

Kingdom Life

DISCIPLESHIP PATH

A Firm Foundation for Life

Teaching Notes

FOUNDATIONS

301	THE KINGDOM OF GOD
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*“To you it has been granted to know the mysteries
of the Kingdom of God.”*

Jesus Christ, *Luke 8:10*

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These companion teaching notes may be edited or modified to accommodate various teaching styles and methods, provided the original message, meaning, and intent of the work remain unaltered.

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Free downloads are available at www.KingdomLifeDiscipleshipPath.org

Introduction and Purpose

This Instructor Manual is given as an aid in teaching the Foundations materials. It is especially helpful for those who do not have the time every week to develop their own lesson plan. It is designed to assist in leading the group of participants through a weekly discussion of the materials. It includes the study questions, many of the scriptures, as well as other questions that can be asked to encourage discussion during the classes. There are also commentary statements that can be used to emphasize or summarize the main points. It is all organized in the form of a linear script that can be followed to help stay on track and get through all of the material in 60 to 90 minutes. Everyone has their own teaching style, so please consider this as a tool and general outline to help you cover the materials, not to confine you.

Teaching the holy scriptures is a great honor, but it is also a great responsibility. God has entrusted His word to us - to you and me as teachers. But as we teach, we must also be students – learners. As leaders, we must also be followers. And as Paul encouraged Timothy, we should always **“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”**

Our goal with this material has been to honestly present the whole counsel of God’s word on our salvation, without ignoring the “narrow road” passages that sometimes make people uncomfortable. These passages are essential in bringing us to repentance. We can be certain God did not put these passages in His word so we would ignore them, but to learn from them. And we are still learning.

People today have a lot of differing views about salvation and the Christian experience. You never know what people have heard or what they’ve been taught, and whether it lines up with the scriptures or not. So, as you teach through these lessons, you may encounter some scripture passages that do not fit within the theological views of some of your students. If this happens, you can say something like this: “People believe a lot of different things about salvation, but let’s go back to what Jesus says here and see what He is trying to teach us about it.” We always want to encourage the students to let the scriptures be their authority on matters of truth. This must always be done with respect, gentleness, and kindness. But it is important that we let these scriptures stand without apology. We should always remember that God has called us to present the whole counsel of His word, not to be editors of it. If we become editors, we become judges of the word, exalting ourselves above God.

So, as you go forth, please know that we are thankful for the work you do. We pray that you will have the mind of Christ, abounding in all wisdom and knowledge, that you will know His presence and be filled with His Spirit to overflowing, that you will be rooted and grounded in the fullness of His love, and that you will be kept safe at all times until He gathers us unto Himself. To Him be the glory and honor forever and ever, Amen.

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TEACHING NOTES

FOUNDATIONS 301 WEEK ONE

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Week 1 – “Seek First the Kingdom of God”

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary – These lessons are intended to introduce the Kingdom of Heaven as a present reality for the student to experience. We explore scriptures that reveal Kingdom truths to encourage the student to make the choice to whole-heartedly embrace and pursue Kingdom life, while abandoning temporal worldly pursuits.

1-1 – “The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand” - is mainly a presentation of several scripture passages that speak of the Kingdom of Heaven. The purpose is to make the point that the Kingdom of Heaven is not a side-thought in the New Testament, but a central theme in the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles. Therefore, the Kingdom should be a central theme in our lives, as well.

1-2 – “The King” – attempts to prepare the student to submit to Jesus as King, rather than responding as if He were an elected official. We present the differences between democracy, which is a governmental concept where the people rule through elected leaders, and the Kingdom of Heaven, in which God rules by His own authority independent of the will of man. If we are going to be an effective part of His Kingdom, we must learn to submit to Him as our King.

1-3 – “Be on the Alert” – emphasizes the importance of being ready for Jesus’ return at any time. We may not always clearly recognize the signs of His coming at the time they are occurring. Prophecy may be fulfilled without our knowledge. And our understanding of how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together may be incomplete. Therefore, we should follow Jesus’ teaching that we should live our lives as if He might return today.

1-4 – “Seek First the Kingdom” – encourages the student to become Kingdom-minded in their pursuits, rather than being worldly-minded. We emphasize the importance of focusing on the eternal, and not chasing the temporal. We also point out the benefits of God’s promises of provision for those who pursue Him and His Kingdom with a loyal, undivided heart.

1-5 – “The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven” - reveals the childlike qualities that are precious in God’s eyes. This lesson invites the student to abandon their guarded cynicism and to come to God with a childlike innocence and faith. Jesus said unless we come as a child, we cannot enter His Kingdom.

Preparation Notes - When teaching these lessons, it is beneficial to use a white board or some other visual medium to display the answers the students offer during the discussions. When teaching online classes, the

screen share of a word processor can be used. These visual aids are very helpful in promoting discussion, note-taking, and reinforcing the points made in the scriptures as you teach.

When you begin your Week 1 Class, your board or screenshare could look something like this.

The Kingdom of Heaven	

As you conclude your Week 1 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class.

The Kingdom of Heaven	
<p>Exists in the spirit realm consisting of -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Government • A Society of Citizens • A Rule of Law • A Diplomatic Corps • An Economy • A Religious Order • A Temple • A Priesthood • A Military • Is presently at war • The Kingdom of God has a King 	<p>Childlike qualities God desires to see within us -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innocence • Transparency • Vulnerability • Ability to believe • Humility • Inquisitiveness • Dependence • Trust • Care-free • etc...

The left side of the board establishes the fact that the Kingdom of Heaven is a real, multifaceted society with structure and organization. The right side shows child-like attributes God values, and that we should pursue in our relationship with Him.

Week 1 – “Seek First the Kingdom of God” Teaching Notes

Lesson 1-1 – “The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand”

- Tonight, we're going to begin a series of lessons that are very much about our identity in Christ.
- When we first come to Christ, it is easy to think as if we are simply adding Jesus our lives. But in reality, God intends to completely redefine who we are.
- Let's begin by reading the Matthew 3:1-2 passage. Page 5 of your book. Someone please read it.

MT 3:1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." NASB

- That was the message of John the Baptist, now let's read something from Jesus.
- Someone please read the Matthew 4:17 passage, also on page 5.

MT 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." NASB

- Okay, here is our 1a study question.

1a. From the Matthew 3:1 and 4:17 passages, what was the basic message preached by John the Baptist and Jesus?

They said "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

- So, from the very beginning, the gospel message was not just about a Messiah, but also about the revealing of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Now, would someone please read the Matthew 4:23 passage? Page 5.

MT 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. NRSV

- Here is what Jesus said about it in Matthew 24:14. Instructor reads

MT 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come." NASB

- The Kingdom of God is not just a peripheral side-thought in Jesus' teaching – but a central theme of His message to be proclaimed to the end of the age.

Q. In the natural realm, what is a kingdom?

A kingdom is a type or form of government

Q. How is a kingdom different than the form of government of the United States?

Technically, the U.S. is a constitutional democratic republic. The form of government is defined by a constitution and the nation is governed by leaders who are democratically elected by the citizens of 50 individual states.

But a kingdom is ruled absolutely by a monarch. Governance is performed by those appointed by the monarch to do so.

- Now that we see what an earthly kingdom is, now let's go a little deeper.

Q. What is the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven?

Some people say it is the universal church. Others say it just refers to Heaven. Some say Kingdom of God simply refers to our submission to God's authority over us.

- But the Kingdom of Heaven is much more than that.

(Write these on the board – left side) under the heading “The Kingdom of Heaven”

Exists in the spirit realm consisting of -

A government

A society of citizens

A rule of law

A diplomatic corps

An economy

A religious order

A temple

A priesthood

An army.

Is presently at war.

Has a King

- The Kingdom of Heaven is a very busy society.
- Here is your 1b study question

1b. And what are some ways the present reality of the Kingdom of Heaven impacts us today?

It impacts us because we exist within it and are part of it. Forces in the spiritual realm, good and evil, are driving things that happen in the physical realm.

- Our natural realm actually exists within the spirit realm, not the other way around.
- So, our challenge is to grow in our awareness of God's Kingdom, and to become active and fully functioning participants of that spiritual Kingdom.

Lesson 1-2 – “The King”

- So now, let's talk about our King.
- Would someone please read John 6:14-15? Page 8 of your workbook

^{JN 6:14} After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. ^{NIV}

- Jesus had just miraculously fed 5000 people and they figured this must be the Messiah.

Q. If Jesus was supposed to be the king, why would He run away when they wanted to make Him the king?

Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, but they wanted to make Him an earthly king.

- Jesus had a much greater mission than they understood.
- He was not willing to ascend to the throne the way they wanted to make Him a king – in the natural realm.
- Someone please read the Acts 5:30-32 passage also on page 8. This is from Peter.

^{AC 5:30} "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." ^{NASB}

Q. How has Jesus ascended to the throne?

God has exalted Him - not man.

- This leads to our 2a study question.

2a. What does the Acts 5:30-32 reveal about Jesus' position in the Kingdom of Heaven?

He is the Prince and Savior.

Q. And what does the “right hand” signify?

The "right hand" signifies the position of power to administrate the affairs of the Kingdom.

- So, right now, we see God the Father as King on the throne in Heaven with Jesus His Son seated at His right hand as Prince, Savior, and Administrator.
- Someone please read the Acts 5:30-32 passage also on page 8.

^{MK 15:1} And early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes, and the whole Council, immediately held a consultation; and binding Jesus, they led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate. ² And Pilate questioned Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And answering He said to him, "It is as you say." NASB

Q. Is Jesus King of the Jews? Yes

Q. But is that what we see manifested right now in the natural realm?
Not yet.

- And just before Jesus ascended to the Father, His disciples questioned Him about His kingship of Israel.
- Someone please read Acts 1:6-7 on page 9 of your study book.

^{AC 1:6} And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority." NASB

- So, Jesus' answer to them is, "Not yet, but in God's time".
- Here is a prophecy in Revelation 19:11, page 10 of your book. Instructor reads

^{REV 19:11} Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh, he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords." NASB

- Here is your 2b study question.

2b. And what does the Revelation 19 passage reveal about Jesus' position on earth when He returns?

He returns as King of kings and Lord of lords - of the whole earth

- This is why we know Him as our "soon coming King".
- This leads to our 2c study question

2c. And when He comes, how will the nations respond to His return?

They will respond with resistance - all the nations, including the United States.

- No matter how kind, loving, and benevolent He is, Jesus will be perceived as an invader to be resisted.
- People are stubbornly independent and will not be willing to be governed by one who reigns in righteousness and does not serve at the will of the people.
- But though we don't see it yet, there will come a time when Jesus takes his rightful place as King on the throne in Jerusalem - but not just as the King of the Jews, but as King of everything.

Lesson 1-3 – “Be on the Alert!”

- Someone please read the Acts 5:30-32 passage also on page 12.

JN 12:12 On the next day the great multitude who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet Him, and began to cry out, "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, even the King of Israel." ¹⁴ And Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, ¹⁵ "FEAR NOT, DAUGHTER OF ZION; BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING, SEATED ON A DONKEY'S COLT." ¹⁶ These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. NASB

- This was an obvious fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Zechariah 9.

Q. Why do you think not one of His disciples understood this when they initially saw it?

Because the fulfillment of prophecy is not always so obvious to us when it is happening. It's not until more pieces of the puzzle are in place that it all makes sense to us

- Knowing this, Jesus has given us some very important instructions about how we should prepare for His return.
- Look at page 12 of your book, the Matthew 24 passage. Instructor reads.

MT 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." ³⁷ "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark," ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so, shall the coming of the Son of Man be." ⁴⁰ "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming." ⁴³ "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what

time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ "For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." NASB

- And here is your number 3 study question.

3. What is the main message, instruction, and warning for us in Jesus' parables of Matthew 24:36-44 and Matthew 25:1-13?

We are to live our lives in such a way that we are ready for His return at any moment – because it may not be obvious.

Q. But what if all the prophecies have not yet been fulfilled?

We don't always recognize when scripture is being fulfilled around us.

- It is possible those prophecies may have already been sufficiently fulfilled or are in the process right now – but we lack the understanding of how all the pieces fit together.
- Now, look at page 13 of your book, the Matthew 25:1 passage. Instructor reads.

MT 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² "And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. ³ "For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. ⁵ "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. ⁶ "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

MT 25:7 "Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ "And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. ¹¹ "And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' ¹² "But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour." NASB

- Here is that number 3 study question again.

3. What is the main message, instruction, and warning for us in Jesus' parables of Matthew 24:36-44 and Matthew 25:1-13?

We are to live our lives prepared for His return at any moment – and some may not be ready.

Q. In the scriptures, what does "oil" represent? The Holy Spirit

- So, the key to being ready is to stay filled up with the Holy Spirit, and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- On page 14 of your book. Someone please read the Matthew 6:19-21 passage.

Lesson 1-4 – “Seek First the Kingdom”

MT 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. NASB

Q. What message is Jesus trying to communicate to us in this passage?

We should focus our desires, efforts and energy on things of eternal value. Also, to set our hearts on eternal assets, not temporal assets.

- On page 15 of your book, someone please read the Matthew 6:31-33 passage.

MT 6:31 "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' ³² "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. NASB

- And here is your number 4a study question.

4a. In a practical sense, what does it mean to you to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”?

To me, it means to become kingdom focused, having a dedicated pursuit of Kingdom life and righteous living. It is to have a heart devoted to investing time, energy, and resources into activities that produce assets of eternal value.

- And Jesus said if we become Kingdom focused, something else would happen.
- This is your 4b study question

4b. And what is God's promise to us if we will do this?

He said God will ensure all our temporal needs will be met.

- God has bound Himself by a promise to care for us. It is His nature to care for us.
- Our Father knows how to take care of His loyal Kingdom citizens, those who are of His own family, His own children.

Lesson 1-5 – “The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven”

- On page 17 of your book. Someone please read the Matthew 18:1-5 passage.

MT 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, ³ and

said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me. NASB

Q. According to Jesus, who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Those who humble themselves as little children.

Q. From a natural standpoint, does that make any sense at all?

Probably not

Q. From a natural standpoint, who would we consider to be the greatest in the Kingdom?

Those who are the smartest, wisest, and well-educated, those who have worked the hardest and accomplished the most.

- But, not according to Jesus.
- Someone please read the Mark 10:13-16 passage.

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. NRSV

Q. According to Jesus, what must we do to enter the Kingdom of God?

We must receive the Kingdom as a little child

- Here is your 5a study question

5a. What are some of the child-like qualities God desires to see in us?

(Write these on the board – right side)

Innocence
Transparency
Vulnerability
The ability to believe
Humility
Inquisitiveness
Dependence
Trust
Care-free, etc....

