

²⁶³ Psalm 72 is titled: “*A Psalm of Solomon.*” It appears that Solomon wrote this Psalm, although it concludes with this statement: “*The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.*” (Psalms 72:20) This verse signals the end of the second of five sections found within the Book of Psalms. David was the primary writer of this second section.

²⁶⁴ Who will be forever condemned? “*The cowardly [and the] unbelieving,*” that is, those who never believed God’s message because they were afraid of what their family and friends might say or do. When Jesus was on earth, He warned His listeners plainly, “*Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ... Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*” (Matthew 10:28,34-37)

CHAPTER 30: A PREVIEW OF PARADISE

²⁶⁵ Matthew 13:24-30. This parable of Jesus declares that the mix of good and evil will endure for only a limited time.

²⁶⁶ The remainder of the first chapter of Revelation provides an awe-inspiring description of the Lord Jesus, a stunningly different portrayal of Him than seen in most books, movies, and religions.

²⁶⁷ Mark 3:14-19; John 19:26-27; John penned the following books of the Bible: *the Gospel of John; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John* and *The Revelation.*

²⁶⁸ The jasper stone comes in many colors. The carnelian stone is generally a translucent red. Its color is deepened when exposed to light.

²⁶⁹ Look who is on the throne. Compare Isaiah 6 (Isaiah’s vision, also presented in chapter 15 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE) with John 12:36-41.

²⁷⁰ Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 1. (For more on God’s promises to Abraham, review chapter 20 in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE.)

²⁷¹ For example, the classic fairy tale of Cinderella, first told in China, also comes in versions for Europe, America, Persia, Iraq, Egypt, Korea, India, etc. Each country has its version, but the themes are similar. A longing for redemption and eternal life is embedded in the hearts of people worldwide. Solomon wrote: “*[God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV)

REFLECTING ON THE JOURNEY

DISCUSSION GUIDE CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS

The thought-provoking questions in this section are designed to help you gain maximum benefit from your journey through the Scriptures. Do you understand the main message of the prophets? Do you believe that message? Are you prepared to retell God’s story to others? Thinking through this final section can enable you to answer these questions with clarity and confidence.

You may freely photocopy these chapter review questions. They can be used for personal reflection or with friends, in small-group studies, classrooms, prisons, homes, or even as a correspondence course.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart ... and lead me in the way everlasting.” — Prophet David (Psalm 139:23-24)



1. With 10,000 religions worldwide, is it possible to distinguish truth from error? Share your personal viewpoint. (Pages 5-6)
2. The Bible is the all-time bestseller and most translated book in history. In your opinion, why is it so popular? (Page 6)
3. Name three things the Qur'an says about the Scriptures of the Bible. (Page 8)
4. What do you need to know about a man before you can safely trust him? What do you need to know about God before you can place your trust in Him? (Page 9)
5. Do you think it is possible to know with certainty where you will spend eternity? Explain your response. (Pages 13-14)

— IN YOUR OWN WORDS —

Explain Proverbs 23:23. *“Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”* (Pages 5, 14)

2

OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

1. “You see, but you do not observe” said Sherlock Holmes to Dr. Watson. What is the difference between “seeing” and “observing”? (16)
2. List three excuses well educated people might give for not taking time to read the world’s all-time bestseller. Do you think any of these excuses are valid? (15-27)
3. Is it wise to reject the message of the Bible because of the disgraceful lifestyle of some who claim to believe it? Explain your position. (17-18)
4. Name three guiding principles that can help people understand the Bible. (25)
5. Give one or two reasons why the Bible contains an Old Testament and a New Testament. (25-27)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Hosea 4:6. “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*” (15)

3

CORRUPTED OR PRESERVED?

