** of what was prophesied would happen, yet the unlikely thing which was prophesied came true. Therefore prophecies in the Bible are not educated or lucky guesses, based on what was happening then, so that if the trend continued, this or that would happen; but it is the knowledge of what was to come, that no human being could know by observation or by reasoning. Prophecy in the Bible is therefore given as evidence that the Bible could not have come originally from human beings, but must have come from a Being, who is higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings.

Here are SIX prophecies in the Bible. There are **many** more, but these have been selected to give evidence that the Bible did **not** originate from human beings. (i) God told Abram that he would be the father of a great nation; but Abram's wife, Sarai, was unable to reproduce children for him. However, when he was 100 years old, and his wife was 90, they became the parents of one son, Isaac. It was through Isaac that God's promise was fulfilled. Isaac was the father of Esau and Jacob. Jacob was the father of 12 sons. These 12 sons had many children, which formed the nation known as the Hebrews or the Israelites. About 200 years after the prophecy, the Hebrew or Israelite nation became a reality (See Gen.12:2; Ex.1:7). (ii) Jeremiah prophesied that Israel or the Jewish People would never be wiped out as a nation. Shortly after this prophecy, Babylon took the Jews away from their own land. After Persia destroyed the Babylonian Empire, Haman, the Prime Minister, tried to wipe out all the Jews in the Persian Empire; but he failed. When Greece took the Empire away from Persia, they destroyed the Jews, who did not worship the Greek gods and goddesses; but Judas Maccabeus and his brothers and a tiny army of Jews defeated their oppressors and became an independent nation. Later, the Romans took over the Empire from the Greeks and made the Jews a part of the Roman Empire. Many Jews lost their lives when they tried to resist the Romans. The Romans scattered the Jews all over the Roman Empire in A.D.70 and destroyed their Temple at Jerusalem. Rome eventually fell in A.D. 476. In 1939-1945, Adolf Hitler, the Leader of Germany, destroyed 6,000,000 Jews. In 1945, Hitler killed himself; but in 1948, Great Britain gave back the Jews their ancient homeland. Today, Israel is the most prosperous and powerful Middle

East nation. They have **not** been wiped out as a nation (See Jer.31:35-37)! (iii) Isaiah prophesied that the LORD's Righteous Servant, which is a title for the Messiah, was to be wounded or pierced for our sins, that he was to be put to death for the sins of others, that he was to prolong His life after His Sacrificial Death, and that through knowing Him peoples' sins were to be forgiven. 783 years later, Jesus of Nazareth was pierced in his hands and feet by being nailed to a cross, and he died, but three days later was raised from the dead, and through faith in His death and resurrection and obedience to Him as Lord, we may be forgiven of sins and have everlasting life! (See Isa.53:5, 8, 10-11; Lk.23:33,46; Lk.24:6) (iv) In Dan.12:4, in the King James Version, it is revealed that in the period of time leading up to the end of the age, there would be an increase in travel and in knowledge. We are living in a time when there is an abundance of travel and an explosion in knowledge. Travel has been increased through the inventions of the motor car, the aeroplane, and improvements in shipping services. Knowledge has exploded through the inventions of the telephone, the cell-phone, the television, the radio, and the computer. (v) In 2nd Tim.3:1-5, it is revealed that in the period of time leading up to the end of the age, life would become difficult, hard, dangerous and stressful because of an increase in selfishness, greediness, boastfulness, conceitedness, rudeness, disobedience to parents, ungratefulness, irreligiousness, unkindness, mercilessness, slander, violence, fireceness/brutality, hatred of God and of what is good and hatred of those who try to live good lives, treacherousness, recklessness, pride, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, and of people who use Religion as a cover for promoting sinfulness. It is more stressful than it has ever been before! Because of selfishness, most motorists do not allow you to cross the road, or for your parents to drive off a main road to a side road or vice-versa. Because of greediness, homes are being rented for U.S.\$1,500.00 or U.S.\$3000.00 per month, or homes are being sold for J \$28,000,000.00! Because of greediness, the cost of items in Supermarkets keep going up beyond what the salaries your parents are earning can afford! More children are rude and rebellious towards parents now than they were in previous centuries! There is an increase in crime and violence even in the country parts of Jamaica, which were once famous for their peacefulness and safety! More people than ever before love pleasure rather than love God, for example, at certain hotels, guests are allowed to go naked. A few years ago, in a Jamaican hotel, two foreign women were married. (vi) 2nd Tim.3:13 reveals that there will be an increase in deception. There are more Religions now than ever before! These different Religions all present themselves as being true and right; yet if they all came from the same Source, why do they contradict each other? As a result, many people are confused. Therefore since such information would have been unthinkable hundreds and thousands of years ago, and yet all were prophesied in the Bible, this is evidence that the Bible came from Someone, who is higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings.

