

GOD'S

Great

Salvation

GOD'S GREAT *Salvation*

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NOTE: The King James version is used in all Mailbox Club courses. We reserve the right to translate from the original texts where necessary to make the meaning clear to the reader.

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Dear Friend,

As the author of The Mailbox Club lessons, I want to share with you what this course is all about.

For most of my Christian experience I have been mainly concerned with my responsibility as a believer—what I needed to do to please God.

The “responsible” side of salvation is very important, but there is also the “grace” side—what God has done for us, what He is doing for us now, and what He will do for us in the future.

God is working to fulfill His purposes and to satisfy His great love for us. We are not going to heaven simply for our own happiness but also for God’s joy and satisfaction. Our place is in “the Father’s house,” loved and accepted in His beloved Son, because the Father wants us there!

Precious child of God, you are the object of God’s love and delight. God is *for* you! God wants to turn your eyes away from yourself and your failures to His beloved Son and to your perfect and complete acceptance in Him.

In these lessons I am sharing with you what God has taught me through many gifted Bible teachers. I am especially indebted to the writings of C.A. Coates for new light on the truths in this course.

To those of you who have taken other Mailbox Club courses, you may think that you have already covered the teaching in this course. Let me assure you that you will find much in these lessons to lead you into new joy and victory in your Christian life.

Yours in His victory,



The turning point in the history of a soul is when it becomes consciously an object of divine love.

C. A. COATES

God's First Man

Scripture Reading:

Genesis, chapters 1, 2 and 3

Key Verse:

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

ROMANS 5:12

Dear Friend,

The Bible is the story of man's complete ruin in sin and God's great salvation in Christ.

Just as a brilliant, flawless diamond is best displayed against a black velvet background, so God's great salvation shines forth against the dark background of man's sin and rebellion.

God's First Man

The Bible describes the creation of the heavens and the earth in one majestic sentence: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”¹

God created plant life, fish, birds, and animals, all in preparation for His greatest creation, man. We are using the term “man” in these

lessons to indicate mankind—the human race.

Man did not come up from lower forms of life. He was created by God Himself. The Bible says,

“The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul [a living person].”

GENESIS 2:7

Man was created by God as a living person. We do not call an animal a person. Man is not only a living person, but he has a spirit, which was breathed into him by God Himself. By his spirit, man can know God and receive His life.

Man is a created being. Man is not God, nor a part of God, but man is the highest of all God's creatures because he was created in the image of God. The Bible says,

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.”

GENESIS 1:27

God gave man dominion over all the earth. God's thought was to have a glorious head over all of His creation. God wanted a man who would rule over all things for His pleasure.

As soon as Adam and Eve were

created, God blessed them. It was His first act regarding them. God told them to “be fruitful and multiply.” God wanted a whole race of people in His own image and after His moral likeness.

Why did God create man? God created man for His own satisfaction, and He takes pleasure in His handiwork. The Bible says,

“The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in His works.”
PSALM 104:31

When God completed His work of creation, He looked at everything that He had created and He was pleased. The Bible says,

“And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.”
GENESIS 1:31

Adam’s Failure

Genesis, chapter three, is one of the most important chapters in the Bible. It shows how sin came into the world, the nature of sin, the source from which it came, and its consequences.

God placed Adam and Eve in a

beautiful garden filled with good things to eat. God placed only one restriction on Adam and Eve. They were not to eat of “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

For a time Adam and Eve were very happy. They had everything they needed to make them happy. Best of all, they had fellowship with God, their Creator. This made them supremely happy.

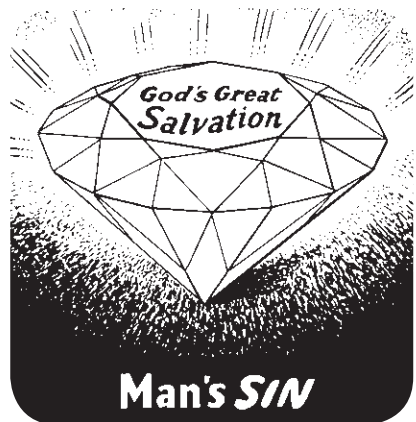
But God allowed His great enemy, Satan, to tempt Adam and Eve. Eve was deceived by Satan and she ate the forbidden fruit.

Adam was not deceived but he also ate the fruit. He chose to disobey God. This terrible rebellion and disobedience on the part of the first man brought sin and death into God’s beautiful world. The Bible says,

“Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin....”
ROMANS 5:12

How did sin come into the world? It came in by the disobedience of one man, Adam.

Just as a brilliant, flawless diamond is best displayed against a black velvet background, so God’s great salvation shines forth against the dark background of man’s sin and rebellion.



What is the nature of sin? It is rebellion against God and His will.

What was the source from which sin came? The source was Satan.

What were the consequences of Adam's disobedience? It brought sin and death into the world. And it brought man under the control and power of Satan.

Adam's Sinful Family

When Adam disobeyed God, he died spiritually; he was separated from God's life. His nature changed. He now had a sinful nature. Because Adam was the head of the human family, he passed his sinful nature on to his children and to the whole human family.

Adam himself had been created "in the image of God," but the children which he produced were "in his own likeness, after his image."² Adam produced a race of sinners like himself.

God No Longer Had Pleasure in Adam

From the very moment that Adam sinned, God's pleasure in him came to an end. God's first man was now a sinner. Instead of purity and innocence, the germs of all kinds of evil were in Adam's heart, and he passed his sinful nature on to his children and to the whole human race.

We are going to look at the children of Adam at different times in history and see God's estimate of them.

