

BEYOND TODAY

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Signposts to salvation

God is seeking a spiritual harvest and expects growth in those He calls. As each year passes, the Holy Days He instituted help keep us on track and provide opportunities to assess our progress, as we strive to become more like Jesus Christ.

Inherent in the human psyche is a deep desire to live forever. Indeed God Himself etched eternity into the human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11). God's plan of salvation, as revealed through His Holy Days, assures us that all will receive an equal opportunity to inherit eternal life through Christ's atoning sacrifice.

The festivals of God were instituted by Him as the "feasts of the LORD" (Leviticus 23:1-2, 44 – see also September-October issue of the *Beyond Today* magazine). Not only do they serve the purpose of directing us to the various stages of God's glorious plan of salvation and Christ's pivotal role therein, but they also give Christ's followers opportunities to assess and monitor their progress during their individual spiritual journey.

Much of Christianity remains oblivious to God's festivals and the seven associated "high days", deeming them irrelevant. The Bible, however, shows the opposite. The requirement to keep these days is sacrosanct. Without them the knowledge of God's masterplan and our part in it could be lost to us. They act as signposts to keep us on track towards taking on "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

These annual "feasts of the LORD", together with God's weekly Sabbath Day are listed in Leviticus 23 in the Old Testament. For their significance today, one also has to look to the New Testament.

Christ our Passover Lamb

The Passover is the precursor to the seven festivals. It

links them all and directs us to the essential role Christ plays as these days unfold through the year. Just as the lamb offered on the first Passover in Egypt was "without blemish" (Exodus 12:5), so was Jesus without blemish, never having sinned. For God "made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ took our sins upon himself on the day of the Passover. Elsewhere, the apostle Paul wrote that "Christ redeemed us from the

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curse of the law, having become a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13). Christ's atoning sacrifice paid the death penalty (the "curse of the law") that we incur when we break God's law: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). God's laws gives us the knowledge of what sin is (Romans 3:20; 7:7). Upon genuine repentance Christ's blood will cleanse us from our past sins; and when we do slip up in the future we can immediately pray for forgiveness (Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:8-9).

Prior to taking part in the annual Passover memorial, we are instructed to review our spiritual progress and evaluate how much Christ is in us (1 Corinthians 11:28-29;

2 Corinthians 13:5). It is a time to refocus our lives, repent of any sins we have identified and to recommit to the covenant we made with our Heavenly Father at baptism.

Putting on Christ through the holy days

The first two of the seven holy days fall during the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** immediately following Passover. This is a time to focus on developing the spiritual character attributes of Jesus Christ. He told His disciples to become “perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Removing leaven from our homes reminds us that we need to eradicate sin from our lives, not just during the seven days of this Feast but from our lives in general. Leaven symbolises sin during this spring feast. Conversely, eating unleavened bread reminds us to put on the sincerity and truth of Christ (1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:34-36).

Avoiding sin requires that we live wholeheartedly by God’s moral standards and for that we need the help of His Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:6-7). The third of the “Feasts of the LORD,” the **Feast of Pentecost**, focusses on this.

A spiritual transformation

God’s Holy Spirit is the means by which Father and Son are able to take up residence in a repentant and God-fearing individual to guide him or her as the character attributes of Jesus Christ are developed within.

Although this Spirit was occasionally dispensed in the Old Testament, it was poured out onto the New Testament Church on the Day of Pentecost. Those who have repented of their sins and acknowledge Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour will experience a spiritual transformation in their lives. The “old man” is gradually replaced with putting on the “new man” or “person” so that we “walk in newness of life,” striving to obey God (Ephesians 4:20-24; Romans 6:4-5). God gives His Holy Spirit “to those who obey Him” (Acts 5:32). (To study this transformation further, please request or download our booklet *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*.)

As we take on Christ’s character, we need to be aware of our progress and pray to our Heavenly Father for help with specific sins. Jesus said, “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunk-

ness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:34-36). “That Day” refers to the Day of the Lord, when God intervenes in the affairs of the world.