1. According to the Qur’an, for what purpose did God reveal the biblical Scriptures (Torah, Psalms, Gospel) to mankind? (29)
2. What three thought-provoking questions might you ask anyone who claims that the Bible has been falsified? (30-31)
3. Many scholars consider the Bible to be the best-documented text in history. Do you agree? Explain your position. (34-35)
4. What is the difference between a biblical *manuscript* and a biblical *translation*? (35-36)
5. Name two or three real reasons many people ignore the Bible. (37-39)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Luke 16:31. “*If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.*” (38-39)

4

SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

1. Name three scientific facts proclaimed thousands of years ago in the Bible, which have been confirmed by modern science in recent centuries. (41-43)
2. Does the Bible require blind faith or intelligent faith? Explain your response. (43-44)
3. How do history and archeology confirm the accuracy of the Bible? (44-46)
4. What does the Qur'anic challenge issued in sura 2:23 prove? Explain. (47-48)
5. By themselves, can science, archeology, and poetry prove an alleged "holy book" to be the inspired Word of God? Defend your position. (46-48)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Job 38:4. "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding!" (40)

5

GOD'S SIGNATURE

1. Can we be confident that what the Bible declares about the past, present, and future is accurate? Explain. (49-50, 57)
2. What is the difference between predictions found in the Bible and predictions made by witch doctors, fortune-tellers, and mediums? (50)
3. Tell of a biblical prophecy that secular history confirms as having been precisely fulfilled. (50-56)
4. What is the purpose of prophecy in the Bible? (57)
5. In what way is fulfilled prophecy "God's signature"? (49-50, 57-58)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain John 13:19. "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He." (57)

6

CONSISTENT WITNESS

1. In your opinion, why is one human witness insufficient to substantiate truth? (60)
2. What two “witnesses” about God have been given to all people everywhere? (60)
3. Name ten people God used to write down His message for mankind. (62)
4. How can the trustworthiness of a witness be tested? (63)
5. How can we distinguish a true prophet from a false prophet? (64-67)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Comment on Matthew 7:15-17. *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. ... Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”* (64)

7

THE FOUNDATION

1. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, what was the difference between the wise man and the foolish man? Why are foundations so important for buildings—and for beliefs? (68-69)
2. The book of Genesis (meaning *origin*) provides answers to many of life’s great mysteries. What are some of life’s biggest questions? (69)
3. When we tell a story, where do we begin? Why? (70)
4. In what way can God’s revealed truth be compared to plants and embryos? (70-71)
5. What did the author’s friend in Lebanon discover once he studied the Bible for himself? (72)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Sum up God’s declaration in Isaiah 55:9. *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”* (73)



8

WHAT GOD IS LIKE

1. In your opinion, why, in the first chapter of His book, does God make no attempt to prove His existence? (77-79)
2. What are angels and why did God create them? (81)
3. How can God be one, yet be in more than one place at a time? (80, 82-83)
4. Why is it important for us to know something about God's personality and character? (84)
5. List six character traits (attributes) of God which He displayed on the six days of creation. (84-90) Of these six attributes, is there one for which you are particularly thankful today? Why?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Psalm 33:9. *"He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."* (86)



9

NONE LIKE HIM

1. In the first chapter of Genesis, God, who is one, introduces Himself with the plural pronouns "Us" and "We". What do you consider to be the best explanation for this? (91-94)
2. Can three-in-one unities from everyday life help us to better understand the complex nature of our Creator? Explain. (95-96)
3. What does the term "Son of God" not imply? (98-99)
4. State three things the Scriptures reveal about the Holy Spirit. (99-100)
5. How is the biblical definition of God different from the popular concept that God is an unknowable force? (102-104)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Psalm 9:10. *"Those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You."* (102)



1. The first man and woman were created “in the image of God.” Name three human traits that affirm this. (105-106)
2. With what “material” did God create the heavens and earth? With what did He create the first human? (106)
3. Name two great purposes for which God created humans. (108, 113-115)
4. What are two extreme attitudes that degrade women and go against God’s plan for humankind? (111)
5. What is the significance of the seventh day of creation? (116)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain John 8:35. “*A slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.*” (114)