- And the 5b study question

5b. Why do you believe these qualities are so important to Him?

Coming to Him as a child reflects the reality of the relationship. He wants us to be His children, to relate to Him with respect as a Father, not as an equal. He wants us to be vulnerable and dependent, to believe and trust as a child.

- There are certain childlike qualities God wants us to retain our entire lives.

5c. What are some things we can do to rediscover our child-like nature?

We must become avid student of the scriptures - learners
With God, we must let our guard down and be open to Him.
We must be willing to be vulnerable with Him and trust
We must be willing to recognize the truth that we are dependent on Him.
We must recognize His goodness and goodwill toward us.

- Having a child-like nature helps us to learn about the Kingdom the same way a child learns about the world around them.
- And we have many, many things to learn.
- Amen, and glory to God.

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 301 WEEK TWO	THE KINGDOM WITHIN
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Week 2 – “The Kingdom Within”

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary – Even though this is intended to be an advanced course, we do not assume anything about the spiritual condition or maturity of the student. Therefore, we always include a week on the fundamentals of our faith in Christ to ensure the student has been taught these basic and foundational aspects of our experience in Christ.

2-1 – “The Sacrifice” – emphasizes to the student the necessity of faith in the atoning blood of Jesus as the only way for our sins to be forgiven. We also show the scriptural linkage between forgiveness and repentance so the student will understand there is a requirement to turn from sins to be forgiven of them.

2-2 – “You Must be Born Again” – reveals our need for a new heart, and God's promise to do that work in us through the Holy Spirit. We call upon the student to abandon any ideas that they can be good enough through their own human efforts, but rather to submit themselves to God in faith to accomplish His work in them.

2-3 – “The Spirit Within” - is intended to teach the student how God produces His righteous nature within us through the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It contrasts the deeds of the fallen human nature with the fruit of the Spirit so the student can recognize the working of the Holy Spirit in their own hearts. It also points out how love is the core of all of the other spiritual fruit, and that walking in love results in a righteous lifestyle.

2-4 – “Freedom from Sin” – presents scriptures that show that the power of sin is broken in our lives through Christ, and that we do not have to continue living as a slave to sin. It challenges the student to throw off the old slave-to-sin mentality and embrace their new-creation reality in Christ.

2-5 – “The Inner Witness” – encourages the student to learn to recognize and depend upon the voice of the Holy Spirit within them. God intended to provide a witness of truth within in us so we will not be dependent solely on the testimonies of others or upon our own intellect to sort out matters of truth.

Preparation Notes - When you begin your Week 2 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

<u>Evil Deeds of Darkness</u>	<u>Holy Spirit Fruit</u>

As you conclude your Week 2 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

<u>Evil Deeds of Darkness</u>	<u>Holy Spirit Fruit</u>
Sexual immorality - all forms impurity, greed, profanity, sexual innuendo, dirty jokes, envy, jealousy, manipulation, selfishness, temper tantrums, lying, divisiveness, unforgiveness, malice, racism, abusiveness, gossip, revenge, pride, etc... <u>These lead to death.</u> <u>We repent from this.</u>	Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, compassion, humility, unity, forgiveness, thankfulness, meekness, etc... <u>These lead to life.</u> <u>We repent to this.</u>

The purpose in this visual is to clearly show the contrast between the life of the fallen human nature and the life of the Spirit. It shows what we are repenting from and what we are turning to when we come to Christ.

Week 2 – “The Kingdom Within” Teaching Notes

Week 1 Review

- Last week, we began our study of the Kingdom of Heaven
- We talked about a Kingdom being a form of government
- We talked about how the Kingdom of Heaven has:
 - A Government / Citizens
 - An economy
 - A Rule of Law
 - A religious order / Temple / Priesthood
 - A Military (at war)
 - A King / a Royal family
- This Kingdom is a present reality for us because we are part of this Kingdom
- All these aspects of the Kingdom impact our lives
- We also talked about Jesus saying to enter the Kingdom, we had to become like little children.
- And the greatest in the Kingdom where those who could receive it as a child, with a childlike faith.
- We also talked about the attributes of children that are precious to God
 - Innocence
 - Openness
 - Transparency
 - Humility
 - Unconditional Love
 - Trusting
 - Hopeful
 - Faith
 - Joy
 - Faithfulness
 - Simplicity

Lesson 2-1 “The Sacrifice”

- This week, we will dig into how we become part of the Kingdom, and how we begin to function within the Kingdom
- Let's begin by reading the John 3:14-18 passage. Page 21 of your book. Someone please read it.

JN 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ **that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.** ¹⁶ **"For God so loved the**

world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. NIV

- Okay, here is your 1a study question

1a. From the John 3:14-18 passage, why did Jesus come into the world?

He came not to destroy the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

Q. In this passage, what does He tell us about what a person must do to be saved?

We must believe in Him

Q. So, all we have to do is believe Jesus is real, that He exists?

No. Saving faith is a complete reliance upon His sacrifice as being the only way for our sins to be forgiven.

- His sacrifice is God's only prescribed remedy for our sin debt.
- If there were any other way for our sins to be forgiven, pardoned, or cleansed, Christ would not have had to die.
- Now, would someone please read the Acts 3:18-19 passage? Page 22.

AC 3:18 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. NASB

- Here is your 1b study question.

1b. And from Acts 3:18-19, what is required of us to have our sins wiped away?

In order for our sins to be wiped away, we must turn from them.

- Notice in verse 19 that forgiveness is conditional and dependent upon repentance – not just faith.
- You could say, repentance is an act of faith
- But for many people this is the deal-breaker
- Someone please read the John 3:19-21 passage? Page 22.

JN 3:19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the

truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." NIV

Q. What does this teach us about why many people reject Christ?

They are unwilling to part with their life of sin - unwilling to repent

- It is very common today to hear salvation taught in a way that includes faith in Jesus - but makes no mention of turning from our sin.
- This leads people to believe repentance is optional.
- Now, would someone please read the Ephesians 5:3-6 passage? Page 23.

EPH 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. NIV

- Let's write these things on the board – call them out.

sexual immorality, impurity, greed, profanity, sexual innuendo, etc...

Q. What does this scripture in verse 5, say about those who live this lifestyle?

They will have no inheritance in the Kingdom of God, but wrath instead

- Does everyone see that? Forgiveness of sins is conditional.

Q. When someone teaches a concept of salvation that implies, we can continue living like this, what does the word of God call that teaching?

Nothing but empty and deceptive words

- There are other scripture passages that bring out more things that come out of the fallen nature, like...

Add these things to the board

envy, jealousy, manipulation, selfishness, temper-tantrums, lying, divisiveness, unforgiveness, malice, racism, abusiveness, gossip, revenge, pride, etc...

- When we repent and turn to Christ, this is what we are turning from.
- Do not be deceived - all of this leads to death

Lesson 2-3 – “You Must be Born Again”

- Would someone please read the John 3:3 passage? Page 24.

- This is Jesus speaking to Nicodemus

JN 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." NASB

- Here is your 2a study question.

2a. In the John 3:3-6 passage, what does Jesus say must happen to us to enter the Kingdom?

He said, to see the Kingdom, you must be born again

- Jesus goes on to explain what being born again means.
- Would someone please read the John 3:4-6 passage? Page 25.

JN 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." ⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. NASB

- Here is your 2a study question again.

2a. In the John 3:3-6 passage, what does Jesus say must happen to us to enter the Kingdom?

They must be born of water and of the Spirit

Q. What does it mean to be born of water?

It is most likely a reference to baptism, which is an action that is tied to repentance.

Q. And what does it mean to be born of the Spirit?

It is to be internally changed by an act of God.

- God spoke in advance through the prophet Ezekiel about this born-again reality.
- Would someone please read the Ezekiel 36:26-27 passage? Page 25.

EZE 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." ²⁷ "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances." NASB

- Here is your 2b study question.

2b. And what promise does God make to us in Ezekiel 36:26-27?

God promises to give us a new soft heart and to put His spirit within us to empower us to live in righteousness

- Here is your 2c study question.

2c. What do these passages reveal about our condition and our greatest need?

Our greatest problem in life and the reason we must be born again is that we have a hard, self-centered heart.

Q. Is this something we can do for ourselves?

No, this is the work of God in us

- God is not suggesting we should change our own hearts, but that we submit to Him to cut out our heart of stone and replace it with a soft heart.
- This is not heart surgery, but a heart transplant through which God changes us by putting His own Spirit within us.

Lesson 2-3 – “The Spirit Within”

- This helps us to understand one of the mysteries of the Kingdom, which is a present reality for us today.
- Would someone please read the Luke 17:20-21 passage? Page 27.

LK 17:20 Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you." NIV

Q. So, where are we supposed to be looking for the Kingdom of God to be revealed?

Within us

- There will be a day when the heavens will open up and the Kingdom will be revealed in its fullness in the earth
- For now, it is more important that we look for the Kingdom to be revealed within us, than to look for the Kingdom to be revealed in the skies.

Q. If the kingdom has not yet come in its fullness, how is it possible for the kingdom to be within us?

Wherever the King is, so also is the Kingdom.

- If God's Spirit is living in us, then the Kingdom of Heaven has already been extended into us because the King of Heaven dwells in us through His Holy Spirit.
- Walking by the Holy Spirit opens the door to every Kingdom reality in our lives.
- Would someone please read the Galatians 5:22-25 passage? Page 27.

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those

who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. NASB

Q. So, how do we know when we are walking by the Holy Spirit or not?

The fruit of the Spirit will be manifested in our hearts

- Let's write the fruit on the board – call them out. - right side
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
- There are also other scripture passages that bring out more things that come out of the Holy Spirit life, like the following...

Add these to the board

Compassion, humility, unity, forgiveness, thankfulness, generosity, etc...

- And in 1st Corinthians 13, Paul gives insight on the workings of the Spiritual Fruit within us.
- Would someone please read the 1st Corinthians 13:4-7 passage? Page 28.

1CO 13:4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. NRSV

- Here is your 3a study question.

3a. From the 1st Corinthians 13:4-7 passage, what are the attributes of love?

Patience, kindness, humility, selflessness, forgiving, truthful, self-controlled

- Love is the underlying source of all the other spiritual fruit. It is the core.
- Would someone please read the Romans 13:8-10 passage? Page 28.

RO 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. NRSV

- Here is your 3b study question.

3b. And from the Romans 13:8-10 passage, in what ways does a loving heart affect the way we treat people?

When we love people, we do not sin against them.

- When we love someone, we will not intentionally harm them.
- We are not going to be jealous of their success, but we will rejoice with them.
- We will not be secretly hoping for them to fail.
- We will not be gossiping about them or ruining their reputation.
- When we act in God's love, we literally do not sin against people. Through loving others, we fulfill the law.
- And if we are yielded to the Holy Spirit within, love will be our way of life

Lesson 2-4 "Freedom from Sin"

- Would someone please read the Romans 6:17-18 passage? Page 31.

RO 6:17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. NIV

- Here is your 4a study question.

4a. What do you see as the main point Paul is making in the Romans 6:17-18 passage?

We are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness

Q. What have we learned about how righteousness works in our lives?

The Holy Spirit produces love in us, and love is the fulfillment of the law

- Would someone please read the 1st Peter 2:24 passage? Page 31.

1PE 2:24 And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. NASB

- Jesus died that we might die to sin and live to righteousness – that was His purpose in dying on the cross.
- It was not just about forgiving our sins, but also to free us from our slavery to sin.

Q. If we are no longer slaves to sin, then why do we keep on acting and talking as if we were slaves to sin?

It is because we have not been taught to walk in that reality

- We don't believe because haven't been taught we are no longer slaves of sin
- We must shed the "slave to sin" mentality and embrace our freedom in Christ.
- Would someone please read the Romans 8:12-13 passage? Page 32.

RO 8:12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, but not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. NASB

- Here is your 4b study question.

4b. And what is the point made in the Romans 8:12-13 and 6:22-23 passage?

The flesh walk leads to death, but the Spirit walk leads to life

- Would someone please read the Romans 6:22-23 passage? Page 32.

RO 6:22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV

- Here is your 4b study question again.

4b. And what is the point made in the Romans 8:12-13 and 6:22-23 passage?

Same thing - The flesh walk leads to death, but the Spirit walk leads to eternal life

- Our success in the Kingdom of God depends on how well we learn to put aside the old self and put on the new self
- Of how well we die to sin and come alive to righteousness.
- There are two paths set before us, and we have a choice
- Will we continue to identify as slaves to sin, or as new creatures who are slaves to righteousness?

Lesson 2-5 "The Inner Witness"

- Would someone please read the John 15:26-27 passage? Page 34.

JN 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, ²⁷ and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. NASB

- Here is your 5a study question.

5a. What does Jesus teach us in John 15:26-27 and 16:12-15 about one role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Within our hearts, the Holy Spirit confirms the truth of who Jesus is.

Q. Why is that so important?

That is the only way we can be absolutely convinced of without doubting

- God designed it this way so we would have complete confidence, without having to depend on our human intellect.
- Would someone please read the John 16:12-15 passage? Page 34.

JN 16:12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. NIV

- Here is your 5a study question again.

5a. What does Jesus teach us in John 15:26-27 and 16:12-15 about one role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

The Holy Spirit serves to guide us into all the truth, including giving us understanding of the scriptures

- Here is what it says in 2nd Peter 1:20-21

2PE 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. NASB

- Apart from the Holy Spirit, we cannot even understand the scriptures, because they are spiritually inspired and must be spiritually interpreted.
- Without the witness of the Holy Spirit within us, we can only depend on our own human intellect and reasoning to sort out the truth from the falsehoods.
- Let's look at the 1st John 4:11-18 passage, Page 36. Instructor reads

1JN 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

1JN 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. NASB

- Here is your 5b study question.

5b. And from 1st John 4:11-18, how can we know we are being controlled by the Holy Spirit and abiding in God?

This is how we know we are abiding in Him – if His love is controlling our hearts.

- Abiding in love is the key to everything. If that is not happening, our most important priority is to get our heart back into the love of God. Amen?

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 301 WEEK THREE	CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM
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Week 3 – “Citizens of the Kingdom”

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary – Each of these lessons covers a different aspect of our new identity in Christ and His Kingdom, helping us to understand our rights and responsibilities as Kingdom citizens.

3-1 – “Transferred to the Kingdom of Light” – explores the truths concerning our heavenly citizenship. It encourages the student to embrace the idea that they are no longer of this world and its systems, but their citizenship has been transferred to the Kingdom of God. It also challenges the student to fully pledge their loyalty to Christ as their King and to center their identity in being a citizen of His Kingdom.