The return of Christ

The **Feast of Trumpets**, celebrated in the autumn in the northern hemisphere, heralds the return of Jesus Christ to establish a 1000-year-long rule over the entire Earth. In ancient Israel great events like coronations and wars were announced with trumpet blasts. Those called and found worthy in this age will either be raised from the dead, or if still alive will be changed into spirit beings, to meet Christ at His second coming (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

At this time Jesus Christ will intervene in human affairs and save mankind from itself (Matthew 24:21-22). From this point on the saints will reign with Christ and must be ready for that task (see Daniel 7:18-22; Zechariah 14:5-9; Matthew 19:28; Jude, verses 3, 14 and 15). This day is a good time to remind ourselves of the purpose of our calling.

The saints mentioned in the Scriptures above are the “elect of God,” also called “firstfruits” (Luke 18:7; Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12; James 1:18; Revelation 14:4). The term “firstfruits” implies that there must be others – “second fruits” – who are not yet part of God’s spiritual harvest. This accounts for the conundrum where Christ said, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him” (John 6:44). Yet God wants to save everyone (2 Peter 3:9).

A real first opportunity for billions

Over the last 2000 years, billions have remained ignorant with regards to the name and significance of Jesus Christ. In God’s eyes most are not responsible for being unable to acknowledge Him. Furthermore, scripture tells us the world is deceived, blinded by Satan as we read in 2 Corinthians 4:4, “. . . Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” Here is where the last three Holy Days come in.

The fast of **Atonement** signifies primarily that Satan’s capacity to deceive will cease for 1000 years. Then, after one last rebellion, he will be removed forever. Without his deceptive influence humanity will be more receptive to being taught God’s ways.

This is a day for considering the evil impact the devil

has had on the whole world and how, even with God's Spirit residing within us giving us the mind of Christ, true followers of Christ can still slip up and sin. Our every thought should be brought "into captivity to the obedience of Christ" so we think and behave more like Christ and less like Satan (2 Corinthians 10:5).

The first day of the seven-day **Feast of Tabernacles** is the next Holy Day. This signifies Christ's millennial rule over the earth. As co-rulers with Him we need to be ready to step up to this task. This festival is a good time to evaluate the depth of our biblical understanding and how we implement it in our lives, bearing in mind we need to be able to teach its principles to others in the future.

The **Eighth Day** is the final Holy Day of the year and looks forward to the resurrection to physical life of "the rest of the dead" who have never really known God the Father and His Son (Revelation 20:4-5). See also Ezekiel 37:1-14, where the resurrection of "the whole house of Israel" is described. Christ affirmed that other ancient peoples would also rise for judgement with the Israelites of His day and, when they learn the truth, would be appalled that those with whom Christ interacted in the first century had rejected Him (Matthew 12:41-42).

This day also foreshadows a new heaven and a new

earth when the Father Himself will come down to join Jesus Christ and His spirit-born children (Revelation 21:1-7). This is the ultimate desire and destination of all whom God calls.

God's plan of salvation encompasses several stages and time sequences. His Holy Days provide direction and checkpoints in our spiritual growth. Those whom God is calling in this age have their opportunity to accept that divine call now. Those who have truly understood all that He is offering and turn away from Him, or who know for certain that He exists and yet still reject Him are "without excuse" (Romans 1:18-23). For them there can be no "second chance" (Hebrews 6:4-6).

God is fair. No one will fall through the cracks or have their salvation affected by circumstance. God desires to see us all as members in His divine family. His Holy Days give us occasions to stop and assess how much we have changed and what more we need to do to "put on Christ" and become like Him.

To learn more of the spiritual significance of the feasts of the LORD, please request or download our booklet *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*.

Gerhard Marx

Current pandemic responses are nothing new

Covid-19 restrictions may seem unique to us, but various aspects of our "new-normal" lives are recorded in the pages of the Bible.

King Solomon declared: "There is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). So it is with the current responses to coronavirus.

The Bible was thousands of years ahead of our medical profession in giving people an understanding of the principles of self-isolation and quarantining. Only in the last 150 years or so has humankind understood the scientific reasons for contagion being passed from person to person.

Isolation and quarantine: The Bible, particularly in Leviticus chapter 13, made clear the dangers of infection passing from one person to another, stipulating that those with certain diseases should live outside the camp, so infection wasn't spread. Those possibly infected were also isolated – first for seven days and then for another seven if there were any doubt (see verses 4-5, for example) – until

it was evident they were well.

Face-coverings and masks: For certain diseases the infected person had to cover their mouth and nose to avoid spreading the disease to others: "Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'" (Leviticus 13: 45). That probably automatically resulted in social distancing, another aspect of the response to the pandemic to which we have become accustomed.

