



Ambassador College

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

An International Course of Biblical Understanding



The Space Age — What Does It Mean?

LESSON 1

About Our Cover ...

Floating in space! Astronaut Edward H. White "walks" in space outside his orbiting Gemini IV spacecraft while traveling 17,500 miles per hour! Notice clouds far below and curvature of earth's horizon. White maneuvered himself in

space with a "jet gun" held in his right hand. His "umbilical cord," snaking off to the right, is his lifeline with the mother ship - providing oxygen and communications. Surprising as it may seem, this modern pulsating 20th century space age was *predicted* centuries ago! You can know the *meaning* of the fantastic advancements of science and technology, and where they are leading mankind. This first lesson makes it plain.

NASA Photo

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an open letter from

THE EDITOR

GREETINGS and WELCOME to our growing family of Ambassador College Correspondence Course students!

This is a totally new and DIFFERENT kind of study course, researched and edited by the Ambassador College Department of Theology. No other course is

like it! It will thrill, excite and *challenge* you - lead you to *understand* the meaning of world events and the PURPOSE being worked out here below.

Have you ever wondered what present world conditions *really* mean? Where is the arms race leading? What will be the outcome of the crisis in the Middle East? *Why* global pollution and the population explosion? Why so much chaos, confusion - even *anarchy*?

What does the FUTURE hold? Are there SOLUTIONS to these seemingly insoluble problems?

What is the WAY to world peace - the way to freedom from fear and worry, poverty, sickness, unhappiness?

And why was man put here in the first place? Were you, as an individual, put here for a *purpose*? If SO, WHAT is that purpose? Why were *you* born?

What is man - why is man?

Does modern religion have the answer? What is the truth about such doctrinal questions as heaven, hell, salvation, law and grace, the great tribulation, the rapture, the virgin birth, the resurrection, the second coming, the millennium? Where are the dead - and are they now conscious?

You need, more than anything in your life, to UNDERSTAND the answers to *all* these questions!

In college classrooms, textbooks, or magazines on current affairs, you find alarming world problems hashed and rehashed - but no workable, viable SOLUTIONS given! And in most religious publications you find much emotion and sentimentality - but very *little* UNDERSTANDING!

This course of study is entirely DIFFERENT - it is UNIQUE!

These informative, eye-opening lessons make PLAIN the *real meaning* behind today's world news. They reveal the ANSWERS to the "unanswerable" social, family, and personal problems facing millions today. They explain the very PURPOSE of human life!

You will study the clear, plain, simple TRUTHS OF YOUR BIBLE! You will learn *how* to study the Bible - *why* so few really understand it.

This course of biblical understanding is offered *free*, without tuition cost, to ALL who earnestly desire to understand the Bible and how it is relevant to their lives

and the age we live in TODAY! All you will need is your Bible - although, if you are able and wish to provide one or more Bible translations, a good concordance or a Bible dictionary, you will find them helpful. But they are not essential. All you will really need in studying with this course is your Bible, and the desire to learn the truth of God.

You'll find these lessons stirring, vitally interesting! Not dry or dull. They sparkle with interest! Scores of thousands around the world are already enrolled - additional thousands are starting every month! If you will set yourself to really study your Bible, you will be richly REWARDED by constantly coming into surprising, exciting, remarkable new truths with the help and direction of each lesson.

As I mentioned before, there is NO TUITION COST WHATSOEVER - these lessons are ABSOLUTELY FREE of charge! How can we afford to give them away? Because thousands of Co-workers worldwide voluntarily contribute of their financial incomes to help bring you this precious knowledge *without* price. We proclaim the WAY of GIVING, SERVING. To put a price on any of our literature would be inconsistent with that WAY. Our desire is to serve - to SHARE God's precious truths in a ministry of love.

WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

Why should we want to STUDY the Bible? Is the Bible up to date in the Space Age? Exactly what IS the Bible, and HOW should we study it to really UNDERSTAND it? This lesson gives you the ANSWERS from your Bible!

WHAT ARE WE? Were we put on earth for a PURPOSE? If so, *what* is that purpose?

Why are so many lives empty, discontented, unhappy? How may life

become happy, abundant, successful, prosperous and *filled* with interest?

What is the real cause of wars, and THE WAY to world peace? *What* lies beyond death - is there really a way to eternal life?

Are these questions important? One might ask, could anything ELSE be *more* important? If you wanted to know the answers to these basic questions of life, *where* would you go?

The FOUNDATION of Knowledge

Stop and think! Would a Creator, having supreme intelligence, wisdom and love to think out, to plan, design, and bring about all creation - this earth, and all life and life-functions upon it - have left His created beings in *ignorance* of His purpose - the PURPOSE of their being here - and the LAWS that would bring them PEACE, HAPPINESS, joy and everything good?

God Almighty did *not* hide these all-important truths from human minds. He made them accessible to mankind. He *committed* His TREASURE-HOUSE of basic knowledge to WRITING. He revealed that knowledge in the Holy Bible - the FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE - His instruction book for mankind. Yet almost no one has ever found the answers so PLAINLY written there!

The Bible is simply God's *divine revelation* of BASIC NEEDED KNOWLEDGE which mankind is not otherwise capable of finding out.

God equipped man with the powers and abilities to discover and use the laws of science. But absolutely no tools or instruments of science can ever tell you if there is life after death, the PURPOSE of your being alive, where you are going, or the WAY to a happy, abundant life and to universal PEACE. Our scientists, our world leaders and our statesmen have *failed utterly* to tell us these answers, or to lead us into the universally desired peace, with happiness and abundant living.

The Bible reveals all this - and *more*. This course shows YOU WHERE to find that revealed knowledge in the FOUNDATION of knowledge!



The Bible is the most up-to-date book you can read. This 1000 year-old Greek manuscript, containing the four gospels, records TOMORROW'S news -- TODAY! Part of Ambassador College's rare book collection, it was painstakingly hand copied on vellum by Greek monks in a southern Italian monastery around 900 A.D.

Ambassador College Photo

A LIVING Book!

But why do most people think the study of the Bible would be a dull, uninteresting, irksome task - to be done, if at all, only as a duty out of fear of a harsh God?

