

# WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

*It is the Instruction Manual from God.*

## Lesson 3E - What is the Purpose of the Bible



### **TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, "WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LIFE IS OVER"**



John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes & accepts that Jesus died for their sins will not eternally perish in hell, but will eternally have everlasting life in heaven.

THE UNBELIEVER DIES - He goes to a place of "eternal perishing".

THE BELIEVER DIES - He goes to a place of "eternal living".

- Both people will not stop existing after they die.
- The bodies are gone; the souls consciously exist forever.

### THE COLD, HARD FACTS

Psalms 139:7 - Lord, where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Jeremiah 23:24 - Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

Acts 7:49 - "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool" says the Lord.

1. Where is God not present? \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 6:5-7 - The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every intent of the thoughts of man's heart was evil continually.... God was grieved and was sorry He created man.... "I will destroy man ....."

2. Obviously, God is everywhere. Man became incredibly wicked; God did not make him that way. Man rejected God & chose to remain dead in his soul, and then to ignore it. \_\_\_ A holy God moved away a sinful man; \_\_\_ a sinful man moved away from a holy God.

#### Hold on, now

- All through our lives, **GOD WAS STILL PRESENT** while were sinning. Imagine how much worse it could have gotten. **GOD'S PRESENCE (THE HOLY SPIRIT)** was near protecting our steps.
- **IN HELL, GOD IS NO LONGER NEAR YOU PROTECTING YOUR STEPS; YOU ARE "ALONE".**
- It makes me sick to say this - **AN UNBELIEVER ACTUALLY CHOSE THIS.**
- Please do not say, "No problem; I will be in hell with my friends." Nope. Read my lips - "ALONE".

### LET'S TALK TO TWO DEAD PEOPLE. (Luke 16:19-31)

- "Excuse me, Mr. Lazarus. Since you went to heaven, I know you were a believer. What kind of a life did you have on earth?"
- **"I LOVED GOD AS I GREW UP, BUT I DID NOT HAVE MUCH MONEY AND LIFE WAS HARD."**
- "Mr. Rich Man, a moment of your time, please? I see you have gone to hell. Why did that happen?"
- **"I LOVED MY RICHES AND LIFESTYLE; I DID NOT NEED GOD; THAT WAS A HUGE MISTAKE."**

3. What two choices must a man make? \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 16:25 - "Rich man, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things [without needing God]; likewise, Lazarus received evil and hard things [but he needed God]; now, he is comforted, and you are tormented."

4. What are the results of our choices? \_\_\_\_\_

### **WHY READ THE BIBLE? - GOD WANTS US TO KNOW WHAT OUR CHOICES ARE.**

Joshua 24:15 - Remember what Joshua said: "Choose you this day whom you will serve."

2 Peter 3:9 - Remember what Peter said: "...the Lord is not willing that any human being should perish, but rather come to God."

## OK, NOW BACK TO BEING DEAD

- The two destinations after death are: Generally speaking - HEAVEN OR HELL

Bible Verse	BELIEVER #1 - LAZARUS THE BEGGAR	PART OF MAN
Luke 16:22	The beggar named Lazarus died physically.	The body
Luke 16:22	Though not mentioned, I assume that the beggar was buried.	The body
Luke 16:22	The beggar was carried to Abraham's bosom (in God's presence)	The Soul
Luke 16:25	The beggar is now in comfort.	The Soul

Bible Verse	UNBELIEVER #1 - THE RICH MAN	PART OF MAN
Luke 16:22	The rich man died physically.	The body
Luke 16:22	The rich man was buried.	The body
Luke 16:23	The rich man was sent to Hades.	The Soul
Luke 16:25	The rich man is now in torment.	The Soul

5. What do you notice different about the two men after they died?

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6. What do you notice the same about the two men after they died?

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### Vocabulary Words

- The Body = The physical part of our lives with flesh, bones, organs, etc.
- The Soul = The inner part of our lives as in mind, emotions, will.
- Abraham's Bosom = A Jewish way of describing where God lives. (Referred to as heaven)
- Hades = The dwelling place of the souls separated from God's presence. (Referred to as hell)

### LET'S LOOK AT TWO MORE DEAD PEOPLE

Bible Verse	BELIEVER #1- STEPHEN	PART OF MAN
Acts 7:60	Stephen died (physically) after being stoned (executed).	The Body
Acts 8:2	Stephen was carried to his grave by Christian friends.	The Body
Acts 7:59	Stephen's spirit went to Jesus (He has standing there waiting.)	The Soul

Bible Verse	UNBELIEVER #2 - JUDAS ISCARIOT	PART OF MAN
Matt. 27:5	Judas committed suicide (hanged himself). (Jumped over a cliff)	The Body
Acts 1:18	Judas committed suicide (fell headlong). (Jumped over a cliff)	The Body
John 6:71	Jesus called Judas a "devil" (an unbeliever).	The Soul
Acts 1:18	Burial is not mentioned, but the culture would have buried him.	The Body
John 17:12	Judas is called "the son of perdition" ("lost son in hell").	The Soul

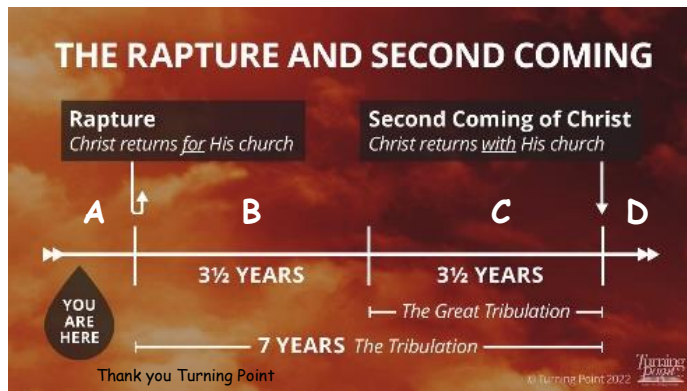
### **WHY READ THE BIBLE? - GOD WANTS US TO KNOW WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR CHOICES ARE.**

7.  Yes  No When they die, both believer & unbeliever will end up in the grave.
8.  Yes  No When they die, both believer & unbeliever will go to heaven.