Washing and personal hygiene: If someone had been in contact with a corpse or a bodily discharge they were required to wash (Leviticus 15:4-5 for example). Today hand-washing is stressed to avoid infection.

In His wisdom, God revealed these principles thousands of years ago.

Brian Crook

Always faithful

Scripture proclaims God's faithfulness. What this means in practice may be misunderstood by those without a thorough knowledge of exactly what He has promised.

Humankind tends to lack faithfulness. We can lack commitment in marriage, in our workplace and in our dealings with others. We break our promises. Maybe that is not our intention, but we forget, overlook, or excuse our obligations. Such failings can occur at all levels of society, from the “man in the street” to world leaders. Far worse, we can intentionally lie or deceive others; we can steal from them, back-bite and prove faithless employees, spouses, or friends.

God is different. He does not have to strive to be faithful. He is completely trustworthy and reliable. It is impossible for God to be unfaithful just as it is impossible for Him to lie. Faithfulness is an inherent part of God's character – a measure of who and what He is – otherwise we would be unable to rely upon what He says and His many promises. He is unchangeable and unchanging in His plans and goals for His human creation (Malachi 3:6).

Those whom God is calling now must be faithful in every aspect of how they conduct their lives (Revelation 17:14).

Not a genie at our beck and call

Reasons so many doubt God's faithfulness include a failure to understand His purpose for creating human beings and an inability to see progression and timing from His perspective. Some of His promises are for this present age; some relate to His future kingdom on earth.

God can grant blessings to whomsoever He pleases, but He is not a genie to be expected to acquiesce to all our demands. One of the psalmists wrote, “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” (Psalm 115:3). Another wrote, “Whatever the LORD pleases He does” (Psalm 135:6). His declared plans will not be thwarted (Isaiah 46:10).

God's faithfulness does not require that He answer all our prayers in the affirmative, particularly if there is no attempt on our part to do His will or to establish a close relationship with Him. The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Aspects of God's faithfulness

God does hear the prayers of His people. Often, He answers them in the affirmative. However the answer may be “No” or “Wait.” Sometimes other matters may need to be in place before the answer can be “Yes”. We may need to learn a spiritual attribute like patience or trust. Thus the apostle Paul pleaded with God three times to have a “thorn in the flesh” removed. God revealed that his trial was to produce spiritual growth (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

In His faithfulness God sets limits on the trials He allows us to endure and offers us help. His inspired Word encourages us, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all

God is not a genie to be expected to acquiesce to all our demands.

points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:15-16).

No matter what we may be experiencing or whatever we may have to face in the future, God has promised to always be with us if we are humble and contrite (Isaiah 57:15; 66:2). We can take comfort and encouragement from the fact that God is deeply concerned about how suffering affects us. This concern extends to all people, and His plan and purpose will eventually bring as many as are willing into a family relationship with Him.

In the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah explained, “Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23). These words and others not referenced here, have been put into the hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

A trait often lacking in humans

Unfortunately, faithfulness is a characteristic that humans can either lack or lose. Followers of Christ need to be aware that doubts and unbelief can sometimes creep into our minds if we are not careful, especially when life

becomes wearisome. We may grow lazy, complacent, or negligent, and cease from doing what God has commanded. Scripture warns us to be both diligent and patient.

Hebrews 11 lists many examples of men and women who faithfully endured tremendous trials and tribulation. These were men and women who experienced mockings and scourgings, chains and imprisonments, of whom Scripture says, “the world was not worthy” (verse 38). They remained faithful, looking beyond their difficulties and trusting in God’s unfailing faithfulness.

God loves us deeply and He wants us to endure all the challenges we may face in this life to build our faith and to test our faithfulness. He knows we can remain faithful, but we need to stay close to Him and trust Him. When severe trials come upon us, we need to immerse ourselves in His word. We need to spend extra time with our Creator and gain strength from Him, not relying on our own strength. We can be confident “that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

We all fall short of what we should be and how we should live, but God in His faithfulness tells us His mercy is always there for us – “new every morning” (Lamentations 3:23). He is ready at all times to forgive and encourage. Each day we can have a fresh start to try with His help to address any issues in our lives that may not be pleasing to Him.

As we try to follow more closely God’s example of love, compassion and faithfulness, we grow more like Christ every day. We develop faithfulness in our Christian walk and in humble service to God the Father and to His Son Jesus Christ. No doubt we long for that day when Jesus Christ will say to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21).