We will be considering what the

children of Adam are by nature. We should bear in mind that all through the Scriptures we see a work of God's grace in certain individuals. In every age, there were men and women who were marked by faith in God.

The Children of Adam in Noah's Time

In Genesis 6, God tells us what conditions were like on the earth approximately 800 years after Adam's death. By this time there was a vast number of people living on the earth.

What were people like at this time? The Bible tells us that they were very wicked. God's Word says,

"God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

GENESIS 6:5

God says that the people of this time were so wicked that every thought they had was only evil continually. The Bible says,

"It repented the LORD [it made Him sorry] that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart."

GENESIS 6:6

Because men were so wicked, God sent a great flood which destroyed every person except Noah and his family. Only eight people survived this great flood—Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives.

The Children of Adam in David's Time

After the great flood, the family of Noah brought forth children and multiplied. Once again, the children

of Adam covered the earth, and once again they turned from God and filled the earth with their sin and wickedness.

Once again God called forth a single family to follow Him. God chose Abraham to be the head of a family who were to be His special people—the children of Israel.

Later, the children of Israel became slaves in Egypt, but God gave them a deliverer, Moses, who led them out of Egypt.

On Mount Sinai, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. These commandments showed the people what was right and what was wrong in God’s sight.

Later, under the leadership of David, a godly king, Israel became a great and powerful nation. This was approximately 1300 years after the flood.

Did these people bring satisfaction and pleasure to God’s heart? No,

they did not. The Bible says,

“The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that does good, no, not one.”

PSALM 14:2, 3

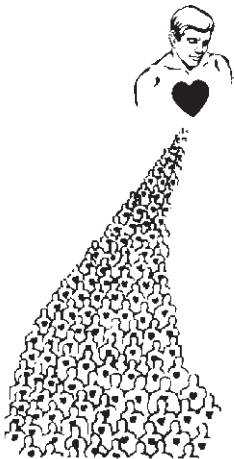
Even with a good king like David and with God’s holy laws, the people were still sinful in their hearts.

The Children of Adam in Christ’s Time

Another thousand years pass by, and we come to the time when the Lord Jesus Christ was on the earth. Were the children of Adam any better then? No, they were not. Jesus knew what was in the hearts of men. Here is His description of the children of Adam:

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

MARK 7:21-23



The Children of Adam in the Days of Noah

“God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...and it grieved Him at His heart.” GENESIS 6:5, 6

The Children of Adam in Our Time

It has been about 2,000 years since the time of Christ. Are the children of Adam better now? No, they are not. The children of Adam are all sinners by nature. The Bible says,

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no, not one.”

ROMANS 3:10-12

The Bible does not say that all of Adam’s children are alike in their sinful actions, but the Bible does say that we are all “under sin.”

The Lord Jesus told us what things would be like in the very end days, just before He comes back to the world in great power and glory. Will things be better then? No, they will not. Instead, they will be worse.

Jesus said that “iniquity [sin] shall abound” in the days ahead. The Lord said,

“And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man.”

LUKE 17:26

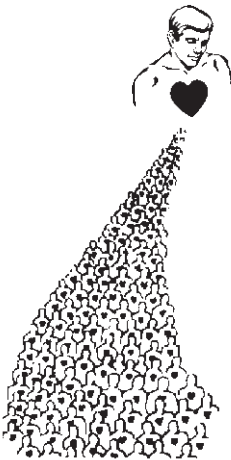
The Lord Jesus is saying here that when He comes again, things on earth will be as they were in the days of Noah.

What was it like in the days of Noah? “The wickedness of man was great in the earth...every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

We have looked at the children of Adam at different times throughout history. The entire history of Adam’s family can be summed up in one word—*SIN!*

God’s Promised Savior

Before He created Adam, God knew that Adam and his children would fail. But from eternity, God had His



The Children of Adam in the Days of Christ

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.”

MARK 7:21, 22

plan. He would give the human race another Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In reading the Old Testament, we discover that, from the fall of man onward, every blessing that God promises is connected with a coming Savior.

God's great plan of redemption began with one man, Abraham. God said to Abraham,

"Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show you... And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

GENESIS 12:1, 3

In Genesis 22:18, God promised Abraham "In your seed [one person—Christ] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."

In these wonderful promises to Abraham, God revealed His heart. His great purpose is to bless man!

Even though men are sinners, God loves His sinful creatures and desires to bless them.

God's blessings for the human race were not to come through Adam and his family, but through Christ, God's promised Savior.

This promised Savior would bring in righteousness and peace. He would be "for a light to the Gentiles" and God's salvation to the ends of the earth. The Bible says,

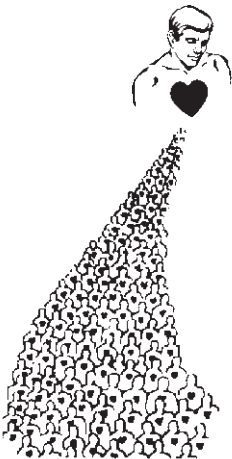
"Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end..."

ISAIAH 9:7

.....
To Summarize:

God created man for His pleasure. God's first man, Adam, and his family brought no pleasure to God. God promised a coming Savior, Jesus Christ. In Him all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

1. Genesis 1:1 2. Genesis 5:3



The entire history of
the **CHILDREN OF ADAM**
can be summed up in one word—

SIN

**God is “the God of truth.”¹
He wants us to know the truth!**

It is the truth of God that has the power to set men free. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” JOHN 8:32

God gave us the Bible that we might know the truth—the truth about God, the truth about Jesus Christ, the truth about Satan, the truth about sin, and the truth about ourselves.