1. Everything God created was perfectly good. So where did Satan and sin come from? (117-118)
2. God’s prophets provide many clear definitions of sin. Cite one of these definitions and then illustrate it with a personal story. (118-119)
3. What word-picture is used in the Bible to depict hell? (120)
4. What is one of Satan’s goals? (120-121)
5. What did the LORD say would happen to man if he ate of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (121) What did Satan say would happen? (123)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain James 2:19. “*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*” (124)

12

THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

1. What word best describes death? How does a broken branch illustrate this? (127)
2. God said to Adam, “*In the day* that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:17) In what way did Adam die on the day he ate the forbidden fruit? (128, 130)
3. How has Adam’s sin impacted you and your family? (128-129)
4. Name the three types of death that spread to the human race as a result of Adam’s one sin. Which kind of death is the most dreadful? (128-130)
5. In what way does sin produce shame? (131-132)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain the law of sin and death stated in Ezekiel 18:20. “*The soul who sins shall die.*” (133)

13

MERCY AND JUSTICE

1. What can man do that God cannot do? (134)
2. In the imaginary courtroom scene, how did the judge’s mercy contradict justice? (135-136)
3. Why can God not ignore justice in order to show mercy? (136-137)
4. Why did God question Adam and Eve when He already knew what they had done? (139)
5. Why did God hold Adam responsible for leading the entire human race down the path of sin and death? (139-140)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Psalm 89:14. “*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.*” (136)



1. What is the significance of “the serpent” and why did God curse it? (141-142)
2. Who is the promised “Seed of the woman”? What is unique about this term? (143)
3. Name some ways the curse has affected our world. (144-145)
4. Are sorrow, suffering, and death a normal part of God’s original design for His creation? Explain. (144-146)
5. After Adam and Eve sinned, they felt ashamed and made fig leaf coverings for themselves. Did God accept their self-efforts? What did God provide for them to cover their shame? (146)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain the meaning of “grace” as demonstrated in Genesis 3:21. *“For Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”* (146-147)



1. Why is it crucial that we have an accurate view of ourselves? (151)
2. Why is it crucial that we have an accurate view of God? (152-153)
3. How many of the Ten Commandments have you obeyed perfectly? (154-155)
4. Using a mirror to illustrate, explain the primary purpose of the Ten Commandments. (156-157)
5. What is man’s “double trouble” in the sight of God? (159)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain James 2:10. *“Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.”* (156)

16

THE SEED OF A WOMAN

1. Why was it necessary that the Messiah be born of woman, but not of a man? (160-162)
2. Explain why Scripture refers to the Messiah as “the last Adam” and “the second Man.” (163)
3. Name at least five things the prophets foretold about the coming Messiah. (164; See also pages 55-56)
4. Gabriel told Mary that her newborn child would be called “the Son of God.” Reread Luke 1:26-37 (page 165), review pages 98 and 99 (Chapter 9), and then give your own brief explanation as to why Jesus is called the Son of God.
5. What does the name “Jesus” literally mean? (166)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Luke 2:10-11. “*Then the angel said to them [the shepherds], ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’*” (168-169)

17

WHO CAN THIS BE?

1. How was the Messiah utterly different from all other humans? (170-171)
2. Why did the Jewish religious leaders attempt to stone Jesus? (177, 182, 184)
3. Do you agree with those who say that Jesus was “no more than a prophet”? Why or why not? (183, 175)
4. In what way did Jesus’ works validate His words? (185)
5. Do you agree that the demons showed greater respect for Jesus than did the religious leaders? Defend your position. (186-187)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Answer Jesus’ question in Matthew 22:42. “*What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?*” (174-177)

18

GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN

1. In what way are you more privileged than the prophets? (188)
2. How would you explain to a child what it means to “redeem” something or someone? (190-191)
3. Name two major events the prophet David foretold about the Messiah. (192)
4. What important lesson can we learn from the Wolof proverb, “An egg should not wrestle with a rock”? (193)
5. What part of God’s plan of redemption had Peter failed to understand? (194-195)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Galatians 4:4-5. “*When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.*” (190)

