

JESUS:

***Creator,
God in Human Flesh,
Perfect Man,
Only Savior***

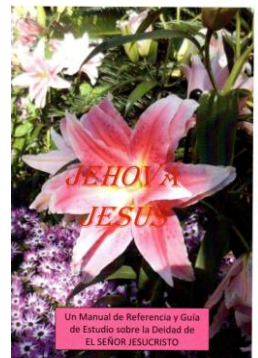
Optional Lessons for
RELEASED TIME
Classes

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may be adapted to all grade levels;
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Offered as a Service
by CR Ministries
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Special Note for Spanish or French speaking children. Paul G. Humber's book is available not only in English but also in Spanish and French. A teacher who would like a free copy may write to Paul G. Humber at paulhumber@verizon.net and ask

Scriptures, for the most part, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.



Special notes to teachers:

- 1. Passages that have been highlighted may be especially appropriate for memory.**
- 2. Twenty-six lessons are provided, but in some cases, you may want to split a lesson into two (or combine two into one). This is an important revision, but it still could see more.**
- 3. You should view these lessons as flexible. You may want to add something here and delete something there. Certainly you are encouraged to supplement with pictures, singing, recitation of memory verses, prayer, etc. In other words, these lessons are a general guide. They are not meant to spell out in detail how you should teach in a step-by-step fashion.**
- 4. Notice that each lesson features Jesus. The point is that He must be central in every one. We want every visitor to Christian Released Time to learn about Jesus. The Apostle John wrote about his Gospel, “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31).**

Theme Verse: “Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.” Jn.17:3

Goal: To provide opportunities for every child entering Christian Released Time doors to learn more about God and get to know Him personally.

Lesson 1: Introduction:

Question: While looking up into the clouds, have you ever wondered why you can’t see God? Three passages from the Bible may help you here:

1. JOHN 1:18:

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

This is a very important verse for several reasons. First, human minds like ours can’t “see” God in all His greatness. In the early part of the Bible (the Old Testament), Moses saw part of Jehovah, but not all of Him (Exodus 33:18-23). Whenever the Scriptures talk about “seeing God”, therefore (Genesis 32:30, Judges 13:22, and Isaiah 6:5), it’s often in a limited way. Later in the Bible, a follower of Jesus named John spoke of beholding the glory of the Lord Jesus (John 1:14), and he even fell at Jesus’ feet “as though dead” on seeing the “glorified” Christ (Revelation 1:17) after He was raised from the dead.

The phrase “God the One and Only” is a better term than the more well known one, “the only begotten Son,” because it is based on a more correct translation. Either way, it means that Jesus Christ is God.

2. JOHN 14:9-11:

Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”

What person who is merely created could say, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father?” The Lord Jesus could say these things about Himself, because He was (and still is) God the Son, the Second “Person” of the Trinity*.

[*The Trinity is a very basic belief in Christianity; it means One God in Three Persons.]

3. COLOSSIANS 1:15-17:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

Jesus is this invisible God who became visible (See God’s “face” in Isaiah 63:9). The statement that He is “the firstborn over all creation” is like Hebrews 1:2 where it is says that He has been “appointed heir of all things.” The right of the firstborn is something told over and over again in the Bible, and this verse seems to say that it belongs to Jesus, but this does not mean that He had a beginning or was created, because the very next verses tell us clearly that He Himself is the very One who created all things and who existed before everything was even made.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: COLOSSIANS 1:15-17: For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Lesson 2: Jesus Is Before All Time

Question: What is the difference between BC and AD? We mark our calendars with BC and AD, but what does “BC” mean? It stands for “Before Christ,” but there never really was a time before Christ, because He always existed. The Bible says that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that He is actually the Creator of time itself. It would make more sense to think of “BC” as standing for “Before Christmas,” when God the Son was born into this world as a baby boy. Three passages from the Bible might help you understand this:

1. MICAH 5:2:

**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small
among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.**

This passage says that the ruler yet to come in the future, who was the Messiah or the Anointed One, would be from “days of eternity” (another way of explaining “ancient times”). The Hebrew word for “eternity” here is the same as “everlasting” in Psalm 90:2, where it says that Jehovah God is “from everlasting to everlasting.” Both Messiah and Jehovah God have existed forever, and the Apostle John says it this way: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning” (John 1:1-2). The “ruler” Micah (an Old Testament prophet) wrote about so long ago was not just a man, but He was the God-man, the One who has existed from before time began, and He would be called the great “I AM” (John 8:58).

2. JOHN 1:1-2:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

In Isaiah 43:10 Jehovah said, “Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.” The Word* therefore, which was born a baby with flesh (John 1:14) like ours, existed before time ever even began. Until what happened on the cross, God the Son was always in fellowship and union with God the Father. (There is a mystery about what happened to that fellowship when He was actually punished for our sins on the cross; there was a forsakenness then.) In summary, Jesus was and still is God. Human minds can understand so little about the greatness, the mystery, and the wonder of the Three Person God. See John 1:18.

[*Sometimes Jesus is called “The Word” too.]

3. REVELATION 1:17:

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”

Jesus is also called “the First and the Last.” This is a phrase that another Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, said refers to Jehovah* God. (Try to look up Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, and 48:12.) The fact that Jesus Himself said it is proof that He believed He was God. See also Revelation 2:8 and 22:13.

*[“Jehovah” is the special name for God in the Bible. Jehovah is the only one true God.]

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: JOHN 1:1-2: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Lesson 3: Jesus Is Creator of All

Question: Who made you? Many people think of Jesus as a wonderful person, but they do not realize that He actually made them! Here are four passages which might help you understand that Jesus is the Creator:

1. MATTHEW 8:26-27:

He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”



Moses asked this question, “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD (Jehovah)? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” (Exodus 15:11) If the Lord Jesus were not Jehovah Himself, then there would have to be someone “like” Jehovah who made miracles happen, and this would have to contradict Moses. Of course, there is no contradiction. Jesus is not a “god” like Jehovah; He is actually Jehovah God in human flesh.

