



## To Be a Disciple

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Thank you for your request for the Bible Course "To Be A Disciple". The Bible is God's message to us. It teaches us about God, about His plan and purpose, and leads us to His Son, Jesus Christ. We hope that this Course will help you in your reading and studying of God's message.

This study course consists of ten lessons. We are sending you the first two lessons of the Course with this letter. The remaining eight lessons will arrive two at a time every other week.

Each lesson contains Suggested Readings and Gospel Readings. The suggested readings pertain to the specific topic under consideration in the lesson. Since so much of the course is about the Gospel, or the "good news", the Gospel Readings are designed to cover one of the four gospels, that of Mark, throughout the course.

Each lesson also contains a page of review questions. Please spend some time with these. Questions often help us to clarify our thinking and give us an opportunity to see if we really have learned and internalized the things we are studying. You may return the question sheets if you wish along with any questions that you may have.

Thank you for your interest in this greatest of all books, The Holy Bible, and your desire to learn more about discipleship.

May God bless your studies,  
The members of Fair Oaks Community Church of God  
Church of God, General Conference and Atlanta Bible College  
<http://www.abc-coggc.org>

PS If you would like to have one, we are offering a "Certificate of Completion" when you finish the course. Each lesson includes questions on the lesson and readings. Answer the questions and send the responses to us. We won't grade them, since they are for your own learning; but we will offer comments or answer questions if you so desire. At the end of the course when we have received all your answers, we will forward to you a "Certificate of Completion".

# To Be A Disciple

## LESSON ONE

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?

#### Suggested Readings:

Luke 24  
I Timothy 3:10-17

#### Gospel Reading:

Mark 1

#### Welcome!

Welcome to the Bible Study Course "To Be A Disciple"! Jesus Christ was born into this world more than 2,000 years ago. He is the promised Jewish Messiah, he is the savior of the world, he is the Son of God. He calls everyone to turn from following their own goals and desires and become his disciples, his followers in serving the Almighty God. He wants everyone to come to him because it is only by coming to him that each person can be saved from eternal death.

All of these things we learn from the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. The Bible says of itself that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God (or God-breathed as another translation has it), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16,17 KJV) Being "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" means that it is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" as another version expresses it. This righteousness, (or rightness with God), as Paul says, comes from God and is by faith. The Lord Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of God's plan for clothing this world in righteousness. In view of this expression of truth, this course will draw primarily on the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, though many times it will be necessary to look at the Old Testament foundation of these teaching and to the writings in the New Testament of Jesus' disciples and apostles in its attempt to be a source of teaching and training in righteousness to you the student.

#### Being a Disciple

To be a disciple of Christ is not only to study the things he taught, but also to put them into practice in our lives. The dictionary definition of the word disciple is a pupil or follower of any teacher or school. When we think of the word disciple our imagination conjures up a picture of students seated at the feet of a master absorbing every word of wisdom and truth that flows from the mouth of the master. Through this course you will do just that. You will sit at the feet of the Great Teacher and attempt to gain his perspective on what the heavenly Father wants his children to know, to do, and to be.

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## The Way, the Truth, and the Life

At one point when Jesus talked to his disciples about leaving, he said, "You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas then replied to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" To this Jesus replied, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

In this simple, yet profound, statement he was summing up all that his being and his teaching would mean to the life of his disciples. He was and is the way, the truth and the life. Following him was all the direction they would ever need. Accepting him as the Christ or the Messiah would be the essence of all the truth that God has in store for this earth and a disciple's individual salvation. Believing him and following him is the only way that one can approach the Father, the only way that leads to eternal life.

## I Am The Way

It is true that if we are to draw near to God in any way at all, we must approach him through the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts chapter 4, verse 12 tells us "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (NIV) With this expression of the role that Jesus plays in God's plan of salvation and His way of making peace with mankind, it follows that a study course about these things would focus on what Jesus said and did. The first disciples learned and were motivated by the words and actions of Jesus. As we progress through this course, we too will be motivated and guided by the words and the way of life of Jesus.