3-2 – “The Children of God” – reveals our relational connection to God as His children. And if we are His children, then we are of His royal lineage. We also emphasize there is more to being royal than just the DNA. If we are going to be successful, we must submit ourselves to be trained by God so we will know how to think and act as a royal.

3-3 – “Neither Jew, nor Greek” – speaks of the fact that in Christ, there are no ethnic divides, and we are all the same in Him. It is not that we learn to ignore racial differences, but in Christ, we are new creations and those ethnicities do not exist. This lesson challenges the student to lay aside all racial bias and begin to see one another through the eyes of Christ.

3-4 – “Ambassadors for Christ” – focuses on the fact that we are all called to be ambassadors for Christ, as representatives of His Kingdom. We are responsible for delivering the message of reconciliation, that God loves each individual in the world and desires for everyone to be relationally reconciled to Him.

3-5 – “A Colony of Heaven” – makes the point that people of faith have always been outsiders, not fitting into the surrounding culture. Therefore, we should not attempt to be assimilated into the culture, but to maintain our own Christ-centered culture that serves as a light to the world.

Preparation Notes - When you begin your Week 3 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

Our Kingdom of Heaven Identity	

As you conclude your Week 3 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

Our Kingdom of Heaven Identity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our citizenship is no longer of this world, but of Heaven.• We are adopted into His family as royalty.• There is no race, ethnicity, or gender.• We are representatives of His Kingdom• We are a colony of Heaven on earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love your enemies• Do good to those who hate you• Bless those who curse you• Pray for those who mistreat you• Turn the other cheek• Be generous, expecting nothing in return• Treat others how you want to be treated• Be merciful and pardon, do not judge or condemn

This is intended to help the student to begin to think of themselves in the ways God has redefined us as citizens and children in His Kingdom.

Week 3 – “Citizens of the Kingdom” Teaching Notes

Review

- Last week, we saw how the Kingdom is revealed within us
- We learned about the necessity of being born again – we have a hard heart
- We also looked at how the Holy Spirit affects our hearts, and how the fruit of the Holy Spirit is an expression of the Kingdom within us.
- We discussed repentance - how we repent from the deeds of the flesh, and we repent to love and the fruit of the Holy Spirit
- We also talked about how the Holy Spirit produces God's righteousness in us through love.
- And we saw how Christ breaks the power of sin, so we are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness.

Lesson 3-1 “Transferred to the Kingdom of Light”

- This week, we will talk about how our entry into the Kingdom redefines our lives in God's eyes.
- Would someone please read the Ephesians 2:19 passage? Page 38.

EPH 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household. NASB

- Okay, that leads us right into our 1a study question.

1a. What do the Ephesians 2:19, Colossians 1:13-16, and Philippians 3:17-20 passages teach us about our citizenship status?

When we come to Christ, we also become citizens of God's Kingdom.

- Would someone please read the Colossians 1:13-16 passage? Also, page 38.

COL 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created by Him and for Him. NASB

Q. What additional information does this passage give us about our citizenship status?

We've been transferred out of the domain of darkness and into the Kingdom.

Q. What does it mean to be transferred?

It means that we leave one and enter the other

- When we come to Christ, our citizenship status changes. God transfers us out of the dark world system, with its nations, dominions, and rulers.
- He naturalizes us as citizens in His own Kingdom of light. We are no longer foreigners, but Kingdom citizens.
- Would someone please read the Philippians 3:17-20 passage? page 39.

PHP 3:17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. NRSV

Q. What does this passage teach us about where our citizenship resides?

Our citizenship is in heaven

Q. Does it say anything there about us having a dual-citizenship with the world systems?

No. Our citizenship lies fully and firmly in the Kingdom of heaven.

Add this to the whiteboard - left side

"Our citizenship is no longer of this world, but of heaven"

- Would someone please read the John 17:14-19 passage? Also, page 39.

JN 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. NIV

- Here is our 1b study question.

1b. What do Jesus' words in John 17:14-19 teach us about ourselves and our relationship to the world systems?

We are not of this world, any more than Jesus is of this world

Q. How does this knowledge change the way we should think about ourselves?

Our identity as individuals and as a people must be centered in God's Kingdom.

Q. Is Jesus an American? Is Jesus a Democrat or a Republican?

He is none of these

Q. Where is the identity of Jesus centered? In the Kingdom of Heaven

- God wants to redefine how we think about ourselves, as well as our purpose and reason for being.
- We are in this world, but we are not of it.
- We are not to be entangled in the pursuits of the world

Lesson 3-2 "The Children of God"

- And there is another aspect to our transfer into the Kingdom of Heaven
- Would someone please read the John 1:10-13 passage? Page 41.

^{JN 1:10} He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. NIV

Q. What does it say we become when we receive Christ? Children of God

- When we come into God's Kingdom, we become Kingdom Citizens, but also His Children.

Q. Is Jesus royalty? Yes

Q. Is God royalty? Yes

Q. If God is royalty and we are children of God, what does that make us?

It makes us royalty

- So, we were not royalty in the world, but now in the Kingdom, we become royal

Add this to the whiteboard - left side

"We are adopted into His family as royalty"

Q. When we first come into the Kingdom of God, what do we know about being royalty?

We probably know nothing about being royal

- The entirety of our experience has been of being a commoner on the outside of the Kingdom, nothing of being inside.
- We may truly be royal in our spiritual DNA, but we still have no clue about what it means to be a Kingdom Citizen or a Child of God.
- If we want to be effective in our royal position, we must learn to think and act like Kingdom Citizens and Children of God.
- In the Gospel of Luke, there is a passage in which Jesus teaches us what being a royal child of God is all about.
- We'll read our 2a. study question first, so you can be looking for these things.

2a. From Luke 6:27-38, list the things Jesus said the royal children of God should do?

- Now, let's read through the passage to see what Jesus says. Instructor reads.

LK 6:27 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ "Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. ³⁰ "Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. ³¹ "And just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way.

LK 6:32 "And if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ "And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ "And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, in order to receive back the same amount.

LK 6:35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ³⁶ "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ "And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. ³⁸ "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure,

pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." NASB

- Are you still interested in being royal?
- Let's list these things on the board

Q. What are some of the things Jesus says here?

Write these on the whiteboard - right side

Love your enemies,

Do good to those who hate you,

Bless those who curse you,

Pray for those who mistreat you.

Turn the other cheek

Be generous, expect nothing in return

Treat others the way you want to be treated

Be merciful, do not judge, do not condemn, pardon

- In the Kingdom, being royal is more about serving, than being served.
- Here is our 2b study question.

2b. Why are these things sometimes so difficult for us?

Because the world does not operate that way, and the world's ways are all we've ever known. We have not yet learned to be royal in the Kingdom.

Lesson 3-3 "Neither Jew, nor Greek"

- There is yet another redefining aspect for us in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Please turn to page 45. This is the Matthew 24:6-14 passage. Instructor reads

MT 24:6 "And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end."⁷ "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes."⁸ "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs."⁹ "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name."¹⁰ "And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another."¹¹ "And many false prophets will arise and will mislead many."¹² "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold."¹³ "But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved."¹⁴ "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."

- Here is our 3a study question.

3a. From the Matthew 24:6-14 passage, what does Jesus tell us will continue to happen in the earth until He returns to make all things right?

There will continue to be wars, famines, earthquakes, persecution, apostasy, false teachers, lawlessness, and the preaching of the gospel.

- We'll cover more of this in later lessons, but for now, we'll focus on verse 7.

MT 24:7 “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...”

- The English word “nation” is translated from the Greek word “ethnos” (from which we derive the words “ethnic” and “ethnicity”).
- Essentially, Jesus is telling us that there will be ethnic strife in the world all the way to the end of the age
- No matter how hard they try, mankind will never solve this problem.
- But already God has a solution to it
- Would someone please read the Galatians 3:26-29 passage? Page 45.

GAL 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. NASB

- Here is our 3b study question.

3b. And what does Galatians 3:26-29 teach about God's solution to racial and ethnic divisions?

In the Kingdom of God, ethnicity does not exist

Write these on the whiteboard - left side

There is no race, ethnicity, or gender

Q. How does this Kingdom reality impact our identity as individuals?

We should not think of ourselves in terms of ethnicity - because it doesn't exist

Q. How should this Kingdom fact define the way we relate to one another in the Church?

We should not think of one another in terms of ethnicity

- In Colossians 3:9-11, it says this.

COL 3:9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. NIV

- Our new self has no ethnicity. If we are operating with racism or ethnic bias, it proves we are not walking in the new self.

Lesson 3-4 "Ambassadors for Christ"

- We are not of this world, but we are in the world and we have a purpose for being here.
- Look at the 2nd Corinthians 5:16-21 passage. Page 48. Someone please read.

^{2CO 5:16} From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NRSV

- Here is our 4a study question.

4a. From the 2nd Corinthians 5:16-21 passage, what position do we hold as representatives of God's Kingdom?

We are ambassadors representing Christ and the Kingdom of God

Write this on the whiteboard - left side

We are representatives of His Kingdom

Q. What is the role of an ambassador?

An ambassador is an official who represents his government to another country while living in that other country.

- As citizens of God's Kingdom living abroad on the earth (Heaven is our home), we serve as ambassadors of Christ to the people of the world.
- Here is our 4b study question.

4b. And what is the message of God to the world?

It is the message of reconciliation

- God wants the people of the world to be renewed to a proper relationship with Him.
- Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way through which they can be reconciled to God.
- On the Day of Pentecost, the Apostles found themselves serving as ambassadors before a group of people who had suddenly realized they were at a point of decision in their lives. Peter stood to speak and tell them what they must do.
- Would someone please read the Acts 2:36-39 passage? Page 50.

AC 2:36 Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." NRSV

- Here is our 4c study question.

4c. From Acts 2:36-39, how should people respond to God's message?
Repentance of sins, Believers Baptism, Faith in Jesus for forgiveness, Invite the Holy Spirit to come in

- We are not of this world, but as ambassadors, we are here to deliver a message of reconciliation to the world

Lesson 3-5 "A Colony of Heaven"

- Would someone please read the Hebrews 11:13-16 passage? Page 52.

HEB 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. NIV

- Here is our 5a study question.

5a. What do you see as the main point the writer is making in the Hebrews 11:13-16 passage?

This world is not our home, we are only temporary residents here.

- For now, we are Kingdom citizens dwelling in a foreign land.

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We are a colony of Heaven on earth

- And we do have a purpose during our stay on this earth.
- Would someone please read the Matthew 5:14-16 passage? Page 52.

MT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. NRSV

- Here is our 5b study question.

5b. And according to Jesus in Matthew 5:14-16, what is our purpose here on this earth?

Like a city on a hill, God has placed us in a position of visibility, so the world might see a people who reflect the love, the goodness, and the righteousness of God.

- Amen, and glory to God.

TEACHING NOTES	THE TEMPLE OF GOD
FOUNDATIONS 301	WEEK FOUR

Week 4 – “The Temple of God”

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary – These lessons are designed to focus attention to the mystery of the heavenly temple as our true place of worship and spiritual service. The goal is to teach the student to embrace their own priestly role and responsibilities in offering spiritual sacrifices to God in His temple.

4-1 – “A More Perfect Tabernacle” – reveals the reality of the spiritual temple built by God in the heavenlies – the temple in which the blood of Christ was offered as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. This spiritual temple is now God’s sanctioned place for worship, and the student is encouraged to enter this spiritual temple to worship God in spirit and truth, which is the way God desires to be worshiped.

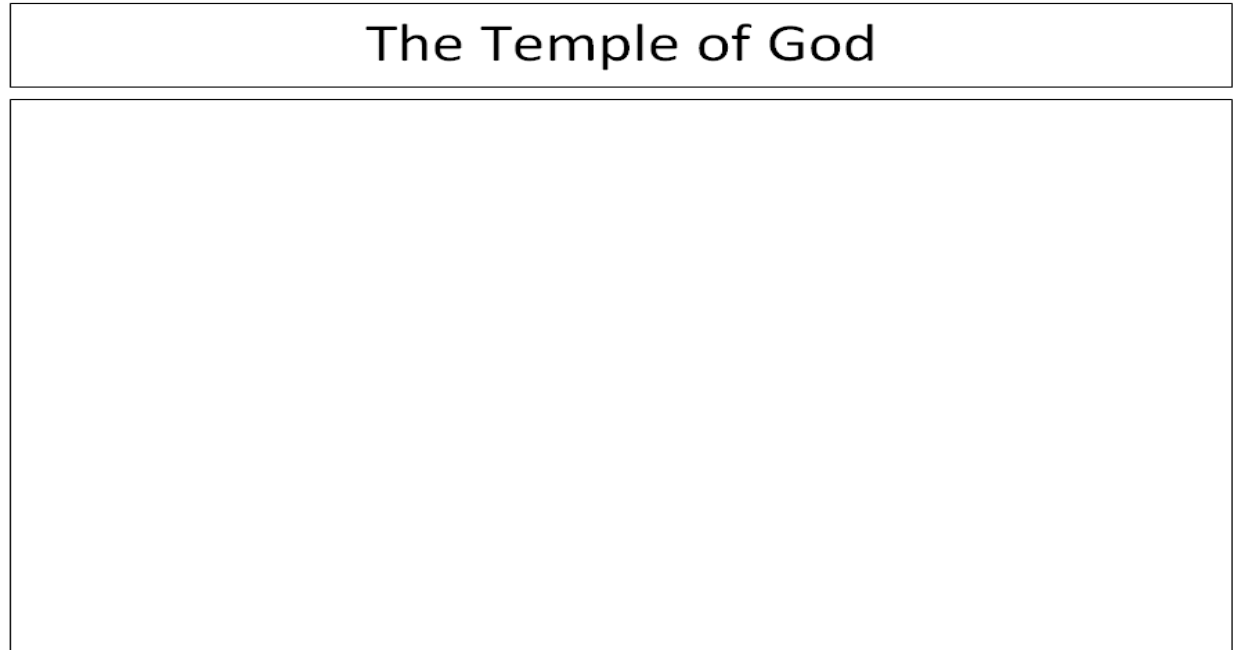
4-2 – “A Temple of the Holy Spirit” – goes deeper into the mystery of the spiritual temple, showing that we are part of the temple, and the temple part of us. In the same way the Holy Spirit can dwell in all believers, so is the heavenly temple.

4-3 – “Zeal for Your House” – emphasizes the importance of keeping our inner temple clean. Jesus cleansed the physical temple in Jerusalem as an example for us in the spiritual. Our hearts are to be a sacred place of prayer, worship, healing, and wholeness. We must be careful we do not turn it into a place of corruption, self-seeking, and dishonest religiosity.