According to Psalm 107:29, Jehovah caused storms to cease and waves to be calmed, but Jesus did the exact same things, as you can see from the verses above! This is another way of proving that He was and is Jehovah Jesus and Creator Christ.

2. JOHN 1:3:

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

This verse makes it impossible that Jesus is a just a creature* (however great) and not the Creator: “without him nothing was made that has been made.” If Jesus were no more than created, then some parts of creation could have been made “without him,” but this verse says just the opposite, that nothing was made without Creator Christ. He did not make Himself, because He was never made to begin with, and also because He made everything that was ever made!

*[Do you know what a “creature” is? It’s any living thing that is made by God. So you and I are “creatures,” but God isn’t one, because He was never made!]

3. MATTHEW 14:25-26:

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

The Old Testament prophet Job said this about God: “He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea,” but was he wrong? The Lord Jesus walked on the waves of the Sea of Galilee. So you see, they are one and the same. Again, we say that the Lord Jesus is God the Son.

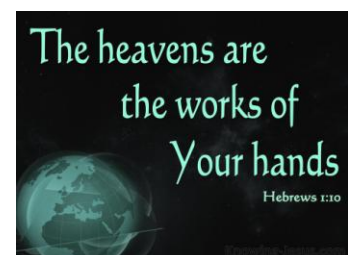


4. HEBREWS 1:10-12:

He also says,

**“In the beginning, O Lord,
you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.
But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.”



The author of Hebrews says here that the wonderful acts of Jehovah God in Psalm 102:25-27 are the same as those Jesus Christ did. Do you see how clear the connection is with the Lord Jesus in Hebrews 1:8: “But about the Son...”?

If Jesus is the Creator, isn't it silly to think that He was anything but a “creationist”? Many writers and TV personalities don't recognize Jesus this way and instead try to explain creation away by evolution. Isn't it great that Jesus who is Truth Himself will eventually return and show the world that these are just lies (Psalm 96:13)!

See also Isaiah 44:24: “This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself”.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: MATTHEW 8:27: The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

Lesson 4: Jesus' Coming to Earth Foretold, Part 1

Question: Did you know that all of the sacrifices of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the Lord Jesus, God's Lamb* for our sins? Did you know that prophets foretold about His birth and life on earth long before they happened?

[*Why do you think God needs a “lamb”? Isn't this a little strange?]

Anticipated by Moses: GENESIS 22:9-12:

When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”



The “angel of the LORD” called to Abraham “from heaven” and said, “(Y)ou have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” The phrase “from me” lets us know that this “angel” is divine (God). Worshipping and sacrificing to a mere angel is wrong (Exodus 20:35 and Matthew 4:10), so this “angel” is actually Jesus before he was even born! Two thousand years later, He Himself would become the Lamb provided by the Father.

Foretold by Isaiah: ISAIAH 7:14:

**Therefore the Lord himself
will give you a sign: The
virgin will be with child and
will give birth to a son, and
will call him Immanuel.**

The story here is about God’s giving the House of David* a marvelous sign: An unmarried young woman (maiden, virgin) would give birth to a son, and Immanuel (which means “God with us”) would be His name. Mary was that “virgin” (Matthew 1:23), and the Lord Jesus was the “son.” When Jesus came to earth, He was truly “God with us.”



[* “The House of David” is the Jewish family from which the Savior would be born.]

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

**Memory Verse: ISAIAH 7:14: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him
Immanuel.**

Lesson 5: Jesus Got in a Wrestling Match!

Question: Did you know that Jesus got into a wrestling match? Some people think you have to wait for the New Testament to learn about Jesus, but, before He was ever born, He actually appeared to some Old Testament people too. In fact, in the following passage, He wrestles with Jacob:

GENESIS 32:24-30:

So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."



The "man" in this passage was the Angel of the LORD, and He wrestled with Jacob, who recognized that in this "man" he had "seen God face to face." This "wrestling match" was really with Jesus before He ever came to earth as a baby! Because the Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son, it was actually an encounter with God Himself.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: GENESIS 32:30: So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

Lesson 6: Jesus Speaks to Moses, Part 1

Question: Did you know that Jesus talked with Moses not only on the Mount of Transfiguration during His physical life here on earth, but He also talked with him hundreds of year before, during Old Testament times? Here are three Bible passages which tell us this:

1. EXODUS 3:2-6, 13-14:

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God....

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”



The “angel of the LORD” appeared to Moses “from the midst of a bush” (v. 2). Then “God” called to Moses “from the midst of the bush” (v. 4). Even though there seem to be two different Persons in this bush, they are really one and the same Person, God Himself.

When Jesus referred to Himself in the New Testament, He often used a name which seems strange to us, but which is very powerful and special to God, I AM (cf. Ex. 3:14). This shows us all the more that the “angel of the LORD” in this chapter is Jesus before He was ever born.

2. JOHN 8:24:

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins.

The words in brackets (parentheses) are not in the original language of the New Testament, Greek, and the “I am” just before that is a really awesome thing to say. It’s not hard to connect these words with Exodus 3:14, where the LORD told Moses to tell the Israelites that “I AM sent me to you.” Therefore, it is the Lord Jesus who is this I AM who commanded Moses to do miracles in His name.

3. JOHN 8:58:

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

Here the Lord Jesus is saying that the great “I AM” passage found in the Old Testament (Exodus 3:13-16) is actually about Himself, because He is the One who commanded Moses long before to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt. The Lord used this same strange name, “I AM”, many times and in many places during His teaching ministry (cf. John 8:24, 13:19, 18:5, etc.). He not only lived and spoke to Moses during Moses’ time on earth, but he actually existed long before Moses, even before Abraham who lived hundreds of years earlier than Moses!