The Bible tells us the truth about the origin of things—the origin of the universe, the beginning of the world, and the beginning of the human race.

Men leave God out of their thoughts and engage in endless speculations on the origin of the universe. We need to simply believe God’s Word. The Bible says, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God...”²

God said it!

That settles it!

I believe it!

No believer need be afraid that any discoveries of geology or of any other science will ever be able to shake the truth of God’s Word.

The Bible tells us the truth regarding the origin of man. Again, men leave God out and weary themselves with various theories about how man got here. The Bible says that man was created by God. The

human body is the most wonderful thing in nature. It could never have come into being by chance.

God did not create millions of people; He created one man, Adam, and He created a wife for Adam. Adam was the head of the human race. When he sinned he took the whole race with him—away from God.

Man in his natural state is not only a sinner, but he is a rebel. He does not want God to interfere in his life or his plans. The Bible says that the carnal or fleshly mind is “enmity”—hatred against God.

The great leaders of the world can exercise their minds to try to solve the problems brought on by man’s sin and rebellion, but they can never solve them.

We must not put our trust in man, neither ourselves nor others. If we put our trust in man, we will be bitterly disappointed. The Bible says, “Cursed is the man that trusts in man.”³

We are to put our trust in the living God. He will never fail us or disappoint us. The Bible says, “Blessed is the man that trusts in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.”⁴

How blessed it is to know God! The Bible says,

“Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

“Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keeps truth for ever.” PSALM 146:5, 6

1. Isaiah 65:16

3. Jeremiah 17:5

2. Hebrews 11:3

4. Jeremiah 17:7

The Bible

The Bible is God's Holy Word. It is God's message to us, and it is the most important book in all the world. God Himself is the true Author of the Bible, though He used many men to write it. God told these men what to write, and even the words to use.

Long, long ago, God told a man named Jeremiah to write a part of the Bible. God said to Jeremiah, "Write all the words that I have spoken unto you in a book."¹

Jeremiah obeyed God and wrote the Book of Jeremiah. God's Holy Spirit told Jeremiah what to write, and he wrote the words down. This is what we mean when we say that the Bible is "inspired of God." Every book in the Bible was written in this way. The Bible is the only book which was inspired by God.

The grand theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ. The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, contains hundreds of promises concerning the coming of the Savior. The second part of the Bible, the New Testament, tells us that the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, has come.

The Old Testament can be compared to a great picture gallery in which Christ is seen in all the glories of His person and His work. There are countless "types" or "pictures" of Christ in the Old Testament. Christ is the key of all the types. They all point to Him.

The first man, Adam, is a type of Christ. The Bible says that Adam is "the figure of Him [Christ] that was to come."² God put every created thing on earth under Adam's control, and in God's time, every created being in the universe will be made subject to Christ.

As formed by the hand of God, Adam was perfect. But there was one thing Adam lacked. He lacked a companion suited to him. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone."³ God purposed to make a companion for Adam, one perfectly suitable to him.

God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and while he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up the wound in his side. From the rib taken from Adam, God formed Eve, the first woman. The word "woman" means "from man," because Eve was taken out of Adam.

This is a beautiful picture of how Christ will, one day, have a bride, a companion perfectly suited to Him. Eve is a type of the Church as the bride of Christ. The Church is composed of all believers from the time of Christ's death until He comes again.

At the very beginning of the Bible we see God's great purpose in creation. He wants His Son to have a bride, a companion perfectly suited to Him.

1. Jeremiah 30:2

2. Romans 5:14

3. Genesis 2:18

Satan

The Bible tells us that, before the creation of Adam and Eve, there was in God's universe an angelic being who had rebelled against his Creator. This being is called Satan or the devil. Satan is not just an influence for evil. He is a very real being.

There are two main passages in the Bible which tell us of the original position of Satan and how he became the enemy of God. These passages are Isaiah, chapter 14, and Ezekiel, chapter 28.

From the Bible we learn that Satan was originally created as an angel named Lucifer. The Bible describes Lucifer in this manner: "You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (*Ezekiel 28:12*).

Since he was "perfect in beauty," Lucifer was as beautiful as it was possible for a creature to be. Since he was "full of wisdom," Lucifer was as wise as a creature of God could be.

Lucifer apparently held a position of great authority. He was perhaps over all the angels in heaven. But a time came when this mighty angel sinned against God. The Bible says,

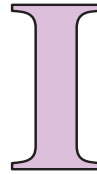
"You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity [sin] was found in you." EZEKIEL 28:15

Where did sin begin in the universe? It began in Lucifer's heart.

What was Lucifer's sin? His sin was pride, which led to rebellion. Lucifer decided that there was none

so great, none so beautiful, none so wise as himself; therefore he decided that he should be God. He set his will against the will of God. Five times Lucifer said, "I will...!" It is a terrible thing for a creature to set his will against God's will.

Lucifer's BIG "I"



*"I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above
the stars of God:
I will sit also upon the mount
of the congregation...
I will ascend above the heights
of the clouds;
I will be like the most High."*

ISAIAH 14:13, 14

A great change took place in Lucifer's heart when he sinned. He no longer loved God or wanted to do God's will. He now loved himself and wanted to do his own will. He was no longer content to be the highest archangel under God. He now wanted to be God!

Lucifer was cast down from his exalted position. His name was changed to Satan, which means "adversary." Thus Satan began his career of opposing God, and he has been opposing God ever since. One-third of the angels in heaven followed Satan in his opposition to God. These angels are called "fallen angels," while those who remained true to God are called the "holy angels."