2. Scientific foreknowledge in the Bible is another evidence that the Bible could not have come originally from human beings, but must have come from a Being who is higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings. Scientific foreknowledge is the knowledge of Scientific facts thousands of years before Scientists found out these facts for themselves! Here are some Scientific facts, which were written in the Bible thousands of years before Scientists found these facts out for themselves. (i) God told Abraham to circumcise his son, and that all his descendants were to circumcise their male children, when they were eight days old. Why eight days old? The Bible does not say; but thousands of years later, Scientists found out that the blood clots the fastest on the eighth day! (See Gen.17:12) (ii) God commanded that lepers be quarantined to prevent the spread of the leprous germs. Quarantining was not discovered by Scientists until A.D.1900. (See Lev.13:46) (iii) God commanded that lepers cover their mouths to prevent the spread of the leprous germs. The presence of germs, so small that they cannot be seen by the naked eye, was not discovered by Scientists until 1890. (See Lev.13:45) (iv) God commanded that any material infected with the leprous germs, was to be burnt with fire. Thousands of years later, Scientists discovered that excessive heat kills germs. (See Lev.13:52,55, 57) (v) Job 26:7 reveals that the earth hangs upon nothing or emptiness. Thousands of years later, when cosmonauts and astronauts were able to go up into space in the 1950's, they saw for themselves that the earth is not supported by anything visible. First of all, the earth has no weight in space, and second, the earth is held in place by the sun's gravity. Ancient human beings did not know these things. It was logical to think that the earth was very heavy and would need something strong underneath it to keep it from

sinking. The ancient Chinese, for example, thought that a great dragon was under the earth, keeping it up. Yet in all ancient Literature, the Bible is the only Book that says that the earth hangs upon nothing! (vi) Isa.40:22 reveals that the earth is a sphere. Ancient human beings thought that the earth was flat. Even in the days of Columbus, over 500 years ago, most people thought that the earth was flat. Columbus was one of the few persons back then who believed that the earth was not flat. He was trying to find a new route to India by sailing westwards from Spain. His crew became anxious when Columbus had sailed for many days without seeing any land. They thought that they would fall off the edge of a flat earth! Columbus was a Christian, and would have been influenced in his thinking about the earth being a sphere by what was in the Bible! In the days of space travel, Scientists have been able to see first hand from Space that the earth is spherical, just as the Bible had said thousands of years ago.

3. Laws governing human behaviour are different from what human beings would make as laws for themselves. This is another evidence that the Bible could not have come originally from human beings but from a being higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings. Matt.5:44-48 teaches that we should (i) love our enemies, (ii) bless them and (iii) pray for them. 1st Thess.5:15 teaches that we should (iv) not pay back evil for evil. Rom.12:21 teaches that we should (v) overcome evil by doing good. 1st Cor.6:18-20 teaches that we should (vi) not engage in sex before marriage. If the Bible originated with human beings, these laws governing human behaviour would have been written quite differently, for in human nature, it is natural to hate our enemies, to curse them and to pray against them. It is within human nature to pay back evil for evil. It is within human nature to try to fight evil by doing evil back to a person. It is within human nature to engage in sex before marriage, even if marriage is eventually entered into. According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 83% of all couples in Jamaica were unmarried. (1991 Census) Therefore the laws governing human behaviour in the Bible are different from what human beings would make as laws for themselves.