Early on, the Christians, or those who followed Jesus, were referred to as the Way. Before the conversion of Saul, who later became Paul, we read these words in Acts 9:1-2; "Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to *the Way*, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem." (NIV) Later on after his conversion he was preaching in the synagogue to the Jews and we read "But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned *the Way*. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus." (Acts 19:9 NIV)

Jesus had indeed provided the direction or path for his disciples to follow. He was the way and he had shown them the way. It was natural that the term "the Way" would become significant in identifying the early disciples.

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## I Am The Truth

Truth in a dictionary sense is "what is true in any matter under consideration (opposed to what is feigned, fictitious, or false)." Even the Pharisees, a prominent group of religious leaders, recognized this when they tried to trap him in his words. "They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. 'Teacher,' they said, 'we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?'" (Matthew 22:16-17 NIV) Paul in his letter to the Romans has an interesting comment in chapter 15, verse 8; "For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs...." (NIV) We will look more closely at the promises made to the fathers in a future lesson. What Paul is saying is that God's truth is to be found in the teachings of Jesus.

## I Am The Life

The life that Jesus is referring to when he says "I am the way, the truth, and the life" is life in its fullest sense. It refers to both a quality of life now and eternal life in the future. One way to look at it is first to look at life without Jesus. Life outside of Jesus is less than what God wants for us. Life outside of Jesus does not appreciate the grace God gives us through Jesus. Life without the Lord Jesus working within us is a life that is self-centered and not focused on that which is pleasing to God. Life without Jesus does not know the blessings that God so readily bestows on his children.

Consider on the other hand life within Jesus. Recognizing that he is the way, the truth and the life and seeking to discover these attributes of Jesus by prayer, meditation and study will lead us to the understanding that Jesus is the only way to God, he helps us to find the truth about God, and helps us recognize that only through Jesus can we live a life that will last.

## The Scope of This Course

We are not going to be able to look at everything that Jesus taught. That would be way too ambitious for a ten lesson study course, but we are going to look at a number of things that Jesus said and did. What did Jesus teach about his heavenly Father? What did he teach about the Kingdom of God? What did he teach about evil? What did he teach about his own death and resurrection? What can we learn from the parables he used as teaching tools? What can we learn from the life that he lived?

Becoming a disciple of the Lord Jesus is a life long process. Our natures rebel at much of what Jesus teaches. Are we really an adulterer by looking at a woman

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lustfully or are we really a murderer by being angry with our brother? We don't gain a spiritual perspective overnight. The early disciples fell asleep when Jesus asked them to watch and pray with him. One denied him at a crucial point. Another doubted that he had actually been raised from the dead. The Bible actually says at one point "Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled." (Matt 26:56 KJV)

Jesus taught in many different ways:

- Some of his teachings were direct instructions or commandments such as those we find in the Sermon on the Mount. An example of this form of teaching is his commandment regarding loving your enemies, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matt 5:43-46 NIV)
- Much of his teaching is found in parables, three of which we will take a closer look at in this course.
- Finally, and perhaps the most important of all, he taught by example. To the rich young man who came running to Jesus asking what he must do to be saved, Jesus replied, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." (Mark 10:21 NKJV) But just when it seems impossible to follow his example, he also tells us, "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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matt 11:28-30 NIV)

## A Lifetime Journey

Becoming a disciple will involve much reading and studying, much prayer and meditation and much reflection on the way we live. It will be a lifetime journey and will sometimes bring us into conflict with others, but the rewards will be worth it. Other disciples will help along the way, but the main source of strength will come from God. You will be directed into prayer, meditation and the spirit guided life by the words of Jesus himself and through this relationship your life will be blessed.