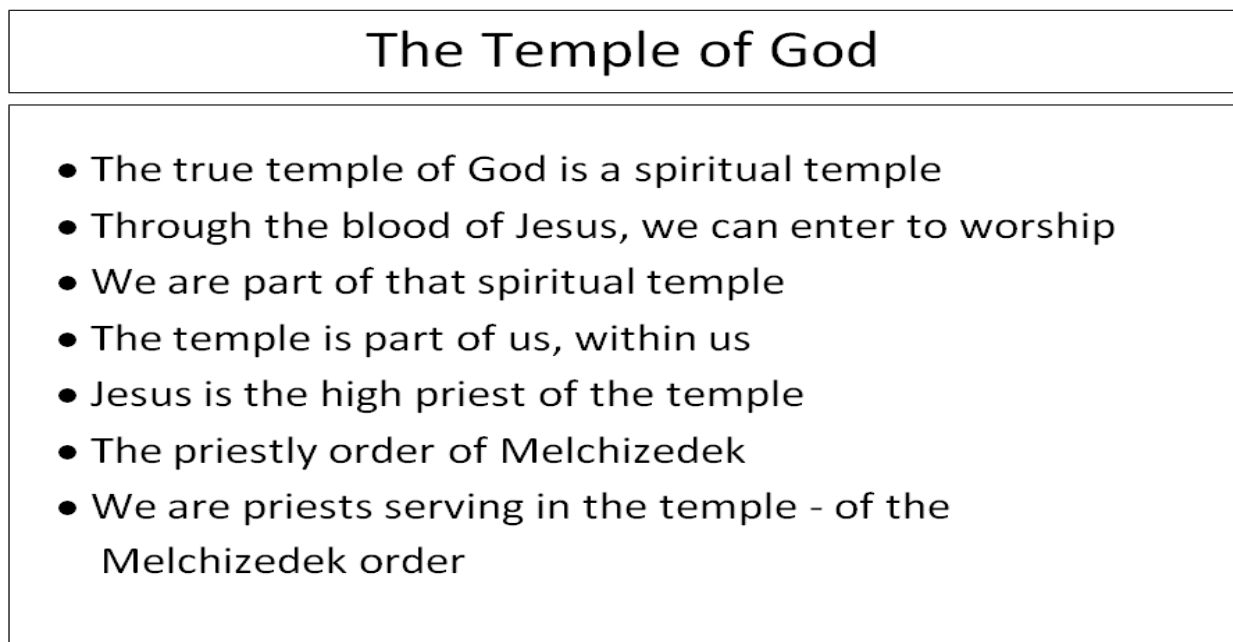
4-4 – “The Order of Melchizedek” – explores the priestly order of Melchizedek, which is a royal priesthood of which Jesus is the High Priest, and we are priests to God under Him. This study explains the basis upon which Jesus can be both priest and king, which would have been legally impossible under the Law of Moses.

4-5 – “A Royal Priesthood” - details the different facets of our role as priests in the heavenly temple. It presents several aspects of our spiritual service as priests according to the order of Melchizedek, including the offering of spiritual sacrifices to God in the temple.

Preparation Notes - When you begin your Week 4 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.



As you conclude your Week 4 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.



This is intended to help the student to begin to think of themselves in the ways God has redefined us as a royal priesthood in His Kingdom.

Week 4 – “The Temple of God” Teaching Notes

Review

- Last week, we talked about what happens when we come to Christ.
- Sometimes we think we are just adding Jesus to our lives, when in reality, God is entirely redefining who we are.
- We looked at several aspects of our new identity in the Kingdom

Our new Kingdom Identity

- We are now citizens of the Kingdom – transferred from the world
- We are now new creations – no ethnicity, Jew, Greek, European, African, Hispanic, etc....
- We are now children of God – royalty
- We are now Kingdom ambassadors – message of reconciliation
- We are now a colony of heaven – this earth is not our home

Lesson 4-1 “A More Perfect Tabernacle”

- Tonight, we're going to talk about the temple of God.

Q. What is the purpose of a temple?

A temple is a place of worship - a place to meet with God

- Every religion has its holy sites and places of worship – places they believe they can go to get closer to God.
- For Islam, the holiest city is Mecca in western Saudi Arabia
- For Buddhists, Bodh Gaya in eastern India is the foremost religious site.
- For Jews, Jerusalem is the holy city
- People of all religions trek to their respective holy sites because they believe they are more likely to have a special spiritual experience because the location is more favored by their deities than other places are.
- During His earthly travels, Jesus encountered a Samaritan woman who questioned Him about the proper location to worship God.
- Would someone please read the John 4:19-24 passage? page 56

JN 4:19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus declared, "Believe me woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem." ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the

Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." NIV

- Here is our 1a study question.

1a. In John 4:19-24, what does Jesus teach us about where and how we should worship God?

He said we would no longer seek Him in physical locations, but in the spiritual.

- Jesus is saying that something was going to happen that would open the door for people to begin to worship God in the way He really wants to be worshiped

Q. In the Old Testament times, where did the Children of Israel worship?

At first, they worshiped on the high places of mountains, then at the tabernacle of Moses, wherever it happened to be. When the temple was built in Jerusalem, that was the sanctioned place of worship

- Let's look for a moment at what we can learn from the tabernacle of Moses
- Would someone please read the Hebrews 8:1-2 passage? Page 57.

HEB 8:1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. NIV

- Interesting... Would someone now read the Hebrews 8:5 passage? page 57.

HEB 8:5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." NIV

- Here is our 1b study question.

1b. And what do Hebrews 8:1-2 and 8:5 reveal about the reason God instructed Moses to build the wilderness tabernacle the way He did?

Because the tabernacle of Moses was patterned after a heavenly temple that already existed.

Add this to the whiteboard

"The true tabernacle of God is a heavenly temple"

- The tabernacle built by Moses and the temple built by Solomon were both physical replicas built to mirror the spiritual tabernacle that had already been built by God in the heavenly realm.
- Here is what it says in Hebrews 9:11-14. Page 57. Instructor reads

- And notice what it says here about what Jesus did as High Priest.

HEB 9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! NIV

Q. What does it say there about what Jesus did as High Priest?

In the same way that the Levitical priest would offer animal blood in the physical tabernacle, Jesus offered His own blood in the heavenly tabernacle as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- Would someone please read the Hebrews 10:19-22 passage? page 58.

HEB 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. NIV

Q. How has the atoning blood of Jesus impacted our worship of God?

Before Christ shed His blood, we were denied access to this heavenly tabernacle built by God. But now, we are invited to enter the Most Holy Place of this heavenly temple to draw near to God in worship and communion with Him.

- This action by Jesus has opened the door for us worship God in way which was previously not possible.

Add this to the whiteboard

Through Jesus' blood, we enter the Holiest Place to worship

- We can enter this spiritual temple to worship God from any place and at any time.

Lesson 4-2 "A Temple of the Holy Spirit"

- Would someone please read the Ephesians 2:19-22 passage? page 59.

EPH 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him

you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. NIV

- Here is our 2a study question.

2a. What does Ephesians 2:19-22 teach us about the temple of God?

Add this to the whiteboard

We are part of the temple

- So, while we are invited to enter this temple to worship, we are also part of the temple, both individually and corporately.
- Here is something Peter said in 1st Peter 2:4-6, page 59 Instructor reads.

^{1PE 2:4} As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." NIV

- The temple of God is a great mystery.
- Jesus is the cornerstone of the heavenly temple, and we individually are being shaped to fit in perfect alignment with Him.
- We can enter the temple to worship, but we are also part of the temple. But there is yet another mysterious thing about the temple of God.
- Would someone please read the 1st Corinthians 6:19-20 passage? page 59.

^{1CO 6:19} Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body. NASB

- Here is our 2b study question.

2b. And what do we learn about the temple of God from 1st Corinthians 6:19-20?

Add this to the whiteboard

Individually, our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit

- Wherever you go, the Spirit goes with you.
- Wherever you go, the temple goes with you.
- You are a part of the temple, and the temple is a part of you.
- Here is what it says in Hebrews 9:1-5, page 60. Instructor reads

^{HEB 9:1} Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary. ² For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place. ³ And behind the second veil, there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, ⁴ having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in

which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant.⁵ And above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail. NASB

- We don't have time to get into the details of what all of this means, but each of these implements of worship are within the temple that is within us.
- They all have spiritual significance in our worship.
- We covered some of this in the book. You can make it a point of personal study.

Lesson 4-3 “Zeal for Your House”

- Someone please read the John 2:13-17 passage? Page 62.

JN 2:13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." NRSV

- This was early in Jesus' ministry, but He did the same thing later in His ministry.
- Someone please read the Matthew 21:12-15 passage? Also, on Page 62

MT 21:12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.¹³ "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' "¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. NIV

- Here is your 3a study question.

3a. In the account given in Matthew 21:12-15, what did Jesus do, and why?

He cleansed the temple of the corruption and exploitation of the people who had come to worship and give sacrifice.

He drove the commerce out because the temple is supposed to be a place of prayer, of healing and wholeness for people - not exploitation.

- They were polluting the temple with their corrupt business practices

Q. So, why does any of this matter for us today?

It matters because we are the temple of God – you and me.

- Jesus desires our hearts to be a place of prayer and worship and healing and wholeness, just the same as the physical temple was to be.
- Someone please read 1st Peter 2:1-5. Page 63

¹PE 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, ² like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. ⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. NASB

- Now, someone please read 1st Corinthians 6:18-20. Page 63.

¹CO 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body. NIV

- Here is our 3b study question.

3b. In 1st Peter 2:1-5 and 1st Corinthians 6:18-20, what are we instructed to do, and why?

Avoid sexual sins because our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

- Jesus is no less zealous for a clean spiritual temple today than He was for a clean physical temple back in that day.

Lesson 4-4 "The Order of Melchizedek"

- Someone please read the Hebrews 4:14 passage. Page 65

^{HEB 4:14} Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. NRSV

Q. So, in this heavenly temple, what role does Jesus serve?

Add this to the whiteboard

Jesus is High Priest of the temple

- Here is something else that is said about Jesus regarding His priesthood. Hebrews 7:13-14. Page 65 Instructor reads

^{HEB 7:13} He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. NIV

- And here is the Hebrews 8:4 passage. Also, on page 65. Instructor reads

HEB 8:4 Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. NRSV

- Here is our 4a study question.

4a. From Hebrews 7:13-14 and 8:4, why is it impossible for Jesus to serve as a priest under the law of Moses?

It is because under the law of Moses, only the tribe of Levi could serve as priests

- So, if Jesus is not descended from the priestly order, upon what basis can He be a priest?
- Oddly, the answer is found in Psalm 110, which is a Messianic prophecy.
- It is on page 66 of your book. Someone please read it.

PS 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ² The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. ³ Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth. ⁴ The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." ⁵ The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. NIV

- Here is our 4b study question.

4b. What does Psalm 110:1-5 reveal about the priesthood of Jesus?

Jesus is an eternal high priest - but not of the order of Levi. He is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Add this to the whiteboard

The priestly order of Melchizedek

Q. Who in the world is Melchizedek?

- Someone please read the Hebrews 7:1-4 passage. Page 66

HEB 7:1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." ³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. ⁴ Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! NIV

- Those are some very interesting attributes.
- Melchizedek is on the scene at a pivotal point in the life of Abraham
- Abraham's nephew Lot had been taken captive along with the city of Sodom
- Abraham went to war to free Lot, and here is what happened afterward.

- Genesis 14:17-20 page 66. Instructor reads

GE 14:17 After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him one tenth of everything. NRSV

- And that, along with the Psalm 110 passage is all the Old Testament has to say about Melchizedek.
- But after this meal of bread and wine, and the blessing Melchizedek pronounced over Abraham, something happened that changed the course of Biblical history
- Let's read about it. Someone please read the Genesis 15:1-6 passage, page 68

GE 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward. " ² But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

GE 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. NIV

- Here is our 4c study question.

4c. And what happened immediately after Abram's encounter with Melchizedek?

Abram's meeting with Melchizedek led him directly into his covenant relationship with the Most-High God.

- From that point on, the Abrahamic covenant was the foundation upon which all Biblical history has been built.
- Melchizedek is not such an insignificant character after all, at the very least, he was a typology of Christ.
- It is very possible he was a manifestation of Christ

Lesson 4-5 "A Royal Priesthood"

- Someone please read the Revelation 1:4-6 passage, page 69

REV 1:4 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, ⁵ 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, ⁶ 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. NIV

Q. What did he say we have been made to be?

A kingdom and priests to serve God

- So, we also serve as priests in the temple?
- Someone please read the 1st Peter 2:9 passage, page 69

^{IPE 2:9} But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. NIV

- Here is our 5a study question.

5a. In 1st Peter 2:9, what does Peter say about our identity in Christ?

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,

Q. What order is the Royal Priesthood? The order of Melchizedek

Add this to the whiteboard

We are priests serving in the temple - order of Melchizedek

- If Jesus is of the order of Melchizedek, then we also are of that same royal priesthood.
- This is part of our identity as a citizen of the Kingdom of God, a child of God, and a joint heir with Christ.
- And when we offer up our prayers as priests, something interesting happens
- Someone please read the Revelation 8:3-5 passage, page 71

^{REV 8:3} And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. ⁵ And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. NASB

- Here is our 5b study question.

5b. According to Revelation 8:3-5, what happens to our prayers?

They are placed upon the golden altar before the throne, which is the same altar where the blood of Jesus was offered. Those prayers return to earth in great power.

- Here is our 5c study question.

5c. What are some of the spiritual sacrifices we perform as part our priestly duties in the temple?

We offer prayers for the saints

We offer intercession for the lost

We offer praise, worship, and thankfulness

We offer our bodies as living sacrifices

We offer gifts to advance the Kingdom of Heaven

- Amen, and glory to God.

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 301 WEEK FIVE	A KINGDOM AT WAR
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Week 5 – A Kingdom at War

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary – These lessons are intended to teach the student the first steps to engaging in spiritual warfare, including how to effectively put on the armor of God in practical ways. They are designed to teach the student that Satan is the real enemy, rather than people, who are often the unknowing participants in this spiritual war.

5-1 – “Citizen Soldiers” – is an introduction to spiritual warfare. It encourages the student to recognize there is a spiritual war going on, to step up and take their place as a soldier in Christ’s army, and to do battle against Satan’s powers of darkness.

5-2 – “The Art of War” – reveals the fact that Satan and the powers of darkness are actively making war against us and seeking to devour us, whether we see it or not. Through Christ’s victory, we fight from a position of victory. But if we are unaware, unprepared, or otherwise failing to resist Satan, he can still handily defeat us. This emphasizes the importance of learning to effectively make war against him.

5-3 – “The Full Armor of God” – begins with a listing of the full armor of God, then focuses on the breastplate of righteousness. It explains to the student how a love-based righteous lifestyle protects our heart and our inner man from being vulnerable to Satan’s attacks. Living in love and righteousness is how we put on the breastplate of righteousness.

