

“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

Lesson 1 ♦ For week ending July 2, 2011

We are in the midst of a spiritual warfare! Satan knows that he has but a short time and he is unleashing every strategy that he has in an attempt stop God’s church from being successful in it’s calling. However, we have nothing to fear! The Bible declares over and over that God’s people will be victorious. Our hope and victory is found in the Lord Jesus Christ!

KEY TEXT: “...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”(Matthew 16:18b).

1. The rock to which Jesus refers in our key text is the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Confirm this as you read the rest of the text found in Matthew 16:14-18. The message conveyed here is that the Church, which is built upon the revelation of Jesus Christ, will stand the test of time (Matthew 7:24-27; Ephesians 2:20-22).
2. Satan, also known as Lucifer, stands in diabolical opposition to the success of God’s Church. Consider the increasing intensity with which Satan is attacking God’s people in our day as you read Revelation 12:12,13,17. We need never attribute to Satan more power that he has been allotted. He in no way compares to the greatness of God. However, at the same time, we should not underestimate his cunning ability to deceive. Discuss the way in which we are to overcome Satan as you read Revelation 12:9-11 and Ephesians 6:10-18.
3. The Power we have as Christians to overcome in this world comes solely from our relationship with Jesus Christ. We must stand “in the power of His might.” Expand upon this further as you read the following scriptures: I John 4:4; I John 5:4,5; and Philippians 1:6. It is in the midst of our battles, when we are struggling to hold on, that we must remember that God has said, “We are more than conquerors through Him that loves us” (Romans 8:35-39).
4. Since Jesus is on our side, we have nothing to fear (Psalms 27:1-6; Isaiah 54:17). Because Christ is in us, we can put Satan on the run (James 4:7). Romans 8:31 says, “If God be for us, who can stand against us?” As the battle intensifies, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus and have faith in the Word of God. When Satan tries to intimidate you, remind him of his future (Isaiah 14:13-16; Revelation 20:10).

“PRAISE HIM IN ADVANCE”

Lesson 2 ◆ For week ending July 9, 2011

There are times in our lives when trouble seems to sneak in from behind and ambush our faith, leaving us bewildered and weak. Then there are times when we see the warning signs of trouble and prepare our hearts for the imminent attack. Nevertheless, we have a powerful weapon that confuses the enemy. A weapon that when used consistently, repels Satan’s attempts to destroy God’s children. That weapon is praise! – *Deaconess Kimberley Combs*

KEY TEXT: “I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies” (II Samuel 22:4).

1. Satan wants for God’s children to be sick. His strategy to achieve this goal is to continually beat us down with the cares of this world and the stress that is associated with those things. Whether we are struck financially, physically or even spiritually, God has made a way of escape for us (Proverbs 15:13,15; 17:22). Discuss the way in which giving praise to the Lord lifts our spirits and gives us hope for the future.
2. If we want to defeat the enemy, it is best to start early (Psalms 63:1-3,9-11). Every morning, Satan would like nothing more than to ruin our day. This is a good reason to praise our Heavenly Father in advance, before the enemy can gain a foothold in our lives (Isaiah 59:19). One of the duties of the Levites was to praise the Lord in the morning. (I Chronicles 23:30). It is imperative that we be prepared in advance to face the enemy of our souls. We should put on the armor of God before we even climb out of bed in the morning (Ephesians 6:11).
3. One of the ways that the enemy works against us as believers is to try and keep us distracted to the point that we cannot focus on our real purpose in life. Consider the instructions given to us in Colossians 3:1-6. It is apparent that our purpose in this life is to prepare for the coming of our Lord and King Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:7). Let’s not let Satan distract us from our purpose. Every moment we spend absorbed in our problems is time we could have spent preparing ourselves for His coming.
4. In the battles of Israel, Judah was sent forth to prepare the enemy for what was to come. Judah means, “praise”. In the same manner, we should send our praises in advance to prepare our enemies for their defeat (II Chronicles 20:21-23; Numbers 2:9). It is time to confuse the enemy! Instead of the murmuring and complaining that he is used to hearing, lift up a powerful praise unto the Lord!