Satan, along with these fallen angels, set up a kingdom opposed to God and His kingdom. Ever since the time of Satan's rebellion, there have been these two kingdoms in the universe—the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.

God Provides a Covering for Man

Soon after God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, Satan came to destroy God's handiwork. He did not boldly approach Adam to try to get him to disobey his Creator. Instead, he chose to deceive Eve. He told Eve that she would not die if she ate the forbidden fruit, but that she and Adam would be "as gods." Satan suggested that God was keeping back something good from them.

Adam was not deceived. He chose to disobey God. Since Adam was the responsible head of the first family, the Bible lays on him the blame for sin entering the world. God's Word says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world...."¹

God had told Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed Him, they would surely die. The immediate result of Adam's disobedience was death! What kind of death was it? It was spiritual death. We know that Adam did not die physically at once. He lived for hundreds of years after his act of disobedience. But he died spiritually.

In the Bible, death always means separation. We know what physical death is. It is the separation of the spirit from the body.

What is spiritual death? Spiritual death is the separation of man's spirit from God's Spirit. To be cut off from the life of God is to be dead spiritually.

The first thing Adam and Eve noticed after they had sinned was that they were naked. They were conscious that they were in a state utterly unsuited to God. They sewed fig leaves together to make aprons for themselves.

Adam and Eve's "fig leaves" are a type of man trying to make himself pleasing to God by his good works. But this was not acceptable to God.

God Himself made provision for Adam and Eve to be properly clothed for His presence. He clothed them with skins. Two innocent animals had to die to make a covering for two people who had sinned.



Those slain animals were a type of Christ who died for our sins that we might be clothed in His righteousness, so as to be fit for God's presence. The animals' blood was shed for man's sin. The Bible says, "Without shedding of blood is no remission [forgiveness of sins]."²

1. Romans 5:12

2. Hebrews 9:22

The Promised Savior

Sin always has terrible consequences. A holy and righteous God could not overlook the rebellion and disobedience of Adam and Eve. He could not pretend that nothing had happened.

That same day, in the cool of the evening, God came seeking Adam and Eve. They were not seeking God, but God was seeking them. Throughout the Bible, it is not the sinner who is seeking God, but God seeking poor, lost sinners, that He might bring them to Himself.

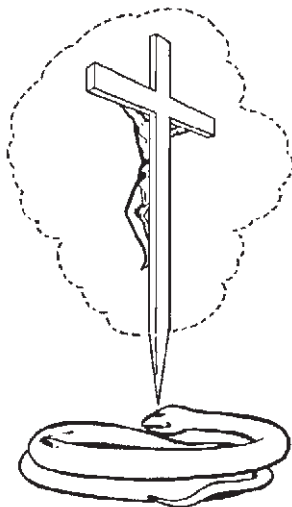
God loved Adam and Eve, but now sin had come between Himself and them. God pronounced His judgment upon them. They would have to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden. Hereafter, man would have to work hard to get his food from the ground. Eve would be subject to her husband and would bear children in sorrow and pain. The ground itself



Adam and Eve are driven from the garden

would be cursed because of their sin.

To the serpent who had been used by Satan to deceive Eve, God said, "Upon your belly shall you go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life." To Satan himself, God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed."¹



God's judgment upon Satan

Then God gave the first promise concerning the coming Savior. God said, "It [“the seed of the woman”—Christ] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." God was saying to Satan, "You will wound the coming Savior, but He will deliver a death-blow to you." This is the first promise in the Bible of the coming of the Lord Jesus, who would defeat Satan.

1. Genesis 3:15

QUESTION PAGES

GOD'S GREAT *Salvation*

BOOK I—Lessons 1 & 2

1. **Answer** questions after you finish each lesson.
2. **Detach** from the center of the book after you have studied both lessons and have completed the Question Pages. (Please do NOT tear pages apart.)
3. **Fold** for mailing.
Postage—add a First Class stamp in the upper right-hand corner.
Tape outside top edge in two places, one inch from either end of the mail piece.
4. **Return address**—fill in your name and address before mailing!

Please send in your Question Pages only!

FOLD HERE

GGG BK1 L1-2 NA 200901

QUESTIONS: LESSON I

Write the letter of the better answer (a) or (b) in the square provided.

1. **The Bible is the story of**
 (a) man's improvement through the ages of history.
 (b) man's complete ruin in sin and God's great salvation in Christ.

2. **Sin and death came into the world**
 (a) by the disobedience of the first man, Adam.
 (b) for no apparent reason.

3. **The nature of sin is**
 (a) rebellion against God and His will.
 (b) just not being as good as we should be.

4. **The moment Adam disobeyed God,**
 (a) he died physically.
 (b) he died spiritually.

5. **The children which Adam produced were**
 (a) in the image of God.
 (b) in Adam's likeness, after his image.

6. **After God gave the Ten Commandments,**
 (a) people were still sinful in their hearts.
 (b) people became better.

7. **In the end days, just before Christ returns,**
 (a) things will be much better.
 (b) things will be as they were in the days of Noah.

8. **The entire history of Adam's family**
 (a) shows steady improvement.
 (b) can be summed up in one word—*SIN*.

PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL IN **YOUR** NAME HERE.

Name _____ Age _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DO NOT DETACH THESE PAGES UNTIL LESSONS ARE COMPLETED.

9. In God's promises to Abraham God revealed His purpose

- (a) to destroy man because he was a sinner.
- (b) to bless man because of God's love.

10. God's blessings for the human race would come through

- (a) Adam and his family.
- (b) God's promised Savior, Jesus Christ.