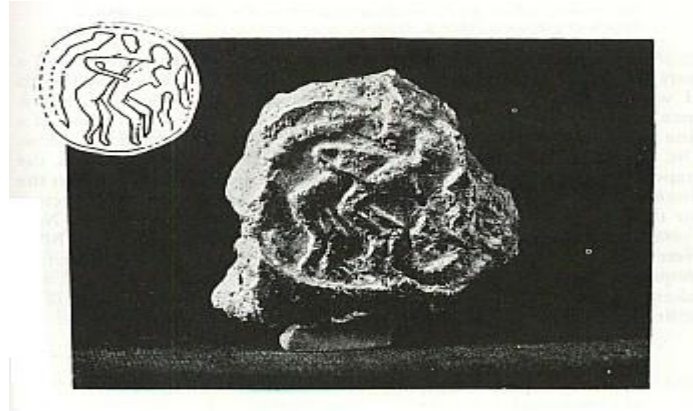
4. There are some modern Bible Scholars, who think that the first eleven chapters in Genesis are myth and not history; but archaeologists have found evidence that (i) earth's earliest inhabitants in Mesopotamia and in Egypt believed in One God. (Henry H. Halley, Bible Handbook, " Archaeological Note: Original Monotheism" page 62) This confirms the accounts in Genesis that earth's earliest inhabitants believed in One God, rather than in many different gods and goddesses. Archaeologists have found evidence that (ii) there was an Adam and Eve, and that Eve was tempted to eat a forbidden fruit by an evil spirit in the form of a serpent. There is a clay tablet that has the drawing of a woman on the left side of a tree and of a man on the right side of a tree. Behind the woman is a serpent who looks like it was whispering something in the ear of the woman. The woman has her hand stretched out towards a fruit on the tree. Archaeologists have called this tablet which they found in the ruins near Babylon, "The Temptation Seal" . This Seal is now in the British Museum. (Henry H. Halley, Bible Handbook, Genesis Chapter 3, "Archaeological Notes: Babylonian Traditions of Fall of Man" , page 68)

The Temptation Seal



Archaeologists also found near Nineveh, a stone dated 3,500 B.C., of a naked woman and a naked man, walking with their backs bent, as if they were depressed. Behind the woman is a serpent. Archaeologists believe that this is a picture of Adam and Eve being driven from the Garden of Eden. They called the stone, “The Adam and Eve Seal”. This Seal is now in the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia. (Henry H. Halley, Bible Handbook, Genesis Chapter 3, page 69)

The Adam And Eve Seal



Archaeologists have found evidence from ancient Mesopotamia in early Babylonian Clay Tablets, that (iii) earth’s earliest inhabitants lived unusually long. This shows that the life span of Adam and his descendants in Genesis Chapter 5, with Methuselah living for 969 years, was not unusual back then. (Henry H. Halley, Bible Handbook, Genesis Chapter 5, “Archaeological Note: Primeval Longevity”, pages 71-72)

In Ur, Abraham’s own city, in Lagash, Nippur, Sippar, indeed in every important city in Babylonia, in connection with schools and temples, there were libraries with thousands of books; Dictionaries, Grammars, Reference Works, Encyclopedias, Official Annals, Works on Mathematics, Astronomy, Geography, Religion and Politics. When Abraham visited Egypt, there were millions of Inscriptions on Stone Monuments, Papyrus and Leather. In Canaan, near Hebron, city of Abraham, was a town called “Kiriath-Sepher”, which means “Scribe-Town”, indicating a people of Literary Tastes. In Ur, in the stratum of Abraham’s time, a School Room was uncovered by Woolley, with 150 school Exercise Tablets, with Mathematical, Medical, Historical Texts, and one large tablet in parallel columns with a Complete Conjugation of a Sumerian verb and its equivalent in Semitic. Abraham may have attended this school. This shows that (iv) writing was known in the days of Abraham and even before his time, and that Abraham had the knowledge of recording events which had been passed down to him from Adam. (Henry H. Halley, Bible Handbook “Archaeological Discoveries—Libraries in Abraham’s Day, & A School of Abraham’s Day” , page 51)