As Jesus called some of his first disciples, he said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." They were already fishermen, making their living catching fish in the Sea of Galilee. Jesus told them they would continue to be fishers but he would introduce them to a much more important harvest, that of men's lives. Jesus would teach them and his disciples would pass that teaching on to others. As Jesus made disciples so also these disciples would make other disciples. That's the way discipleship works.

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## Why study the Bible at all?

Why not leave this whole complicated and sometimes confusing realm of thinking to the theologians? The answer is that we can all become theologians. The root meaning of the word is simply one who thinks about God. Each of us becomes a theologian when we put our attention to the big questions in life.

- What happens to me when I die?
- Why was I created?
- What is sin and how do I get rid of guilt?
- What do I do when tragedy strikes?
- How can I learn to love?
- How can I learn to forgive?
- Does God love me?

These are some of the basic questions that every person asks at one time or another. We want to be sure that we have the right answers, that is the truthful answers to these questions, especially when conflicting answers seem to abound.

The abundance of conflicting answers causes one, whether they wish to or not, to search out the answers for themselves. The logical starting point is the Bible itself. We accept it is divinely inspired, "God-breathed" as one more recent translation puts it, and see it as the word of God or God speaking to us. What is God saying and am I capable of interpreting what is being said? Many of the people who have attempted to answer these questions have studied the languages of the Bible, Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, and spent years in an academic environment studying these questions. How can we expect to come to some clear conclusions about its basic teaching?

While we have tremendous respect for much of their work and their contributions have aided us significantly in our understanding we still must get into the Bible and discover its meaning for ourselves to fully understand and internalize what God has in store for us.

## Which Version?

If you are just getting into the Bible for the first time, this question can be somewhat daunting. There are many good versions and translations out there and each has its appropriate value and drawbacks. The King James Version (KJV) has been the English standard for years and is still loved and read daily by many students of the Bible. Yet scholars tell us that there are over 2000 errors in translation in its pages. Most of these are insignificant and the few errors that are significant are well documented and their proper translation is well known and accepted by a majority of the readers.

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The newer versions go back to earlier manuscripts and hence can be more reliable in their conveyance of the Spirit's original intent as recorded by the inspired writers. Bias by the translators shows up in some of these versions but once this is recognized by the reader, alternative marginal translations usually indicate that there was not unanimity among the translators themselves. The few places where these biases come to the forefront can be more easily understood when one considers the underlying truth in the majority of passages speaking to the subject. The rest of the passages, usually written in a form of English more readily used today, can be very meaningful and a significant aid to our understanding of what God is saying to us in the Bible.

One thing to be careful of is whether a version is a translation or a paraphrase. What is the difference? A translation attempts to convey the meaning if not the wording of the original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. The better translations are done by groups of scholars working together. Paraphrases are restatements of the Biblical text, putting it into different terms. One of the more popular of the paraphrased translations is the Living Bible. The Living Bible is not the work of a group of scholars, but the work of one man. We recommend starting with a translation instead of a paraphrase.

Some well-known versions are:

- **King James Version (KJV)** - This translation was authorized by King James I of England and completed in 1611.
- **New King James Version (NKJV)** - This is not a new translation. It is based on the King James translation and uses modern English. It was completed in 1982.
- **American Standard Version (ASV)** and **New American Standard Version (NASV)** – The ASV was a 1901 revision of the King James Version and not a new translation. The NASV updated the English in 1963.
- **Revised Standard Version (RSV)** and **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)** - The RSV was published in 1951 and is an authorized revision of the American Standard Version. The New Revised Standard Version uses updated English and was published in 1989.
- **English Standard Version (ESV)** is revision of the 1971 version of the RSV.
- **New English Bible (NEB)** was published in 1961-1970 and is a translation into modern English directly from the original Hebrew and

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Greek texts. In 1989 it was revised substantially and published as the **Revised English Bible (REB)**

- **New International Version (NIV)** – This is a completely new translation with over 100 scholars involved in the project. It was published in 1978 and has become very popular. A new edition of the NIV was published in 2011.
- **New English Translation (NET)** Bible is a new translation based on the best available Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek text. It incorporates more than 60,000 scholarly footnotes. It is freely available on the Internet at <http://bible.org/downloads>.
- **New Living Translation (NLT)** is a translation into clear, readable modern English. It began as a revision of the Living Bible (a paraphrase), but turned into a true translation based on the best available Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts. It was published in 1996.