What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson?

QUESTIONS:

LESSON 2

1. The key to understanding God's great salvation is realizing that God deals with the whole human race on the basis of

- (a) two men— Adam and Christ.
- (b) one man— Adam.

2. Jesus Christ is

- (a) fully God and fully man.
- (b) half God and half man.

3. Jesus was "the Son of God" because

- (a) we are all the sons of God.
- (b) God was His Father.

4. Jesus was "the Son of Man" because

- (a) Joseph was His father.
- (b) Mary was His mother.

5. Like us, Jesus had a spirit, soul and body. He was, however, different from us in that

- (a) He did not have a sinful nature.
- (b) He was a lot better person than we are.

6. Jesus said that He was the Son of God. He showed that He was the Son of God

- (a) by His popularity with the people and the religious leaders.
- (b) by His mighty works.

7. Jesus was victorious over Satan

- (a) by acting in self-will and showing His power.
- (b) by obeying God perfectly.

9. According to the Bible, Jesus was pleasing to God

- (a) only when He was preaching and healing people.
- (b) always.

8. Jesus came to

- (a) heal people and solve the social problems of that day.
- (b) reveal God and to be our Savior.

10. The summing up of the whole truth of Christianity is that

- (a) there is only one Man before God for His pleasure, and that Man is Jesus Christ.
- (b) all who treat people right and try to keep God's laws are pleasing to God.

What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson?

Have you received Christ as your Savior? _____ If so, please share with us how you came to know Christ as your Savior.

God's Second Man

Scripture Reading:

Luke, chapters 1 and 2

Key Verse:

“The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.” 1 CORINTHIANS 15:47

Dear Friend,

The key to understanding God's great salvation is realizing that God deals with the whole human race on the basis of two men—Adam and Christ. Adam is God's “first man” and Christ is God's “second Man.”

In our last lesson we traced the history of God's first man, Adam. We saw that sin and death came into the world through Adam's sin.

God found no pleasure in the first man, Adam, and his descendants. But God has given the human race a second man. That man is God's Son. The Bible says,

“The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.”
1 CORINTHIANS 15:47

God's Second Man

One of the titles of the Lord Jesus is “the Word.” Speaking of Jesus, the

apostle John said,

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us....”

JOHN 1:1, 14

In these verses John declares four stupendous truths about Jesus Christ:

1. His eternity—“In the beginning was the Word.”
2. His fellowship in the Godhead—“and the Word was with God.”
3. His deity—“and the Word was God.”
4. His coming into the world as a man—“and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”

The Incarnation

To provide a second head for the human race, God's Son entered the



“the Word was made flesh....”

human race as a tiny baby. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God spoke to the prophet Isaiah and told him that one day a miracle child would be born. Isaiah wrote,

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God....” ISAIAH 9:6

God gave a special sign concerning the coming of His Son: He would be born of a virgin. The Bible says,

“The Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel [God with us].” ISAIAH 7:14

Centuries later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin named Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of Jesus, the promised Savior. The angel said,

“Behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS.

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David:

“And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.” LUKE 1:31-33

Mary could not understand how this could be. She was a virgin. She said to the angel, “How can this be, seeing I know not a man?” Mary was saying she had never had sexual relations with any man.

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that Holy One which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.”¹

At that moment in time when the Son of God was born into the human race, the command went forth in heaven, “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”² All of the angelic hosts worshipped Jesus Christ at His birth.

Jesus was born, not in a royal palace, but in a lowly stable. His birth was announced to shepherds in nearby fields by the angel of the Lord,

“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” LUKE 2:10, 11



A multitude of angels appeared, praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men....”

The Savior who had just been born would bring “glory to God in

the highest” because He would perfectly represent God and reveal Him in all of His love and grace.

Jesus Is the God-man

The Lord Jesus is often called “the God-man.” This is a very good name for Him because He is truly God and He is truly man. He is not half God and half man. He is fully God and fully man.

The virgin birth of Jesus perfectly expresses how the Son of God came to the earth as both God and man. He was “the Son of God” because God was His Father. He was “the Son of Man” because Mary was His mother.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, Isaiah expressed it perfectly when he wrote, “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.” A “child born” speaks of Christ’s humanity. A “son given” speaks of His deity.

Jesus did not begin to exist when He was born in Bethlehem. He had lived eternally as God. But in His birth in Bethlehem, He entered the human race. The Bible says, “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”³

Like us, Jesus had a spirit, soul and body. He was, however, different from us in that we are all born with a sinful nature, but He did not have a sinful nature. He was and is the sinless Son of God.

After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary entered into the normal relationship of marriage and had other children. Jesus had four brothers and at least two sisters.⁴

Jesus grew up in normal circumstances. He lived at home with His brothers and sisters. Joseph was a carpenter, and Jesus learned the trade of carpentry from him. Regarding His childhood, the Bible says,

“Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

LUKE 2:52

Now let us look at some Scriptures which show Jesus as the One in whom God found His perfect delight.

Jesus as a Child

Even as a child, Jesus was concerned with pleasing His heavenly Father. When He was twelve years old, His parents took Him with them when they went to Jerusalem for the Passover.

When the feast was over, His parents left, assuming that Jesus was in their company. When they had gone a day’s journey, they discovered that He was not with them. They returned to Jerusalem seeking Him.

After three days they found Him in the temple talking with the elderly scholars. All who heard Him were



amazed at His understanding. When His parents asked for an explanation, Jesus said, “Don’t you know that I must be about My Father’s business?”⁵

Jesus had come into a world of which it was said, “There is none that seeks after God, no, not one.” But as a 12-year-old child, His one concern was His Father’s business. There was absolute devotion to God and to His will in that holy Child. Here was One whom God could look upon with perfect delight.