(v) Russian Pilots in 1917 saw the huge remains of a ship on Mount Ararat, the same Mountain on which Noah’s ark came to rest when the waters of the great flood subsided. This Mountain is 5,137 metres or 16,854 feet high. How did the ship reach up there, unless there was a great flood as is recorded in Genesis? (Henry H. Halley, Bible Handbook, Genesis, “Reported Discovery Of Noah’s Ark”, page 75)

Noah's Ark Covered With Snow & Embedded In A Glacier

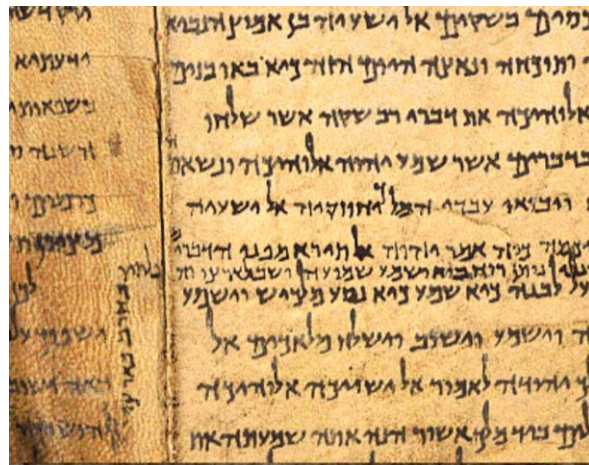


So then, the Bible is not mythical, but it has events that can be proven to have happened by sources of information outside of the Bible.

5. The messages of the Bible were fully written about 2000 years ago. How may I know that they have not been changed over these many years? The following are evidences that the Bible has been well preserved so that its messages are unchanged! (i) There are more ancient copies of the Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament, than any other ancient book. It is possible to check these ancient copies and to see that the messages of the Bible have remained unchanged. For example, the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were hidden in huge jars in caves on the western side of the Dead Sea in A.D. 67, were found in A.D.1947. Many of these are ancient copies of the Old Testament, one thousand years older than the previously known oldest copies of the Old Testament. Two scrolls of Isaiah are among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Their Writings are almost word for word the same as the previously known oldest copy of Isaiah in the Hebrew Bible, except for slight differences in the spelling of some towns, such as “Dibon”, a town in Moab, being spelt “Divon”, in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

(Henry H. Halley, Bible Handbook, “Archaeological Note: The Isaiah Scroll”, pages 286-287)

Dead Sea Scroll Of Isaiah



(ii) There are so many ancient commentaries on every book in the whole Bible, that even if all ancient copies of the Bible were lost, it would be possible to reproduce the whole Bible from quotations made in these commentaries. Such commentaries are at the United Theological College of the West Indies, near the back gate of the Unieversity of the West Indies in Mona.

(iii) The different Versions of the Bible today, do not mean Bibles with different messages; but Versions mean Translations. The Bible was originally written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and the Common Greek. Versions are a scholarly attempt to carefully carry over the meanings of the original languages of the Bible into languages which are spoken and written today, so that people all over the world may understand the Bible in their own language. Since languages change some of their meanings over time, it is continually necessary to make a new Version so that the meanings of the messages from the original languages of the Bible are not misunderstood. The translations of the Bible are done by the United Bible Societies, of which the Bible Society of the West Indies in Half-Way-Tree is a member.