19

THE LAW OF THE SACRIFICE

1. What unpleasant reality did Adam and Eve discover not long after their first child was born? (196-197)
2. Give the two main reasons God accepted Abel and his offering. Give the two main reasons God rejected Cain and his offering. (199-201)
3. Do you know of anything you can do to erase your sins? Why is it impossible to pay off a sin-debt with prayers and good works? (201)
4. God must punish all sin. Was there a way for God to punish sin without punishing the sinner? (202-203)
5. Explain how *the law of the sacrifice* “trumped” *the law of sin and death*. (202-204)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Define “atonement” and explain God’s words to Moses in Leviticus 17:11. “*The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*” (202-203)

20

A MOMENTOUS SACRIFICE

1. God promised to make of Abraham a great nation and give his descendants the land of Canaan. What factors in Abraham's situation made these two promises seemingly impossible? (206)
2. Why did God declare Abraham righteous? What does it mean to "believe God"? (207)
3. Name three ways God communicated His truth and blessings to all nations through the ancient nation of Israel. (210)
4. God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering. Did Abraham conclude that God had broken His promise (to bring forth a great nation from Isaac's descendants)? Explain. (212; See also Endnote #188)
5. Why did Abraham's son not die on the altar? (213-214)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Express your understanding of Genesis 22:14. "*Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided.'*" (214)

21

MORE SHED BLOOD

1. In the story of the Passover, in what way did *every* household throughout the land of Egypt witness a death? (217)
2. Name two important lessons God intended for people to learn from the tabernacle. (218)
3. What did the Ark of the Covenant symbolize? (219)
4. Once the tabernacle was completed, what did God send down from heaven? (221)
5. What was the purpose of the veil? (220) Was there a way for man to go beyond the veil and enter into the Holiest Place? Explain. (223)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Hebrews 9:22. "*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*" (215)



22

THE LAMB

1. What is the central theme of God's Book? (225)
2. Name at least two ways the Messiah fulfilled the symbols of the tabernacle. (226-228)
3. Using an illustration from everyday life, explain what it means to "repent." (229-230)
4. What did God say about Jesus that He could not say about any other person? (231)
5. In what way did sacrificed lambs provide shadows and symbols of God's plan to pay off the sin debt of mankind? (233-235)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain John 1:29. "*John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'*" (232)



23

FULFILLING SCRIPTURE

1. "A promise is a cloud; fulfillment is rain." Explain how this Arab proverb can be used to illustrate God's plan to send a Savior to earth. (236)
2. Jesus told His disciples that He would be killed during the Feast of the Passover. Why do you think God planned for His Son to die at this particular time? (238-239; See also pages 216-217)
3. At the Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus broke some bread and passed around a cup. What did the bread represent? What did the cup represent? (239)
4. Why did Jesus not defend Himself when the soldiers came to arrest Him? (240-241)
5. Why did the high priest accuse Jesus of blasphemy? (242-243)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Abraham's two prophecies in Genesis 22, verses 8 and 14. "*God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.... In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided.*" (244)



24

PAID IN FULL

1. What do you consider to be the cruelest state-sponsored method of execution ever devised? What method of execution did the religious and political leaders choose for Jesus? (245)
2. What are the three levels of separation caused by sin? How do you feel about the concept that, on the cross, Jesus experienced all three levels? (249 [To review death's three-fold separation, see pages 127-131])
3. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die on the cross? (247-251)
4. How could the Lord Jesus suffer an eternity of punishment for sinners in a few hours? (249-250)
5. What was the significance of the temple veil being torn from top to bottom? (252-253)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain John 19:30. *“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”* (250-251)

412



25

DEATH DEFEATED

1. Who started the rumor that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body from the tomb? Why did they make up this story? (257-258)
2. In what way was the event of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection a defeat for Satan? (259-260)
3. What evidence can you present to prove that Jesus came back to life? (260-261)
4. At the beginning of our journey through the Scriptures, we observed that God “rested” after He had finished His *work of creation*. What important lesson can we learn from this regarding God's *work of redemption*? (264)
5. What did Jesus do forty days after He came back to life? What, if anything, do you find most thrilling about this? (265-266)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain the importance of 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. *“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures... He was buried, and... He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”* (259)