Jesus as a Man

The Bible says, “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Now we see Him at the age of thirty and about to begin His public ministry. The Bible says that, as Jesus was being baptized by John the Baptist, “the heaven was opened” and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon Him. A voice came from heaven saying, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”⁶



God found perfect delight in Jesus Christ His beloved Son.

Jesus Was Victorious over Satan

The first man, Adam, was tested. It was necessary that Jesus Christ, God’s Second Man, be tested also. The Bible says,

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”
MATTHEW 4:1



What was Satan’s purpose in tempting Jesus? His purpose was to get Jesus to disobey God. Three times Satan tempted Jesus to act in self-will. Three times Jesus refused to do so, quoting the Word of God to Satan. Satan was defeated!

The first man was conquered by Satan because he acted in self-will and disobeyed God. The second Man was triumphant over Satan because he obeyed God perfectly.

Jesus Did Mighty Works

Jesus *said* that He was the Son of God. He *showed* that He was the Son

of God by His mighty works.

In Matthew, chapter 8, we read that Jesus was in a ship with His disciples. Jesus fell asleep and, as He slept, a great storm arose. The disciples were afraid that the ship would sink. They woke Jesus up saying, “Lord, save us!”

Jesus spoke to the wind and the sea saying, “Peace be still.” The wind and the sea became calm. The disciples marvelled and said, “What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!”⁷

Jesus had power over evil spirits. The evil spirits recognized Jesus as the Son of God. When He commanded, they obeyed Him.⁸

Jesus had power to heal all sicknesses. He caused the lame to walk again. He restored sight to the blind. He healed those who had diseases. The Bible says that many sick people came to Him, and “He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them.”⁹

Jesus had power over death itself. He raised three people from the dead. On one occasion, a funeral procession passed by Jesus. All the people were crying. The only son of a widow had died and they were going to bury him.

This poor woman had no husband, and her only son had just died. She was weeping bitterly. Jesus had pity on her and told her not to cry. Then He spoke to her son who was dead and said, “Young man, I say to you, Arise!”



The moment Jesus spoke these words, the young man sat up and began to speak. The people were filled with joy. They praised God saying, “God has visited His people.”¹⁰

Jesus Had Power to Forgive Sins

Jesus not only had power to heal people and to raise people from the dead, but He could do something far more important. He had power to forgive their sins.

One day four men brought a friend of theirs to Jesus. This man was sick with the palsy, and he could not walk. His friends brought him to Jesus, believing that Jesus could heal him.

There were so many people around Jesus that they could not get near Him. They climbed up on the house, cut away part of the roof, and lowered the sick man down where Jesus was.

Jesus knew that this man needed to be healed, but he had an even greater need. He needed to be for-

given of his sins. Jesus said to him, “Your sins are forgiven.”

The religious leaders who were present strongly disapproved of this. They were thinking to themselves, “How can this man forgive sins? Only God can do this!”

They were right in thinking that only God can forgive sins. But they were wrong in thinking that Jesus was just an ordinary man.

Jesus knew their thoughts. He said, “That you may know that the Son of Man has power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said to the sick of the palsy), I say unto you, Arise, and take up your couch, and go into your house.” Immediately, the man got up, picked up his bed, and went home, glorifying God. ¹¹



Jesus Revealed the Father

Jesus came to reveal God. He came to tell us and show us what God is like. The Bible says,

“No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the

bosom of the Father, He has declared Him [shown Him forth].” JOHN 1:18

Jesus revealed the Father in all His wonderful love and grace. He said, “He that has seen Me has seen the Father.” ¹²

Jesus Was Always Pleasing to His Father

Jesus was the perfect Servant of God. He was always doing His Father’s will. He was always doing those things that pleased His Father. Jesus said,

“He that sent Me is with Me...for I do always those things that please Him.” JOHN 8:29

For three and a half years, the Lord Jesus went about teaching and preaching. The Bible says,

“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.” ACTS 10:38

On one occasion, Jesus took three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, with Him to the top of a high mountain. There the glory of Jesus as the Son of God shone out from Him. The Scripture says that He “was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment [robe] was white as light.”

There appeared with Jesus two Old Testament saints, Moses and Elijah. When Peter suggested that they build three tabernacles [tents] there, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and again God spoke from heaven, saying,

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I

am well pleased; hear Him.”

MATTHEW 17:5

Peter never forgot that scene. Some thirty years later, Peter wrote,

“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

“For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

2 PETER 1:16, 17

God’s Two Men

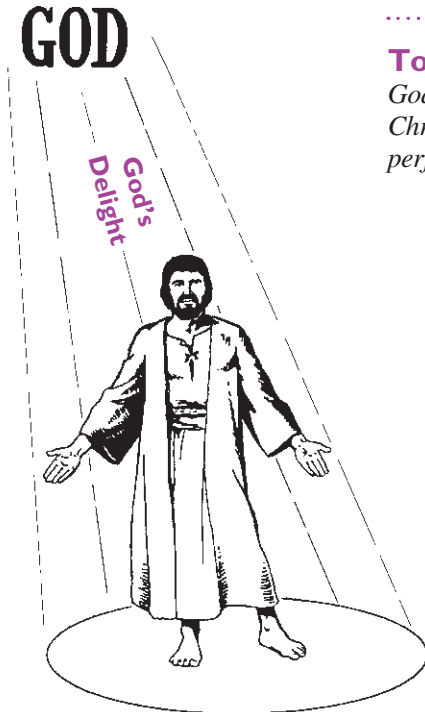
A man who was deeply taught in the things of God said,

Scripture gives us the history of two men—Adam and Christ. Adam will not do for God; only Christ will.