Simply because people have not known God, or what He is like - and because they have *never really begun to understand the Bible!*

In this study we shall come to really see that God is LOVE (I John 4:8, 16), not a harsh, stern God; that God wants every one of us to be

happy, and to enjoy an *interesting* life to the very full - every second of it! And we shall, once we begin to understand the Bible, come to find it the most fascinating, the most interesting, as well as the most profitable and enjoyable study of our lives.

Where to Begin?

One natural and proper starting place to begin our study of the Bible would be at the very *beginning* - with God as Creator - at the very first chapter of Genesis and compare the Bible account of creation with the modern theory of evolution; to study the creation of man, the origin of Satan, the first sin, and to continue on from there through the Old Testament.

Another natural starting point is with the beginning of the New Testament. While the very first words of the entire Bible are "In the beginning GOD created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1: 1), yet the real beginning of the New Testament, in actual time sequence of events, is John 1: 1: "In the beginning was the WORD." SO the account of the preexistence, the birth, and work of Jesus Christ - who is called "the Word" or Spokesman of God - also begins with the words, "In the beginning."

And there is still another natural starting point - the one we have adopted.

That is to begin with this very PRESENT age in which we live - this time of upset world conditions when the whole world seems suddenly to have erupted in chaos and physical violence - this time when scientific discoveries and technological developments have produced destructive forces that threaten the *extinction* of all life on this planet - this "TIME OF THE END" just before the END of this *age* and the second coming of Jesus Christ!

We feel the Bible will mean more to you if you fully understand its vital *relation* to YOUR LIFE today - its direct connection with CURRENT WORLD EVENTS.

If you were to try to understand a map of the world, it would not mean much to you unless and until you could first put your finger on the precise spot on the map where you were at the moment. Only then could you clearly see and comprehend the rest of the world in

relation to your own location on the map. We feel you will understand the Bible better, and find it more interesting, if you view it all - its history and prophecy, its teachings and divine revelations - from the vantage point of your life *here* and *now*. The Bible will become clearer if you see how this world has led up to the very time and conditions in which you live - and *where* it is destined to go from here. But before we begin this fascinating study, we need to know **WHY** *so few* really UNDERSTAND the Bible - and how You *can understand it*.

Why Such Confusion?

Why do we find such confusion - such disagreement as to what the Bible says? Why don't the hundreds of differing church denominations and sects AGREE on what their acknowledged textbook says?

WHY do so many individuals, capable of understanding almost any *other* book say: "I just *can't* understand the Bible"?

Take a recognized textbook on biology. Show this book to ten different biology professors from ten different colleges and universities. Ask them what it says. They'll all give you basically the *same* answer. People seldom disagree as to what recognized textbooks say - except when it comes to the one Book Of ALL books - the Holy Bible!

But take the Bible to ten different professors of theology, or ministers of religion, and you'll probably receive ten different answers to just about any question you might ask about it.

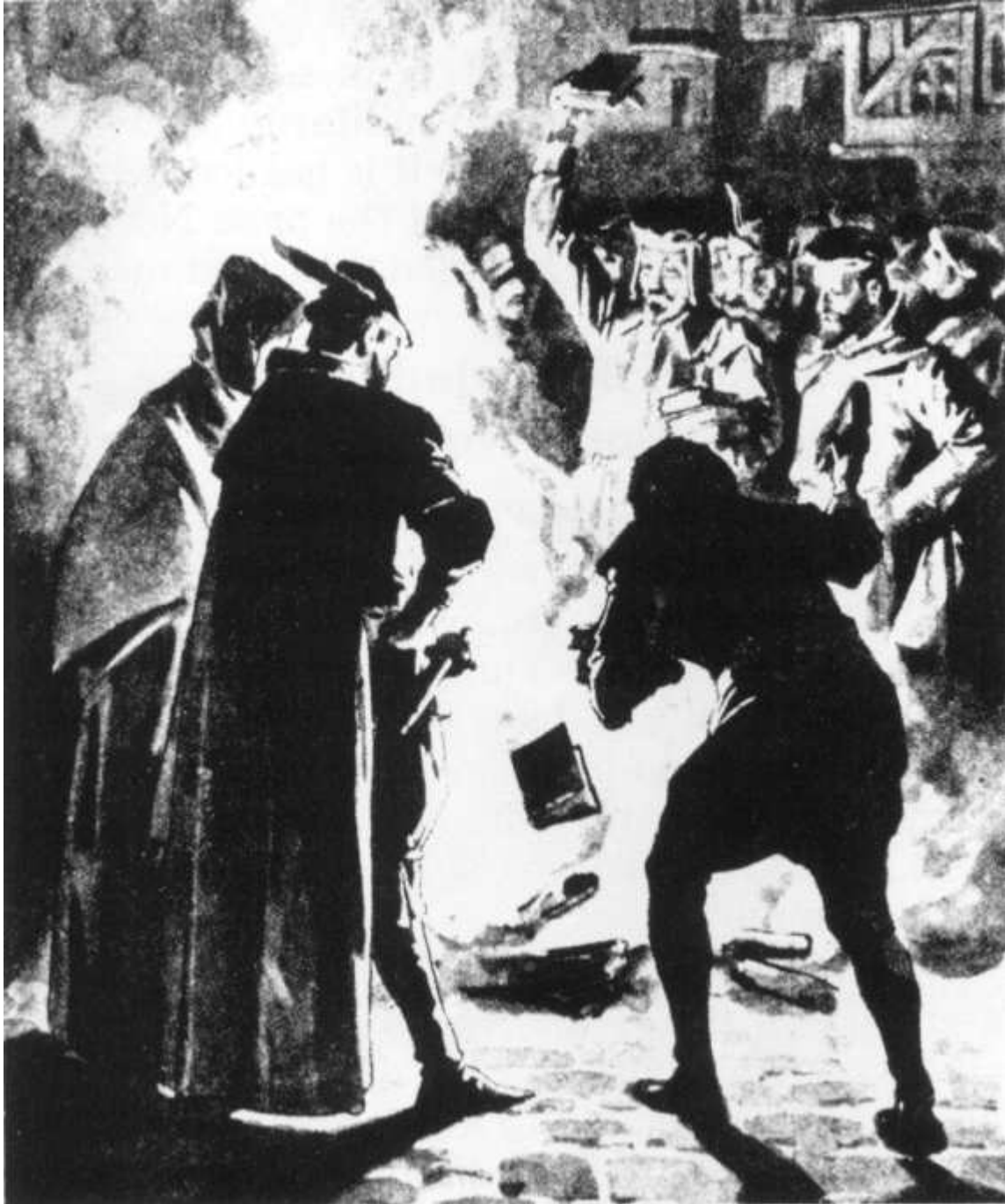
Do you know WHY?