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: JOHN 8:58: “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

Lesson 7: Jesus Speaks to Moses, Part 2

Question: Was there any Old Testament prophecy that Jesus would have to die on a cross? Yes, Jesus not only was the great “I AM” (previous lesson), but He also revealed to Moses that He Himself would be beaten so that others might have water to keep them alive:

1. EXODUS 17:1-6:

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?”

But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

The LORD answered Moses, “Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.**”

The solemn scene described above is a remarkable prophecy about Calvary. The translation we are using says in verse 6: “I will stand there before you by the rock,” but it might be better as: “I will stand there before you on the rock” (cf. Judges 13:19 and other translations).

The staff (a long walking stick) had been used in an earlier passage to strike the waters of the Nile River. It’s as though the LORD reversed our proper roles and placed Himself on trial before the people. Therefore, Moses hit the rock, and God made the water gush out.

Both God and Christ are given the title “Rock” in Scripture. Psalm 78:20 and 35, for example, read as follows: “When he struck the rock, water gushed out....They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer.” And Deuteronomy 32:4 reads: “He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.” Deuteronomy 32:15, 30 refer to God as “Rock” and “Savior” and identify the “Rock” as “the LORD.”

To summarize, the “staff of judgment” fell on the rock (a kind of picture of the judgment at Calvary, which is the cross of Christ; today, those who receive the gift of water from the Rock, Jehovah Jesus, will never thirst again.

2. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:4:

...and drank the same spiritual drink; **for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.**

According to Isaiah 26:4, we are supposed to trust “in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.” How can the Lord Jesus Christ be the “rock” unless He is Jehovah, the eternal God?

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:4: for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Lesson 8: Jesus In the Cloud

Question: What was “the pillar of cloud”? “The pillar of cloud” is pretty unusual when we read about it in the Old Testament, but basically it was a cloud that covered the Lord Jesus prior to His incarnation (when he was born “in the flesh”, as a baby).

EXODUS 14:19-20:

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

The “angel of God” must be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament, partly because He is connected with the “cloud” here in the book of Exodus. Even in the New Testament, the Lord Jesus said very clearly: “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory” (Mt. 24:30), and also: “But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Mt. 26:64). He was “taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight” (Acts 1:9). Paul wrote, “After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thess. 4:17).



And John wrote: “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be!” (Rev. 1:7) And: “I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one “like a son of man” with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.” (Rev. 14:14)

Besides all this, did you notice the “light” in those verses from Exodus? That points us to Jesus too, Who Himself said: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12), “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5) and “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness” (John 12:46).

In Exodus 13:21, we read: “By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night”. This verse proves that “the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army,”

was really “the LORD” (Jehovah) who went ahead of them “in a pillar of cloud.” Because God never changes, God not only was this “light”, but He still is, and He always will be that “light”.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: EXODUS 14:19-20: Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Lesson 9: Jesus Speaks to Gideon

Question: Do you know Who the Angel of the LORD was?

JUDGES 6:17-24a:

Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.”

And the LORD said, “I will wait until you return.”

Gideon went in, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.

The angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And Gideon did so. With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, “Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”

But the LORD said to him, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.”

So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace.



Only part of this chapter is quoted here, but all of it would be a good idea. In this selection, Gideon asked God if he could bring Him an offering, but it is the “angel of the LORD” who “touched the meat and the unleavened bread”. In fact, it is really hard all the way through this chapter to tell the difference between the LORD and His angel. Notice that seeing “the angel of the LORD face to

face” is just like seeing the LORD Himself. The Lord Jesus said this later on too: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: JUDGES 6:22: When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, “Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”

Lesson 10: Jesus Speaks to Samson’s Dad

Question: Who was one of the strongest men of the Bible? Did you know that Jesus actually spoke to Samson’s dad before he was even born?



JUDGES 13:6-8, 16-22:

Then the woman went to her husband and told him, “A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn’t ask him where he came from, and he didn’t tell me his name. But he said to me, ‘You will conceive and give birth to a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from birth until the day of his death.’”

Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: “O Lord, I beg you, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born.”...

The angel of the LORD replied, “Even though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD.” (Manoah did not realize that it was the angel of the LORD.)

Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that we may honor you when your word comes true?”

He replied, “Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding.” Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched: As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground. When the angel of the LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of the LORD.

“We are doomed to die!” he said to his wife. “We have seen God!”

But his wife answered, “If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this.”

As we said in the lesson we just went through, only part of the chapter is quoted here, even though the whole thing would be good to read. Notice that here the “angel of the LORD” is called a “man.” One of the reasons for this may be that this “man” is really an Old Testament appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, what theologians call “a preincarnate manifestation”, big words meaning it’s Jesus before He ever was born in the flesh. This story tells us that, after the man-angel accepted Manoah’s offering, He went up in the flame. Notice how Manoah recognized that both he and his wife had “seen God,” because they had seen “the angel of the LORD”, and Manoah’s wife said that it was “the LORD” who had “accepted a burnt offering and grain offering” from their hands.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: JUDGES 13:17-18: Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, “What is your name, so that we may honor you when your word comes true?” He replied, “Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding.”