The summing up of the whole truth of Christianity is that there is only one Man before God for His pleasure, and that Man is Christ.¹³

This is true. Adam and his sinful family will not do for God. They have brought no pleasure to God’s heart.

On the other hand, God is perfectly pleased and delighted with His Second Man! God told Abraham, “In your Seed [Christ] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”¹⁴ God will bless all nations through Jesus Christ.



To Summarize:

God’s Second Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the One in whom God finds perfect delight.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Luke 1:35 | 8. Luke 4:36 |
| 2. Hebrews 1:6 | 9. Luke 4:40 |
| 3. John 1:14 | 10. Luke 7:11-16 |
| 4. Mark 6:3 | 11. Luke 5:18-26 |
| 5. Luke 2:49 | 12. John 14:9 |
| 6. Luke 3:22 | 13. C. A. Coates |
| 7. Matthew 8:27 | 14. Genesis 22:18 |

There are three great facts about Jesus Christ that we should always remember.

1 Jesus Christ is God.

The Bible leaves no doubt whatsoever on this subject—Jesus is God! In Hebrews 1:8, God the Father is speaking to His Son, Jesus Christ, “But unto the Son He says, Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever.”

God’s Word takes great care to guard the truth of the Person of the Lord Jesus—who He is. The Scripture is most careful to maintain His glory, the glory of His Person. He was, and is, and always will be God.

One of the names of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is “the Word.” The Bible says, “In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ, the Son], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”¹

2 God’s Son became a man.

The Scripture says, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten [Son] of the Father), full of grace and truth.”²

God’s Son has been here on this earth! Let this great fact sink into your heart. We should never forget this stupendous fact, even for a moment. The Bible says, “Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest [seen] in the flesh.”³

Among other things, the Bible tells us that God’s Son was the great Creator—the One who spoke and

brought the universe into being. God’s Word says,

“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.”
JOHN 1:3

Think of it! The great Creator came into the human race as a tiny baby. The One who created man became a man Himself, that He might be our Redeemer. Can you conceive of anything more wonderful than this?

3 God’s Son, Jesus Christ, will remain the God-Man throughout eternity.

Many people think that the incarnation refers merely to Christ’s taking a human body while He was here on earth, but this is a mistake. Having become a man, Christ will remain the God-Man throughout eternity. The incarnation does not merely refer to what He was when He came into the world, but it equally refers to what He is now.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived here as a man, He died as a man, He was buried as a man, and He rose from the dead as a man. He went back to heaven as a glorious, resurrected Man. He is seated today at the right hand of the Father—a glorified Man with all authority in heaven and earth. Speaking of Christ as He is today, the Bible says, “In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead **bodily.**”⁴ This means Christ has a resurrection body.

1. John 1:1

2. John 1:14

3. 1 Timothy 3:16

4. Colossians 2:9

The Beginning of False Worship

The first children born to Adam and Eve were two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain farmed the land while Abel took care of the sheep. Cain and Abel had been taught the true way in which to worship God. They were to offer a lamb as a sacrifice for their sins.

The lamb was slain. The lamb's blood was poured out and the lamb's body was burned as a burnt offering to God. The lamb was a type or picture of Jesus Christ, the Savior, who would one day come to die for the sins of all men. From the very beginning God taught men that without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sins.

In the course of time, both Cain and Abel brought their offerings to God. Cain was a farmer and he brought the fruit of the ground for his offering. No doubt he brought beautiful vegetables and fruit, but God rejected his offering.

Abel tended sheep and he brought a lamb as his offering. God accepted Abel's offering. The Bible says,

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain."

HEBREWS 11:4

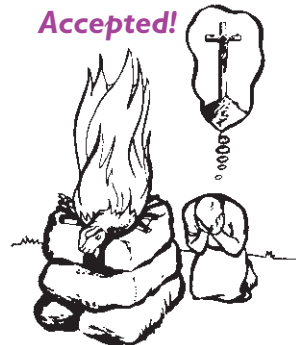
The reason God accepted Abel's offering was that he offered a lamb, a type of Christ as the Lamb of God. Abel was confessing that he was a sinner. By faith Abel was looking forward to the coming of God's Son, the Lamb of God, who would die for the sins of the world.

God did not accept Cain's offering because he was coming to God in his own way instead of God's way.

Since the time of Cain and Abel, there have always been these two kinds of worshippers: (1) true worshippers, like Abel, who come to God, trusting in the Lord Jesus and His blood which was shed for them and (2) false worshippers, like Cain, who try to come to God in their own way. But God has never accepted anyone outside of Christ, and He never will.



Cain offering fruit of the ground



Abel offering a lamb

Noah

As men began to multiply on the earth, they became more and more wicked. In the days of Noah, things had reached a state where they could not be remedied. The Bible says that every imagination of man's heart was only evil continually. Man was a grief to God constantly.

Could God go on with a race of people who were a constant grief to His heart? No, He could not. God determined to destroy the human race by a great flood. But there was one man who was upright in his ways—Noah. The Bible says, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”¹

God told Noah of His plan to destroy the earth by water. He instructed Noah to build an ark, a great ship. It took Noah and his three sons 120 years to build the ark as God had instructed them. For 120 years Noah warned the people that God's judgment was coming on the earth, but they laughed at him.