May God, in His faithfulness, hasten that day.

Terry Oldfield

Pride: Cause of the devil’s downfall – and maybe ours

An unrealistic or overinflated view of oneself and one’s abilities often spawns actions that can lead to disaster.

The word “pride” is used 11 times in the books of Psalms and Proverbs. Never is it used with good connotations. Its repugnance is sometimes emphasised by using pride and haughty together in the same verse. In addition, the word “proud” is used 22 times in these books.

King Solomon wrote, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18). It is often abbreviated to “pride goes before a fall.” Pride, taken in the context of this proverb, means to have too high an opinion of oneself or one’s abilities. Haughty means behaving in a condescending manner towards other people, considering yourself above them.

The Greek word used here for “pride” can be translated as either pride, haughtiness, or arrogance. Christ is confirming what Solomon and the psalmists said – that we are not to have an overinflated opinion of ourselves,

nor should we look down on others because we see ourselves as superior.

The instigator of pride

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God first addresses the prince of Tyre, a prideful human being, but then switches to a metaphor for something far more sinister. Influencing the prince is the instigator of pride, not a man but a created being. Ezekiel records God’s words, “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the *king* of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty”’ (Ezekiel 28:12). This description cannot be referring to a man because, with the exception of Jesus Christ, no man is or ever has been perfect.

The prophet continues, “You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire,

turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day *you were created*" (verse 13). The only created human beings were Adam and Eve. This verse is not describing them. All other members of the human race were born.

So this must be a spirit being, identified as an anointed cherub who was in heaven and was perfect in his ways from his creation until iniquity (sin) was found in him (verses 14-15). The reason recorded for this mighty cherub having become so sinful was that he had grown so proud of his wisdom, beauty and splendour, that he believed he was greater than he really was (verse 17).

This mighty cherub had grown so proud of his wisdom, beauty and splendour that he believed he was greater than he really was.

In Isaiah chapter 14 there is a parallel account where a lament over the king of Babylon morphs into a lament over this same being: "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12). Lucifer means "light-bringer" and Jesus Christ identified this being who was cast down from heaven to earth when He declared, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

Adulation of the "self"

Isaiah expands on the mindset of this former cherub: "For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High'" (Isaiah 14:13-14).

These verses reveal a recurring theme. Five times the cherub proclaims "I will," and on each occasion he promotes himself to a position of grandeur. The inference appears to be that Lucifer thought he could do a better job ruling the universe than God and wanted to be equal to or greater than the Almighty. (To learn more of Satan's origin and his work in our world, please request or download our booklet *Is There Really a Devil?*)

So why does God hate pride, and how can we avoid this negative human attitude? Jesus gave an indication as to why when He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, *pride*, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man" (Mark 7:20-23).

One of the main attributes of pride is self-centredness. Self and what the self desires becomes the centre of one's thinking. Pride promotes the self to thinking that it is entitled to what it wants. It puts self above others, looking down on them as inferior. It believes it is always right. Arrogance and vanity can lead to delusions of self-importance, as it did with Lucifer.

An end to pride

We have seen that Lucifer, now renamed Satan, which means "adversary," influences world leaders. The apostle Paul explained that the leader at the end of this age of man would also be influenced by Satan and think himself greater than God. Paul wrote, "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

Scripture tells us that the end-time manifestation of the Babylonian Empire will be defeated and that Christ will reign on earth. But what about Satan? What will happen to him? The apostle John recorded a vision of that Day of the Lord. Towards the end of his vision he wrote: "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while" (Revelation 20:1-3). Satan's final defeat is recorded in verses 7-10. (For further explanation of how the Babylonian system has come down to our modern age, please request our Bible study aid *The Final Superpower*.)

Scripture advises what we should be like. The apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3). The passage goes on to describe the mind of Christ which should be in us. Jesus, through whom the Father created all things, was also a member of the God family, yet He emptied Himself of His glory and came to earth as a human, dying a terrible death so our sins could be forgiven (verses 5-8; see margin note on verse 7).

Learning to have this kind of humility, maintaining a balanced and honest view of ourselves and valuing others is a good way to avoid the pitfalls of pride and help us be participants in God's grace.