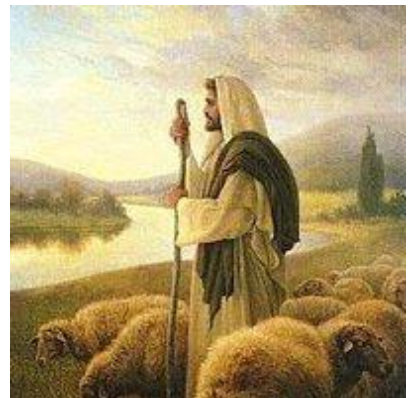
Lesson 11: Jesus Revealed In the Psalms, Part 1

Question: Which Psalm is the famous one about a shepherd? Do you know that David was actually saying that Jesus was his “shepherd” in Psalm 23?

JOHN 10:7-11:

Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”



In Psalm 23, David said that Jehovah God was his shepherd (v. 1), and he certainly would also have said that only Jehovah God was this “good shepherd,” but it was David’s greatest Son (born many generations later) who actually claimed to be “the good shepherd.” The Lord Jesus, therefore, was David’s good shepherd, and in fact He still is, for He is Jehovah Jesus.

Many believers read the Psalms as though they’re all about themselves (what philosophers call “egocentricity”), but the Psalms are really about Jesus first (they are “Christocentric”). Jesus Himself said this too: “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the...Psalms” (Luke 24:44). And Luke wrote about this: “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself” (24:27). The only way we can make the Psalms and the entire Old Testament have any meaning to us is through the Lordship of Jesus. He must be the focus, and we must follow Him and become members of His body.

Take Psalm 24, for example: Hasn’t everyone of us lifted “up his soul to an idol” (this means having things in your life which are more important than doing what God wants you to do) or sworn “by what is false” (v. 4) (this means lying)? Only the God-man, the Lord Jesus, behaved perfectly, and He alone is the LORD of the Psalms! He is the only priest we must have, too, because He is the only sacrifice we need, all this by means of faith in Him.

As we continue in Psalm 24, this greatest son of David ascended “the hill of the LORD” (v. 3) [more terrible than facing Goliath]. This “cosmic confrontation” was against Satan, when the ultimate battle of Good versus Evil would be decided. Things looked grim for a while. “David’s Son” suffered and died upon a cross and was subsequently buried in a tomb. When Sunday arrived, however, death itself was defeated, Satan was doomed, and the One with clean hands and a pure heart received “blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior” (24:5). God the Father raised God the Son in triumph from the grave!

The Psalm continues: “Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle” (vs. 7-8).

Though the Lord’s departure from this earth made His disciples sad (John 14:1), the doors and gates of Paradise must have nearly burst from their hinges and foundations when “the King of glory” returned home to heaven. Who was this King of glory--and still is and always will be? The Ruler of the universe, the Redeemer of mankind, the Creator of heaven and earth, “The LORD of hosts,” Jesus the Christ: “He is the King of glory” (v. 10).

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

**Memory Verse: JOHN 10:10-11: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”**

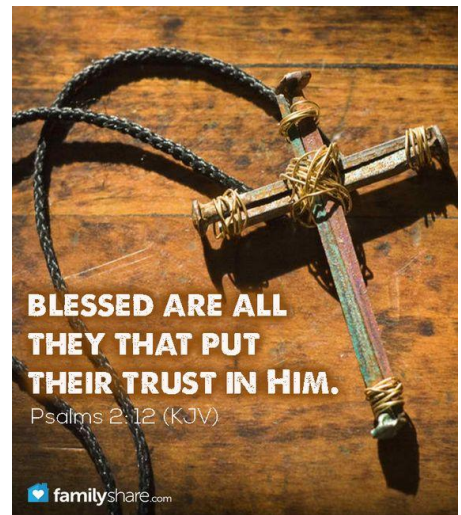
Lesson 12: Jesus Revealed In the Psalms, Part 2

Question: Who is the Son in Psalm 2?

PSALM 2:7-12:

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.
Ask of me,
and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.
You will rule them with an iron scepter;
you will dash them to pieces like pottery."
Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear and
rejoice with trembling.

**Kiss the Son, lest he be angry
and you be destroyed in your way,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**



This Psalm is about the Messiah; when it is mentioned in the New Testament (Acts 13:33, Hebrews 1:5, 5:5), it means the "Christ" (the New Testament word for Messiah). As you can see above, this Psalm talks about "the Son" by saying, "Blessed are all who take refuge in him." Psalm 34:8 talks about Jehovah by saying, "...blessed is the man who takes refuge in him." Psalm 5:11 and 34:22 say similar things too. Taking refuge in God's Son (the Messiah) is the same as taking refuge in God Himself. There is no difference. Creator Christ is the same as Jehovah Jesus. The Father loves His Son, and He wants us loving Him, too.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: PSALM 2:12: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Lesson 13: Jesus Revealed In the Psalms, Part 3

Question: How could Jesus be David's "son" and David's "Lord" at the same time?

PSALM 110:1:

The LORD says to my Lord:

**"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."**

This is a well known Bible verse which is mentioned three separate times in the New Testament: by the Lord Jesus Himself in Mt. 22:44 (and in the same story in other Bible books), by Peter (a follower of Jesus who became a special kind of missionary later on) in Acts 2:34-35, and by the author of a Bible book called Hebrews in 1:13. Jesus stated that the "Messiah" would be more than just a "descendent" (a relative born much later on, like a great grandchild) of King David of the Old Testament, but He would be David's "Lord" too. Isn't this kind of strange, at the same time to be the ruler over a king and to be born much later? Anyway, we can see in this Psalm that Jehovah God actually speaks to David's Lord. God the Father was talking to God the Son.

The author of Hebrews was saying very clearly that David's "Lord" was far greater than even the angels were! He was actually God's Son, His only Son. This is different from the kind of "sons" (or children) of God that Christians are, and Jesus Himself was very careful Himself to make sure to say that there was a difference (see John 20:17).

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: PSALM 110:1: The LORD says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Lesson 14: Jesus' Coming to Earth Foretold, Part 2

Question: Should Jesus ever be thought of as “Father”?

