

Lesson No. 23

What Does the Bible Say About the Last Things?

1. What takes place at the moment of death?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a b) *Ecclesiastes 12:7*. Then the **dust will return to the earth** as it was, and **the spirit will return to God** who gave it.
- (a b) *2 Corinthians 5:8*. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body** and to be **present with the Lord**.
- *(b) *Luke 23:43*. Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise**.
- *(b) *Revelation 14:13*. **Blessed** are the dead who die in the Lord **from now on**.
- (c) *1 Peter 3:19, 20*. He went and preached to the **spirits in prison**, who formerly were disobedient.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) When man dies his immortal soul leaves his mortal body.
- (B) The soul of the believer is at once received into heaven.
- (C) The soul of the unbeliever immediately finds itself in hell.

2. What do the Scriptures teach of Christ's second coming?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Acts 1:11*. This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you **saw** Him go into heaven.
- (a) *Revelation 1:7*. Behold, He is coming with clouds, and **every eye will see Him**, even they who pierced Him.
- (b) *Matthew 25:31*. When the Son of Man comes **in His glory**, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the **throne of His glory**.
- (c d) *Acts 17:31*. (God) has appointed a day on which He will **judge the world**.
- *(c) *Mark 13:32*. But **of that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- (c) *2 Peter 3:10*. But the day of the Lord will come **as a thief in the night**, in which the **heavens will pass away** with a great noise, and the **elements will melt** with fervent heat; both the **earth and the works that are in it will be burned up**.
- (c) *1 Peter 4:7*. But **the end of all things is at hand**.
(Concerning the last days leading up to the final end of this world see Matthew 24:36-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3:8-13; Revelation 20:1-6.)

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- Christ will return
- (A) Visibly;
- (B) In glory;
- (C) On the Last Day, known only to God, which will mark the end of the world;
- (D) To judge mankind.

3. What do the Scriptures teach of the resurrection of the body?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *John 5:28,29*. The hour is coming in which **all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth**.

- *(a) **Job 19:25-27.** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that **in my flesh I shall see God.** Whom I shall see for myself, and **my eyes shall behold,** and not another. How my heart yearns within me!
- (b) **Philippians 3:21.** (Christ) will **transform** our lowly body that it may **be conformed to His glorious body.**

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) On the Last Day Christ will raise up all the dead, reuniting their souls with their former bodies.
- (B) The bodies of the believers will be glorified.
(Those living at the Last Day will be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52.)

4. What do the Scriptures teach of the final judgment?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- *(a) **2 Corinthians 5:10.** For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ.
- (a) **Acts 17:31.** He will judge the world **in righteousness** by the Man whom He has ordained.
- (a) **John 12:48.** **The Word** that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
- (a b c) **Mark 16:16.** He who **believes** and is baptized **will be saved;** but he who **does not believe will be condemned.**
- (a b c) **Matthew 25:31-46.** (Read this passage.)
- (c) **Luke 16:23,24.** And being **in torments in Hades,** he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for **I am tormented** in this flame.
- (c) **Matthew 10:28.** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both **soul and body in hell.**
- (c) **Isaiah 66:24.** For their worm does **not die,** and their fire is **not quenched.** They shall be an **abhorrence** to all flesh.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) Christ will on the Last Day judge all men in righteousness by His Word.
- (B) The believers will accompany Christ, according to both soul and body, into heaven.
- (C) The unbelievers will be condemned, according to both soul and body, to eternal torment, shame, and contempt in hell.

5. What do the Scriptures teach of the blessedness of heaven?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a b) **1 John 3:2.** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when **He is revealed,** we shall **be like Him,** for **we shall see Him** as He is.
- *(a b) **Psalms 17:15.** As for me, **I will see Your face in righteousness;** I shall be satisfied when I **awake in Your likeness.**
- (b) **1 Corinthians 13:12.** Now I know in part, but **then I shall know just as I also am known.**
- (c) **Revelation 21:4.** And God will **wipe away every tear** from their eyes; there shall be **no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.** There shall be **no more pain,** for the former things have passed away.
- (d) **Psalms 16:11.** In Your presence is **fullness of joy;** at Your right hand are **pleasures forevermore.**
- *(d) **Romans 8:18.** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** which shall be revealed in us.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The blessedness of heaven consists in this, that

- (A) We shall be with God and see Him as He is;
- (B) We shall possess the fullness of the divine image, consisting in blissful knowledge of God and in perfect righteousness and holiness;
- (C) We shall be free from all ills;
- (D) We shall live in eternal and indescribable joy and glory.

6. To whom will God give eternal life?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **John 3:16.** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but **have everlasting life**.
- (a) **Matthew 24:13.** But **he who endures to the end shall be saved**.
- (a b) **John 3:36.** **He who believes in the Son has everlasting life**; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

God will give eternal life

- (A) To all believers;
- (B) To believers only.

7. What, then, must be the main purposes in our lives?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Acts 16:31.** **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and you will be saved.
- ***(a) Revelation 2:10.** **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.
- (b) **Matthew 24:14.** This **gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world** as a witness to all the nations, and **then the end will come**.
- (b) **Mark 16:15,16.** Go into all the world and **preach the gospel** to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The main purposes in our lives must be

- (A) To believe in Jesus Christ and remain faithful unto the end;
- (B) To bring the Gospel of salvation to our fellow men.

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 23.

MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (*).



READ Psalms 32, 46, 51, 73, 84, 90, and 91.

Work Sheet No. 23.

1.

(Supply the missing words.)

- (A) At death the soul the body.
- (B) The soul of the believer immediately goes to.....; the body returns to.....
- (C) On the Last Day the body will be and..... with the soul.
- (D) From that time on, the Christian, according to both body and soul, will live with.....
in..... forevermore.

2.

Which Bible passages would you use against:

- (A) The Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory?.....
- (B) The claim of Spiritualists that the spirits of the departed hover in the vicinity of their former homes, endeavoring to guide or to communicate with the living?
- (C) People who try to predict the time of Christ's coming to judgment?.....

3.

Some teach that Christ will return visibly to this earth to reign here for a thousand years (Millennium). Other Millennialists, or Chiliasts, believe that He will come not before, but immediately after, the Millennium, and that the Millennium itself will be a period of time during which the Church will be in a dominating and flourishing condition. What do the following Scripture passages tell us concerning these two teachings? John 18:36; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; Matthew 24:12, 37.

- (A).....
- (B).....

4.

Sentimentalists often ask: "How can a loving God punish sinners eternally?" How would you answer this question?.....

5.

Write a brief prayer in which you ask God that the two main purposes of your life may be fulfilled.
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