



WEEKLY
BIBLE
STUDY

– CATECHISM SERIES –

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“GOD”

Lesson 1 ■ For week ending July 3, 2021

Today we will embark on a series of lessons taken from the Catechism of The Church of God at Jerusalem Acres. The word *catechism* simply means a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians. This series will help strengthen your knowledge of the Church’s basic teaching by answering all questions with Scriptures. Enjoy!

KEY TEXT: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

1. What is God?

- » God is a Spirit. Read John 4:24.
- » According to Acts 17:24,25, does God need anything?
- » God is Self-existent. Read Exodus 3:14.
- » According to John 5:26, He is the source of life.
- » God is the Creator of all things. Read Ephesians 3:14.
- » Colossians 1:17 expands upon this theme.

2. What are the unique characteristics of God?

- » God is infinite in being (Job 11:7-9). *Infinite* means *limitless or endless in space, extent, or size; impossible to measure or calculate.*
- » Discuss the fact that God is much bigger than anything we can or have ever seen (II Kings 8:27).
- » He is all-sufficient (Ephesians 3:20,21).
- » What does that mean for us? Read and discuss II Corinthians 9:8.
- » God is immortal and eternal (Psalm 90:2; II Timothy 6:15,16).
- » God is immutable—He cannot change. Read Malachi 3:6 and Ecclesiastes 3:15.
- » Discuss the faithfulness of Yahweh God.
- » God is omnipresent (present everywhere at the same time). Read Psalm 139:7,8 and Isaiah 66:1.
- » God is always there, always available—to each and every one of us at any time!
- » Discuss the fact that Satan is not omnipresent—he does not share this characteristic with God.

3. What supernatural powers does God have?

- » God is omniscient (knowing everything). God is the only one who knows everything about everything. Read Hebrews 4:13 and Psalm 147:5.
- » Discuss the fact that God is the only righteous judge because He knows everything about every situation (Hebrews 4:12).
- » God is omnipotent (having unlimited power; able to do anything). Read Genesis 17:1. Is there anything too hard for God to do (Jeremiah 32:27)?
- » Discuss the fact that God alone possesses these supernatural powers. Satan does not know everything nor does he have unlimited power. Satan cannot read your mind—he only knows what you are thinking by the things you say and the things you do.

4. God is supremely holy, just, and merciful and abundant in goodness and truth.

- » Read Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 15:4. The Hebrew word for *holy* is “qodesh” which means “apartness, sacredness,” or “separateness.”
- » Read and discuss Deuteronomy 32:4 and Exodus 34:6. **WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!**

“MORE ABOUT GOD”

Lesson 2 ■ For week ending July 10, 2021

Today we will continue our study about God. We will learn what His name means, whether or not He is the only God, and how many persons make up the Godhead. We will also discuss the role of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let's go....

KEY TEXT: “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (John 1:18).

1. What is the name of God and what does it mean?

- » The name which God Himself chose as a revelation of Himself is Yahweh (YHWH), which means I AM THAT I AM, or I am the cause of my own being.
- » Read Exodus 3:14,15 and Hosea 12:5.
- » The name Yahweh occurs more than 6,800 times in the Old Testament. It appears in every book but Esther, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs.

2. Are there more gods than one?

- » There is only one true and living God.
- » Read Isaiah 43:10 and I Corinthians 8:6.
- » The introduction of other false gods began when Satan/Lucifer allowed pride to arise in his heart before Creation. This resulted in him being cast down from heaven together with one-third of the angels that he deceived. Read Isaiah 14:12-15 and Revelation 12:3,4,7-9.

3. How many persons are in the Godhead?

- » The Godhead is manifest in three persons: the Father (Yahweh), the Son (Yahshua), and the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh).
- » These three are one God and the same in substance, although distinguished by their personal properties.
- » Read Matthew 3:16,17. Here we can see the 3 manifestations of God all at the same time. **Jesus the Son** was being baptized. The **Holy Spirit** descended like a dove. And, **God the Father** said, “*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*”
- » Discuss the command that Jesus gave His followers in Matthew 28:19.