ISAIAH 9:6-7:

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.**

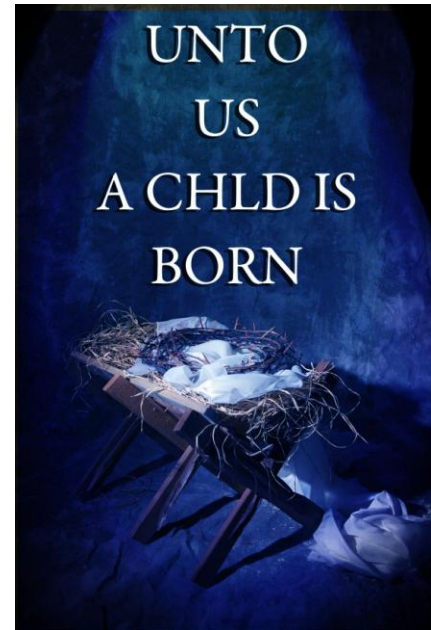
**And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.



We mentioned earlier how the Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote about a child who would be born sometime in the future. You might remember that the name given to the future child was Immanuel, but here other names are given, all of them pointing to His deity. He is called the “Mighty God,” for example; this was the name of Jehovah God in Deuteronomy 10:17, Nehemiah 9:32, and Isaiah 10:20-21. Giving divine titles to this “child” is all right, because He would be born as God in human flesh, the promised Messiah (or Christ).

But doesn't it seem a little strange to see the title “Everlasting Father” given to the Son? We are taught in other parts of the Bible that God is a Trinity, three Persons in One, so how can we call the Son the “Father” if the Trinity is true? Doesn't this cause a problem with that? No, not really. Jesus revealed His Father to His followers, and He spoke about the different Persons who are One God. God the Son is what “theologians” call the Second Person of the “Godhead” (all three Persons of God in One Being), and we should not confuse Him with God the Father (the First Person of the “Godhead”). But let's never forget that Jesus was called “Everlasting Father” in the Book of Isaiah, so the name still belongs to Him, because it reminds us that He is like a father to us, the way He protects, saves, and heals. He addressed a suffering woman with “Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you” (Mt. 9:22) and a paralyzed man with “Take heart, son...” (Mt. 9:2). He took children into His arms as a father might and called disciples “children” (Mk. 10:24).

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me

from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

**Memory Verse: ISAIAH 9:6: For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Lesson 15: Jesus' Coming to Earth Foretold, Part 3

Question: Whose voice prepared the way for Jesus?

ISAIAH 40:3, 9-11:

A voice of one calling:

**“In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God...”**

You who bring good tidings to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and his arm rules for him.

See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those that have young.



This Bible passage is unusual for several reasons. First of all, there is the statement (v. 3) that was saying that God would be coming to earth somehow. This was actually a “prophecy” which was fulfilled when John the Baptist prepared people for the “coming” of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was this “voice” (see Matthew 3:3) preparing the way for Jehovah Jesus. God in the flesh was coming soon, John said, preparing the way for Jesus.

Second, verses 9-11 speak of God’s tender care, just like a shepherd who takes care of little lambs. Do you know who fulfilled this prophecy? It was Jesus, of course! He called Himself “the good

shepherd” (John 10:11) and, gathering children like “lambs” into His arms, He blessed them (Mark 10:16).

We’ve talked about only four verses of this chapter here, but the entire chapter is full of wonderful things about Jesus.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: ISAIAH 40:3: A voice of one calling:
“In the desert prepare the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God....”

Lesson 16: Jesus’ Coming to Earth Foretold, Part 4

Question: Do we get into heaven on our own or because of Jesus? (Hint: see Rom. 5:12-19.)

JEREMIAH 23:5-6:

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.

**This is the
name by
which he will
be called:
The LORD
Our
Righteousness.”**

Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus Christ, this passage promised that a “descendant” (remember what that word means?) of

Did you know that our first parents, Adam & Eve, were parents of us all? There is only one race—the human one. Chimps are not human; they don’t have human blood. Our eye, skin, and hair colors do not make different races. Evolutionists try to divide us by race, but the Holy Bible does not. It says we are all of one blood (Acts 17:26). Anyway, we are all spiritually naked, but the Lord even gave our first parents animal skins to cover them. They tried fig leaves (man’s religion), but an animal had to be sacrificed. Guess what, that animal was a type of Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Are you covered in Jesus’ Perfect Robe of Righteousness? His Perfect Obedience can be put in your bank account—BY FAITH. You must admit that you have failed Him (have sinned against Him). He takes your filth, and you get His Righteousness—received by faith. You do not need a mere human priest because Jesus is the Great High Priest. He says, “Come to Me!” Where does it say this in the Bible? Take a look at the word “our” in Jeremiah 23:6. See Romans 3:21-22 and Mathew 11:28. Write to paulhumber@verizon.net if you need more clarification.



David would be “King” and would have a “divine” (belonging to God) name. Do you know what that name was? It was “Jehovah our Righteousness.”* It made perfect sense for King Jesus to be called “Jehovah our Righteousness”, because He is both, Jehovah and “Righteous”* (Acts 3:14, 7:52, cf. 1 Cor. 1:30).

[* “Righteous(ness)” is hard to understand, but it’s easy too; it means goodness, what is just and moral and honest. We cannot get into heaven on our own. We don’t have righteousness. If we trust Jesus, however, He will give us His righteousness. Think of it like a coat you put on. We can get into heaven if we are wearing Jesus’ coat of righteousness.]

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

**Memory Verse: JEREMIAH 23:6: This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.**

Lesson 17: Jesus In the Furnace

Question: Does Jesus ever leave or turn away from (forsake) His own people?