6. There are some people who do not think that the Bible could be from God since there are thought to be contradictions in the Bible. Since God does not make errors, how could the Bible have come from God, when on the same subject, the Old Testament and the New Testament command different actions. For example, the Old Testament says: "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" (Ex.21:24), but the New Testament says: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.'"

However, these are not contradictions nor errors. What do the adjectives "Old" and "New" mean? Does not "New" mean that there is something different? Does not "Old" mean that which is of the past and which does not necessarily apply today? The word "Testament" means a "Will". If a person makes a first "Will" and decides that it is necessary to make a second "Will", which of the two "Wills" may the Executor use to ensure that those to benefit from the Will get what has been promised to them after the person who has made the last Will has died? Is it the first or the second? Is it the Old or the New? Similarly, God has made two Testaments. Which of the two Testaments will He use today? Will all the contents of the first Will be the same as the contents of the second Will? If the contents of both Wills are not altogether the same, does this mean that there are errors or contradictions in them?

Why then did God make both the Old Testament and the New Testament? There are four reasons God made both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Firstly, the Old Testament was written to prepare the people of Israel, God's chosen people, for the coming of the Saviour of the world. God promised Abraham, the ancestor of the people of Israel, that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed as he was blessed. God blessed Abraham with salvation. Therefore from Abraham and his descendants, a Saviour was going to come to bless the whole world with the offer of salvation (Gen.12:3). When Abraham's descendants became a nation, God chose one tribe from that nation to provide the priests who would offer animal sacrifices on behalf of the nation so that the nation's sins may be forgiven. The animals bore the blame and the punishment for sins of the nation. This is why God required the shedding of the blood of the animals (Lev.17:11). The offering of animal sacrifices pointed forward to the death of the Saviour of the world on behalf of the sins of the whole world. The Saviour of the world was to bear the blame and the punishment of everyone's sins by suffering, dying on the cross, being buried in the tomb, and rising from the dead, similar to the offering of animal sacrifices (Isa.53:5-12). Jesus fulfilled all that was written about the Saviour of the world in the Old Testament, when He suffered for our sins, died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day was raised from the dead (Lk.24:44-47). The Old Testament, then, can make you wise concerning how to receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ (2nd Tim.3:15). Secondly, the Old Testament foretold the coming of the New Testament, which would be different and better than the Old Testament (Jer.31:31-34; Heb.8:6-13). Thirdly, when Jesus died on the cross, the Old Testament was replaced by the New Testament (Col.2:14-17;

Heb.9:15-17). Fourthly, the Old Testament has warnings and examples, which can still teach us important lessons today, although some of its laws do not apply today (Rom.15:4; Heb.10:1-10).

Conclusion

The Bible has Supreme Authority to govern our lives, because it was revealed by God. In this lesson, evidences have been presented to show (i) that the Bible could not have come originally from human beings, but must have come from a Being higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings; (ii) that the Bible is not mythical, but has accurate and reliable history; (iii) that the Bible has been well preserved so that its messages are unchanged, and (iv) the seeming contradictions in the Bible, for example, different laws from God found in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, are there because these laws were given in two different periods of time—one set of laws were given in the past, some of which do not apply today, and another set of laws are given in the present, and these laws were given to two different sets of people—the laws of the past were given to the people of Israel, and the laws for today are given to the followers of Jesus Christ and to any other person who wishes to do what is right.

LESSON # 2: SELECTED GUIDELINES FOR LIVING

GENERAL OBJECTIVES: 1. To examine the link between the Authority of the Bible and Guidelines for Living taken from the Bible. 2. To examine the Authority of Jesus Christ to direct the lives of people everywhere. 3. To examine the power by which we may follow the Guidelines for Living from the Bible. 4. To examine Selected Guidelines for Living. 5. To examine how to strengthen yourselves to live by the Bible's Guidelines.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain FOUR reasons everyone should follow the Guidelines for Living in the Bible. 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why the starting point for living right consistently is receiving Salvation through Jesus Christ from the enslavement of sin. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give FIVE reasons certain parts of the body should not be exposed in public. 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain TWO reasons certain kinds of music should not be listened to. 5. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain TWO reasons the use of contraceptives does not make sex safe before marriage. 6. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain FOUR reasons homosexuality and lesbianism are not pleasing to God. 7. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain FOUR reasons abortion is wrong. 8. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain FIVE ways to strengthen themselves to obey God's Word, the Bible.