5-4 – “The Belt of Truth” – emphasizes the importance of having a heart for truth, both in what we speak and what we believe. If we play loose with the truth, it opens the door for Satan to attack us in many areas of our lives, but especially in our relationships. But if we have a heart for truth, God can trust us and reveal truth to us.

5-5 – “The Helmet of Salvation” – calls upon the student to consider the reasons why we must faithfully fight in this spiritual war. Christ gives us a righteous cause and a promise of salvation worth dying for. The student is encouraged to set their heart and mind to be faithful to Christ to the very end.

[Preparation Notes](#) - When you begin your Week 5 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

A Kingdom at War	
<u>Satan's war against us</u>	<u>Our firm stance against Satan</u>

As you conclude your Week 5 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

A Kingdom at War	
<u>Satan's war against us</u>	<u>Our firm stance against Satan</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Satan schemes to make war against us• He comes like a blood-thirsty animal to devour us• He comes like a thief to kill, steal, and destroy• He is a defeated enemy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We put on the full armor of God so we can stand strong• We humble ourselves• We submit to God• We purify our hearts• We draw near to God• We resist the devil• Our warfare is not against other people

This is intended to help the student to clearly see that Satan is making war against us. It also provides a foundation of truth that leads to effective warfare and victory.

Week 5 “A Kingdom at War” – Teaching Notes

Review

- Over the past weeks, we’ve looked at our new identity as Kingdom citizens
- Last week, we saw several aspects of our Kingdom identity as worshiper and priests
- We now have access to the most holy place in the heavenly temple - through His blood
- We are now part of that temple as living stones, being hewn to fit in perfect alignment with Jesus, the cornerstone.
- We also have that temple within us, going with us, through the Holy Spirit
- Tonight, we're going to study another aspect of our Kingdom identity as soldiers fighting in a spiritual war.

Lesson 5-1 – “Citizen Soldiers”

- The New Testament scriptures often speak of our Christian experience using military terms.
- I want to start with reading the 1a study question, then we'll read the associated scripture.

1a. What does Ephesians 6:10-12 teach us about what is currently going on in the spirit realm?

- Would someone please read the Ephesians 6:10-12 passage? page 74.

EPH 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. NIV

Q. What does this reveal is currently going on in the spirit realm?

There is a war in the spiritual realm, and the devil is scheming against us

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Satan schemes to make war against us

- Whether we recognize it or not, there is a spiritual war going on all around us.
- This is a war between the powers of darkness and the Kingdom of Heaven, of which we are citizens.
- These forces of evil are attempting to destroy our families, our Christian fellowship, and our individual lives.

- Before we read our next scripture, this is our 1b study question.

1b. And according to Ephesians 6:13-18, how should we prepare ourselves for this reality?

- Would someone please read the Ephesians 6:13-18 passage? page 74.

EPH 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. NIV

Q. So, how should we prepare ourselves for this spiritual warfare reality?

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We put on the full armor of God so we can stand strong

Q. So, who's armor is this?

Not our armor, but God's armor

- If we attempt in our own strength to do battle against Satan and the powers of darkness, they will make hash out of us.
- Look at the 2nd Corinthians 10:3-5 passage on page 75. Instructor reads

2CO 10:3 Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments ⁵ and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ. NRSV

- We are living in a physical world, but we're fighting a spiritual war using spiritual weapons.

Q. Is this only for the pastors and church staff?

No. Everyone in the Kingdom is called to take up arms and join in the fight`

- There is most certainly a war going on, so let's make sure we show up for it.
- If we are going to be effective in battle, we must understand our enemy
- Would someone please read the 1st Peter 5:6-9 passage? page 77.

Lesson 5-2 – “The Art of War”

^{1PE 5:6} Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. NRSV

- Here is our 2a study question.

2a. From 1st Peter 5:6-9 and John 10:10-12, what do we learn about Satan's intentions toward us?

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He comes like a blood-thirsty animal to devour us

- Would someone please read the John 10:10-12 passage? page 78.

^{JN 10:10} "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly. ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² "He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them, and scatters them. NASB

Q. Once again, what do we learn here about Satan's intentions toward us?

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He comes like a thief to kill, steal, and destroy.

- Satan is like a ruthless, blood-thirsty animal intent on destroying our lives.
- He has no ethics, nor morality, no sense of right and wrong, no conscience.
- Unless we learn how to fight as effective spiritual warriors, Satan can run roughshod over our lives, over our children, over our families, and over our church communities.
- Would someone please read the Hebrews 2:14-15 passage? page 79.

^{HEB 2:14} Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. NASB

Q. Is Satan a defeated enemy?

Yes, Jesus has rendered him powerless

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Satan is a defeated enemy

- So, if Satan is a defeated enemy, why does he seem so successful against the Church?
- Would someone please read the James 4:6-10 passage? page 79.

JAS 4:6 But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. NRSV

- Here is our 2b study question.

2b. And from the James 4:6-10 passage, what are we taught to do, and why?

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We humble ourselves

We submit ourselves to God

We purify our hearts

We draw near to God

We resist the devil.

Q. What happens if we do this? Satan will flee before us

- If we throw up a strong front of resistance, he will flee because he is a defeated enemy.

Q. But what if we don't humble ourselves, and don't submit ourselves, and don't draw near to God, and don't resist the devil?

He will come through like an F5 tornado and leave an unbelievable path of destruction behind. We won't even see it coming.

- Most of Satan's victories come because he encounters little or no resistance.
- Most of the battles we lose are lost because we concede before the battle begins.
- We fight from a position of victory, but we will still not experience the victory if we do not resist.

Lesson 5-3 – "The Full Armor of God"

- Would someone please read the Ephesians 6:10-12 passage again? page 80.

EPH 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. NIV

- Here is our 3a study question.

3a. What does Ephesians 6:10-12 teach us about who our enemy is, and who is not our enemy?

The devil and the powers of darkness are our enemies, not people

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Our warfare is not against people

- Our warfare is not against people - those for whom Christ has died.
- As for people, we love them and desire they be reconciled to their Maker.
- In the heat of battle, we must always keep that in mind.
- And if we are going to successfully hold our ground and put the enemy to flight, we must learn to stand in God's power.
- Would someone please read the Ephesians 6:13 passage? page 81.

EPH 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. NIV

- Here is our 3b study question.

3b. According to Ephesians 6:13, when should we put on our armor, and when should we take it off?

We put on our armor before the battle come to us - we put it on now

- Our armor does not benefit us if we wait until we are already half dead before we try to put it on

Q. And when should we take it off?

We're not supposed to ever take it off.

- We do not know when the enemy will attack
- So, we eat with our armor on, and we sleep with our armor on.
- We wear it to work and when we go on vacation.
- Our armor is of no benefit to us if we are not wearing it.
- Would someone please read the Ephesians 6:14-17 passage? page 81.

EPH 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. NIV

- Here we see six pieces of spiritual armor, some for defending, some are for attacking, some are both.
- We're going to start with the breastplate of righteousness

Q. What part of the body does a breastplate protect?

It protects all the vital organs in the torso.

- Here is our 3c study question.

3c. How does the breastplate of righteousness protect us spiritually?

It protects our inner man, our heart from being damaged.

Q. So, how do we go about putting on the breastplate of righteousness?

- There's a hint in the name - breastplate of righteousness
We put on the breastplate of righteousness by walking in righteousness
- When we walk in righteousness, it protects our heart and inner man like a breastplate.
- When I was first learning about the armor of God, I was taught we put on the armor by speaking with our mouth - sort of a name it and claim it method.
- That didn't work at all - Satan still beat the stuffing out of me because my walk was not matching my confession
- There is another scripture that helps us to understand this breastplate of righteousness
- Would someone please read the 1st Thessalonians 5:7-8 passage? page 82.

^{1TH 5:7} For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. NIV

- In this passage, Paul mentions a breastplate of love.

Q. So, are there two breastplates?

No, because love is how we live righteously

- Here is what it says in Romans 13. This is on page 82. Instructor reads

RO 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For this, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹ And do this, knowing the time... NASB

- When we are filled with God's love and are expressing that love to others – that is God's righteousness working in us.
- It is a mighty weapon to protect our inner being
- But if we harbor jealousy, bitterness, anger, selfishness, unforgiveness, or things like these in our hearts, we become vulnerable to attack and Satan can skewer us

Lesson 5-4 – "The Belt of Truth"

- Now, let's talk about the belt of truth.

Q. For a Roman soldier, what was the functional purpose of a belt?

The main purpose for the belt was to secure their tunic (not trousers) tightly around the waist.

- This was important because you could not risk having your clothes flying around and entangling you during battle.

A belt also served a utility purpose being something to which a sword, a money pouch, or any other small item, could be attached.

Q. So, how do we put on the belt of truth?

- There is a hint in the name.

We put on the belt of truth by being honest and having a heart for truth

- Would someone please read the Ephesians 4:25 passage? page 84.

EPH 4:25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. NRSV

- Here is our 4a study question.

4a. What does Ephesians 4:25 instruct us to do?

We are to put away falsehood and speak the truth

- Here is our 4b study question.

4b. And why is this important?

If we are not truthful people, Satan will use it to destroy all our

relationships because people will learn we cannot be trusted because our words are unreliable.

- Can someone please read the words of Jesus in John 8:44-45 ? page 85.

JN 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! NIV

- Here is our 4c study question.

4c. What does John 8:44-45 teach us about Satan's nature? He is a liar.

Q. So, when we play loose with the truth, who are we acting like? Satan

- If we are prone to being less than truthful, it shows Satan already has a foothold in our hearts.
- Would someone please read the 2nd Timothy 2:15 passage? page 86.

2TI 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. NASB

- Here is our 4d study question.

4d. Why is it important for teachers to be careful to follow the instruction in 2nd Timothy 2:15?

If we don't have hearts for truth, Satan can deceive the teacher and everyone who is being taught

Lesson 5-5 – "The Helmet of Salvation"

- Now, let's look at the helmet of salvation.
- Would someone please read the 1st Thessalonians 5:4-9 passage? page 88.

1TH 5:4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith, and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

- Here is our 5a study question.

5a. What does 1st Thessalonians 5:8 teach us about the helmet we are called to put on as armor? He calls it the hope of salvation

- Throughout his writings, Paul teaches there are certain things associated with our salvation that we hope for, but have not yet received.
- One of those passages is Philippians 3:7-16 on page 88

- But before we read this, here is our 5b study question.

5b. And from Philippians 3:7-16, what does Paul teach us about his goals and what he wanted to attain?

- Here is Philippians 3:7-16 on page 88. Instructor reads

PHP 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

PHP 3:12 Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

PHP 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶ however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. NASB

Q. What does Paul teach us here about what he wanted to attain?

He said he had not yet obtained it, but that his goal was to be found in Christ and to attain to the resurrection of the dead

- He said he was pressing on to lay hold of the resurrection.
- In Matthew 25, Jesus said those who endure to the end will be saved.
- Paul understood that eternal life with Christ is reserved for those servants who are faithful to the end, not for those who quit or turn out to be unfaithful.
- Here is our 5c study question.

5c. How does this knowledge help us to continue strong in the battle against the powers of darkness?

We have a hope of salvation before us, so we have some skin in the game.

- Some people act as if they have a full guarantee of the whole package, regardless of how they live.
- The Apostle Paul knew better and sought to continuously keep himself in full alignment with Jesus and to faithfully endure to the end.
- Amen and glory to God.

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 301 WEEK SIX	THE ADVANCING KINGDOM
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Week 6 – “The Advancing Kingdom”

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary - These lessons are mostly about using spiritual weapons to attack and drive back the powers of darkness. They are intended to encourage the student to take up every weapon available in fighting against the enemy and to use these weapons to advance God's Kingdom.

6-1 – “Faith as a Shield to Defend” – is a discussion of how we use the shield of faith as a defensive weapon to protect against the attacks that come from Satan and the powers of darkness. It reveals why Satan attempts to use flaming arrows against us as a diversionary tactic, while his real motive is to drive a wedge between us and God.

6-2 – “Faith as a Shield to Attack” – speaks about using faith as a weapon of attack to drive back the powers of darkness. It encourages the student to ask God to increase our faith to take back any ground that the enemy may have been occupying. It also shows the shield as weapon we can use to protect other people, or to link the faith of many people together.

6-3 – “The Sword of the Spirit” – shows how the word of God works like a sword to pierce and drive back the enemy. It emphasizes the fact that the word of the Lord always accomplishes its purpose because God ensures that it will. God entrusts His word to us and invites us to join Him as an instrument speaking His word in faith.

6-4 – “The Good News Shoes” – looks into relational evangelism as an aspect of spiritual warfare. It presents practical strategies for sharing our faith with neighbors, relatives, and acquaintances in a strategic, but non-confrontational and non-threatening way.

6-5 – “All Authority” - makes the important point that any spiritual power we have, is ours because it has been delegated to us by Jesus. As we begin to walk in spiritual victory, we must always remember that it is for His glory and honor, not ours. Many times, the authority is not granted because we are not aligned with Jesus' heart and motives.

Preparation Notes - When you begin your Week 6 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

The Full Armor of God

- The Belt of Truth - having a heart for truth and honesty
- The Breastplate of Righteousness/Love - living a righteous life that proceeds from a loving heart
- The Helmet of Salvation - keeping our hope centered in the salvation of God.

As you conclude your Week 6 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

The Full Armor of God

- The Belt of Truth - having a heart for truth and honesty
- The Breastplate of Righteousness/Love - living a righteous life that proceeds from a loving heart
- The Helmet of Salvation - keeping our hope centered in the salvation of God.
- The Shield of Faith - keeping our confident focus on God as our strength and solution during difficult, fiery trials.
- The Sword of the Spirit - the word of God proceeding from our heart, then being spoken with our mouth.
- The Good News Shoes - being always prepared to share the good news of Christ.

This is intended to help the student to understand, in very practical ways, how we put on and implement the Full Armor of God for use in spiritual warfare.

Week 6 – “The Advancing Kingdom” Teaching Notes

Review

- Thus far, we have discussed three pieces of the full armor of God
- The belt of truth, which we put on by having a heart for truth and honesty
- The breastplate of righteousness/love, which we put on by living a life of righteousness that proceeds from a heart of love.
- And the helmet of salvation, which we put on by setting our hope on God's salvation.
- These three are purely defensive weapons that serve to protect us from the enemy's attacks.

Lesson 6-1 – “Faith as a Shield to Defend”

- Now we will give attention to another weapon - the shield of faith.
- While it may appear to be only for protection, the shield can also be a mighty weapon for attack.
- But we'll start by studying the defensive aspects of the shield of faith.
- Here is the Ephesians 6 passage on page 91 of your book. Instructor reads

EPH 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. NIV

- Here is your 1a study question.