“SAFETY IN THE MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS”

Lesson 3 ♦ For week ending July 16, 2011

There are many differing opinions and views when it comes to the interpretation of God’s Word. God has given a framework within which His church should stay in order that we might safely interpret Scripture. That is the “multitude of counselors”. It is the responsibility of the Council of Apostles and Elders under the leadership of the Presiding Bishop to “rightly divide” God’s Word.

KEY TEXT: “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14).

1. It is wisdom when we as individuals seek the perspective of others when we are making decisions. What is the danger of relying solely on our own views, especially when it comes to the interpretation of Holy Scripture (Proverbs 12:15; 14:12)?
2. The Church of God is governed by the scriptural order and system of theocracy in which God rules His people through a divinely appointed anointed leader and a scriptural pattern of bishops appointed under Him. The first responsibility of the Presiding Bishop is to set forth the doctrine – or meat in due season – for the Church (Matthew 24:45). As the anointed leader of the church it is his duty to give direction and prophetic leadership to the church. This is the same way in which God dealt with Moses by speaking to him face-to-face (Numbers 12:1-8).
3. It is important to understand that the church does not set forth it’s own laws of actions. Discuss the fact that it is God alone who as the Lawgiver gives the laws to direct His people (Isaiah 33:22; James 4:12).
4. With the anointed leader there is a multitude of counselors called the Council of Apostles and Elders (Ephesians 2:19,20). It is the responsibility of the Council to interpret what God’s Word is saying to the Church and to establish doctrines based on these interpretations. This is the scenario found in Acts 15:1-7,13-19. It was not until there had been “much disputing” that James, the anointed leader of the church at that time, gave the final decision.
5. It is by this process of debate and evaluation that the doctrine of the church is progressively developed so that the entire church may see eye-to-eye and speak the same things (Isaiah 52:8; I Corinthians 1:10). The approval of the Council is required for any teachings or practices that are to be termed “Apostles Doctrine,” and which are to be published to the entire church “for to keep” (Acts 16:4).

“CHOOSE TO BE LOVING AND KIND”

Lesson 4 ♦ For week ending July 23, 2011

The choice to be gracious is to choose to be mindful of the needs of others regardless of how we feel at the moment. We should love others because God commands us to and because we care for them. Are you putting on the mind of Christ? Are you learning to focus on the concerns of others rather than just on your own needs? We must take the path that leads to humility, service, and love.
– *Minister Marlene M. Carney*

KEY TEXT: “Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Philippines 2:3).

1. Rudeness is not a problem that is confined to one generation: It is a result of sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, they rejected God’s offer of a loving relationship of trust and mutual respect (Genesis 3:6-13). Sin was passed on to the future generations. Consider the way in which Cain reacted when God accepted Abel’s sacrifice above his own (Genesis 4:3-9).
2. As time progressed, “God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth” (Genesis 6:5). God destroyed all—except Noah and his family—with the flood. Generations later, the Lord called the patriarch Abraham and his children to walk with Him (Genesis 17:1-4). Yet, even in the lineage of Abraham, the Scriptures shows jealousy and hatred prevailed. Discuss the tension between Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:21-33). Later Jacob’s favorite son, Joseph, experienced great hardship at the hands of his own brothers (Genesis 37:3,4,18-27). Notice the way in which their harsh words turned into threats and violence.
3. Even when the very Son of God came to earth to live and walk among His creation, He was mistreated and ridiculed (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:11). Even as He hung on the cross dying, some blasphemed and reviled Him (Matthew 27:39-42). Discuss the reason why Jesus, the Son of God, would endure such extreme behavior against himself (John 3:16).
4. Historians point out that the decline of every great civilization is accompanied by corrupt morals and bad behavior. Jesus predicted that in the years just before His return, there would be betrayal and persecution of men one against the other (Matthew 24:4-13). The Apostle Paul also described this decline (II Timothy 3:1-5). Thanks be to God, we as believers are not of this world! Conclude by reading what Jesus prayed for us in John 17:15-17.

“THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION”

Lesson 5 ◆ For week ending July 30, 2011

Without the spirit of wisdom and revelation that comes from God, we are limited in our understanding to the realm of human knowledge, and we are unable to unravel the mysteries of prophecy and other unfathomable realms of the Word of God. When our spirits are clothed upon with His Spirit, we are able to comprehend the unsearchable riches of God’s Word.