4. What is the role of the Yahweh God the Father?

- » The Father is the invisible, unrevealed God who is manifest only through His Word (Son) and His Spirit.
- » Read I Timothy 6:16. God is revealed to us by His Son, Jesus, according to John 1:18. “Jesus” is the English translation of “Yahshua”. *Yahshua* literally means *Yah (God) saves*.
- » God is also revealed to us by His Holy Spirit (Ruach Hakodesh).
- » Read I Corinthians 2:10.
- » Genesis 1:1-3, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.*” In this example we see the 3 persons of the Godhead working together. Yahweh God **willed it**, Yahshua (the Word) **spoke it**, and Ruach HaKodesh—the Holy Spirit—**did the work**. Confirm this by reading John 1:1-3.



“JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Lesson 3 ■ For week ending July 17, 2021

Last week we learned that the Godhead consists of 3 persons: the Father (Yahweh), the Son (Yahshua/Jesus), and the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh). This week we will define the role of the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is amazing and the more we understand about Him and the way He works, the more we realize **WHAT AN AWESOME GOD WE SERVE!**

KEY TEXT: (JESUS SPEAKING) “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38).

1. What is the role of the Son–Yahshua (Jesus)?

- » The Son exists to reveal the Father. Read John 1:1,14,18.
- » When Jesus voluntarily lowered Himself below the angels to suffer death, He took on the form of human flesh (Hebrews 2:9).
- » Remember how Jesus had to bring His flesh under subjection in the Garden of Gethsemane? Jesus revealed His mission on this earth: He came to do the will of His Father (Luke 22:41,42).
- » While no one has seen the Father, if you have seen Jesus, He is the express image of His Father.
- » Read and discuss John 14:8-11.

2. Jesus came to create all things and to redeem mankind.

- » The Apostle Paul gave a great summation of Jesus’ purpose on this earth. Read Colossians 1:9-18.
- » Emphasize Colossians 1:16 which says, “**For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.**”
- » When mankind chose to obey Satan rather than God in the Garden of Eden, they gave their rightful dominion over this earth to Satan. Jesus came to redeem mankind and to restore their right-standing with God.
- » Read Hebrews 1:1-3 and Philippians 2:6-8.
- » Jesus Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth, gave His life so that you and I could experience salvation and have eternal life (Revelation 13:8; John 3:16). **THANK YOU JESUS!**

3. What is the role of the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh)?

- » The Holy Spirit is the motive force of God. In other words, God *wills or commands it*, and the Holy Spirit *does the work* (Genesis 1:1-3). God **WILLED IT**, Jesus **SPOKE IT**, the Holy Spirit **DID IT**.
- » The Holy Spirit is also the revealer of the Father and the Son.
- » Notice what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 15:26. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all work as ONE. They all do and speak the same thing—because they are ONE.
- » Discuss what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 16:13.
- » The Holy Spirit also acts as our guarantee (Ephesians 1:13,14). When Jesus was preparing to return to the Father in Heaven, He told His followers that He would not leave them as orphans.
- » Read John 14:15-18, “*If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*”
- » The Holy Spirit helps you and I when we are weak. Read and discuss Romans 8:26,27.

“GOD’S WORD”

Lesson 4 ■ For week ending July 24, 2021

We’ve spent three weeks learning about the Godhead. Today, we are going to discuss how it is that God communicates with mankind. The truth is that God speaks to us through His Word. The Holy Bible is a phenomenal account of history, comprised of 66 books, written over approximately 2000 years, by at least 40 distinct authors. The Old Testament (Old Covenant) contains 39 books written from approximately 1500 to 400 BC, and the New Testament (New Covenant) contains 27 books written from approximately 40 to 90 AD.

KEY TEXT: “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

1. How does God communicate with man?

- » God speaks to man through His Word. Read Hebrews 1:1,2 and Acts 3:22.
- » What is the Word of God? The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible are the written record of the Word of God.
- » Read II Timothy 3:15. Discuss the use of the word *holy* to describe the Scriptures.
- » Read Romans 16:26 and Mark 7:13.

2. How do we know that the Scriptures are the Word of God?

- » Though they were written by some 40 authors over a period of more than 2,000 years, the 66 books of the Holy Scripture are in harmony and convey one central theme—the salvation of mankind through Jesus Christ. By this we know that they are the Word of God.
- » How were the authors able to retain and recall specific words and accounts of what happened? According to II Peter 1:21, the Holy Spirit helped and motivated them.
- » II Timothy 3:16 confirms that God inspired men to write and record His Word.
- » God’s Word is powerful. Read Hebrews 4:12 to understand the power that it contains.
- » God’s Word is the standard upon which we are to establish all truth. According to I John 4:1, we are supposed to “test” the spirits. How do we do that? By comparing them with the Word of God.