DANIEL 3:24-25:

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, O king.”

He said, **“Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”**



Can you guess who the “fourth” man was, the one whom King Nebuchadnezzar saw in the fire? It was actually the “angel of the LORD”, the same person who manifested Himself throughout the Old Testament era. (Try to remember some of the previous lessons we have had about this.) As we have pointed out in some earlier lessons, this must have been the Lord Jesus Christ before His “incarnation” (when He came to earth and was born as a human baby). Jesus said He would never

leave His followers nor forsake them. The three men in this story who were thrown into the fire were not “forsaken”, because He actually joined them there in the fire to protect them!

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: DANIEL 3:25: He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

Lesson 18: Jesus' Coming to Earth Fulfilled

Question: When would Jesus ever really come? Perhaps that was the question many believers of the Old Testament might have wondered about. He eventually did come, of course, and He came as a baby on the very first Christmas. (This is actually why the word “Christ” is in the word “Christmas”!) Here are two passages which can help us see how this is true:

1. MATTHEW 1:21:

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

The “son” to be born was to be named Jesus because He would some day save His people (those who believed Him) from their sins (see 1 Timothy 1:15). (His name, Jesus, means “Jehovah saves” or “Jehovah is salvation.”) This is really amazing, especially when we read Isaiah 43:11 where Jehovah says, “I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior” (see also Is. 43:25). Jesus can save people from sin because He is actually Jehovah God Himself, the only Savior who exists! See Jeremiah 31:34b and Jude 25 also.

2. LUKE 2:29-32:

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
**For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
in the sight of all people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.**



This verse says that Jesus is also the “glory” of God’s people. But Jehovah God says this very thing about Himself in Isaiah 42:8, “I am Jehovah, that is My name! I will not give My glory to another....” So how can both these be true, that God Himself will not share His glory with anyone else and that Jesus is called the glory of God’s people? The answer is that Jesus Himself is God in the flesh! Look up these other Bible passages where it says the same kind of thing about Jesus: 1 Corinthians 2:8, 2 Timothy 4:18, and Revelation 5:12-14.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: 1. MATTHEW 1:21: She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Lesson 19: Jesus Is God in Human Flesh

Question: How are we supposed to understand that there are actually three Persons in the One God? Many people make the mistake of understanding Jesus as somehow separate from God, and this is wrong. Here are three passages which say that Jesus is God in human flesh:

1. JOHN 10:27-30:

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.

In this story, the Jews wanted to stone Jesus because they thought He was just a man who thought He was God, a person who kept saying He was God, someone claiming “to be God” (verse 33), but in fact He really was and still is Jehovah, the God-man. The very reason He claimed that He “and the Father are one” is that He really is one with the Father. (Did you happen to notice how Jesus talked about His own hands being powerful like His Father’s hands!)

2. JOHN 20:28-29:

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

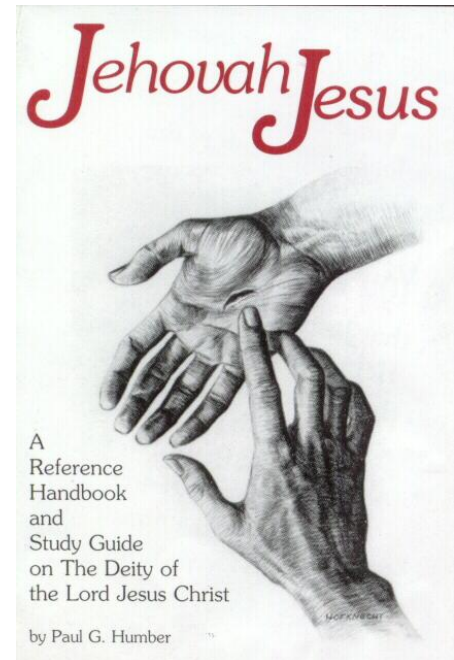
Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Thomas was one of Jesus' followers, and in this story He actually worshipped Jesus and called Him God. But notice how the Lord did not stop Thomas from doing that; He didn't say it was wrong, but instead actually encouraged the others who were in the same place to act in something like the same way. (It is our prayer, as well, that every one of you who uses these lessons will be able to do what Thomas did on that day, to worship Jesus and recognize that He is truly God!)

3. COLOSSIANS 2:9:

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...

This verse says an awful lot in not very many words. It's about Jesus being God, or His "deity". It says not just that "Deity lives" in the Lord Jesus Christ or that "the fullness of the Deity lives" in Him, but it really emphasizes that "all the fullness of the Deity lives" in Him. You can see how the Apostle Paul who wrote this letter (the Book of Colossians) didn't hold anything back when he talked about this, how everything that is God was in the Lord Jesus. Can you see this too?



Paul was a Jew who wrote and talked to other Jews, saying, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. I stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead" (Acts 23:6). He was a very educated man and knew the Old Testament really well, and he knew a lot about Jehovah God, the Lord Almighty, so, when he wrote this passage, that "all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" in Jesus Christ, he was really saying an awful lot! It's really pretty amazing that Paul who was an Old Testament-believing Jew knew enough to say without any doubt that Jesus Christ was in every way Jehovah God Almighty!

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: 1. JOHN 10:27-28: My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

Lesson 20: Jesus Calls Sinners to Himself, Part 1

Question: Do you know that you are invited to accept Jesus into your life?