Here, certainly is the enigma of the ages. The most important, yet the least understood Book of *all* books is the world's BEST SELLER - the Book owned by more people than any other. It is the one Book that has lived *in spite of* every effort to stamp it out down through the ages.

The Bible is the only book which has *foretold*, centuries in advance, the chaotic and uneasy conditions of our world - the only book that explains the meaning of confused world conditions - that opens before us to understand in advance the wonderful, peaceful, happy world tomorrow. It is the one Book that predicted, in advance, the rise and

fall of specific nations and governments - that reveals the DESTINY of the world. No mere *humanly* inspired book could have revealed these amazing events! Such prophecies *must* have been divinely inspired.

Here is the Book that, in spite of human misunderstanding, has *changed* more lives than all other books combined. And yet - it is the book that almost NOBODY knows!



The foundation of knowledge has been preserved in spite of every attempt to destroy it!

WHY Misunderstood

The Bible is the most *misunderstood* book in history. The most twisted, distorted, misrepresented, maligned and lied about.

WHY?

The answer is found in II Timothy 3:16-17. The Apostle Paul was inspired by God to write:

"*ALL* scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is *profitable* for DOCTRINE, for REPROOF, for CORRECTION, for INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." So the Scriptures are profitable for the purpose of REPROVING and CORRECTING US!

But how many people do you know who are even willing to be CORRECTED when they are in error - to be REPROVED for the wrong things they do? People simply do not like to be reprovved and corrected. They love praise - they like flattery - but reproof and correction they surely HATE!

Now do you see why it is so hard for people to understand the Bible, and to agree on just what it says? The Bible is God's great spiritual mirror. It shows up *every* flaw in our thinking, reveals every spot on our characters. It pictures us as we REALLY are - as *God* sees us, not as we like to THINK we are, or as we like to have other men look upon us.

"For the Word of God," we read in Hebrews 4:12, "is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword" - it cuts DEEP, and it cuts both ways, ". . . and is a DISCERNER of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Yes, it opens up and exposes our innermost thoughts.

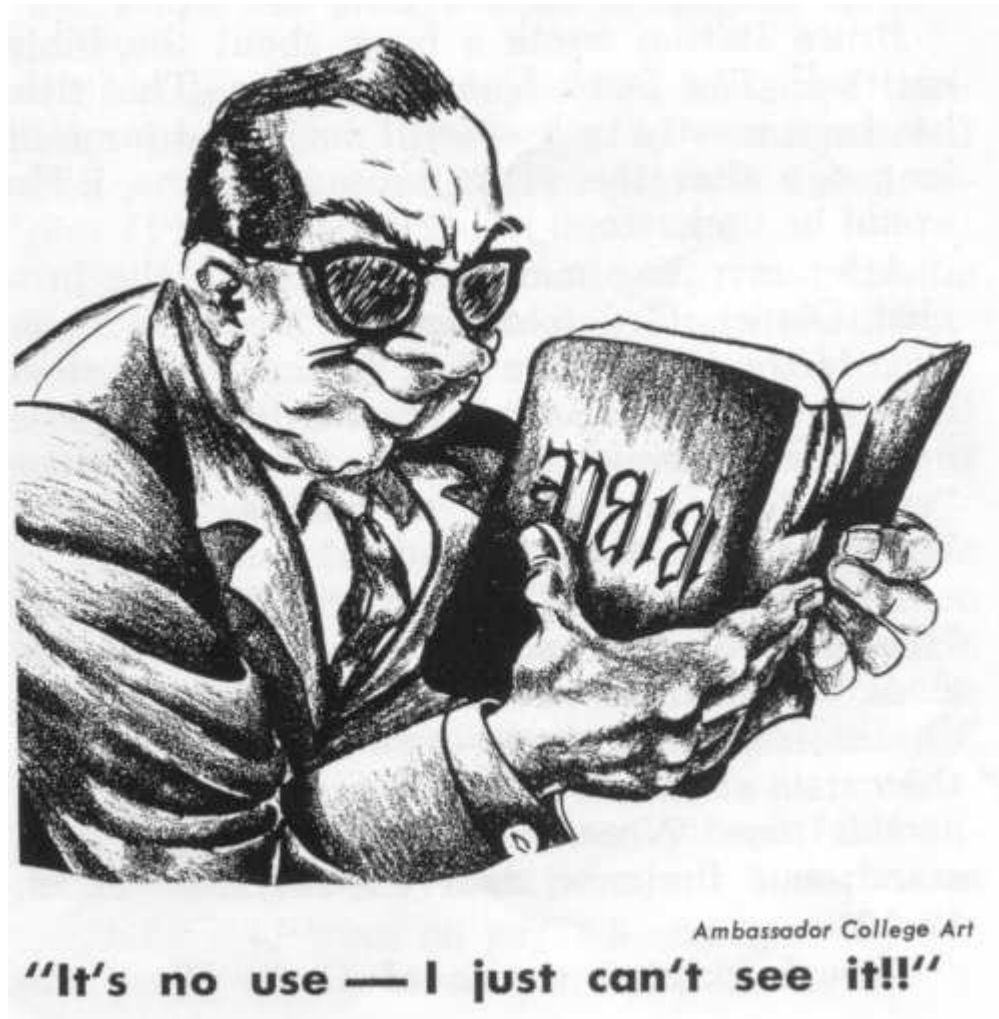
When your little children do things that are wrong - that you have forbidden - do they usually admit it freely and frankly? Or do they usually deny it as long as possible, then try to cover it up, excuse it, JUSTIFY it, or place the blame on somebody else?

We are all only little children grown up. When our heavenly Father speaks to us, through His Holy Scriptures, and reprovves, rebukes, or corrects us, we usually do not like to ADMIT our errors, our faults, our wrong ways.

And so men began, centuries ago, to INTERPRET the Bible! As a result, the Word of God has become twisted, wrested, perverted, with almost every false and counterfeit meaning imaginable being read into it.

Instead of teaching and expounding the *plain, simple, intended* meaning, we now have hundreds of HUMAN INTERPRETATIONS of the Bible!