To sum up this question of “Which version?” we can do no better than to say pick the version that you feel most comfortable with. Leave the arguing over versions to others for a while. God’s truth is revealed in all true translations and over time we will familiarize ourselves with the drawbacks of a particular version we read and study with frequently. Also, there are “parallel” bibles which will have 2 or more versions printed next to each other. These can be helpful for comparing different versions.

## Interpretation

When it comes to the subject of interpretation we might do well to consider the words of Thomas Jefferson, “It is an established rule of construction where a phrase will bear either of two meanings, to give it that which will allow some meaning to the other parts of the instrument, and not that which will render all the others useless.” In reading and studying the Bible we will often run into puzzling passages that will need interpretation or explanation. We are many times given the explanation in another part of the context. Isaiah 14:12-15 is a good example of this. This passage is sometimes used to demonstrate the existence of a fallen angel called Lucifer but when one goes back to verse three, it is stated quite clearly that this is a taunt or proverb against the King of Babylon who is called “Lucifer”. Interpreting this verse in this manner gives meaning to the rest of the scripture teaching about sin, evil and the nature of man.

## The Golden Rule of Interpretation

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore take every word at its primary ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and



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axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise." These words by David L. Cooper taken from his book The God of Israel are wise words and should help us in our task of studying and interpreting this Bible we hold in our hands.

## Prayer

Seeking God's guidance and direction on our studies is most important. The Psalmist in Psalm 119 pleaded with God as follows: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." Luke, in recording a time when Jesus appeared to his disciples, says that "he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures." (Luke 24:45 NIV). Let us, each time we approach God's word for study ask God to open our eyes and see the wonders, the beauty, the grace, the righteousness and redeeming power in the pages of the book we read. It is a wonderful blessing we have been given and we should never cease to thank God for the things we have been permitted to see.

## So Let's Dig In

All we can say is get out the Bible and "dig in." You've taken the first step by requesting this course. It's not an overview of the Bible but rather a specific look at what Jesus taught and his response to the questions asked above.

The Bible is key to answering the big questions of life. There is a unified plan and purpose of God that is presented throughout the Bible. It begins at creation and culminates in a renewed and glorified earth where all the glory, honor and praise belong to God and to the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to share that vision with you and offer as much help as we can along the way.

To get the most out of this course:

- Please take the time to read the passages from scripture that are part of this course in addition to the Suggested Readings at the beginning of each lesson and think about them.
- In each lesson you will find one or two chapters from the Gospel of Mark listed as "Gospel Reading". In the New Testament there are 4 books that tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry here on earth. The Gospel Readings will take you through the entire Gospel of Mark during the ten lessons of this course.
- Also please take some time to answer the questions that are provided. Questions often help us to clarify our thinking and give us an opportunity to see if we really have learned and internalized a concept or teaching.

# **To Be A Disciple**

If you have suggestions, questions, or recommendations concerning the course, please do not hesitate to contact us at [ToBeADisciple@gmail.com](mailto:ToBeADisciple@gmail.com) or write to us at:

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God Bless!

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## REVIEW QUESTIONS

### LESSON 1

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?

Extra study and reading material included with this lesson:

Are You a Disciple?

Questions from Lesson 1:

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) Why does Jesus want everyone to become his disciple?
- 3) How can we learn about Jesus?
- 4) What is a disciple?
- 5) What is the only way that leads to eternal life?
- 6) Why is Jesus “the truth”?
- 7) What are the different ways that Jesus taught?
- 8) Why does God want us to read the Bible?
- 9) What will help us to understand the Bible?