David Payne



tion). Here God describes the characteristics of those to whom He will relate. King David, after his sin with Bathsheba, recognised this, saying, “You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one . . . The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God” (Psalms 51:16-17, NLT)

By examining such scriptures, we can come to a clear understanding of Christ’s teaching. To be “poor in spirit” means to be humble, acknowledging our sins and selfishness before God and recognising that we need His mercy.

Q How certain is Bible prophecy?
Subscriber in London

A Over 300 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament were fulfilled during Christ’s first coming. That should instill confidence that those that pertain to the end-times will likewise come to pass. The apostle Peter stated: “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:16-19).

Many thus-far unfulfilled prophecies relate to the events of the “Day of the Lord”. Having seen a vision of that time, the apostle John wrote, “Then he said to me, ‘These words are *faithful and true*.’ And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place” (Revelation 22:6). God promises to fulfill His word (Ezekiel 12:28).

Problems can arise when someone speculates about how a prophecy might be fulfilled and tries to push their own interpretation onto others (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Q What is the origin of marriage?
Subscriber in London

A Marriage was established at creation as a divine institution between a man and a woman in which they agree to live together as a married couple (Genesis 2:16-25). This arrangement is a life-long covenant between the man and the woman, witnessed by God (Malachi 2:14-15).

Christ, when questioned about divorce, asked, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:2-6).

Q Being “poor in spirit” sounds like something we shouldn’t be, yet Jesus indicated it was a desirable character trait. What does it mean?
FAQ

A Jesus Christ said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). Clearly, for all Christ’s followers, being poor in spirit is a good thing. In this section of scripture known as the Sermon on the Mount, much of Christ’s reference material comes from the “Old Testament.” The New Testament had yet to be written. This sheds light on where we should look to define the phrase “poor in spirit.”

One relevant reference is in Proverbs 16:19, which says, “Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.” This points to an attitude of humility that Christians should have.

In Isaiah 66:1-2, God declares: “Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool . . . My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are Mine . . . I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at My word” (New Living Transla-

Let the Bible Answer...

What does the Bible say about the fate of the wicked?

Souls (“living beings” – from the Hebrew nephesh and the Greek psuche) can die: Genesis 2:17; Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Matthew 10:28.

The wicked shall be burned to ashes: Malachi 4:1-3. Death and the grave shall be destroyed: Revelation 20:14. Death, sorrow, tears and pain will be ended: Revelation 21:1, 4. Only righteousness will be left: 2 Peter 3:13.



Letters From Our Readers

Tongue control

I sincerely thank all those who made it possible to get this magazine and Supplement. I loved the topic “Tongue control matters.”

Reader in Bournemouth

Creation or evolution?

If one sees a design, then there must be a designer. There had to be a beginning. DNA didn't just happen by chance. What a design!!!

Reader in Holmfirth

Studying Bible Course brings knowledge and peace

I really liked the topic about conversion [Lesson 8]. It widened my knowledge that it is only God that converts people.

Thank you also for the lesson on the Holy Spirit [Lesson 9]. I have more insight and more knowledge on that topic.

Student in Nottingham

Thank you for allowing me to do this *Bible Study Course*. I have found much pleasure in reading and learning. I particularly like reading the scriptures that let us know how much God almighty loves us. I have never felt so much love and peace as I do now.

Student in Lancashire

Help for the “last days”

I find your information in these last days vital since I became incapacitated in an accident.

Reader in York

Thank you for keeping my spirits up at this time. Please continue to send me copies of *Beyond Today*. I

am still struggling with the current situation. I find the articles help me refocus on God's grace.

Reader in Birmingham

Many thanks for continuing to distribute God's Word in these difficult times, so that people can read the truth about the Bible. Please accept this donation to your work.

Reader in Southport

Thank you so much for all the booklets you've sent to me, which have been such a help in understanding. What we are experiencing now was surely prophesied long ago. Roll on the day when we have Jesus Christ on earth again.

Reader in Sutton Coldfield

Thank you for your literature. Great reading. Living in the end times is not easy but your literature keeps my hopes high.

Reader in Manchester

Thank you for providing spiritual stability in these testing times. I would like to study the Bible using your course. Any guidance would be most welcome.

Reader in Essex

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

I really have good faith in God but I am puzzled of late why He's letting so many good people die.

Reader in Nottingham

Editor's Comment: God has many reasons for allowing suffering and death. Our booklet Why Does God Allow Suffering? helps explain.

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