3. What is the purpose of the Word of God?

- » God gave His Word to reveal His will to mankind. Read Psalm 19:7,8.
- » God also gave His Word to bring mankind to repentance. Read II Timothy 3:15.
- » Finally, God’s Word is essential to instruct you and I in righteousness and good works.
- » Read II Timothy 3:16,17.

4. How does God confirm His Word to us?

- » By divine principle every word is established in the mouth of two or three witnesses.
- » Ever wonder how so many different doctrines and traditions have evolved from ONE BIBLE? It is essential that Biblical doctrines and mandates be established by two or three witnesses.
- » A lot of erroneous doctrines have come forth from the misinterpretation of one Scripture. Biblical doctrines and concepts must agree *with all Scriptures*.
- » Read Isaiah 28:10. Biblical doctrines must line up with other relevant Scriptures.
- » Even Jesus subjected Himself to the “two or three witnesses” principle.
- » When Jesus reappeared to His disciples after His crucifixion—they didn’t believe it was Him.
- » Read Luke 24:36-45. In verse 44 Jesus uses the 2 or 3 witness principle to establish who He was: He referenced the passages in (1) The Law of Moses, (2) the Prophets, and (3) the Psalms concerning Him—the Messiah.

“CREATION”

Lesson 5 ■ For week ending July 31, 2021

Today we are going to talk about Creation. Hang onto your seats as we debunk society’s Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection (Charles Darwin)!!!

KEY TEXT: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made through Him...”* (John 1:1-3, partial quote).

1. What was the first work of Creation?

- » The first things which God created out of nothing were the heaven and the earth.
- » Read Genesis 1:1 and Hebrews 1:10.
- » It is by faith in God that we understand the power of God to speak things into existence out of nothing! Read Hebrews 11:3.

2. What beings did God create to inhabit heaven?

- » The angels were created to inhabit the heavenly realm.
- » Read Matthew 18:10; II Thessalonians 1:7; and Psalm 148:1-4.
- » What was the state of the angels that God created?
- » In their creation the angels were perfect, pure and innocent. Read Ezekiel 28:12,14,15.
- » The angels were also endowed with eternal life. Read Hebrews 2:9 and Matthew 22:30.

3. What was the purpose of the angels?

- » The angels were created to worship God day and night in heaven.
- » Read Revelation 4:8 and Hebrews 1:6.
- » God also uses angels as His messengers to creation.
- » Read Matthew 4:11 and Hebrews 1:14.

4. How did God create mankind?

- » Man was created by God male and female: the male was formed from the dust of the ground, and the female was made from the rib of the male (Genesis 2:22).
- » Read Genesis 1:26-28. Notice that God said we were created in His image. So, if you want to know what God looks like—look at your neighbor!
- » While the theory of evolution would have us believe that we evolved over time, God plainly tell us that He created us from dust (Genesis 2:7).
- » God’s account is clearly the truth since upon our death, we return to the dust that we were created from! Read Ecclesiastes 12:7.
- » While some say that it takes a lot of faith to believe we were created by God, the truth is that it takes MUCH MORE FAITH to believe that we evolved from a mass of cells that emerged from the sea.
- » The truth is that we were created by a loving God who also gave His creation dominion over the earth.
- » Genesis 1:27,28, *“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**”*
- » Next week we will discuss God’s purpose for creating mankind.

“GOD’S PURPOSE FOR MANKIND”

Lesson 6 ■ For week ending August 7, 2021

Last week we talked about Creation. This week we are going to discuss God’s purpose for mankind. Have you ever wonder what God was thinking when He created us? If He knew we would fail, why did He still make us? Today’s lesson will investigate God’s purpose for mankind.

KEY TEXT: “*This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise*” (Isaiah 43:21).