Instead of acknowledging the truth, men seek to *justify* their own ways by PERVERTING the sacred and holy Word of God! The Apostle Paul was inspired to write in II Timothy 4:1-4 that the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine. People *have* turned away their ears from the truth and have turned to FABLES palmed off as the truth of God's Word. Isaiah prophesied that in these *latter days* men would demand: "Prophecy [preach] not unto us right things, speak unto US SMOOTH THINGS, PROPHECY DECEITS" (Isaiah 30:8-10).



We can clearly see why men do not understand the Bible. They are not yielded to the Eternal's will - they are filled with the fear of MEN, instead of God. They tremble at the thought of what PEOPLE say, instead of what the word of the LIVING GOD has to say!

We read in Psalm 111: 7, 8, 10 "ALL his commandments are SURE. They stand fast FOR EVER AND EVER and are done in truth and uprightness. ... The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a GOOD UNDERSTANDING *have all they that DO his commandments.*"

David had understanding. And David said, "THY WORD is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105).

Today's generation is like that of Jesus' day, of which He said, "This is

the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Yes, the Bible is light - a lamp unto our feet - a light unto our path. But the world is surely in gross darkness.

Meaning Locked Up Until Now!

Bruce Barton wrote a book about the Bible entitled: *The Book Nobody Knows*. This title has been mostly true - *until now!* God foretold long ago that the TRUE message of the Bible would be understood in *our time today!*

After revealing many prophecies to the prophet Daniel, God told him to "*Seal* the book even to the time of the END: [when] many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be *increased*" (Daniel 12:4). In the time of the "end" Bible knowledge, as well as all other knowledge, was to be INCREASED!

The Moffatt translation of the Bible renders "the time of the end" as "the CRISIS at the close." The whole world is now approaching a condition of total chaos - we are *now* entering the CRISIS at the close of this age. God said that *at this time* "None of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall UNDERSTAND" (Dan. 12:10).

Though printed copies of God's Word are widespread today, this world still does NOT understand the Bible. It is in *utter confusion* religiously, politically and militarily. The world does not really know where it is headed, nor does it *comprehend* the lessons of the past. Never has mankind needed the knowledge of God more!

Spiritual Knowledge Never More Needed

Experts tell us that scientific and technical knowledge has DOUBLED in the past decade - but so have world troubles! Why? Obviously material knowledge and scientific and technological know-how have not brought man the ANSWERS to world problems. This type of knowledge has only led to the proliferation of problems, and has led mankind to the brink of nuclear annihilation!

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower had a glimpse of the future.

He said in his inaugural address: "In the swift rush of great events, we find ourselves groping to know the full sense and meaning of the times in which we live How far have we come in man's long pilgrimage from darkness toward light? Are we nearing the light - a day of freedom and peace for all mankind? Or are the shadows of another night closing in upon us? ... Science seems ready to confer upon us, as its final gift, the power to erase human life from this planet."

Mr. Eisenhower recognized the fact that man may soon destroy himself. President John F. Kennedy saw the same reality. President Johnson also came face to face with this awesome threat. President Nixon has had to grapple with this same specter.

But how may world disaster be averted? What is the solution to the arms race - to a nuclear "Armageddon"?

At the close of World War II, just following the surrender of the Japanese on board the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, General Douglas MacArthur put his finger on the only possible solution. He said these fateful words: "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have been attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations.... Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative. *We have had our last chance.* If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at the door. The problem basically is THEOLOGICAL and involves a *spiritual* recrudescence and improvement of human *character* that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. *It must be OF THE SPIRIT if we are to save the flesh*" (*Reminiscences*, p. 459, emphasis ours throughout lesson).

Notice these remarkable words carefully.



Above: Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower realized that humanity may soon destroy itself. **Right:** General Douglas MacArthur, shown signing World War II Japanese unconditional surrender documents, recognized the solution to man's problems of survival.

Although he was one of the greatest and most successful generals of modern times, MacArthur believed that our world has had its last chance to wage a major war and *to END it* short of the utter and final annihilation of mankind!

But he also saw the only *solution* to this world's ills - a renewing of man's spirit - an improvement in human CHARACTER!

Let's be honest. Let's face the facts. There is a *CAUSE* for every *effect*! Because man has chosen to go his own way and has *rejected* God's revealed knowledge, mankind is *reaping* the CONSEQUENCES! Man's own ways are the *CAUSE* of the misery, wretchedness, and trouble filling the world today! Cut loose from God, man's misguided scientific and technological genius has led him to the brink of *self-annihilation*!

The problem, therefore, basically is theological. God plainly says in His Word: "My people are DESTROYED for *lack* of [true, spiritual] knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

Only One Hope

People tend to delude themselves into thinking there is no special danger right now - that the world has *always* been as chaotic as it is today.

Of course, human nature has remained basically unchanged. The ways of carnal-minded men have always resulted in death and destruction (Proverbs 14:12).

But, in prophesying of our day, the Apostle Paul said, "Evil men and seducers shall wax *worse and worse*" (II Timothy 3:13). This, coupled with the stark reality that never until now has human annihilation been possible, ought to *WAKE US UP!!*

Jesus Christ, the greatest newscaster who ever lived, knew the terrible state of affairs men would bring on themselves in this end time. He predicted "Except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED [ALIVE] (Matt. 24:22).

Yet, your Bible shows there is hope for mankind! God Almighty has promised to intervene in world affairs. He Will NOT allow the scientific genius of man to destroy all life from this planet. He has promised to send Jesus Christ again - this time to SAVE us from ourselves and bring us peace at last!

(Photos on pages 8 and 9, text continues on page 10)

What Is the MEANING of the SPACE AGE?

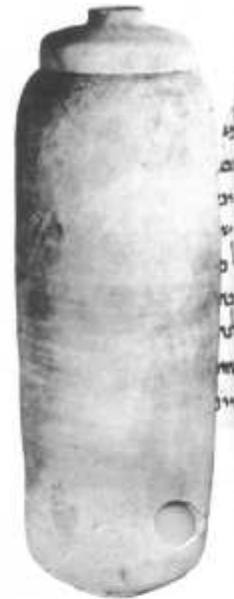


A fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls — discovered in 1947 and after — shown with two clay containers which protected the documents for nearly 20 centuries. Among scrolls were fragments of Scripture with Hebrew text virtually identical with that which we have today. What message does the Bible hold for our space age?