### Let's Review

- A human being has basically three parts: body, soul, and spirit.
  - The body connects with the physical world, the soul & spirit connect with people and God.
  - The body will go to the grave; the soul will either go to God's presence or be separated from God.
9. I know where your body is going. Where is your soul going? \_\_\_\_\_

## OK, NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY



What is the "rapture"? \_\_\_\_\_

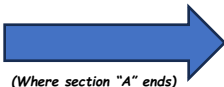
What is the "Second Coming of Christ"? \_\_\_\_\_

Are we living before the "rapture"? Y N

Does the Second Coming of Christ come after the Rapture? Yes No

How many years between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

### THE RAPTURE

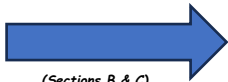


(Where section "A" ends)

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then, we who are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. We will always be with the Lord from then on; comfort yourself with these words.*

- The word "Rapture" is not in the Bible; it means "caught up & away" [by Jesus Christ].
  - Jesus comes down [part way] to take all the believers (alive or already dead) to Heaven.
  - The body (a new one) and the soul reunite for every believer who "raptured" to Heaven.
1. The "dead in Christ" means believers who are dead; all people who are dead.
  2. "Who are alive & remain" means all people on the earth; believers still living
- All the unbelievers who are already dead (physical body) will remain dead in the grave; their souls will remain in Hades to endure torment until they are finally sent to hell.
  - All the unbelievers still alive will remain on the earth to endure torment, suffering, & wickedness.
3. Where do you fit into this? I am a believer. (I have accepted Christ.) I am an unbeliever. (I have not.)

### THE TRIBULATION



(Sections B & C)

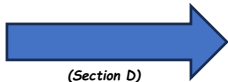
*Matt. 24:21-25 - For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.*

4. How is the tribulation described in the first three lines of the verse?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Look at the chart above. How long does the "Tribulation" last? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Yes No Will anyone survive this horrible period of time on the earth?
  - The word "tribulation" means "a time of pressure and trouble".
  - All the believers who have ever lived (alive & dead now) will be in heaven, not on the earth.
  - After the rapture, at that moment, there will not be one believer left on the earth.
7. 2 Cor. 5:8 says, "...we would rather be \_\_\_\_\_ from the body and immediately \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord."
  - The unbelievers who are already dead before the rapture will, during this seven-year period, remain physically dead & buried in the ground; their souls will remain confined in torment in Hades.
  - The unbelievers still alive after the rapture will remain on the earth to face horrible events.
  - Evil will spread throughout the world without restraint - a world without God preventing things.
  - The Great Tribulation is a relatively short period of time where everyone will experience worldwide hardships, persecution, disasters, famine, war, pain, and suffering, which will affect all of creation.
8. Yes No Is rejecting Jesus now more important than avoiding this horrible time?

## IT WILL BE HARDER TO BECOME A BELIEVER DURING THE TRIBULATION.

- Now, there is no pressure; you hear the news of Jesus; you choose to respond unharassed.
- Then, pressure & pain will surround you; you will hear the witnesses, respond, then killed.
- Then, the evil & rebellion around you may make you very hard; you choose to hate God.
- Keep in mind that the DEVIL is in charge, and he is not restrained.

## THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST



(Section D)

*Matthew 24:29-30 - Immediately after the Tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will be dark; the stars will fall from space, and the powers of heaven will shake. ...the Son of Man (Jesus) will appear ...*  
*Revelation 1:7 - Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him...*

9. What causes the seven-year Tribulation period to end? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What unbelievable things will happen at that moment? \_\_\_\_\_
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## This whole subject is too big to cover in this small study; Let's wrap up with some basics.

- The devil & his evil have just about destroyed the earth. Jesus comes back to this same earth.
  - The believers who went to heaven at the Rapture have come back with.
  - Some of the unbelievers who endured the tribulation accepted Christ & became believers.
- All the believers attend the Judgment Seat of Christ to be rewarded or not rewarded for the lives they lived. – We enjoy 1000 year reign with Jesus in charge (King of Kings).
- All the unbelievers attend the Great White Throne Judgment to be punished if they rejected Christ.
- The devil & his forces are finally sent to the Lake of Fire forever.
- Christ & His church (all the believers) live in New Heaven & New Earth forever.
11. This whole series on the "Purpose of the Bible" is to remind ourselves that God wants us to know Him personally, to live His image honorably, and to know how it all ends.  
\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Has this study accomplished that for you?
12. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Is there any doubt in your mind where your life is going to end?
13. This larger study series on the Bible is continuing. In your own words, what have you learned about the process after you die? \_\_\_\_\_
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14. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Since God created everything (including us), would it be wise to consult Him about how to live this life for the best results?

*I had a flat tire once on a trip in Northern California. I had borrowed the car so I knew nothing about how to fix anything. I laid under the car for almost ½ an hour trying to figure it out. My wife finally got down on the ground and handed me the car manual that was in the glove box. I was out of there in ½ hour. Why do we avoid the manual?*