1. What was the state of man in his creation?

- » Man was created in the image of God innocent and pure (Genesis 1:27).
- » God created man with a immortal body (remember, we were made in His image) and an immortal soul (Genesis 2:7). However; when Adam and Eve sinned, mortality entered the picture. God warned them that if they sinned, they would surely die. Thus each person born thereafter was born mortal and with a sinful nature (Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23).
- » Just as God consists of 3 persons in One (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), so mankind consists of 3 components: Body, Spirit, and Soul (I Thessalonians 5:23).
- » When we die, (1) our BODY returns to dust (Ecclesiastes 12:7a), (2) our SPIRIT—or breath of life—returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7b), and (3) our SOUL—the immortal part of us—either goes to heaven or hell depending on the choices we have made in our life (Genesis 2:7; Revelation 20:4; Luke 16:19-31).
- » God created mankind lower than the angels but superior to the rest of creation. Read Hebrews 2:9 and Job 35:11.

2. What was the purpose of mankind?

- » Man was created by God to worship and glorify Him. Read Isaiah 43:21 and Matthew 4:10.
- » Man was also created to care for the earth—to be caretakers. Read Genesis 2:15.
- » God also created mankind to populate the earth and have dominion over it.
- » Genesis 1:28,29, *“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.”*

3. Mankind was created by God to replace what had been lost in heaven.

- » God has always existed. Consider Psalm 90:2, *“Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”*
- » His authority—or throne—has always been. Psalm 93:2, *“Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.”*
- » Revelation 12:7-9 says that a war took place in heaven before Creation and Michael and his angels cast out Satan/Lucifer and his angels (Matthew 25:41). According to Jude verse 6, there were angels who “did not keep their proper domain.” What does that mean? One third of them were cast out of heaven and thrown to the earth (Revelation 12:3,4).
- » What caused this war? Satan/Lucifer’s rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-15).
- » So, the perfect paradise—that God had inhabited for millenniums—suffered a horrific rebellion which resulted in a war which booted Satan and his disloyal angels to the earth.
- » When God created mankind, he created them with free will. His purpose for mankind is summarized in Revelation 21:7. WE SHALL OVERCOME!

“SIN”

Lesson 7 ■ For week ending August 14, 2021

Last week we began a discussion about God’s purpose for mankind. This week we will talk about the consequences that all of us suffered because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience which introduced SIN into the Garden of Eden and unfortunately into all of our lives. The GOOD NEWS is that God had already orchestrated a plan to save us from death and restore us to eternal life through His Son, Yahshua, which literally means *God (Yah) Saves (Shua means Savior)*.

KEY TEXT: (God speaking to Satan/Serpent) “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15).

1. What are the unique characteristics of angels and man that differed from the rest of creation?

- » Both the angels and man were created with free moral agency, the right to choose for themselves between good and evil.
- » Read Ezekiel 28:15 and II Samuel 14:17.
- » Read Genesis 2:16,17 and discuss the command that God had given Adam.
- » As we discussed last week, the one-third of angels in heaven did not maintain their original estate.
- » What was the penalty for the sin of the angels that rebelled against God? Read II Peter 2:4 and Revelation 12:7-9

2. Did man maintain his original estate?

- » Satan, the serpent, was the agent who beguiled Eve, who in turn enticed Adam, to partake of the forbidden fruit, thereby disobeying the commandment of God.
- » Read Genesis 3:1,4,5 and II Corinthians 11:3.
- » What was the penalty for the sin of mankind (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23)?
- » When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, what changed? Read and discuss (Genesis 3:22,23).
- » Discuss the re-emergence of the Tree of Life in Revelation 22:1,2.

3. What was the common error of the angels that fell and of mankind that fell?

- » Both the angels and man made the mistake of rebelling against God in disobedience.
- » Read Ezekiel 28:15 and Romans 5:19.
- » What is sin? Sin is the lack of conformity to or the transgression of any law of God.
- » Read I John 3:4 and Romans 2:14,15.

4. Was the sin of Adam imputed to all mankind?

- » Because of the sin of Adam and Eve all their descendants were included as sinners from their conception and birth.
- » Read Romans 5:12 and Psalm 51:5.
- » Is man within himself able to deal with sin? Man is totally incapable of remedying his sinful condition through his own power and ability.
- » Read Romans 3:20; Ephesians 2:13; and Romans 3:9,23.

5. Did God leave man forever in the fallen state of sin and judgment?

- » It was in the plan of God from the foundation of the world that fallen man should be redeemed.
- » We will start on that lesson next week!

“REDEEMED—HOW I LOVE TO PROCLAIM IT!”