NASA Photo





**The United Nations
— Man's Last Hope
for Peace . . . ?**

The building that houses what has been called the world's "last hope for peace" shines brilliantly against the midtown Manhattan skyline. In spite of many sincere efforts to bring about world peace, men continue to fight and wage war. Only the Word of God shows how this world's ills will soon be SOLVED!



You Can Begin to Understand

How, then, can you begin to really UNDERSTAND the Bible?

Here is how you may begin this exciting adventure.

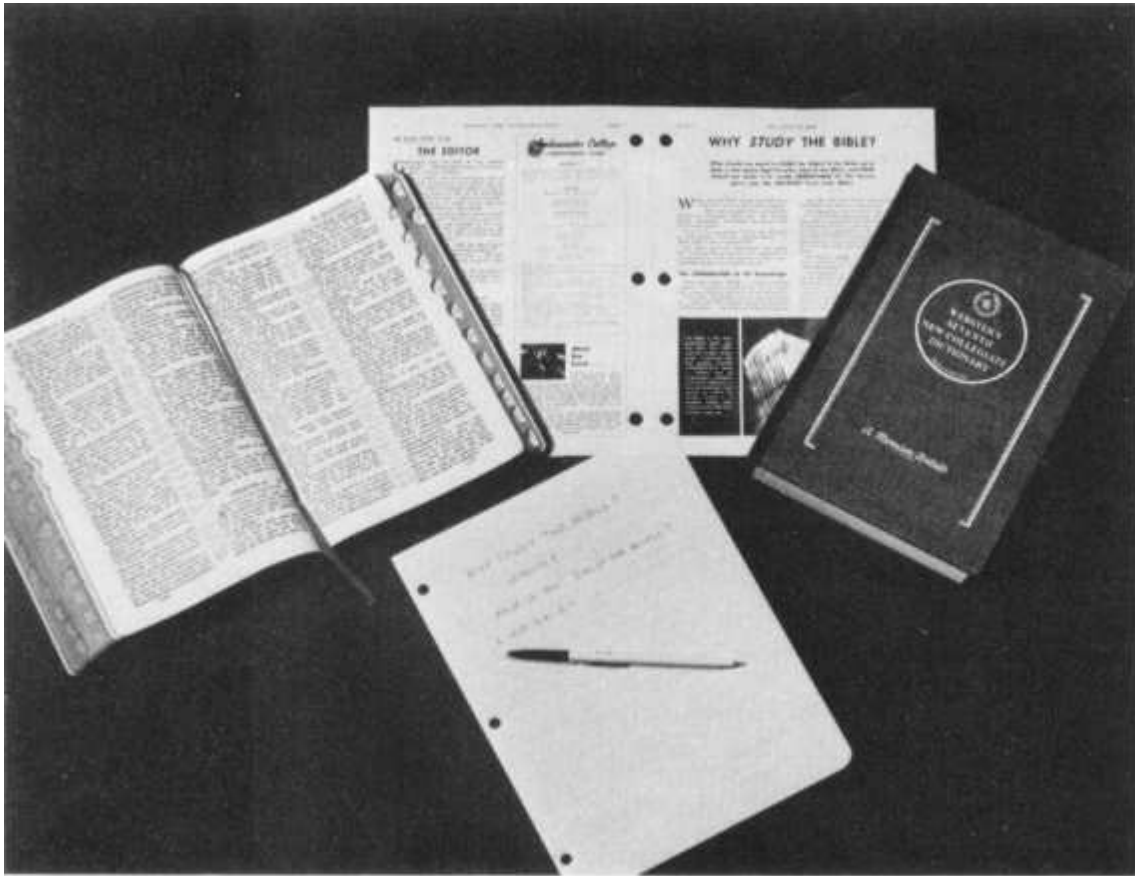
Study the Bible to find TRUTH. Then believe God - believe His Word - accept its plain, *natural meaning*, just as you would accept any other book in which you had confidence.

But be cautious - avoid jumping to hasty conclusions, or carelessly taking things for granted. Be careful to "*prove* all things" (I Thess. 5:21).

And above all - do not try to *interpret* the Bible. Don't take the interpretation of any man - or church. Remember that the Bible interprets ITSELF!

When the Apostle Paul came to Berea, the people found he was preaching something utterly DIFFERENT than that which they had been taught and had believed. They did not know whether Paul was a false prophet, or a man sent from God. Notice what they did: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind [that is, without prejudice] and *searched the scriptures DAILY, whether those things were so*" (Acts 17:11).

Study your Bible without prejudice - but be careful - PROVE all things as the Bereans did - search the scriptures *whether* those things be so! Read and study your Bible *daily* - check up for yourself and see what it really does teach. Don't *assume* what you've always heard and believed is true.



Ambassador College Photo

These are your tools for study. Writing out the study material is helpful, but not a requirement of this course. Be sure to read the important instructions on this page.

Before You Begin

This course is not just a study of the lessons we send you. The lessons are intended to show you where to look in your Bible for the verses relating to the subject under study, and to put them together for total understanding. Therefore, you must open your Bible to *every* scripture reference given in answer to the questions we ask, and carefully read and actually *study* these passages. (Our course is based on the *King James Version* of the Bible because we have found it to be the most accurate overall.)

Writing or typing out the scripture references is NOT a requirement of

this course. But over the years, many of our students have found it helpful to copy the answers and keep them in a notebook with their lessons. Copying all of the Bible verses takes a little more time, but it is very helpful in *remembering* what you have learned, and in *reviewing* your lessons at any time.

If you would rather *not* follow this method of study, you still should turn to, and actually READ the scripture references given in answer to the questions. This way you will prove the truth for yourself right *in your own Bible*, and fully comprehend the subject under study.

Many of our students also set *aside* a certain time every day for their study. But here again, the exact time of day and length of time you spend in study will have to be dictated by your own circumstances, and/or personal preference. If the letters we continually receive from our students are any indication, we think you'll find it difficult to pull yourself away from studying, once you really get into it!

One final word about tests. You will notice a quiz on page 16. It is a general review of the material you will cover in this lesson - an educational way to help you remember the important facts you will have learned, and to check your own progress. Each lesson will contain a similar quiz. Once you're through taking the test, you simply check your answers with the correct answers on page 15, and then rate yourself. It's that easy!