Questions from Mark chapter 1:

- 1) What did John the Baptist teach?

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2) Who spoke to Jesus when he was baptized?

3) What did Jesus teach?

4) Where did Jesus go when he prayed?

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## LESSON 2

### JESUS IS KING

#### Suggested Readings:

Luke 1:26-38  
John 18:33-40  
Psalm 72  
II Samuel 7:1-17

#### Gospel Reading:

Mark 2 & 3

#### Born A King

Jesus was born a king. It was announced to his mother, Mary, by the angel Gabriel before his birth and was declared by Jesus before Pilate just before his cruel death. Even before his birth, the prophets foretold of the coming king who would "reign in righteousness" and subdue the enemies of God.

Jesus was not delusional as he stood before Pilot and affirmed his kingship. But as he declared his kingship, he also said "my kingdom is not of this world." What did he mean by this statement?

In this lesson we are going to look not only at those passages which declare that Jesus is a king, but at those passages from the scripture which talk about that kingdom over which Jesus would be king; where it will be, who will be the subjects of that kingdom and what sort of kingdom it will be like.

#### A Kingdom Here on Earth

Jesus makes many references to the kingdom of God during his preaching ministry. Mark records in his gospel the words of Jesus:

"The time has come," he said. "The **kingdom of God** is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15 NIV)

Luke writes:

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the **good news of the kingdom of God**. (Luke 8:1 NIV)

At times Jesus refers to it as the "kingdom of heaven". However, as we shall soon see, this kingdom that Jesus refers to is not in Heaven but right here on Earth. It is a kingdom that is "of" Heaven or "from" Heaven and has Heavenly values. It exists now in a "seed" or "hidden" form in the hearts and minds of his disciples on Earth via the Holy Spirit. In the future, when Christ returns, it will exist in a very real and powerful sense right here on planet Earth.

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About 1,000 years before Jesus was born, God gave his ancestor, King David, a promise. David was the second king of Israel and was described as a “man after God’s own heart”. He ruled in Israel from the capital city of Jerusalem (Zion) for almost 40 years. He wished to build a temple for God but God sent Nathan the prophet to him with a promise:

"The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever..." (2 Samuel 7:11-14 NIV)

This is the promise that the angel Gabriel referred to as he announced to Mary 1,000 years later that she would bear a son and that the promise would be fulfilled in her son Jesus:

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:30-33 NIV)

## The Anointed King of God’s Kingdom

Jesus recognized the responsibilities given to him as the anointed King of God’s Kingdom. During his ministry on earth he, although a king, served as a caring and compassionate leader who showed his people the way to God. One day, early in his ministry, he went into a synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. (Luke 4:16-21) He stood up to read and from the scroll of Isaiah that was handed to him he read these words:

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners...”  
(Isaiah 61:1 NIV)

And all of these things he did during his earthly ministry.

During those three years of ministry in Israel he taught people of justice, and righteousness, and mercy. These are the qualities necessary in a king that

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serves God and serves his people. He taught about the kingdom that is coming by using parables and warnings of changes to come. An example of one of these parables is found in Luke 19 and is the story of a man of noble birth who went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. Before he left he had given certain amounts of money to his servants and upon his return expected a return on his money. Some servants had faith in their king and had invested the money and showed a return. One servant had been afraid and buried his money and showed no earnings. The returning king condemned this man. What is Jesus teaching in this parable? What have we been given by the gracious king Jesus, soon to return, and how are we using it?