1a. From Ephesians 6:10-18, in what way does the shield of faith provide protection?

It protects from the flaming arrows of the enemy

- So, the arrows the enemy flings at us are not just plain arrows, but flaming arrows?

- Here is your 1b study question.

1b. In natural warfare, why would an enemy use flaming arrows?

Flaming arrows are not so much for killing, but for causing a fire that creates confusion, crisis, and panic.

- It is a diversionary tactic to consume our attention so he can mount a real attack from another direction.
- Please look on page 92 of your book at some of the things Sun Tzu taught his generals about using fire in warfare.
- Someone please read points 1 and 2.

1) When fire breaks out inside the enemy's camp, respond at once with an attack from without.

2) If there is an outbreak of fire, but the enemy's soldiers remain quiet, bide your time and do not attack.

Q. So, when Satan has lobbed flaming arrows at us, what signal would he be looking for to mount his next offensive?

He is looking for us to panic

Q. What happens if Satan lobbs flaming arrows at us, and we don't panic?

He will not attack because there is no opening for him

- When things start to go a little crazy in life, you can bet Satan is lobbing a few flaming arrows into your camp.
- One thing we need to understand is Satan's end game.
- Satan doesn't really care about many of the things he attacks in our lives, they are simply diversions.
- What he really wants is to drive a wedge between us and God by getting us to question God's character and His love for us.
- Would someone please read the 1st Peter 1:3-9 passage? page 93.

IPE 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

IPE 1: ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not

seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. NIV

- Here is your 1c study question.

1c. While under attack by fire, where should we focus our faith?

When we are under attack, we focus our attention on God as our solution

Add this to the whiteboard

The Shield of Faith - keeping our confident focus on God as our strength and solution during difficult, fiery trials.

- We focus on God's love, goodness, and power
- Our confidence in Him shields us from the enemy attack

Q. What happens if we focus all our attention on the problem?

Satan will continue to attack until he wears us down

- The shield of faith is a very effective defensive weapon, but it is also an effective weapon for attacking and driving the enemy back.

Lesson 6-2 – “Faith as a Shield to Attack”

- Would someone please read the Matthew 17:14-20 passage? page 94.

MT 17:14 And when they came to the multitude, a man came up to Him, falling on his knees before Him, and saying, ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic, and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water. ¹⁶ "And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said, "O unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.

MT 17:19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you. NASB

- Here is your 2a study question.

2a. From the Matthew 17:14-20 passage, what did Jesus do that His disciples could not?

He cast out the demon that they could not cast out

- Here is your 2b study question.

2b. And why could they not do it? Because their faith was small

- Jesus didn't say "I cast it out because I'm the Son of God and you are not."
- He said it was because their faith was too small
- Would someone please read the Luke 17:5 passage? page 95.

LK 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" NASB

- Keep that thought in mind for a moment
- Would someone please read the Matthew 18:19-20 passage? page 96.

MT 18:19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven." ²⁰ "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst." NASB

- Here is your 2c study question.

2c. What are some ways our faith can be expanded?

We can ask God to increase our faith

We can link our faith with someone else

Q. Any other ways?

Studying scripture, intentionally exercising our faith

- We should always be looking for ways to grow and expand our faith.

Lesson 6-3 – "The Sword of the Spirit"

- Now let's talk about the sword of the Spirit
- Would someone please read the Ephesians 6:17 passage? page 97.

EPH 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. NASB

- Here is your 3a study question.

3a. According to Ephesians 6:17, what is the Sword of the Spirit?

The word of God is a Spiritual Sword

Q. Is a sword a weapon for attacking or defending?

It can be used for defending, but it is primarily a weapon for attacking the enemy

- The sword of the Spirit is possibly the most powerful weapon we have for attacking the works of the powers of darkness.
- Would someone please read the Hebrews 4:12-13 passage? page 97.

HEB 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.

Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. NIV

- Here is your 3b study question.

3b. According to Hebrews 4:12-13, how does the Sword of the Spirit accomplish its work in people?

It penetrates our hearts to surgically remove bad things that are buried deep within.

- This is not done to damage us, but to deliver us and set us free.
- Would someone please read the Psalms 107:17-20 passage? page 97.

PS 107:17 Fools, because of their rebellious way, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted. ¹⁸ Their soul abhorred all kinds of food; and they drew near to the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses. ²⁰ He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions. NASB

Q. Why did the Lord send His word? To save us, deliver us, and heal us

- Look at page 98, what God says about His word in Isaiah 55:10. Instructor reads

ISA 55:10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth. It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. NASB

- The word of God always accomplishes its work.
- Would someone please read the Jeremiah 1:12 passage on page 98?

JER 1:12 Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it." NASB

Q. Why does the word of the Lord always accomplish its work?

Because God makes sure it does.

- Would someone please read the Deuteronomy 30:11-14 passage? page 98.

DT 30:11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. ¹² It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" ¹⁴ No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. NIV

- Here is your 3c study question.

3c. What does Deuteronomy 30:11-14 reveal about how we implement the Sword of the Spirit?

It proceeds from our heart and comes out of our mouth

Add this to the whiteboard

The Sword of the Spirit - is the word of God proceeding from our heart, then spoken with our mouth.

- It is as close as our lips.
- God invites us to take up His word as a weapon to fight the enemy.

Q. What are some reasons we might not take up the word as the sword of the Spirit?

Maybe we don't know the word

Maybe we haven't been trained to fight

- Will we study the word and learn how to handle it as a skillful swordsman?
- The word becomes active in us as we believe it, and then speak it.
- He will watch over His word to perform it

Lesson 6-4 – “The Good News Shoes”

- Would someone please read the Ephesians 6:13-15 passage? page 100.

EPH 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore and fasten the belt of truth around your waist and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet, put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. NRSV

- Here is your 4a study question.

4a. From Ephesians 6:13-15, what piece of spiritual armor are we to put on our feet?

In essence, Paul is telling us we should prepare ourselves to share the good news of Christ.

Add this to the whiteboard

The Good News Shoes - being always prepared to share the good news of Christ.

Q. What happens to a soldier in battle if they have no shoes?

Their ability to fight is greatly diminished, even if all their other weapons are good

- Without good boots to protect our feet, our ability to advance and take ground from the enemy would be severely limited.
- Would someone please read the Isaiah 52:7 passage? page 100.

ISA 52:7 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" NASB

- Here is your 4b study question.

4b. And how does the prophetic passage of Isaiah 52:7 describe the message our feet are to carry to the world?

It is good news of peace, happiness, and salvation

- Is that a difficult message to deliver?
- No, but people don't always receive it as good news, do they?

Q. What are some strategies we can employ to more effectively deliver the message?

Build relationships, find common ground with people
Look for opportunities bring God into the conversation
Look for opportunities to pray with people
Invite them to church

- These are all ways to prepare ourselves to deliver that message, and to prepare people to receive.
- It is a process of slowly and gently breaking the ice with people.
- Would someone please read the 1st Peter 3:15 passage? page 101.

IPE 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. NIV

- And sometimes, we give them the answer even if they don't ask.

Lesson 6-5 – “All Authority”

- Let's look at the Luke 7:2-10 passage on page 102 of your book. Instructor reads

LK 7:2 There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him,

"This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue."

LK 7:6 So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

LK 7:9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. NIV

Q. What can we learn about spiritual warfare from this passage?

Spiritual warfare, healing, and deliverance are very much about authority.

- This man had faith Jesus could heal his servant, because he knew Jesus had authority over the sickness.
- And Jesus was amazed at his faith
- Would someone please read the Matthew 9:35-10:1 passage? page 103.

MT 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." ^{10:1} He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. NIV

- Here is your 5a study question.

5a. From Matthew 9:35 - 10:1, what did Jesus give to His disciples?

He gave them authority over evil spirits, disease and sickness.

- So, He delegated this authority to them
- Here is your 5b study question.

5b. And how does this assist us in spiritual warfare?

Our authority is delegated to us by Jesus – it is not our own.

Q. Do we have any power of our own to deal with the powers of darkness? None at all

- So, any power or authority we have must be delegated from Him
- Here is your 5c study question

5c. What does verse 36 teach us about Jesus' motivations for engaging in spiritual warfare?

Out of His compassion for the people in need, He delegated this authority to His disciples to bring deliverance

- If we want Jesus to delegate this authority to us, then we probably need to make sure our motives are aligned with His.
- Would someone please read the Acts 8:18-21 passage? page 103.

AC 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God." NRSV

- Here is your 5d study question.

5d. And according to Acts 8:18-21, why did Peter rebuke Simon?

Because his motives for wanting the power were all wrong.

- So, instead of receiving the power, he received a strong rebuke.

Q. And what can we learn about spiritual warfare and delegated authority from that?

If my motives are wrong, the power will be withheld.

- It is an important question we all should ask ourselves.
- Why do we want the power?
- Is it because we secretly want to be seen as a big shot spiritual powerhouse?
- Or is it because we seek God's glory and share His compassion for people?
- So, we should pray and ask for the authority to do the Kingdom work, but not before we pray to receive His compassionate heart.
- If we have His heart, we can be trusted with His power. Amen?

<p>TEACHING NOTES</p>	<p>FOUNDATIONS 301 WEEK SEVEN</p>	<p>THE APOSTASY</p>
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Week 7 – “The Apostasy”

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary – These lessons are designed to expose the methods and strategies Satan uses to infiltrate the Church with false teaching and scriptural distortions. Many scriptural examples are given so the student can recognize these deceptions when they see them. There are also practical responses we can implement to do warfare against the powers of darkness.

7-1 – “The Father of Lies” – reveals Satan’s motives toward us, which is to steal, kill, and destroy us. This lesson also outlines several of Satan’s deceptive strategies he uses to attempt to damage our relationship with God by tempting us to doubt or question God in some way or another. When we believe these lies, Satan can use them to drive a wedge of mistrust between us and God.

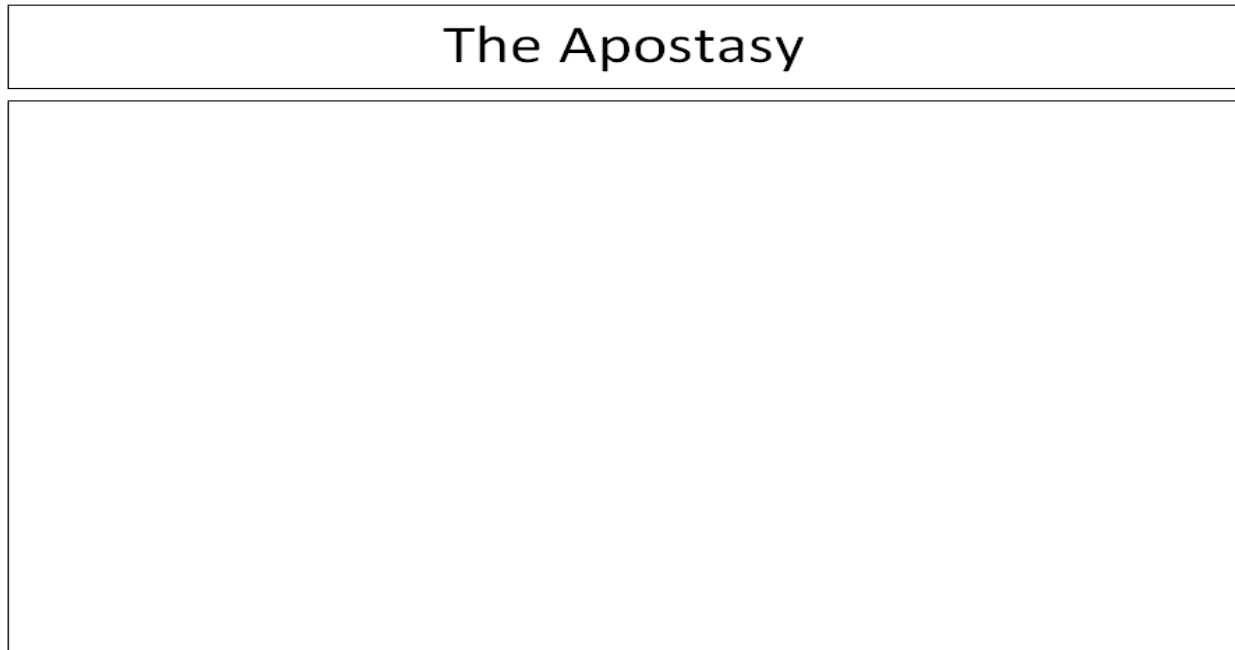
7-2 – “The Mystery of Lawlessness” – focuses on one of Satan’s most effective strategies, which is to plant his own operatives within the church to take over positions of power and influence. It also warns the student of a present-day apostasy in which people are gathering around teachers that deliver a gospel that does not produce a Christ-like life.

7-3 – “Doctrines of Demons” – presents the New Testament prophecies of the apostles concerning the great apostasy that takes place in the times before Jesus returns. It also exposes Satan’s strategy of distorting scripture so that it appears to be a license to sin. We encourage all the students to study the scriptures diligently to ensure the gospel they have been taught in the past aligns with the gospel as it was taught in the beginning.