Wide World, Northrop Corp. Photos

Today's modern weapons of war were predicted centuries ago!

LESSON 1

What Is the "End of the World"?

1. Was Jesus ever questioned about the "end of the world," and the signs that would point to His return? Matthew 24:3. What were Christ's disciples really talking about when they asked Him about the "end of the *world*"?

COMMENT: The New Testament, as originally inspired by God, was written in the Greek language. The Greek word translated "world" here in Matthew 24:3 is *aión*, meaning AGE - not the physical planet on which we live. Jesus, then, was questioned about the *end of an "age"* and about His scheduled return, rather than the destruction of the terrestrial globe we call earth. The end of man's civilization would mean the end of an age, but the earth itself would *continue* to exist!

A Time of Great Trouble

1. Did Jesus prophesy that a time Of GREAT trouble would occur on the earth just *before* His return? Matt. 24:21.

2. What did Jesus declare would happen if these days of tribulation were allowed to continue? Matt. 24:22.

COMMENT: The Moffatt translation renders this verse clearer as "not a soul would be saved *alive*." This verse, then, is not referring to spiritual salvation at all, but to being saved from *physical destruction* - from premature DEATH!

3. Did Jesus prophesy that only the inhabitants of Jerusalem would be threatened by total destruction? Or did He plainly say that NO ONE would be safe from the threat of annihilation? Same verse.

COMMENT: The *Revised Standard Version* says "no human being would be saved."

4. Who will intervene in world affairs to *cut short* this time of trouble,

and thus prevent the annihilation of all humanity? Mark 13:20.

COMMENT: These verses do not mean that God will alter the time of Christ's scheduled return, but that just as He *planned originally*, He will intervene at the very moment humanity would otherwise destroy itself. By His *scheduled* intervention He will CUT SHORT the days of man's rule over man, which would otherwise lead to the destruction of all human life.

No Time Like It!

1. Has there *ever* been a time of trouble such as will occur just before Christ's return? Matt. 24:21; Mark 13:19.

2. Did any of the Old Testament prophets foresee this *same* time of worldwide peril? Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1.

COMMENT: Since each of the preceding four verses explains that there has *never been* before, and NEVER will be afterward another similar period of crisis, they can only be referring to ONE GREAT CLIMACTIC period of worldwide trouble!

3. How did the prophet Joel symbolically describe the horrible events to take place at the close of this age? Joel 2:1-3. Will there ever again be a time like this? Verse 2.

COMMENT: Joel's God-inspired prophecy pictures the very *same* time of trouble prophesied by Christ, Jeremiah, and Daniel. Verse 2 plainly shows that there is *not* to be any other period in history to equal this time. Therefore, this prophecy must refer to events soon to occur at the close of this age. For only in *this age* of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons has such widespread and total destruction and the extermination of human life been possible!

4. Could the symbols in Revelation 9:2-10, 16-19 indicate the torment and mass murder resulting from the use of modern weaponry?

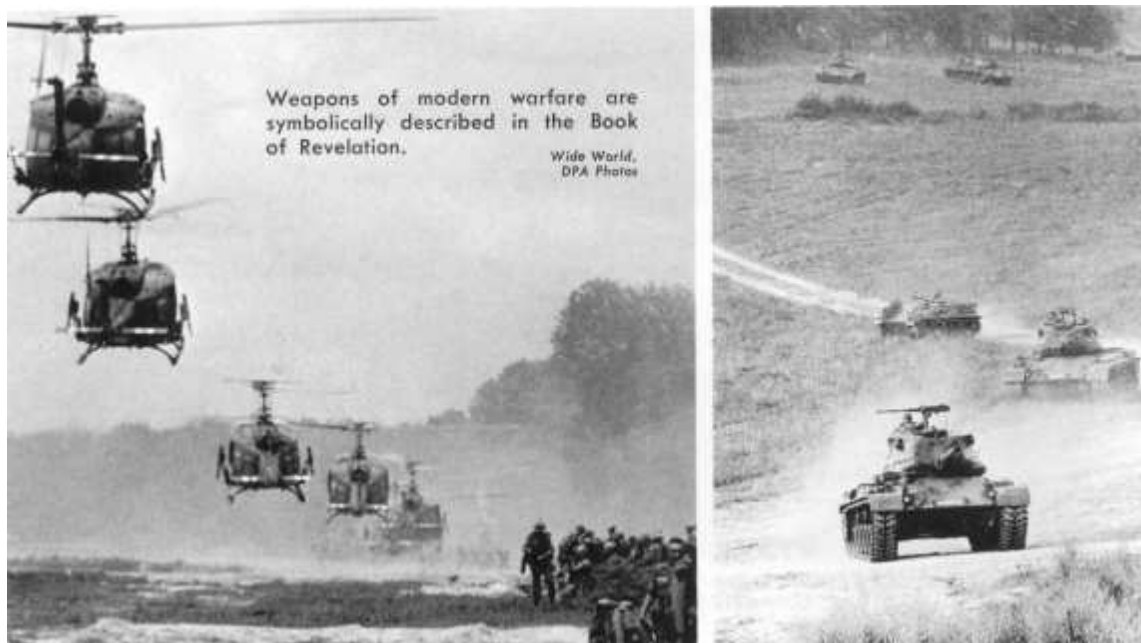
COMMENT: John was obviously describing the awesome military weapons of our day - seen in a vision God had miraculously revealed to him. It was a mysterious, frightening spectacle. John had to use *symbolic* language because he had never seen "tanks," "planes," "rockets" or "hydrogen bombs" before!

5. Let us momentarily consider a time, over 4300 years ago, when God intervened in human affairs to *postpone* what we see threatening the world today. Did human beings want to make a great name for themselves, and keep the world *united* under human authority? Genesis 11:4. What did God do to frustrate their plans? Verses 5, 7-9.

6. Does verse 6 clearly indicate that God confused the language and scattered the people at Babel in order to *restrain* the misguided inventive genius of man - to PREVENT him from accomplishing what he has done today because it was *not yet* within God's plan to allow it?

COMMENT: Verse 6 proves that when human beings freely speak one another's languages, and finally POOL their scientific knowledge as they have begun to do today, then virtually *anything* man's mind can conceive of is possible for him to achieve - even to exploring the moon and inventing weapons capable of destroying all life!