KEY TEXT: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:17,18).

1. Most people simply cannot understand the Word of God. The reason for this inability to comprehend is clearly seen in I Corinthians 2:14. However, we as believers have available to us an invaluable avenue of light and instruction. Job 11:7; 32:8,9; and Isaiah 28:10-13 help us to understand what is available to us as we yield our vessels to God.
2. The wise and prudent often fail to understand what the babes in Christ know for certainty. Study Matthew 11:25 and Ephesians 1:15-19 to see how this can be. What can we do to learn more about God?
3. There are many spirits that present themselves to us. Among these are the Spirit of God, the spirit of man, and the spirit of the devil. How can we know what the difference between these is (Acts 17:11)?
4. The Word of God is revealed to His children through the Spirit of God and by understanding of things that are made. Discuss this concept from Romans 1:17-20 and Ephesians 3:5.
5. There are occasions when God uses messengers to reveal His will to us. Confirm this truth from Numbers 22:26-28 and Luke 1:11-17. Can God still do this kind of thing today?
6. God’s will in most areas of our life is outlined for us through His Word (Hebrews 1:1; II Timothy 3:15-17). God can also speak to us by His Spirit with individual instruction (Acts 21:11). Whether revelation comes to us through the written Word of God or the spoken word, through the witness of the Spirit, by natural surroundings, or through His servants, it comes from God and will always harmonize with the precepts of His Eternal Word, the Bible.

“THE CHRISTIAN AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES”

Lesson 6 ♦ For week ending August 6, 2011

The use of alcohol that leads to the sin of drunkenness is particularly dangerous because of the addictive power of alcohol and the devastating and debilitating effect that it can have on the physical, mental, social, and spiritual well being of those who abuse it. We must guard against such abuse that can overcome us spiritually and destroy our witness for Christ Jesus.

KEY TEXT: “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).

1. In order to have our evaluation of this subject in perspective, we must first assert that there is nothing that is sin in and of itself (Romans 14:14), that everything God created has some good (Genesis 1:29-31), and that sin is an act that violates a commandment of God (I John 3:4).
2. While alcohol has some medicinal value (I Timothy 5:23), it is full of dangers. Evaluate the subtle effects of alcohol that can easily bring about the destruction of its user (Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-33). Among the greatest dangers of alcohol abuse is the addictive power that this substance has upon those who use it. Being under the control of anything is certainly not the will of God. Discuss this aspect of alcohol abuse.
3. Drunkenness is sin. Galatians 5:19-22 classifies it with other sins, including murder, and I Corinthians 6:10 declares that drunkards will not enter the kingdom of God. Is drunkenness something that can be overlooked?
4. Alcohol of itself presents a danger of leading people to the sin of drunkenness; however, it also leads to other sins that can have an even greater effect upon the lives of others (Proverbs 23:20,21; Hosea 4:11; Isaiah 38:17). Expand upon the nature of drunkenness that leads to other sins.
5. Christians should be concerned with the example that they set for others. What is the judgment that God pronounces upon a person who leads someone else into sin by example or by persuasion (Habakkuk 2:15)?
6. The rule of the New Testament is temperance in all things. While temperance implies avoiding overindulgence, in the case of alcohol, for some, it may mean total abstinence (Ephesians 5:18; I Corinthians 10:23; 9:25).

“DEFEATING OUR GIANTS”

Lesson 7 ♦ For week ending August 13, 2011

When we think of giants, immediately our mind takes us back thousands of years ago to the story of David and Goliath. While David was successful in defeating the giant of his day, all too often we fall prey to the deceptive devices of the giants we face today. Let's take a look at some of these giants and find out how to defeat them once-and-for-all! – *Deaconess Kimberley Combs*

KEY TEXT: “We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. We felt like grasshoppers next to them, and that’s what we looked like to them!” (Numbers 13:33 NLT).