CONTENT: 1. Everyone everywhere ought to follow the Guidelines for Living in the Bible for the following reasons: (i) God—a Being higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings, revealed these Guidelines for Living in the Bible. Lesson #1, "The Authority Of The Bible", has shown that since prophecies in the Bible have come true, and there is the knowledge of scientific facts in the Bible thousands of years before scientists discovered them for themselves, and the laws governing human behaviour are different from what human beings would make as laws for themselves, that the Bible could not have originated from human beings, but must have come from Someone higher in knowledge and different in character from human beings. (ii) God has given to Jesus Christ, His Son, ALL authority in heaven and on earth. This means that all the inhabitants of heaven are obligated to obey Jesus Christ, and all the inhabitants on earth are also obligated to obey Him. (See Matt.28:20; Phil.2:9-11; 1st Pet.3:22) (iii) God has appointed a day when everyone on earth will be judged by His Son, Jesus Christ. (See Matt.25:31-34,41,46; Acts 17:30-31; 2nd Cor.5:10) (iv) The Standard by which we will be judged is the Bible, especially what Jesus Christ has taught on behalf of God, His Father. (See Jn.12:48)

2. The starting point for consistently and successfully following the Guidelines for Living in the Bible is to have Jesus Christ, the Son of God, setting you free from the power of sin. In your natural state as descendants of Adam and Eve, you have been made sinners by their first sin of eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. (See Rom.5:19) This means that it is easy to do what is sinful, but it is difficult to do what is right. (See Rom.7:14-20) However, through Jesus Christ's death on the cross, his burial in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead, it is possible for the power of sin in your human nature to be crucified and buried, and for the divine nature, the personality of God, the Father, to be given to you so that you are no longer bound as a slave to sin, but you are free to live the way God wants you to. (See Rom.8:3-4, 12-14; 1st Jn.3:9) Salvation from sin's power and control is received through faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, sincere repentance of sin, confession of Jesus as Lord or the Son of God, and baptism into a spiritual union with Jesus Christ. When you

are in union with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God sets you free from the power of sin. (See Jn.1:12-13; Acts 26:20; Rom.10:9-10; Rom.6:3-6; Rom.8:1-2)

3. One of the Guidelines for Living in the Bible is that certain parts of the body should not be exposed in public. The following are reasons for this Guideline: (i) Even though the first man and the first woman were created naked and remained naked for a while, when they sinned, they made clothes without God telling them to, and when God saw that they had made clothes, He agreed that they should be wearing clothes, but He thought that their clothes did not cover them enough, and so He made new clothes for them. (See Gen.2:25; 3:7,21) (ii) An altar to God was not to be made with steps leading up to it, lest the priests exposed themselves as they went up the steps. (See Ex.20:26) (iii) The priests were to wear linen shorts, reaching from the waist to the thighs, under their robes, lest they exposed themselves. (See Ex.28:42-43) (iv) In the Book of Revelation, clothes is used figuratively for the good life which one is living; but nakedness is used figuratively for the disgraceful and shameful life which one is living. This application of clothes and nakedness in a metaphorical way, implies that the literal exposing of one's body in public is disgraceful and shameful in God's sight. (See Rev.3:18; 16:15) (v) Jesus Christ does not want anyone to cause someone else to sin. If then, certain parts of one's body are exposed in public, and this causes someone to sin in their heart by having lustful thoughts, imaginations and feelings for that person, not only has this person who has lusted sinned, but also the one who caused the lusting has also sinned. (See Lk.17:1-2; Matt.5:27-30)