When the ark was completed, God told Noah to bring pairs of all the animals and birds into the ark. Regarding certain “clean” animals, he was to take seven pairs. Then God told Noah to take his wife, their three sons and their wives into the ark. God did not say, “Go into the ark.” He said, “Come, you and all your house into the ark.” This meant that God was inside the ark.

There was only one door into

the ark. For seven days that door remained open, while Noah pleaded with the people to come inside. Then God shut the door. The Bible says, “The LORD shut him in.”

It began to rain and the fountains of the deep were broken up. It rained constantly for forty days and forty nights. The waters covered the hills and the highest mountains. Every person and all air-breathing creatures outside the ark died.

The ark is a type or picture of Christ. He is our Ark of safety. This world in which we live is very wicked. It is under the judgment of God. But God has given us an “ark of safety.” Christ is our Ark.

The moment we take Christ as our Savior, God puts us *in Christ*. We are *in Christ* just as Noah and his family were in the ark. When God's wrath falls on this evil world in which we live, we shall be saved because we are *in Christ*.

Many of God's people do not have full assurance of their salvation. They are fearful that they might lose their salvation. God wants all believers to know that they are saved forever. Noah and his family were not outside the ark, trying to hold on. They were inside the ark, perfectly safe.

When God saves us, He puts us *in Christ*. We are not outside of Christ, trying to hold on to Him; we are *in Christ*. The Bible says,

“But of Him [God] are you *in Christ* Jesus...”
I CORINTHIANS 1:30

1. Genesis 6:8

The Tower of Babel

Following the great flood, the children of Noah multiplied. The Bible says, “The whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.” They turned from God and began to seek their own glory. They found a place where they could make bricks, using slime for mortar. They said, “Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name....”¹

They began to build the city of Babylon and the tower of Babel. When they said, “Let us make us a name,” they were seeking their own glory, not God’s glory.

The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which they were building. The LORD said, “Behold, the people are one, and they all have one language; and this they begin to do... Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”²

The LORD caused the people to speak many different languages, so that they could not understand each other or work together. The Bible says that the LORD scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth. Thus, today, we have the different nations and the different languages throughout the earth.

From the days of the tower of Babel, this world has been the scene of man’s seeking his own glory. But from those days God has presented another “world” to those who have

faith in Him. The Bible calls it “the world to come.”³

God called a man named Abraham out from his country and from his people. God told Abraham that he would be the father of a multitude of nations, and that kings would come out of him.⁴

No doubt Abraham had seen the building of the tower and the city for man’s glory, but God appeared to him and told him about a city for God’s glory—a city whose builder and maker is God. The Bible says,

“By faith Abraham, when he was called...obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went....

“For he looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

HEBREWS 11:8, 10

Abraham turned his back on the glory of man and the things of man. He obeyed God and went out, not knowing where he was going. From the days of Abraham, believers have looked for God’s coming world.

When God’s new world comes into being, it will not be a world of pride, selfishness, lust and man’s vain glory, like the present world. Instead, it will be a world in which the knowledge of the LORD will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. God’s world will be displayed at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, and it will be filled with His glory.

1. Genesis 11:4

2. Genesis 11:6, 7

3. Hebrews 2:5

4. Genesis 17:5, 6

The Call of God

Abram, whose name God later changed to Abraham, occupies a unique place of prominence in Scripture which no other person has. The Bible says that he is “the father of all them that believe.”¹

Abram lived at a time when men were worshipping idols. Abram was no different from the people among whom he lived. He, too, worshipped idols, but the call of God changed his life forever. The Bible says that “the God of glory” appeared to Abram and said to him,

“Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house, unto a land that I will show you:

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing:

“And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.”
GENESIS 12:1-3

Abram is the first example of a man chosen and called by God. The call of God is a wonderful thing. The mighty and powerful voice of God from the unseen spiritual world reaches our heart. It awakes us to the consciousness that God is calling us to live for Him and to do a work for Him.

Like Abram, we too have heard the mighty voice of God from the unseen world. Like Abram, God calls us to be “strangers and pilgrims” in this world.²

God made a covenant (a solemn, binding agreement) with Abram which contained three mighty promises:

- **A great nation.** God promised to make of Abram a great nation. God said, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great.” The great nation which came from Abram is Israel, God’s special, chosen people here on earth.

- **A promised land.** This is the first mention of “the land.” God had a special land for His chosen people, the land of Canaan. This land was so fertile that it is described in the Bible as “a land flowing with milk and honey.” It was God’s purpose that His people should possess this wonderful land and enjoy its riches.

- **A promised Savior.** God said to Abram, “In you shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Later, God appeared to him and said, “In your seed [one person, Christ] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”³ This was the greatest honor of all—that from Abraham’s family, his descendents, would come the promised Savior.

God’s great plan of redemption began with Abraham. When we open our New Testament, the first words we read are these:

“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”
MATTHEW 1:1

1. Romans 4:11

2. 1 Peter 2:11

3. Genesis 22:18

The Genealogy of *Christ*



Abraham



Ishmael



Isaac



Esau



Jacob

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

Reuben

Simeon

Levi

Judah

Dan

Naphtali

Gad

Asher

Issachar

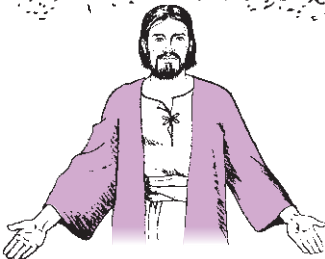
Zebulun

Joseph

Benjamin



Israel



**Jesus Christ,
the Son of God**

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