1. In order to recognize our giants, we must first define what a giant is. In the story of David and Goliath the giant represented a major obstacle. For us today, a giant is something that attempts to hinder us from making spiritual progress. Discuss the role faith plays in moving us forward on our spiritual journey as you read Numbers 14:6-11. Is there any obstacle that cannot be overcome when we follow God (Joshua 14:12-14)?
2. Giants come in many diverse ways. There are giants of emotions such as fear, insecurity and loneliness; giants of pride and self-righteousness; giants of adversity and persecution; and worst of all, giants of a defeated spirit. Whatever giant we face, we must realize that it is always too soon to give up, and never too late to start over. Consider the trials that Job went through in his life. He came face-to-face with all of these giants (Job 16:1-17). What was it about Job that gave him strength to overcome (Job 2:9,10)?
3. A giant may produce more fear in some people than in others. Consider the story of the army of Israel and David. Why is it that the young boy David could stand confidently and courageously before the giant while Israel's soldiers ran for cover (I Samuel 17:32-37)? David had been in a preparation stage for a mighty victory. He remembered what God had done for Him in the past, and he embraced the faith needed to trust God to do it again.
4. It is interesting to note that David did not walk away from Goliath after he threw the deadly stone that knocked the giant down. Instead, he wished to get rid of the giant forever by cutting off his head (I Samuel 17:49-51). In the same way, we should not be satisfied with knocking down fear, ridicule or defeat, but rather let's get rid of it forever in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

“THE JOY OF GIVING”

Lesson 8 ♦ For week ending August 20, 2011

One of the greatest blessings in our Christian lives is the opportunity to be a cheerful giver. When we understand God’s laws about giving and receiving, and when we maintain the proper attitude in our giving, we will find God endowing us with the ability to give and the consequent blessing that comes as the reward of the Father for our generous and joyful giving.

KEY TEXT: “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (II Corinthians 9:7).

1. God’s laws of giving are found in Luke 6:38. They are the same laws of harvest that declare that we reap only what we sow and only in the proportion to the amount that we sow. Expand upon this truth. How can we change the kind of things we reap?
2. Another part of the law of giving is the purpose of giving which is for the support of the ministry (I Corinthians 9:13,14; Malachi 3:10) and to help the poor (Proverbs 28:27;19:17).
3. The attitude in which we give is as equally important as the giving itself. II Corinthians 9:7 gives us some pointers concerning giving: a.) As we purpose in our hearts; b.) not grudgingly (Exodus 25:2); c.) cheerfully (Acts 20:35); and d.) unpretentiously (Romans 12:8). Discuss the attitude of giving.
4. In Ephesians 4:28 we are told to work that we may be able to give. Philippians 4:19 tells us that God will supply us with more as we give to His work. Expand upon this truth. II Corinthians 9:8 also tells us that God is able to make His blessings abound unto us that we may be able to give. Confirm the fact that as we give cheerfully, God will help us to be able to give more.
5. The Heavenly Father Himself, gave us the example of how we ought to give when He gave His only begotten Son that we might have abundant, eternal life. The key word here is gave. When we love God and one another, we will find that love in action is giving of our means, our talents, and our time to help God’s work and those in need. Evaluate the blessing of John 15:11,12 upon such giving.

“IT IS HIGH TIME TO AWAKE”

Lesson 9 ◆ For week ending August 27, 2011

As we see the day of the Lord approaching, we as Christians must wake up and identify the devices that the enemy will use in these Last Days. According to Daniel 8:25, the Man of Sin will use deceit in his attempt to rule the world. As Christians, we must watch and be sober. In other words we must be on guard against the subtle attack of Satan.

KEY TEXT: “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed” (Romans 13:11).