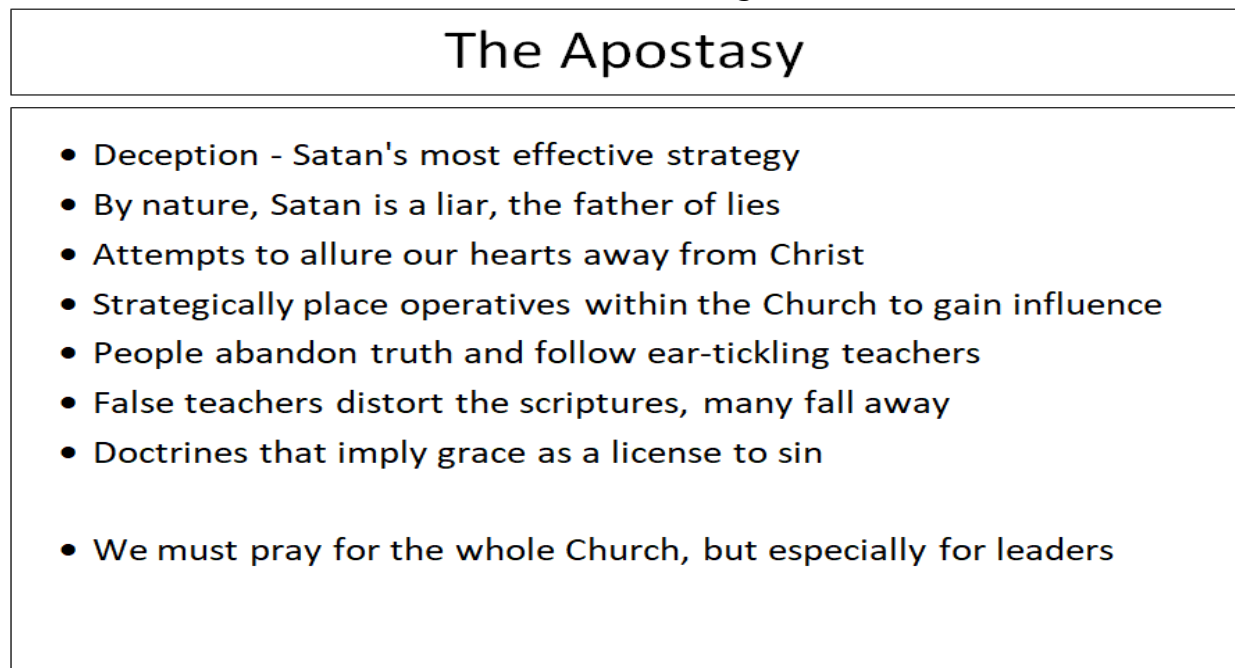
7-4 – “A License to Sin” – is intended to show the importance of literary context in interpreting scripture. We give examples of how Satan takes scriptures out of context to create false teachings and narratives that appear to be Biblical. However, when those scriptures are viewed in context, it is clear those false conclusions were not the intent of the New Testament authors.

7-5 – “Be Alert and Pray for all the Saints” – is an exhortation to pray as an action of spiritual warfare. It uses prayers from the Bible to teach us how to pray for one another, for our leader, for Christians everywhere, and for leaders everywhere – and even how to pray for those who do not yet know Christ.

Preparation Notes - When you begin your Week 7 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.



As you conclude your Week 7 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.



This is intended to help the student to recognize the strategies of Satan, with which he attempts to infiltrate and deceive the Church from within.

Week 7 – “The Apostasy” Teaching Notes

Lesson 7-1 – “The Father of Lies”

- Over the past couple of lessons, we have seen that we are in a war against Satan and the powers of darkness.
- As we wage war against the dark powers, it is essential we understand the methods and strategies the enemy attempts to employ against us.
- Someone please read the Genesis 3:13 passage? Page 106

GE 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." NIV

Q. When Satan attacked Adam and Eve in the Garden, what weapon did he use?

He attacked using deception

Add this to the whiteboard

Deception - Satan's most effective strategy

- Satan did not have to destroy Adam and Eve. He simply deceived them so they would disobey God and destroy themselves
- In his book, “The Art of War”, Sun Tzu taught his generals the basic tactics of using deception in warfare. He said: Instructor reads Page 106

All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must seem inactive. When we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.

Hold out baits to entice the enemy. Feign disorder and crush him. If he is secure at all points, be prepared for him. If he is superior in strength, evade him. If your opponent is of choleric temper, seek to irritate him. Pretend to be weak, that he may grow arrogant.

- Deception is Satan’s way of waging warfare against us - he is very good at it
- Someone please read the John 8:43-44 passage? page 107

JN 8:43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. NASB

- Here is your 1a study question.

1a. In the John 8:43-44 passage, what does Jesus reveal about Satan's nature, intentions, and methods?

He is a murderer, no truth in him, a liar by nature, the father (instigator) of lies

- Right here, Jesus reveals Satan's nature, tactics, and intent.
- Satan's war against the Church and us as individuals, is a war of lies, with the intent to murder and destroy.

Add this to the whiteboard

By nature, Satan is a liar, the father of lies

- Someone please read the 2nd Corinthians 11:2-3 passage? page 107

2CO 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. ³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. NIV

- Here is your 1b study question.

1b. And what does the 2nd Corinthians 11:2-3 passage teach us about what Satan attempts to do in the lives of Christians?

He attempts to draw us away from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ

Add this to the whiteboard

Attempts to allure our hearts away from Christ

- That is his goal.
- But, if we already know his strategy and plan of attack, we have the advantage.
- Satan's methods are clearly described in the scriptures, therefore predictable.

Lesson 7-2 – “The Mystery of Lawlessness”

- Someone please read the 2nd Corinthians 11:12-15 passage? page 109

2CO 11:13 For such boasters are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match their deeds. NRSV

- Here is your 2a study question.

2a. What strategy of Satan is revealed in 2nd Corinthians 11:13-15?

He seeks to infiltrate the Church and take over the leadership to control what is taught

Add this to the whiteboard

Strategically place operatives within the Church to gain influence

- Satan has been using this tactic in his war against the Church from the very beginning.
- Satan has been quite successful, and for the most part, the Church today is unaware.
- Someone please read the 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-7 passage? page 110

^{2TH 2:1} Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, ² that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

^{2TH 2:3} Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. NASB

- Here is your 2b study question.

2b. According to 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-7, what must happen before Jesus returns?

Paul said that before Jesus returns, there would be a great apostasy

Q. What is an apostate?

An apostate is a person who in one way or another, abandons the Christian faith as it was originally given.

- But in this passage, Paul is not speaking of apostasy on an individual level, but He is warning of a mass apostasy that would occur before the Lord returns.
- Some have theorized that this prophecy of a coming apostasy was speaking of people leaving the churches in droves. But in the scriptures, a very different picture is painted.
- The scriptures show this apostasy to be more about false teaching entering churches than it is about people exiting churches.
- In his 2nd letter to Timothy, Paul explains how this apostasy would come

- Someone please read the 2nd Timothy 4:1-4 passage? page 110

²TI 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. NRSV

- Here is your 2c study question.

2c. In 2nd Timothy 4:1-4, what did Paul warn us would eventually happen in the Church?

There would come a time when people would reject the truth and gather around teachers who would simply teach them what their fleshly ears want to hear

Add this to the whiteboard

People abandon truth and follow ear-tickling teachers

- Instead of leading the people to repentance and into a Holy Spirit-led lifestyle of love and righteousness, the pastors will teach doctrines and preach sermons crafted to accommodate that fleshly lifestyle and make repentance optional.
- And earlier this 2nd Timothy letter, Paul gave more details about this.
- This is 2nd Timothy 3:1-5 on page 111 Instructor reads

²TI 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. NASB

Q. What is Paul warning us would eventually happen in the Church?

Churches will be full of people who maintain an outward appearance of godliness, but inside they are being controlled by their own selfish, fleshly desires

- This is what Paul called the mystery of lawlessness
- It is a broad-road salvation, a perversion of grace, a false security, but with the name of Jesus plastered all over it.
- Let's dig a little deeper to see how Satan implements this deception
- Someone please read the Matthew 4:5-7 passage? page 112

Lesson 7-3 – “Doctrines of Demons”

MT 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" NIV

Q. What deceptive strategy did Satan try to use on Jesus?

He attempted to pervert the scripture

- If Satan would pervert scripture to tempt Jesus, do you think he might use that tactic against us today?
- Well, Peter warned us that it would happen.
- Someone please read the 2nd Peter 2:1-2 passage? page 112

2PE 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. NIV

- Here is your 3a study question.

3a. In 2nd Peter 2:1-2, what are we warned would happen among us?

He said there would be false teachers who would introduce destructive heresies and shameful ways that would damage the reputation of the Church.

- Then Peter goes on to explain how these destructive heresies will be so easily introduced in the churches.
- Here is what he said in 2nd Peter 3:13-17. page 113 Instructor reads

2PE 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. ¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2PE 3:17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. NIV

- Here is your 3b study question.

3b. In 2nd Peter 3:13-17, what does Peter warn us some people will do to the scriptures?

He said they distort the scriptures, and the result is that people fall from their secure position in Christ.

Add this to the whiteboard

False teachers distort the scriptures, many fall away

- Most demonic doctrinal deceptions are distorted interpretations of the scriptures.
- And since the Bible is being used, many people do not recognize it as a deception
- Jude, the younger brother of Jesus, gives more specific details about how the underlying message of these false doctrines differ from the genuine gospel.
- Someone please read the Jude 1:3-4 passage? page 113

JUDE 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.⁴ For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. NIV

- Right there, Jude exposes Satan's plan of attack against us.
- Here is your 3c study question.

3c. According to Jude 1:3-4, what will some people do to the grace of God?

They change the grace of God into a license to sin

Add this to the whiteboard

Doctrines that imply grace is a license to sin

Q. Does the true gospel of Jesus give us a license to sin?

Absolutely not

- But when you hear some people teach, they make it sound like once we become a Christian, we are eternally secure no matter what we do or how we live.
- Here are some examples of false doctrines that create license-to-sin-loopholes.
- Perpetual forgiveness and perpetual justification – when I come to Christ, all my sins are unconditionally forgiven - past, present, future
- Justification by faith alone – it doesn't matter how I live, as long as I believe

- Positional righteousness - God sees me as legally righteous even if I'm living in sin
- Once-saved, always saved – I'm guaranteed eternal life, no matter how I live
- Each of these concepts creates a technical license-to-sin-loophole that leads the hearer to conclude they can continue in sin without consequences
- This produces a false security in the minds of the people
- None of these concepts can stand up to the scrutiny of scripture, yet they are broadly taught in churches today, mainly because these doctrines are taught within denominational vacuums and go unchallenged.
- Here is an excerpt from the book concerning Satan's strategy to deceive people

If Satan can deceive a single pastor, he can deceive the whole congregation. If Satan can deceive a single seminary professor, he can deceive the whole class of potential pastors. If Satan can deceive a group of people into forming a denominational structure revolving around a false belief system, he can perpetuate that falsehood for generations through indoctrinating people from the time they are small children. When you grow up in a false system, it seems normal to you because it is all you have ever known.

Lesson 7-4 – “A License to Sin”

- Now, we're going to see an example of how these doctrines are designed
- Typically, demonic doctrines are constructed by using several passages of scripture that are isolated from the context in which the Biblical authors originally spoke.
- Then, those out-of-context passages are assembled to create a license-to-sin narrative that appears to be a Biblical pattern of thought.
- Here are four statements in scripture spoken by four different people. page 115
- The first is from John, in 1st John 1:8 Someone please read it.

1JN 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. NASB

- Now one from James, brother of Jesus. James 3:2 Someone please read it.

JAS 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. NIV

- The next is from Jesus in John 8:7. Someone please read that one.

JN 8:7 Jesus lifted up himself, and said unto them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone." KJV

- The last one is from Paul in Romans 7:18.

RO 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. ¹⁹ For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. NASB

- As you can see, these statements appear to be a Biblical pattern of thought leading us to conclude we cannot help but sin and that a life of ongoing sin is the normal Christian experience we should expect.
- So, in terms of living a righteous life, we should lower our expectations
- But is that conclusion really what the individual writers wanted us to draw from those statements?
- Someone please read the 1st John 1:6-2:2 passage? page 116

1JN 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1JN 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. NASB

- Here is your 4a study question.

4a. When considering the verse 1st John 1:8, how does the context of the surrounding verses (1st John 1:6 - 2:2) help us to understand what John was trying to communicate to us?

The surrounding verses make it clear John is saying that we have all sinned and need a Savior, but not that we must continue as slaves to sin.

- Here is what Jesus said in the same chapter where He made the statement - "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone."
- This is John 8:31-36. Page 117 Instructor reads

JN 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth,

everyone who sins is a slave to sin.³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. NIV

Q. Did Jesus come to leave us as slaves to sin or to free us from it?

He came to free us

- A contextual reading of the other passages will reveal the writers were not trying to communicate the idea that we are still in bondage to sin.
- But Satan wants to keep us convinced we are still in bondage to sin so he can continue to exercise control over us.
- He does not want us to ever come to God in faith to receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to overcome our sinful passions.
- One of the most popular "license to sin" passages is found in Romans 8.
- Someone please read the Romans 8:35-39 passage? page 117

RO 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, "For thy sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB

- If you've been in church very long, you've probably been taught this passage in the context of sin - that Paul is talking about sin.
- It is presented this way - "No matter how bad we live, no matter how many sins we commit, nothing can separate us from Christ."
- But is that what Paul was really intending to communicate in this passage?
- Let's take a look at something Paul said just a few verses earlier.
- Someone please read the Romans 8:12-14 passage? page 118

RO 8:12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. NASB

Q. Does this passage sound like a license to sin? No, not at all

- So, either Paul is contradicting himself in the Romans 8:35 "Who shall separate us?" passage, or maybe we have not understood his intent.
- Here is your 4b study question.

4b. And how do the verses of Romans 8:12-14 help us to not misunderstand what Paul said later in Romans 8:35-39?

Romans 8:12-14 shows us that Paul did not intend for Romans 8:35-39 to be interpreted as a license to sin

- If we look closely at the 8:35 passage, we will find that Paul is not talking about sin at all.
- He is talking about our ability to experience and express God's love in the most difficult situations, like persecution, hunger, and poverty.
- And later in Romans, Paul tells us that love is the fulfillment of the law
- This passage is not about giving us a "license to sin", but about our ability to live a love-based righteous life of through life's most difficult circumstances.
- It is the exact opposite of how most people teach it.
- These are very complicated and sophisticated deceptions.

Lesson 7-5 – “Be Alert and Pray for all the Saints”

- Jesus and the apostles told us the last days would a difficult environment
- They all told us to stay alert, to be ready, and to pay attention to what we see around us.
- At the end of his teaching on spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, Paul concluded with one of the main ways we do battle.
- Someone please read the Ephesians 6:17-20 passage? page 120

EPH 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. NIV

- Here is your 5a study question.

5a. What did Paul encourage us to do in Ephesians 6:18?

Pray in the Spirit all the time with all kinds of prayers and keep praying for the whole Church.

- In a time of great apostasy, we don't condemn people, we pray for everyone
- Here is your 5b study question.

5b. And what can we learn about praying for our Christian leaders from Paul's request in Ephesians 6:19-20?

We pray for our leaders that whenever they open their mouth, God would fill it with His words, and that they would boldly speak truth

Add this to the whiteboard

We must pray for the whole Church, especially for leaders

- There are some things we can learn from Paul about how to pray for the Church.
- Someone please read the Ephesians 1:15-19 passage? page 120

EPH 1:15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. NASB

- Isn't that an awesome prayer to pray for someone?
- Here is another one from Colossians chapter 1 page 121. instructor reads

COL 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. NRSV

- A person can get filled with the Spirit just reading a prayer like that
- Here is your 5c study question

5c. What do you believe we can learn from studying the prayers of Jesus and the Apostles?