Could anything be clearer? Can you see that we are living in the times Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24? - the time when men would have at their disposal the POWER to *erase all life from this earth!*



The CAUSE of War

God promises He will intervene in world affairs to prevent the annihilation of humanity, and to bring us world peace. But in order to have peace, He will also have to *prevent* future wars by *changing* that which CAUSES war. Let's understand what it is.

1. Does the Bible clearly show that war is a *result* of acting according to the inordinate lusts within man? James 4:1-2.

COMMENT: Unrestrained HUMAN NATURE, with its pride, vanity, jealousy, lust and greed is plainly the *cause* of war!

2. Does knowledge tend to *increase* pride? I Corinthians 8: 1. Since we live in an age of mushrooming scientific knowledge which makes it possible for a few men to possess tremendous power, will the inordinate lusts of men *cause* them to become better and better, or WORSE AND WORSE? II Timothy 3:13.

3. What is the end result of actions and decisions that *seem* right to great leaders and people in general? Proverbs 14:12.

COMMENT: This principle is so important that God inspired its repetition in Proverbs 16:25.

4. What deceives man into believing that actions which end in death will bring peace? Jer. 17:9. (Remember that in Scripture, the heart is often spoken of *proverbially* as the center or seat of human thoughts and emotions.) Then can rulers be *deceived* by their own lusts into believing that their evil deeds are right and good for the world? Same verse.

COMMENT: The governments of this world promise PEACE - but only bring WAR! Men, in their vain attempts to bring us peace, have brought this world to the brink of annihilation!



United Nations General Assembly in session. Even this well-organized attempt at peacekeeping has proved futile and powerless. Human government simply cannot bring world peace!

5. Does mankind even *know* the way to peace? Rom. 3:17. What did God inspire Isaiah to write concerning man's real understanding of the way of peace? Isaiah 59:8.

6. What will happen to human plans for "peace"? Isa. 33:7-9. When ambassadors of peace weep bitterly - when the land is laid waste - will God intervene? Verse 10.

COMMENT: Throughout the Bible, war is pictured as the *result* of lust or covetousness. Lust is a basic characteristic of human nature. But can the heads of governments, or the ambassadors of nations, CHANGE human nature? Of course not! Nearly 6,000 years of human history have proved that man, left to himself, is *totally incapable* of effecting this change. Throughout history, negotiations for peace have always been accompanied and supported by the most vigorous *preparations for war!*

The story is no different today.

Can *any* human government, therefore, *permanently stop* war?

Obviously not! When you look at it that way, the answer becomes clear:

Only GOD can permanently stop all war, because only *God* has the POWER to *change* human nature!

But exactly how will God create and maintain world peace once Jesus Christ returns?

The only real and logical solution to the problems of world peace has already been planned. And the entire plan is *revealed in your Bible*.

World Government to Bring Peace

- 1.** Does God intervene in world affairs without first revealing it to His prophets? Amos 3:7.
- 2.** Thousands of years ago, did Isaiah the prophet foresee a time when God would establish His Kingdom here on earth? Isa. 2:1-3. Is it to be a *literal* WORLD-RULING *kingdom*? Dan. 2:44; Psalm 67:4.
- 3.** Will there be strife and war in God's Kingdom as there is now among nations? Isa. 2:4. Will people be *taught* the WAY to peace and productivity? Same verse.

COMMENT: The very One who created man is coming to establish the Government of God on earth, and to show the world *how* human nature can be CHANGED - and *why* we have had it in the first place.

Instead of being taught how to create instruments of destruction, people will then be taught to exercise CONTROL over human nature. They will be given the POWER to *discipline* human nature - to guide inventive genius into *peaceful* channels.

- 4.** Did Micah also foretell the establishment of God's Kingdom *on earth*? Micah 4:1-4.
- 5.** Notice who Isaiah prophesied would rule over the earth. Isa. 11:1-4. Is David the "stem of Jesse"? Acts 13:22. Then is the "rod" or shoot plainly Jesus Christ? Verse 23. Is the "Branch" growing out of Jesse's roots Christ? Jer. 23:5-6.

COMMENT: The prophecy in Isaiah 11 predicted, centuries in advance, that Jesus Christ would one day rule on the earth!

6. Before Jesus was born, did an angel tell Mary, His mother, that His destiny was to take over an actual THRONE and *rule on this earth*? Luke 1:32-33.

7. Did Daniel foresee the time when the *saints* -- born-again Christians -- will be given rulership over the earth in God's Kingdom along with Christ? Dan. 7:18, 21-22, 27.

What Is the True "Gospel"?

1. Was Jesus sent to this earth nearly 2,000 years ago to proclaim a specific message? John 12:49; 14:24. What was that message? Mark 1:14; Matt. 9:35. Did Jesus say one must *believe* THAT "gospel"? Mark 1:15; 16:15-16.

COMMENT: The word *gospel* means "good news," or "glad tidings." Jesus went about preaching the good news of the coming Kingdom of God!

The Gospel OF Jesus Christ is simply the very same gospel *He* preached - the GOOD NEWS Of the coming Kingdom of God on earth! Jesus' Gospel is NOT primarily a message about Himself personally, or about "receiving Jesus." It is not just a message about the events in His life and of His becoming the Savior of the world - although it certainly does *include* all that.

Notice that four things are necessary to constitute a kingdom: (1) territory, (2) a king or ruler, (3) subjects or citizens, (4) laws and government. Therefore we might define the True Gospel as "the good news of a king ruling over a territory and subjects with laws and government." The True Gospel, therefore, includes the message *about* Christ who is to be the King. Christ, when He comes, will become the Supreme Ruler over *all* nations, ruling them by the laws of God.

2. Did Jesus send forth His apostles and true ministers to preach that *same* gospel to the world? Luke 9:1-2; Matt. 28:19-20. Was His gospel of the coming Kingdom of God to be preached in all the world *just before* His second coming? Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10.

3. What gospel did Philip preach? Acts 8:12. And Paul? Acts 19:8; 14:22. Did he preach the same gospel among the Gentiles at Ephesus? Acts 20:25. What gospel did he preach to both Jews and Gentiles at Rome? Acts 28:23, 28-31.

4. Did some false ministers in Paul's day try to *pervert* the Gospel of Christ? Galatians 1:6-7. What condemnation does he pronounce on any who would try to preach any other "gospel"? Verse 8. Did he pronounce a DOUBLE CURSE? Verse 9.