1. Deceit is not a new device of Satan. He deceived angels in Heaven (Revelation 12:9), he deceived Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-6), and he can deceive you. Sometimes he deceives us into thinking that we are too smart to be deceived! Examine the story of King Solomon and how he was deceived. Identify the two major areas where Solomon was deceived (I Kings 11:1,2; 11:6-8). Read God’s description of Solomon in I Kings 3:12. If Satan could deceive Solomon, are we exempt from deception?
2. How can you tell if you are presently being deceived? Here are a few signs: a.) You are involved in something that is contrary to God’s Word; b.) You exempt yourself from Bible teachings that you know apply to you; and c.) You justify wrongdoing. If we have been deceived, what should our attitude be when we see the light? Discuss Saul’s reaction in Acts 9:3-6.
3. Here are 4 things we can do to guard against deceit: a.) Bring every thought into subjection to Christ (II Corinthians 10:5); b.) Don’t let the cares of this life choke us (Matthew 13:22); c.) Seek the multitude of counselors (Proverbs 11:14); and d.) Develop a love for the truth (II Thessalonians 2:10).
4. Satan uses cunning devices to deceive God’s people. Discuss how he has manipulated Christians to accept erroneous teachings regarding Christmas, Easter, and the Rapture. Discuss the deception involved when many Christians will not be able to identify the Man of Sin because they are still waiting to be raptured away (II Thessalonians 2:3).

“CONQUERING THE SPIRIT OF FEAR”

Lesson 10 ♦ For week ending September 3, 2011

The spirit of fear is a tormenting factor in the lives of so many people, including too many Christians. Fear of the unknown and anxiety about the possibilities of the future plague their imaginations and conjure up potential tragedies that are unrealistic. It is God’s will that we be free from this paralyzing spirit that victimizes too many people today.

KEY TEXT: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7).

1. To say that all fear is evil or bad for us is a mistake. A certain amount of fear helps keep us in check so that we do not act recklessly to our own ruin or hurt. This fear is caution. Then, there is the fear of God, which the Bible says is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).
2. A great key to understanding the root cause of fear and the way in which we can overcome it in our lives is found in I John 4:18. Notice the statement “fear hath torment”. The spirit of fear can mushroom until a person is totally consumed by it. These phobias and morbid fears bring those who fixate on them into great torment. Love is the key to overcoming fear. If we love God and our fellowman, we can be free of the tormenting aspects of fear.
3. We know that we cannot be successful in our calling in God if we are dominated by a spirit of fear that keeps us from venturing out into the unknown or from standing on the promises of God (Joshua 1:9; Judges 7:3).
4. The power of God operating in our lives through the Holy Spirit will also help us to overcome fear. When our confidence is in the power of God, we are not afraid to confront the problems of life with expectation of victory (Psalms 62:5-8; Isaiah 53:1,2).
5. Jesus gave us an example of the fact that we have nothing to fear if we stand in His strength when He rebuked the winds of the sea. Notice His statement to the disciples in Matthew 8:26.
6. We have confidence that if we put our trust in Yahweh God, there is nothing that can succeed that comes against us. Confirm this truth from Romans 8:31; Hebrews 13:5-7; and Psalms 91.

“THE SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM”

Lesson 11 ♦ For week ending September 10, 2011

The Spirit of Evangelism is the one of the Seven Spirits of God that is concerned with keeping believers aflame with the Holy Spirit. Evangelism is responsible for stirring us up and keeping us from becoming lukewarm. While it is understood by most Christians to be a soul-saving Spirit, it also is to keep believers on fire for God.

KEY TEXT: “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:16).

1. The Spirit of Evangelism is closely related in nature to the ministerial gift of evangelist. To give greater definition to the work of evangelism, discuss the fact that the gift of evangelism was given “for the perfecting of saints” (Ephesians 4: 11-12). See how this job description expands upon traditional views of evangelism.
2. For further clarification of the nature of evangelism's work, consider II Timothy 4:1-5, where Paul instructs in the work of the ministry, then concludes by enjoining Timothy to "do the work of an evangelist."
3. When evangelism is not working, Christians grow lukewarm in their personal experience with God and in their relationship with the church. Analyze the condition of the Laodicean church in Revelation 3:17. Compare the statement of Revelation 3:18, "anoint thine eyes with eye salve" with the nature and work of evangelism. Notice also the imperative of verse 19, "Be zealous." How does evangelism help us to possess and express the zeal of the Lord of hosts?
4. An important part of the work of evangelism is the stirring up of the memory of God's people to the truths of the Scriptures and the operation of the Holy Spirit. Discuss this purpose in light of II Peter 3:1-2.
5. Some of the more far-reaching implications of the ministry of evangelism can be seen in the life and work of Philip, the evangelist of the Early Church. Consider Acts 8:5-13, 29-30, 40. Discuss the manner in which the Spirit of Evangelism works through revival to keep us up-to-date spiritually.