Lesson 8 ■ For week ending August 21, 2021

Last we discuss the fall of mankind and the subsequent expulsion from the Garden of Eden paradise. This we will discuss God’s plan of salvation for mankind. Aren’t you glad you serve a God who has your best interest at heart? God always has a plan to receive and restore mankind.

KEY TEXT: *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly”* (Romans 5:6).

1. Did God leave man forever in the fallen state of sin and judgment?

- » It was in the plan of God from the foundation of the world that fallen man should be redeemed.
- » Read I Peter 1:19,20 and reread the Key Text Romans 5:6.
- » What is the only means of atoning for sin that God accepts?
- » The shedding of blood is the only sacrifice which atones for sin.
- » Read Hebrews 9:22 and Leviticus 17:11.

2. Where did God’s plan of salvation begin?

- » The manifestation of the plan of salvation first occurred in the sacrifice of an animal to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21).
- » When was the promise of a Savior first given? The promise of a Savior was first given to Adam and Eve immediately after their sin before they were cast out of the Garden of Eden.
- » Read Genesis 3:15, *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her **Seed**; **He** shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise **His** heel.”*
- » Discuss the fact that each of the **highlighted words** are a reference to Jesus Christ—the Savior of the world (Galatians 3:16).
- » How was God’s will to save mankind confirmed in Noah?
- » After God saved Noah and his family from the flood, He made a universal covenant with all mankind that He would never again destroy the earth with water and signified it with the sign of a rainbow (Genesis 9:12,13).

3. How was the plan of salvation covenanted with Abraham?

- » The plan of salvation was made a covenant to Abraham and his family through faith when Yahweh chose Abraham.
- » Read Genesis 17:4,5,7 and Galatians 3:16,17,29.
- » What was the basis of the covenant of salvation to Abraham?
- » The basis on which God’s covenant was confirmed to Abraham was FAITH.
- » Read Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:3.
- » What peoples were to be blessed in the covenant of salvation to Abraham?
- » All the peoples of the earth were to be blessed through God’s covenant with Abraham (Galatians 3:8; Genesis 12:3).

4. What was Abraham’s work of faith that revealed the coming Savior?

- » In the offering of Isaac upon the altar, Abraham set forth the shadow of the Savior who would come to redeem mankind. Read Genesis 22:8,9,11-13.
- » During the time of Moses, God set before the children of Israel—for the first time—a choice between life and death (Romans 5:14; Deuteronomy 30:19).

“THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST”

Lesson 9 ■ For week ending August 28, 2021

Last week we discussed the fact that God had a plan to redeem fallen mankind from the clutches of death. This plan is—and has always been—predicated on the person of Jesus Christ. Today we will study in depth what the Scriptures tell us about our Lord and Savior.

KEY TEXT: “*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly*” (Romans 5:6).

1. Who is the personification and fulfillment of the plan of salvation?

- » Jesus Christ—Messiah Yahshua—is the person of the Godhead who became salvation to the human race.
- » Read Luke 24:27,44.
- » Why is He called Jesus (the English transliteration of the Jewish name Yahshua)?
- » The Son of God was called Jesus (Yahshua) because He was to be God (Yah) in the role of Savior (-shua) to save mankind from their sins.
- » Read Matthew 1:21 and Acts 5:31.

2. Why is Jesus called Christ?

- » Since the word *Christ* means *anointed or messiah*, Jesus was called Christ because He was the Anointed One of God, the Messiah.
- » Read Luke 4:18; John 1:41 and Acts 4:26,27.
- » Why is Jesus called the Son of God?
- » Jesus is the Son of God, begotten of one substance with the Father, begotten and not created, in every sense very God.
- » Read John 1:1,14; I Timothy 3:16; John 3:16 and Colossians 2:9.

3. Why is Jesus called the Son of Man?

- » When the Son of God came to earth to save mankind from their sins, He became a true human being in every sense of the word by limiting His deity to humanity. For this reason He was called the Son of Man.
- » Read Hebrews 2:14,16 and Philippians 2:5-7.
- » Why was it essential for the Savior to be God?
- » Since no man could save himself from sin, the only way in which God’s salvation could be extended to mankind was for God to become man (I John 4:9,10; I John 5:20; Hebrews 1:3).