4. Another Guideline for Living in the Bible is that certain kinds of music should not be listened to. The following are reasons for this Guideline: (i) Music that promotes sex before marriage or unfaithfulness among married people is displeasing to God. The Bible teaches that the lust of the flesh does not come from God and it is against God's Will. Lust is defined in the Bible as evil desire, that is, the desire to do what God has forbidden. God forbids sex before marriage and sex between a married person and someone to whom he or she is not married. The Bible teaches that these unlawful sex acts start in the thoughts and desires of the heart. Therefore music which stirs up these thoughts and desires in the heart is not pleasing to God. (See 1st John 2:15-17; 1st Thess.4:2-3; Matt.15:18-20) (ii) Music Videos that show people moving their bodies in a way to stir up lust is displeasing to God. There is a kind of dancing, whether in Music Videos or on the dance floor, which the Bible forbids. In Rom.13:13, the Bible forbids "wantonness". This is from the Greek word, "aselgeia", which means "indecent bodily movements". (Thayer, A Greek To English Lexicon Of The New Testament, aselgeia, page 79) When the opposite sex see the bodies gyrating and hear the words of encouragement to commit premarital sex or extra-marital sex, this could very well produce desires to do what God has forbidden.

5. Another Guideline for Living is that **no contraceptive** can make sex **safe** before marriage, for the following reasons: (i) God forbids **all** sexual activity **before** marriage. (See 1st Cor.6:18) (ii) God will punish in hell fire those who do not stop practicing sex before marriage. (See 1st Cor.6:9-10; Gal.5:19-21; Eph.5:5; Heb.13:4; Rev.21:8) Sinning against God, and being punished in hell fire, is a **far worse** condition than getting some sexually transmitted infection, for sickness will last only for a short time, but punishment in hell fire is forever. (See Rev.20:10; Matt.13:49-50)

6. Another Guideline for Living is that homosexuality and lesbianism are forbidden for the following reasons: (i) God did not create two of the **same** sex in the beginning, but He created two **opposite** sexes. He then joined the **man** and the **woman** together in **marriage**. Then He commanded them to have sex and to reproduce offspring to fill the empty earth. Therefore God did not design sexual intercourse for the same sex, but for the

opposite sexes, to be done only after they have entered into a marriage relationship. (See Gen.2:18, 21-24; 1:27-28) (ii) God did not create a male to desire to have sex with another male, nor did he create a female to desire to have sex with another female. Homosexual and Lesbian desires are therefore “**against nature**” or are “**unnatural**”. (See Rom.1:26-27) (iii) God considers homosexual and lesbian acts to be **shameful**, for they **pervert** or change God’s intention for opposite sexes to be married and to reproduce godly children. (See Rom.1:26-27; Mal.2:15) (iv) The punishment of the homosexuals in Sodom and Gomorrah is a warning to us today, that those who do such things will receive **punishment** in hell fire, unless they repent. (See Jude verse 7)

7. Another Guideline for Living is that abortion is forbidden for the following reasons: (i) God creates life in the womb. (Ps.139:13) (ii) Before birth, the undeveloped body has a personal human identity. (Ps.139:16) (iii) God has allotted the number of years of life a person may naturally live, even before any of those days began. (Ps.139:16); (iv) God has a purpose for everyone’s life. (Jer.1:4-5; Judges 13:3-5; Lk.1:12-17)

8. Finally, you may strengthen yourselves spiritually in order to follow these and other Guidelines for Living found in the Bible by: (i) praying to God regularly (Col.1:9-10); (ii) reading and meditating on the Bible daily (2nd Tim.3:16-17); (iii) acting upon what God wants you to do in the Bible (James 1:22-25); (iv) worshipping God with a group of Bible believing and Bible obeying Christians (Heb.10:25); and (v) helping others to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ (Mk.16:15-16).