## A King Who Must First Suffer

When those around him wanted to know more specifics concerning his kingship and the kingdom to come, Jesus told them that he first must suffer many things, including rejection by his people and death, before the promise of the kingdom would be fulfilled. (Luke 17:20-37) At the time of his trial, Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews. Jesus replied:

"My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:36-37 NIV)

Jesus tells us that his kingdom is not of this world. What does he mean? Jesus' disciples had thought that he would "redeem Israel" and be the promised king. They were distraught and disheartened at his death. Jesus comes to them after his resurrection and tells them:

"How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27 NIV)

It was prophesied in the Old Testament that the Christ (the Messiah or Anointed One) had to first redeem his people from their sins by his own death. As the King, Jesus gave his own life to give life to his people. He brought them victory from the ultimate enemy that is death. The true king brings protection and victory to his people.

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## All Power and Authority is Given to Me

After his death and resurrection, Jesus tells his disciples that God has given him all power and authority. (Matthew 28:16-20) He is now, truly, a king, with power from God.

Jesus ascended to heaven to be at the right hand of his Father until the promised time of restoration comes:

"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, *that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ*, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to *restore everything*, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. (Acts 3:17-21 NIV)

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because *your redemption* is drawing near." (Luke 21:25-28 NIV)

## Rule in Righteousness

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem he came to redeem his people. When he comes again, he will come to rule in righteousness as prophesied by the prophets of old and confirmed by Jesus, himself, and the teaching of his disciples.

We await the time when Jesus will return as king of all the earth in fulfillment of God's promise to David and also the prophecy given to Daniel in chapter two. In this prophecy King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which was about an enormous, dazzling statue, "awesome in appearance." Its head was of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, and its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. Daniel, as a spokesperson for the "God of heaven who reveals mysteries" told Nebuchadnezzar that this image was a series of kingdoms that began with Nebuchadnezzar's and would continue on into the future through to the present day. But Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that the image would be destroyed by a "rock cut out of a mountain, but not by his



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hands - a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces." Jesus will break these kingdoms of men to pieces and as Daniel says will set up his own kingdom, which will replace the kingdoms of men and will endure forever.

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (Dan 2:44 NIV)

The Psalmist, David, was also a prophet concerning these things:

The LORD says to my Lord:

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

The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion;  
you will rule in the midst of your enemies. (Ps 110:1-2 NIV)

David spoke these words but by divine inspiration he is conveying words of God. The LORD God Almighty is saying to Jesus, whom David refers to as "my Lord" that there would be a day when the enemies of God would be destroyed and righteousness would reign from Zion, that is Jerusalem.

## A Kingdom and Priests

In the final book of the New Testament, Jesus writes to his disciples through the apostle John in the book of Revelation about "what must soon take place". In the first chapter is written:

"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw-that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and *has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father*-to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

Look, he is coming with the clouds,

# To Be A Disciple

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! Amen.” (Rev 1:1-8 NIV)

Let us repeat the closing plea of the book of Revelation: “Amen, come Lord Jesus.”

## **Other Suggested Readings:**

Psalm 2  
Isaiah 61  
Luke 24:13-32  
Revelation 1:1-8

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## REVIEW QUESTIONS

### LESSON 2 - JESUS IS KING

Questions from Lesson 2:

- 1) How do we know that Jesus was born a king?
- 2) What promise did God give to King David one thousand years before Jesus was born?
- 3) Who told Mary that her soon-to-be-born son would fulfill the promise of God to King David?
- 4) What qualities are necessary in a king that serves God?
- 5) Before the promised King would rule over his kingdom, what did he have to accomplish?
- 6) What victory did Jesus have to win before he would be king?
- 7) After Jesus' death and resurrection back to life, what did God give him?
- 8) When will Jesus rule in righteousness?
- 9) In the last two verses of the Bible (Rev. 22:20-21), what does Jesus promise?

Questions from Mark chapters 2 and 3:

- 1) Who needs a doctor? Who did Jesus come to call?

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- 2) Who is Lord of the Sabbath?
  
- 3) Why did the Pharisees, one of the leading religious groups, plot to kill Jesus?
  
- 4) Who are Jesus' brothers and sisters?

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