4. Why was it essential that Jesus be born of a virgin?

- » Since the nature of sin is an inherited characteristic, if Jesus had been conceived through the normal human reproductive process, He would have been conceived in sin and would have been no different from any other human being; therefore, He was conceived supernaturally of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary.
- » Read and discuss Isaiah 7:14; Hebrews 10:5; and Romans 8:3,4.
- » How was Jesus conceived of the virgin Mary?
- » Jesus was conceived as the Holy Spirit overshadowed the virgin Mary.
- » Read Luke 1:30,34,35.
- » Did Jesus in every way partake of humanity? Jesus was in every way a proper human being, experiencing all the needs and emotions of humanity (Luke 2:52; 4:2; John 19:28; John 11:34,35).

“THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST—Continued”

Lesson 10 ■ For week ending September 4, 2021

Last week we began to study the person of Jesus Christ. Today we will continue our journey to discover more and more about our blessed Savior.

KEY TEXT: *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).*

1. In His Judaeen ministry, what office did Jesus fulfill?

- » During the time that Jesus ministered on earth, He was a prophet (Acts 3:22; Matthew 21:11; 13:57).
- » What was Jesus’ message as a prophet? Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was at hand.
- » Read Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14,15; and Acts 1:3.
- » Why was it necessary for Jesus to live a sinless life?
- » Jesus lived a life without sin, overcoming every temptation that is common to man, so that He might be victorious over sin and death and provide a perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind.
- » Read I Peter 2:21-24; I John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14; 9:26; and II Corinthians 5:21.

2. What qualified Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for sin?

- » The two things which qualified Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for sin were His deity and His sinless humanity.
- » Read Philippians 2:6,8 and Hebrews 7:26,27.
- » How was Jesus made the sacrifice for sin?
- » Jesus was crucified on the cross of Calvary at the hands of both the Jews and the Gentiles.
- » Read Luke 23:33; Colossians 1:20-22; and Acts 4:17,28; 2:23.

3. What greater effect did the sacrifice of Jesus have on sin than the sacrifices of the Law did?

- » The sacrifices of the Law could only remit sins past; the sacrifice of Jesus remits both sins past and destroys the root of sin, thus cleansing the conscience of the believer.
- » Read Hebrews 9:9-14. Discuss how that the Old Testament sacrifices pale when compared to the sacrifice of Jesus (Romans 8:3,4).
- » Read Hebrews 7:19-22. Discuss the “better covenant” that we enjoy today.

4. How far-reaching was the atonement of the sacrifice of Jesus?

- » The sacrifice for sin which Jesus made in His body provided atonement for all the sins of mankind, past, present, and future.
- » Read Hebrews 10:10-12; and John 3:17.
- » Is there ever a need for another sacrifice for sin besides the one which Jesus offered?
- » Read Hebrews 10:14; 9:28; and 10:26.
- » What happened to Jesus after His death that proved His divinity and the success of His mission to redeem mankind?
- » After Jesus died and was buried, He descended into Hell and the third day was resurrected bodily to ascend to God.
- » Read I Peter 3:18-20; Ephesians 4:8,9; and Acts 2:30-32.
- » In what way does the resurrection of Christ assure our justification from sin? The bodily resurrection of Jesus proved that He lived a perfect life and died an atoning death which justifies the believer from sin (I Peter 1:3; Romans 4:24,25; I Corinthians 15:14,17).

“JESUS WAS BORN ON TISHRI 15–Part 1”

Lesson 11 ■ For week ending September 11, 2021

In the May 11-13, 2021 Council of Apostles and Elders, The Church of God at Jerusalem Acres accepted as church doctrine that Jesus Christ was born on Tishri 15—which is the start of the annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration. As the Feast of Tabernacles approaches this year (September 21-28), we will be able to celebrate this convocation anew with a fresh understanding of an event that changed our world.

KEY TEXT: *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4:4).*

1. The Church of God Jerusalem Acres has taught for years that Jesus Christ was born during the Feast of Tabernacles—a yearly celebration of the harvest in the Old Testament economy.

- » However, we never made a point of trying to identify the actual date that Jesus was born.
- » We know the day that Jesus died: Wednesday, Abib 14, the Day of Passover. We readily admit that was the day some 2,000 years ago that changed our lives and gave us hope of a bright future.
- » However, we must also admit that Passover could never have happened if Jesus had not been born 33½ years earlier on Tishri 15 (the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles).
- » Read Galatians 4:1-5. The Apostle Paul used the phrase, *“when the fullness of time had come,”* to describe the birth of Jesus.
- » The use of that phrase tells us that Jesus was born at a very specific time. His birth was not random or spur of the moment. It was a defined, well-organized event of monumental proportions.