We can learn to pray for one another and the whole church the way they prayed

- And with that, we will close

<div>TEACHING NOTES</div>	<div>THE END OF THE AGE</div>
<div>FOUNDATIONS 301</div>	<div>WEEK EIGHT</div>

Week 8 – “The End of the Age”

Teaching Notes v1.8.5

General Summary – These lessons focus on the events that will come about after Jesus returns. The purpose is to explore foreknowledge God had given, helping the student to look forward to the awesome inheritance God has planned for His faithful servants.

8-1 – “[And Then the End Shall Come](#)” – is an introduction to the end times teachings. In this, we encourage the student to view the prophetic scriptures as being given to prepare us to succeed through difficult times, rather than a puzzle to be solved in order to figure out when Jesus coming. It is also a warning about the many false teachers that come when the time draws near.

8-2 – “[When the Son of Man Comes](#)” – is a summary of the events that happen at the time that Jesus returns, including His arrival with the angels, His defeat of the armies of the earth, the establishment of His millennial reign upon the earth, and the banishment of Satan for a thousand years.

8-3 – “[The Resurrection of the Dead and the Judgment Seat of Christ](#)” – sorts out some of the details concerning the resurrection of the righteous at the second coming of Jesus, and the resurrection of the unrighteous at the end of the millennial reign. This culminates with the final judgment of Satan, the great white throne judgment of mankind, and the destruction of Hades and death.

8-4 – “[New Heavens and a New Earth](#)” – speaks of the new creation that will come at the end of the age, in which the current creation will be destroyed by fire and be replaced with new heavens and a new earth in which innocence is restored. There will be no sin, no death, no mourning, no conflict, no tears, no stress, and no pain.

8-5 – “[The New Jerusalem and the Marriage of the Lamb](#)” - explores the scriptures that speak of the time when there the physical realm and the heavenly realm are fully merge. The New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven as a place for the Father and the Son to dwell among mankind, culminating with the marriage of the Lamb to His church fully prepared for marriage.

Preparation Notes - Rather than using a whiteboard for this lesson, there is a handout for the student that will help with their note-taking. You can still use a whiteboard, but because of large amount of information, I suggest that you build your whiteboard in advance of the class. Then you can refer to it as you teach through the class.

The End of the Age

Signs of His Coming

- False Teachers / Falling Away / Lawlessness
- Persecution
- Worldwide Preaching of the Gospel

At His Return

- Will be visible to all
- Comes to rule and reign
- All Nations will unite to resist Him
- Nations are defeated
- The Beast and the False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire
- Satan is bound for 1000 years
- Jesus reigns in the earth for 1000 years
- The resurrection and transformation of the faithful - ruling and reigning with Him.

At the End of the Millennial Reign

- Satan is released
- The Final Conflict
- Satan is thrown in the Lake of Fire
- The resurrection of the unrighteous
- The Final Judgment

The New Creation

- The destruction of the earth and heavens
- The new heavens and new earth
- Innocence/perfection restored to all creation
- The New Jerusalem
- The physical and spiritual realms merged
- God and man dwelling together
- The marriage of the Lamb

This is intended to give the student a basic sequence of events that will happen at the time Jesus returns. There is a one-page handout provided at the end of this lesson.

Week 8 – “The End of the Age” - Teaching Notes

Lesson 8-1 – “And Then the End Shall Come”

- Tonight, we're going to dig into some end-times prophecies.
- We're not going to attempt to work out every detail of what will happen before Jesus returns.
- But we do want to give a general overview of the things revealed in scripture, things provided for our benefit.
- Many of the prophecies are not so much for the purpose of revealing when Jesus is returning, but to prepare us to be ready for His return - whenever that may be.
- They are given so we can have hope and faith for the wonderful things God has in store for us.
- Someone please read the Matthew 24:3 passage on page 124 of your book.

MT 24:3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" NRSV

- Jesus' disciples understood as we should, there will come a time when the world as we have known it will come to an end.
- So, Jesus gives them a rough synopsis of what is to come
- Someone please read the Matthew 24:4 passage on page 124 of your book.

MT 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you." ⁵ "For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will mislead many. NASB

- Now, would someone please read the Matthew 24:9-13 passage on page 125

MT 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. ¹⁰ "And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. ¹¹ "And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. ¹² "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. ¹³ "But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved. NASB

- Here is your 1a study question

1a. In Matthew 24:4-5 and 24:9-13, what did Jesus warn us would happen in the last days?

He said the last days would be a time of great religious deception, there will be many false teachers, and many people would fall away

- Here is your 1b study question

1b. And why do you think He revealed these things to us in advance?

He revealed it so we can avoid being deceived

- Jesus is not telling us these things to scare us, but so we can decide in advance how we are going to respond when it does happen
- If we know in advance Satan is going to attack in these ways, we have the advantage.

Q. What are some things we can do to avoid being deceived?

We keep ourselves in the love of God and diligently study the word to test what we are being taught to make sure it lines up.

- Someone please read the Matthew 24:14 passage on page 126 of your book

MT 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come. NASB

- Here is your 1c study question

1c. What does Matthew 24:14 reveal about our purpose in Jesus' end times scenario?

Our job is to proclaim the kingdom of God in the whole world until the end of the age

- Jesus has a great compassion for the lost.
- When we take hold of His compassion and make it our own, then we will understand the reasons for why we go, why we preach, why we teach, why we share our faith, why we give, why we invite, why we pray, why we labor.
- We do these things even in the face of persecution and difficulty

Lesson 8-2 – “When the Son of Man Comes”

- Someone please read the Matthew 24:30 passage on page 127 of your book

MT 24:30 "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. NIV

- Someone please read the Matthew 24:27 passage on page 127

MT 24:27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. NIV

- Here is your 2a study question

2a. What do Matthew 24:30, Matthew 24:27, and Revelation 19:11-16 reveal about the return of Jesus?

When Jesus returns, it is not going to be a secret - everyone is going to know it.

- The Revelation gives us a more vivid picture what everyone will see.
- This is this Revelation 19:11-16 on page 127. Instructor reads.

REV 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords." NRSV

- At the present time, there is a veil between the physical and spiritual realms.
- But a day will come when that veil will be pierced, and the two realms will converge.
- Now let's see how the world will respond to His return
- Someone please read the Revelation 19:19 passage on page 128

REV 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. NASB

2b. What does Revelation 19:19 reveal about how the nations of the earth will respond when Jesus returns?

They will respond with resistance and rebellion

- Even though He will come to rule and reign in love and righteousness, the nations of the world will unite to fight against Him.
- Now let's read a couple of passages to see how Jesus deals with these deceptive influences.
- Someone please read the Revelation 19:19-20 passage on page 129

REV 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army. ²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. NASB

- Now someone please read the Revelation 20:1-3 passage also on page 129

REV 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is

the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,³ and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while. NRSV

- Here is your 2c study question.

2c. What do Revelation 19:19-20 and Revelation 20:1-3 reveal about how Jesus will deal with the deceptive influences in the earth?

At the Lord's coming, the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet will be done away with forever. And Satan, who is the source of the anti-Christ spirit, will be bound and prevented from deceiving anyone for 1000 years.

- Now someone please read the Matthew 25:31 passage on page 128

MT 25:31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. NASB

- Now someone please read the Revelation 20 verse 4 passage on page 128

REV 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. NASB

2d. What do Matthew 25:31 and Revelation 20:4 reveal about what Jesus will do after He defeats the Anti-Christ armies?

He is going to rule and reign for 1000 years on the earth

- This is a time period known as His millennial reign.
- His faithful servants will rule and reign with Him.
- Then here is what it says in Revelation 20:7-10. page 130 Instructor reads

REV 20:7 When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle; they are as numerous as the sands of the sea.⁹ They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them.¹⁰ And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. NRSV

- And here is your 2e study question.

2e. From Revelation 20:7-10, what ultimately happens to Satan, and when does it take place?

At the end of the Millennial reign of Christ, Satan is released for a time.

Once again, he incites rebellion. Then he is cast into the lake of fire.

He will be gone forever and ever.

Lesson 8-3 – “The Resurrection of the Dead and the Judgment Seat of Christ”

- Now, let's move on to the resurrection of the dead
- Someone please read the Acts 24:15-16 passage on page 132

AC 24:15 I have a hope in God--a hope that they themselves also accept--that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. ¹⁶ Therefore I do my best always to have a clear conscience toward God and all people. NRSV

- Now, someone please read the Hebrews 9:27-28 passage also on page 132

HEB 9:27 And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment,
²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. NRSV

- Here is your 3a study question

3a. What do Acts 24:15-16 and Hebrews 9:27-28 teach us about death, the resurrection, and the judgment?

We live one time, there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous, and there is a final judgment

- There are no do-overs, no reincarnation, we only get one shot at this life.
- But there is something interesting that the Revelation reveals about resurrection
- Someone please read the Revelation 20:4-6 passage on page 132

REV 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. Over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him a thousand years. NRSV

3b. What does Revelation 20:4-6 reveal about the timing of the resurrections?

There will be a resurrection of the righteous when Jesus appears at the beginning of His millennial reign. The wicked will not be raised until the end of the 1000 years.

- And there is something else that will happen at the time of the first resurrection.
- Here is 1st Corinthians 15:51-54 - page 134 Instructor reads

1CO 15:51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--
⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." NIV

- Here is your 3c study question

3c. From 1st Corinthians 15:51-54, what happens to the faithful who are still alive when Jesus returns?

When the dead in Christ are resurrected, those who are still alive will be transformed with a heavenly, glorified body, just like the body Jesus now has.

- This heavenly body will not have the weaknesses and frailties of the bodies we now have. Our new bodies will be like the one Jesus has.
- We will rule and reign with Him for a thousand years, then comes the resurrection of the unrighteous.
- Here is what it says in Revelation 20:11-15 - page 134 instructor reads

REV 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. NIV

- Here is your 3d study question

3d. According to Revelation 20:11-15, what happens at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus?

There is a resurrection of the unrighteous, then there is a final judgment to life eternal for the righteous, and eternal destruction for the unrighteous.

Lesson 8-4 – “New Heavens and a New Earth”

- We see the fulfillment of the salvation that was bought for us by Jesus on the cross.
- But one of the things we often fail to recognize, is He also came to redeem the whole physical creation.
- Someone please read the Romans 8:18-22 passage on page 136

RO 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. NASB

- Here is your 4a study question

4a. In what ways does Romans 8:18-22 describe the physical creation as we now know it?

The whole creation is in slavery to corruption.

- When Adam and Eve fell into corruption, everything under their authority fell into corruption with them.
- Even the animal kingdom is filled with violence and death
- But there is a prophetic promise that this physical creation will be redeemed and renewed along with the children of God
- Someone please read the Isaiah 65:17 passage on page 136

ISA 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. NIV

- The apostle Peter also talked about how this new heavens and new earth would come about.
- This is 2nd Peter 3:10-15 on page 137. Instructor reads

2PE 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

^{2PE 3:13} But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation... NASB

- Here is your 4b study question

4b. According to 2nd Peter 3:10-15, what happens to the heavens and the earth at the end of the age?

The universe as we know it will pass away with fire. It will be replaced with a new heavens and earth in which righteousness dwells

- In this new creation, there will be no sin.
- There will be no temptation or deception, no devil or demons, no wickedness.
- Perfection and innocence will be fully restored to the whole creation
- Someone please read the Isaiah 11:6-9 passage on page 137

^{ISA 11:6} The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. NIV

- Here is your 4c study question

4c. From Isaiah 11:6-9, what will the new creation be like for the animals?

There will be perfect harmony - no carnivores, no death, no fear, no law of the jungle

- This innocence will even extend into the animal kingdom.
- This new earth is going to be a busy place with people and animals just the way God intended at the beginning of creation.
- This is Revelation 21:4-7, page 138. Instructor reads
- And here is what He says it will be like for us.

^{REV 21:4} And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. ⁷ "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. NASB

- Here is your 4d study question

4d. According to Revelation 21:4-7, what will the new creation be like for us?

It will be a life with no pain, with no mourning, with no death, with no tears, with no sickness, no stress, no sin, and no conflict.

- All sickness and disease will be purged.
- This is the inheritance that awaits us

Lesson 8-5 – “The New Jerusalem and the Marriage of the Lamb”

- And if all this was not enough, there is still more.
- Someone please read the Revelation 21:10-14 passage on page 139

REV 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. NIV

- Here is your 5a study question

5a. According to Revelation 21:10-14, what comes out of heaven down to earth?

The New Jerusalem, which is perfect in its construction and dimensions.

- This is the city that comes out of heaven whose architect and builder is God.
- There is no more division between heaven and earth, they are merged and unified
- John goes on to describe the size and dimensions of this city
- This is Revelation 21:15 on page 139 Instructor reads

REV 21:15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. NIV

- Here is your 5b study question

5b. And what does Revelation 21:15-17 reveal about how large this is?

It is 12,000 stadia in length, width, and height.

- One stadia is over 600 feet, so that would make this city roughly 1,400 miles long by 1400 miles wide - almost 2,000,000 square miles.
- To put it in perspective, this one city is over half the size of the land mass of the United States of America, including Alaska.
- And it is also 1,400 miles vertical.
- The walls are over 200 feet thick. This is a really, really big city.
- Someone please read the Revelation 21:22-27 passage on page 140

REV 21:22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.
NIV

- Here is your 5c study question

5c. From Revelation 21:22-27, what is not needed in this city, and why?

There is no need for sun or moon, there will be no night because of the glory of God is shining there

- The city is magnificent, but what really matters is that God the Father and Jesus the Son will manifest their presence here.
- They will be fully accessible for us
- And yet there is more
- This is Revelation 19:6-9 on page 141 Instructor reads

REV 19:6 "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. ⁷ "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." ⁸ And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." NASB

- Here is your last study question, which is 5d.

5d. What does Revelation 19:6-9 teach us about what happens to us?

We are married to the Lamb of God.

- So, for now we prepare ourselves for a wedding that is to come - our wedding.
- Glory to God forever and ever, amen.

The End of the Age

Signs of His Coming

- False Teachers / Falling Away / Lawlessness
- Persecution
- Worldwide Preaching of the Gospel

At His Return

- Will be visible to all
- Comes to rule and reign
- All Nations will unite to resist Him
- Nations are defeated
- The Beast and the False Prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire
- Satan is bound for 1000 years
- Jesus reigns in the earth for 1000 years
- The resurrection and transformation of the faithful - ruling and reigning with Him.

At the End of the Millennial Reign

- Satan is released
- The Final Conflict
- Satan is thrown in the Lake of Fire
- The resurrection of the unrighteous
- The Final Judgment

The New Creation

- The destruction of the earth and heavens
- The new heavens and new earth
- Innocence/perfection restored to all creation
- The New Jerusalem
- The physical and spiritual realms merged
- God and man dwelling together
- The marriage of the Lamb