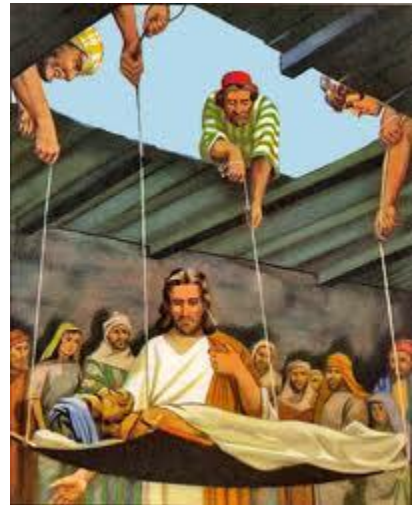
1. MARK 2:5-12:

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? **But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....**”

He said to the paralytic, **“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”



It is God alone who can forgive people’s sins (see Exodus 34:67, Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 1:18, 43:25, 55:67, Jeremiah 31:34, and Micah 7:19), but see right here in this passage how Jesus could forgive sins! So, what do you think this must mean? Doesn’t it mean that Jesus Himself had to be this very God, in order for Him to be able to do this deed, to forgive our sins!

2. MATTHEW 11:28-29:

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

The same words Jesus spoke here are like those which Jehovah God Himself said in Jeremiah 31:25: “I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint”. How could Jesus say the same thing which God said about Himself, unless He Himself was (and still is, of course) Jehovah in human form, God the Everlasting Son.

3. ROMANS 10:9:

That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

In Joel 2:32 it says, “And everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved...,” but are there two ways of being saved? One the way that the verse above from Romans says it, by confessing that Jesus is Lord, and the other way as Joel’s verse explains it, by calling on Jehovah’s name. No, there’s only one way, and that’s because Jesus is the same God as Jehovah. Anybody who calls on Jesus is calling on Jehovah.

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: MATTHEW 11:28-29: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Lesson 21: Jesus Calls Sinners to Himself, Part 2

Question: What if you could drink something that would never let you be thirsty again? Wouldn’t that be wonderful?

1. JOHN 4:13-14:

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Jesus said He was the spring of living water, but in Jeremiah 17:13 it is Jehovah God who is called “the spring of living water”! (Read Jeremiah 2:13 also.) But how can this be that both Jesus and Jehovah are called the same thing? Again, it is because Jesus is Jehovah, “the spring of living water.” (Read John 7:37 also.)



2. JOHN 7:37-38:

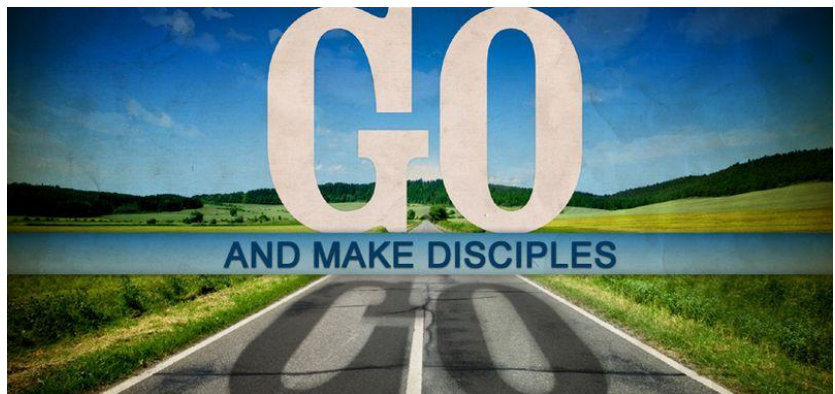
On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

Notice that Jesus says here, “Whoever believes in me,” not “Whoever believes in God.” If it were not for the truth that He Himself is God, this would be a very arrogant or prideful thing to say. But it’s okay, because Jesus is the same as God; in fact, He is God. Remember how, in John 4:13-14, Creator Christ says that He Himself is the very source of this living water.

3. MATTHEW 28:18-20:

Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

Jesus told His disciples to baptize whoever believed in Him and followed “in the name (notice there’s only one name!) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Here He was talking about the “Trinity” (God in Three Persons), and He put Himself in the middle. The Father is God (Matthew 6:9); the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:34); and Jesus, “the Son,” is God. The Trinity is one God, and this is why there is only one “name” (not names!).



Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: MATTHEW 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

Lesson 22: Jesus Offers God's Blood on Calvary

Question: Is there anything special about the blood that came out of Jesus on the cross? Here are two passages which may help give an answer.

ACTS 20:28:

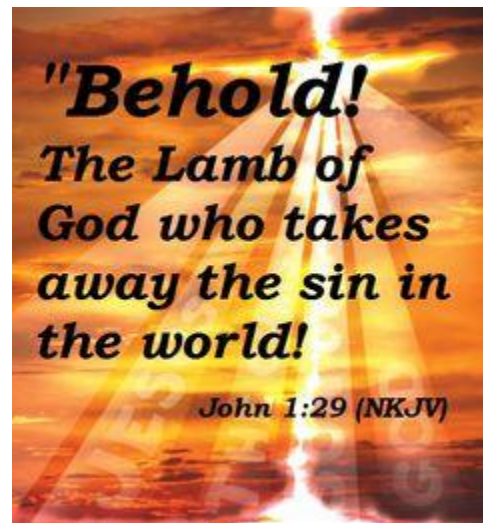
Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Believe it or not, the Bible tells us that God actually bought the church, but He didn't pay money. Instead, He paid for us "with his own blood." Of course, this means Jesus' own blood that came out of His hands, feet, and side while He was on the cross. This was actually God's "own blood," because the Lord Jesus is Jehovah God in human flesh.

JOHN 1:29:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Because God is perfect, He cannot even look at sin, so even just one sin breaks our relationship with God. Once this happens, it stays forever like that, an "offense" (something that does harm) against Him. So, how can we poor people make up for even just one sin, let alone for all the sins of the world? It is a great "mystery" (like a puzzle) that Jesus' dying on the cross was the sacrifice on the cross which would take care of our sin. Because Jesus' was (and still is) actually God in human flesh, His death on the cross was so valuable, that it was enough to take care of the sins of the whole world. Nothing less than this could pay for our sins.



Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: JOHN 1:29: The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Lesson 23: Jesus Conquers Death

Question: Is God the Son just as important as God the Father?

JOHN 5:21-23:

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, **that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.**

In these verses, notice how “the Son” is just as important as God the Father. Because we humans were created by our heavenly Father, we should always “honor”* Him, but notice in this passage how we are told to “honor” the Son “just as” much as we do the Father. But isn’t it wrong to give “just as” much honor to the creature (someone who was created) as to the One who is the Creator, God Himself? Yes, but see, Jesus is God in human flesh.

[* “Honor” means to show high respect to someone.]

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: JOHN 5:21-23: For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, **that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.**

Lesson 24: Jesus Ascended on High

Question: Where is Jesus now? Why can’t we see Him? Here are two passages that may help you to answer:

DANIEL 7:13-14:

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations

and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Over and over again, the Lord Jesus called Himself the “son of man.” This is a special title which refers to the Messiah*, or Anointed One of God. One place in the Scriptures where this title came from is here in the book of Daniel. The Person described here is more than just any “son of man”, the kind of human being we see in our everyday life. Does the One in this story sound like an ordinary person? After all, He “ascended “with the clouds” (Acts 1:9) to heaven, “approached the Ancient of Days,”** received “authority, glory and sovereign power,” and was “worshipped”, and we know that normal people can’t do these things, right? So we have to ask ourselves, “What common man would God allow to be worshipped like this? So, you see, the Lord Jesus was (and still is) the God-man, and He is therefore most worthy of being worshipped.

[* Do you remember what “Messiah” means? See Lesson 2.1 for review.]

** “The Ancient of Days” refers to God the Father.]

MATTHEW 26:63-65:

But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. **“But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”**

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.”

Besides saying that He was God’s Son*, in this quoted passage Jesus also said that He was “the Son of Man”, a name which was prophesied long before in Daniel 7:13-14. By doing this, He was saying things about Himself which belonged to God alone, so the Jews felt even more insulted.

You might wonder why Jesus didn’t seem to want to let others know about Himself, that He was actually divine, lots earlier in His ministry. That’s a very good question, and the answer is that He had to wait until the world was ready and the time was right for Him to suffer and die. Finally, though, it became time for all these things to happen, so when it was right He chose on purpose to show Himself as God, knowing that it would end in His death, which was the very reason He came into the world in the first place. (See Is. 53 and Mt. 1:21.)

[* Jews believed that calling oneself “God” or “God’s Son” was one of the worst things someone could do; they called it “blasphemy,” which also means showing no respect for God. Look up John 19:7 for more about this.]

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me

from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: DANIEL 7:13-14: In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Lesson 25: Jesus Is Coming Again

Question: Did Jesus say He would return to earth? Do you believe He will ever come back?

TITUS 2:13-14:

...while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Not only is Jesus called “Savior” again in these verses (see also Matthew 1:21), but He is actually called “our great God” here too! It might be that the Apostle Paul had some words from Deuteronomy 14:2* in his mind; that Old Testament passage really meant Jehovah God, but here it means Jesus Christ. Since Jesus is Jehovah, as we have seen over and over again in these lessons, there really is no problem with this.



Also, here in the quoted passage, Christ is mentioned as the One who redeems. In Galatians 4:5, we read that Jesus came “to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” Jesus came to “redeem” God’s people. According to Psalm 130:7-8, however, Jehovah is the One who will “redeem.” Also, in Psalm 49:7-9, we read; “No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough—that he should live on forever and not see decay.” (Compare Isaiah 48:17.) The Lord’s sacrifice was of infinite value, however, because of who He was and is, Jehovah God, the Redeemer. He fulfills the Psalmist’s hope: “But God will redeem my life from the grave; he will surely take me to himself” (Psalm

49:15). Jesus, “the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth” (Isaiah 54:5b).

(See Galatians 4:5). Do you now know what “redeem” means?

[*“for you are a people holy to Jehovah your God”]

Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn’t know You were so great. I didn’t know You made me. I didn’t know You came to this earth to save people like me. I’m sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: TITUS 2:13-14: ...while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Lesson 26: Jesus Is The Final Judge

Question: Do you know that some day God will judge us? He will sit on what the Bible calls a “Great White Throne.” Our lessons have taught us that Jesus is God, and He tells us that it is He who will sit on this throne as Judge, far greater than any judge who ever sat on what we call our Supreme Court. Our Supreme Court really is not supreme because Jesus is the Supreme Judge!

MATTHEW 25:31-40:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, **“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”**

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

If Jesus were just a human being, someone who was created by God, He would never call Himself the “Son of Man” or the “King” who would judge us, because no one but God can be given those titles and can judge. You see here that Jesus said He Himself would one day sit on a throne to judge, but the Old Testament says (in Psalm 50:6) that “God himself is judge.” We know that Jesus, who always pleased His Father, was not created like the rest of us humans, so this passage shows us that He is, in fact, the Supreme Judge of the Universe.



Some children may want to pray to Jesus. Here is a suggested prayer for them to follow:

Dear Lord Jesus. I didn't know You were so great. I didn't know You made me. I didn't know You came to this earth to save people like me. I'm sorry for all my bad things, and I ask You to save me from hell and to clean me up from all my sins. Thank You for dying on the cross. Please be the best friend all my life. Help me to worship and love You now, and I look forward to being with You forever in heaven.

Memory Verse: MATTHEW 25:34-36: Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

These lessons have been prepared by Paul G. Humber, Director of CR Ministries, Philadelphia, 2016. He can be contacted at paulhumber@verizon.net, CR Ministries Facebook, CR Ministries website, and 215-483-9846. Here he is holding his grandchild #12.