2. The key to understanding the timing of Jesus’ birth is found in a passage in the book of Isaiah.

- » Let’s breakdown Isaiah 9:2-7,
 - 2 *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*
 - » This is in direct correlation with Luke 2:9 when the shepherds beheld an angel and a great light when Jesus was born.
 - 3 *You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*
 - » This great light shines when you are rejoicing over the harvest in the Fall.
 - » Tabernacles is a celebration of the harvest. **It occurred on the exact same day of the same month every year.** There was no guessing as to when you would celebrate the harvest.
 - » **LEVITICUS 23:39a**, *“Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month [Tishri15], when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days...”*
 - » The celebration/joy of the harvest was at a very specific time of the year. It wasn’t random—it was a set time: Tishri 15—THE FIRST DAY OF TABERNACLES.
 - 4 *For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian.*
 - 5 *For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire.*
 - » What happens on the 15th day of the 7th month (Tishri 15)? **JESUS IS BORN!**
 - 6 *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
 - 7 *Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*

3. God was very specific as He instructed the Israelites concerning His feast dates in the Old Testament.

- » He was not vague when He defined His feast dates and what He wanted done on those dates.
- » We all know the story of how God used the Roman Government to call for a census (Luke 2:1-3) that required Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem (Luke 2:4-7) so that the prophecies concerning Jesus’ birth could be fulfilled (Micah 5:2).

“JESUS WAS BORN ON TISHRI 15–Part 2”

Lesson 12 ■ For week ending September 18, 2021

Last week we shared with you a new church doctrine concerning the birth of Jesus Christ some 2,000 years ago. In the May, 2021, Council of Apostles and Elders the church officially recognized Tishri 15 as the day that Jesus was born. Tishri is the 7th month of the Jewish Calendar. This year, Tishri 15 falls on Tuesday, September 21.

KEY TEXT: “*And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb*” (Luke 2:21).

1. God’s feast dates are special times of the year.

- » Read Leviticus 23:1,2.
- » What does the word *feast* mean? It means *properly an appointment, a fixed time or season, appointed (sign, time)*.
- » Notice that part of the definition of this word is that it could mean an appointed *sign* or *time*. We know that when Christ was born, a particular SIGN was shown.
- » **LUKE 2:8-12**, “*Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 **And this will be the sign to you:** You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”*”

2. Jesus was born on the first day of the Feast (Tishri 15) and circumcised on the last day (Tishri 22).

- » Jesus’ birth was not a random event that could take place on any given date. Jesus was born on a very specific date, at a specific place, and at a specific time in history.
- » **LUKE 2:21**, “*And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.*”
- » Since Jesus was born on the first day of the feast, that would mean He was circumcised on the last day of the great feast.
- » Circumcision was a sign of God’s covenant with His people (Genesis 17:10-14).
- » Ever wonder why Tabernacles lasted 8 days (Leviticus 23:36)? God in His great foreknowledge knew that His Son would be born—and subsequently circumcised—during this great Feast.

3. Joseph and Mary remained in Bethlehem until the time that they could present Jesus “to the Lord” at the Temple in Jerusalem.

- » The Law had very detailed instructions concerning the birth of children and the “uncleanness” of women after birth. Read Leviticus 12:2-6.
- » Because Mary had a male child, Jesus, she had to wait a total of 40 days before she could present Him, along with the required sacrifices, at the Temple in Jerusalem (Luke 2:22-24).
- » God instructed the Israelites to dwell in booths only during a certain time during the year: THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Leviticus 23:42,43).
- » Discuss the parallels of Jesus being born in a manger while the Israelites were celebrating the harvest in booths (Luke 2:12).
- » Finally, John summed up what happened at Tabernacles when Jesus was born in John 1:14.

“UNDERSTANDING PERSPECTIVE”

Lesson 13 ■ For week ending September 25, 2021

Let's talk about the issue of *perspective* and how it relates to effectively communicating with people. *Perspective* simply means *a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view*. We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge that we all have our particular and unique perspective/point-of-view with regard to society, politics, family life, marriage, religion, food, and so forth! We obtained our unique perspective by the way we were raised, the region in which we were born, and the social atmosphere at that particular time as well. Perspective-taking is the neglected secret of effective human interaction!