COMMENT: Your Bible shows there is only ONE TRUE GOSPEL! We hear many "gospels" *about* Christ today, but how many do you hear preaching the "Gospel of Christ" - the Gospel HE PREACHED - the "Gospel of the Kingdom of God"?

Time to WAKE UP!

God's little-understood 7,000-year plan for mankind began nearly 6,000 years ago. The *pattern* for this plan is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is the WEEK of *seven days*.

1. What does a thousand years seem like to God? II Peter 3:8.

2. In Hebrews 4:4, 11, the seventh day is pictured as a *type* of the peaceful "rest" which will follow Christ's return. Is the time of Christ's rule over the earth which will follow this present age of human *misrule* and senseless warfare, specifically called "a thousand years"? Rev. 20:4.

COMMENT: Since the last "day" of God's plan is 1,000 years, then it logically follows that the preceding six "days" would amount to 6,000 years - a total of 7,000 years.

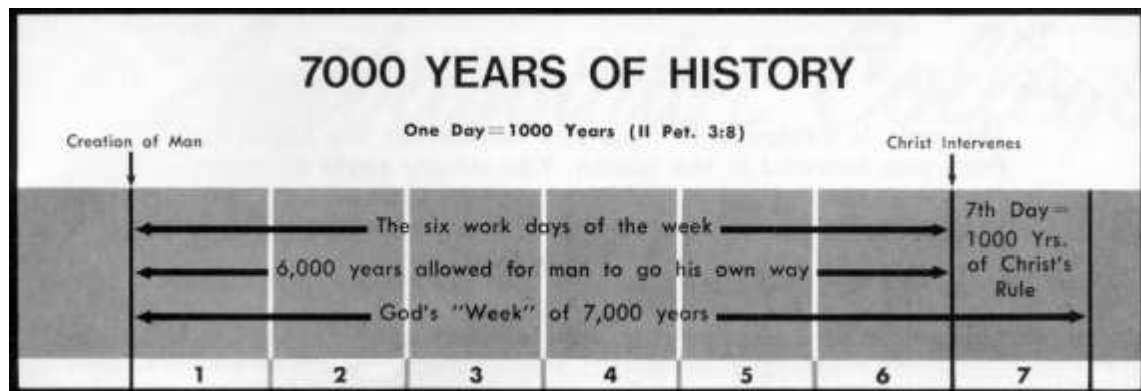
3. When the disciples asked Jesus if He would restore the Kingdom in their day, what was His reply? Acts 1:6-7.

COMMENT: The apostles did not fully understand the plan of God while Christ was with them. They thought the Kingdom of God would be established in their day. But before they died, they understood Christ was to return at a much later date. Peter said: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise [of Christ's coming] ... but is longsuffering..." (II Peter 3:9). God is patient. He has refrained from

intervening in world affairs for nearly 6,000 years.

WHY?

Because God has allotted man 6,000 years in which to *learn* that his own ways bring nothing but SUFFERING and DEATH!



Many Bibles contain *tentative* chronological dates showing that human life began on this earth *about* 4,004 years B.C. Nearly another 2,000 years have elapsed since then - totaling just about 6,000 years of human civilization to date.

How awe-inspiring and significant that in OUR DAY - at the very time the world is threatened with the extinction of all life - 6,000 years have *almost elapsed!* How exciting that Jesus Himself said that when we would SEE all the events He foretold taking place, He would come again - this time to rescue this world, to set up the Kingdom of God, and to bring us peace at last!

You have seen *in your Bible* a brief summation - a "thumbnail sketch" - of God's solution to this world's problems. You have begun to understand the *urgent necessity* for Christ's promised return. In Lesson 2, you'll learn more about Jesus Christ's intervention in world affairs as revealed in the amazing, detailed prophecies of your Bible.

TEST YOUR MEMORY

This quiz is designed to help you remember the important facts you learned in the lesson. You simply circle or underline each correct

answer. After you've finished, check your choices with the correct answers listed on page 15, and then rate yourself.

1. What is the Bible?

A. Merely the history of an ancient people's quest for a concept of God. **B.** A revelation of basic needed knowledge mankind is not otherwise capable of finding out. **C.** A treasure house of pious thoughts. **D.** An incomprehensible mystery.

2. This course of Bible study begins with present world conditions because

A. it's the only logical place to begin. **B.** prophecy is the only important subject in the Bible. **C.** the Bible will mean more to us if we relate it to our lives today. **D.** the Bible itself does not begin at the beginning.

3. Which is the Bible NOT profitable for?

A. Doctrine. **B.** Praise of oneself. **C.** Instruction in righteousness. **D.** Reproof and correction.

4. The Bible is not understood by most people today because

A. its wording is unclear. **B.** it contradicts itself. **C.** men have tried to interpret it to justify their own ways. **D.** they don't know how to interpret it.

5. Great world statesmen tell us

A. the United Nations has the answers to world problems. **B.** man now has the capability of causing the annihilation of *all life* on this planet! **C.** Christ will establish world peace. **D.** men will forsake warfare and learn to live at peace.

6. What is the basic cause of war and human suffering?

A. The inordinate lusts of carnal-minded man. **B.** False political ideologies such as Communism and Fascism. **C.** Poverty. **D.** Lack of educational and economic opportunity.

7. What does God reveal about man's knowledge?

A. Everything will turn out right as long as we do the best we can with what we know. **B.** Only our national leaders know the way to peace. **C.** The ways that seem right to human beings end in death! **D.** Man uses knowledge independently of his lusts.

- 17.** Only hope for survival **C.** Our "perilous times"
D. Today's popular "gospel"
- 18.** Gospel of Christ **E.** Christ's intervention
F. Curse for perverting Christ's gospel
- 19.** Galations 1:8 **G.** "Gospel of grace"
H. A "day" to God
- 20.** 1,000 years **I.** Jesus the saviour
J. Kingdom of God

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. A | 11. F | 16. C |
| 2. C | 7. C | 12. F | 17. E |
| 3. B | 8. B | 13. T | 18. J |
| 4. C | 9. D | 14. T | 19. F |
| 5. B | 10. D | 15. F | 20. H |

Rate Yourself

19-20 correct ----- excellent

16-18 correct ----- good

13-15 correct ----- fair