“THE TWO TEMPLES”

Lesson 12 ♦ For week ending September 17, 2011

The Old Testament account of the building of the Temple in Jerusalem by Solomon, of its destruction by Nebuchadnezzar, and of its restoration by Zerubbabel, is a great prophetic type that reveals the building of the church in the days of Jesus, its destruction by the Roman Empire, and its restoration among the Gentiles in the Last Days.

KEY TEXT: “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old” (Amos 9:11).

1. The Temple that Solomon built in approximately 970 B.C. was prophetic of the spiritual temple which Jesus, the true Solomon, built during His Judean ministry. Discuss this aspect of the ministry of Jesus as you read the following I Chronicles 28:9,10; Luke 11:31; and Matthew 16:13-18.
2. When Jesus chose out twelve apostles and sent out the seventy-two before Him, He was laying the foundation of the church, the spiritual temple of God. The temple as a type and shadow of the church is further confirmed in the New Testament by Peter and Paul (I Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:20-22).
3. History tells us that Solomon’s Temple stood until approximately 586 B.C. when it was destroyed by the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar. It was this same Babylonian religion with the worship of many gods that gradually became the downfall of the Early Church. Discuss the warning that the Apostle Paul gave to the church (Acts 20:28,29).
4. The Roman Emperor Constantine was the primary agent in the destruction of the Early Church. The final blow came to the church when Constantine, the high priest of the Roman religion, assumed leadership of the church in 325 A.D. At that point, as surely as Solomon’s Temple had ceased to exist, the church that Jesus had established as an organism of theocratic government ceased to exist. Consider the prophecy of Isaiah 1:21.
5. The rebuilding of the Temple by Zerubbabel (Zechariah 4:9) was prophetic of the rebuilding of the church in the Last Days among the Gentiles. Discuss the way in which God used a Gentile king to make possible the restoration of the Temple (Ezra 1:1; Isaiah 44:28). James, the chief bishop of the Early Church, used Amos 9:11,12 to confirm the fact that Gentiles would be a part of the church. What must happen in order for the Last Days Church to be restored (Isaiah 1:26,27)? Discuss the role restoration plays in the return of the Lord (Acts 3:21).

“JESUS: BOTH GOD AND MAN”

Lesson 13 ♦ For week ending September 24, 2011

Jesus Christ (Yahshua, the Messiah) embodies the greatest mystery of the Bible, for in His person the very God who created the universe and all things in it became very man to live a victorious life, to die an atoning death, to experience a glorious resurrection, and to ascend into heaven to restore fallen man to the grace and favor of the Eternal.

KEY TEXT: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (I Timothy 3:16).

1. Jesus, the person of the Word of God, with the Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit, make up the one God. There are not three Gods (Deuteronomy 6:4); however, there are three distinct personalities in the one God. The Heavenly Father is that person of the Godhead who is unknown and unseen to the creation (John 1:18; 6:46; I Timothy 6:15,16). It is the role of the Son, or the Word of God, to reveal the Father to the creation.
2. Before His incarnation, Jesus was the person of the Word, by whom all things were created (Colossians 1:15-17; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3). The eternal pre-existence of the Son of God is clearly seen in the prediction of Micah 5:2: His goings forth are “from everlasting” (compare Psalms 90:2). It is confirmed in the words of I Peter 1:19,20.
3. When the Word of God became flesh, He laid aside His heavenly splendor and power to become a human being. This is the message of Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 2:9,14; and Galatians 4:4. The reasons for Jesus’ becoming a man were two: that He might overcome sin in the flesh (Romans 8:3; Hebrews 4:15), and that He might overcome death by being resurrected (Hebrews 2:9, 14; Romans 5:17).
4. Jesus Christ is destined to return to earth as the express image of the person of the Father, to rule as King over all the earth for one thousand years (Hebrews 1:3,8,13; Revelation 1:5-7). Then all things will be delivered up to the Father, and God will be all in all (I Corinthians 15:24-28).