KEY TEXT: “Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another” (Romans 12:10).

1. Our job as believers is to effectively share the Good News of the Gospel that Jesus died to save you from your sins (Matthew 28:19,20).

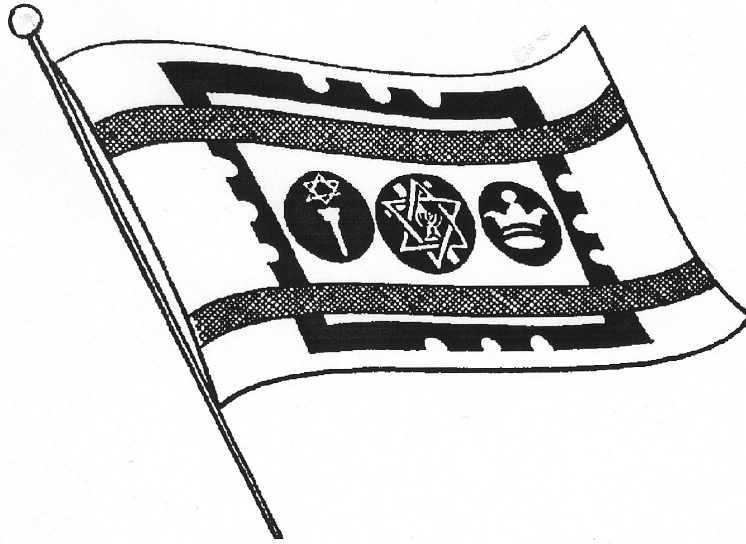
- » One of the ways that we can become more effective, is by considering the *perspective* of the person/audience to whom we are talking.
- » Consider the words of Jesus found in Matthew 10:16. Part of what Jesus was saying was to *know to whom you are speaking, then speak appropriately*. Read Acts 17:22-34 and discuss Paul's method of effectively sharing the Gospel without offending the idol-worshippers (which resulted in new converts [verse 34]).
- » When we consider one another's perspective, we heighten our chances of efficiently communicating with them in a meaningful way (Proverbs 15:1; James 1:26).
- » If a person cannot take into account the perspective of opponents, then his or her understanding of the issue is limited and incomplete (Philippians 2:4).

2. Social perspective-taking is the ability to understand how a situation appears to another person and how that person is reacting cognitively and emotionally.

- » **COGNITIVE** – *of or relating to the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment, and reasoning*.
- » Consider the words of Paul found in I Corinthians 9:22.
- » The opposite of perspective-taking is egocentrism (*def. thinking only of oneself, and without regard for the feelings or desires of others; self-centered*) or being unaware that other perspectives exist and that one's own point-of-view of the situation or issue is incomplete and limited.
- » **RACISM** – We have heard a lot of discussion about racism in our society. It's important to take into consideration the perspective of the person speaking. While you may not have experienced racism in your life—and thus consider the issue overblown or non-existent—others that have experienced long-term racism have a different perspective regarding the issue. Instead of dismissing each other, we must take time to consider the perspective of the person to whom we are speaking (Proverbs 21:2; Hebrews 10:24).
- » Misunderstandings often occur because we assume that everyone sees things from the same perspective as we do (Philippians 2:3; Ephesians 4:2).

3. Perspective-taking is not about COMPROMISE—the lowering of biblical standards to win more people—we are talking about effectively COMMUNICATING with those around us.

- » The truth of God's Word cannot be compromised; however, the way in which we share God's Word is vital. If we do not consider someone's perspective, we often fail to effectively communicate anything influential.
- » If we offend someone by neglecting to consider their individual perspective, then we have lost all opportunity to minister to them in any respect. What does the Bible say about offending people (Proverbs 18:19a; Matthew 18:6)?
- » Consider the account of Jesus and the woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8:2-11). Jesus empathized and showed her mercy while ministering to the crowd as well (“Ye without sin...”). Jesus did not compromise the truth and He managed to show love and compassion and minister to a hurting woman (John 3:16,17). Perspective-taking is the neglected secret of constructive problem solving and effective human interaction (Isaiah 18:1, “Come now, and let us reason together...”).



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