413

26

RELIGIOUS AND FAR FROM GOD

1. How did God forgive sins prior to Jesus' death and resurrection? How does God forgive sins today? Include a brief explanation about the difference between sins that are *covered* and sins that are *canceled*. (268-270; See also pages 232-235)
2. Why is *the object* of our faith more important than *the strength* (or *the amount*) of our faith? (269-270)
3. Do you think God will allow people into His heavenly home if their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds? Explain your position on this "scales concept" of salvation. (270-271)
4. According to the Bible, how can a sinner escape eternal judgment and be qualified to live forever in God's pure and perfect presence? (272-273)
5. Why are good works a *result* of salvation rather than a *requirement* for salvation? (273-274)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain Acts 16:31. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (282)

27

STAGE 1: GOD'S PAST PROGRAM

1. Chapter 27 contains transformation stories about a truth-seeking traveler (285-289), a crucified criminal (291-292), a cannibal tribe (292-293), a suicidal teenage girl (293-294), a religious zealot (294-295), and a devout Muslim young man (301-302). With which story do you best identify and why?
2. To the criminal on the cross, Jesus said, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise!" From what was this repentant criminal eternally saved? Also, based on Jesus' promise, in what place did the saved criminal find himself the moment he died? (291-292)
3. How would you explain to a child the concepts of justice, mercy, and grace? (296)
4. What is man's "double trouble"? What is God's "double cure"? (298-299)
5. According to the Bible, can people know where they will spend eternity? Do you know where you will go after you die? Explain your response. (300-302)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain 2 Corinthians 5:21. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (299-300)

28

STAGE 2:

GOD'S PRESENT PROGRAM

1. Why do most people today live in the grip of fear? (303)
2. According to the Scriptures, who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do for those who have placed their trust in Christ? (304-305)
3. Will someone who has been born again by the Spirit of God want to continue to sin and displease God? Using the "Lists or Love" illustration, explain the difference between a person who merely follows a religion and a person who truly enjoys a genuine relationship with God. (310-311)
4. What is the true meaning of water baptism? (312-313)
5. There is an important difference between a believer's *position* and a believer's *condition*. Using the father/son example, describe the difference. (316-317)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain 1 Peter 1:16. "*Be holy, for I am holy.*" (318)

29

STAGE 3:

GOD'S FUTURE PROGRAM

1. Describe the three stages of God's plan to crush Satan and put away sin. (321; see also page 289)
2. Tell how the Messiah's second coming to earth will be strikingly different from His first coming. (327-328)
3. Reread Psalm 72:7-19, then list some ways the world's rulers and peoples will show their submission to Jesus the Messiah-King. (329-330)
4. During the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ, the curse brought on by Adam's sin will be mostly lifted. What positive effects will this have on planet earth? (333-334)
5. Do you agree that Revelation 20:10-15 describes the most solemn event in history? Explain your response. (335-336)

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Explain what you see in 1 John 3:2. "*It has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*" (338)

30

A PREVIEW OF PARADISE

1. In what way does a “yin-yang” worldview contradict the Bible? (339-340)
2. Name two mistaken views people have about Paradise. What is the true focus of God’s heavenly home? (342)
3. The awesome story of redemption that began in Genesis concludes in Revelation. Taking no more than a minute or two (or, if written, 300 words maximum), summarize the story about how God has rescued helpless, believing sinners from Satan, sin, and eternal death. (340, 347-350)
4. Why do you think people enjoy telling “happily-ever-after” stories? Will you live happily ever after? What is the basis for your answer? (349-352)
5. How has this unhurried journey through the Scriptures been beneficial to you?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Tell where you fit into the picture described in Revelation 21:27.
“There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” (352)

