

## Who Exactly Was Jesus of Nazareth?

*Was Jesus merely a prophet as some of the Jews of His day believed, or was He really the divine Son of God, as He claimed? The Bible leaves us in no doubt about His true origin.*

The long prophesied Messiah is first mentioned in some detail in the Hebrew Scriptures. Some 2700 years ago the prophet Isaiah wrote during the reign of four kings of the southern nation of Judah. Isaiah was given visions during his long life which tell us more about the future Benefactor of mankind than any other Old Testament writer.

Who would He be? Where would He be born? What would be His origin? The answers to these questions are given by Isaiah and backed up by other Hebrew prophets. In the longest prophetic book in the Bible, Isaiah identifies the Messiah as a Divine Being who would come from the third heaven to dwell among men.

In Isaiah 9:6 the prophet describes the future Messiah. 'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder.' The child here spoken of is a descendant of Abraham, of the Tribe of Judah, which settled around Jerusalem. This Son will be no less than Immanuel, meaning 'God with us' (Isaiah 7:14).

Here Isaiah describes His titles:

'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

Exactly who is Isaiah referring to? Who was actually prophesied to carry these titles? None other than Jesus Christ, the Anointed of God the Father. (*Christos* is the New Testament Greek word for the Hebrew word *anointed*.)

### More evidence of Christ's true identity

When we see Jesus of Nazareth teaching in Galilee and Jerusalem, we encounter someone who answered people's questions that their religious leaders were unable to. 'When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these

*The Bible makes it clear that only God is worthy of worship.*

mighty works"' (Matthew 13:54). The teachings of Jesus recorded in the Sermon on the Mount show that it was God in the person of Jesus Christ – Immanuel – who dwelled among men

in the Holy Land and was in word and deed the 'Wonderful Counsellor' that Isaiah spoke of.

The words that Jesus spoke on how man should live have never been faulted – and never been improved on. No prophet of God in Old Testament times taught the spiritual application of God's laws to the degree that Jesus of Nazareth did. Christ *expanded* the immutable laws God gave Moses at Mt Sinai to earn Him the title 'Wonderful Counsellor' (see Isaiah 42:21, KJV).

The Bible makes it clear that only God is worthy of worship. In Isaiah's description of the Messiah He is also depicted as 'Mighty God' – reflected by the wise men from the East who 'fell down and worshipped' the Christ child soon after His birth (Matthew 2:11). Thirty years later when Jesus began His ministry, numerous people who came in direct contact with Christ worshipped Him. Christ never once corrected them, as His apostles always did if someone tried to worship them (see Acts 14:11-15, etc). The people in Judea and Galilee indeed witnessed 'God-with-us.'

In the New Testament Jesus spoke

of Himself both as ‘the Son of God’ and ‘the Son of Man’ – two descriptions that show that as ‘Immanuel’ He was and is divine as the Son of God, and yet as the Son of Man Christ was also a flesh and blood human being. As Hebrews chapter 1 clearly shows, Christ was not an archangel or any other created being.

The fact that Jesus taught that He was God’s Son is also shown by the chief priests in Jerusalem taunting Him at His crucifixion with the words, ‘He trusted in God; let Him deliver him now if He will have him because He said, “I am the Son of God”’ (Matthew 27:43).

### **Christ existed before His human birth**

At the very beginning of his gospel account, the apostle John describes Christ’s divine status: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God’ (John 1:1).

Here again Jesus is put on a par with God the Father in being a member of the Godhead. In John 1:2 we see that ‘He was in the beginning with God.’ God, of course, had no beginning, something that our limited minds have great difficulty fully comprehending (see Isaiah 57:15). John is saying here that, as God, Jesus Christ has always existed.

Yet in relation to His Heavenly Father, Jesus stated that the Father was

greater than He (John 14:28). In character attributes, they are alike (John 10:30). In authority the Father is the Almighty God, a Majesty beyond description, and Jesus Christ is His beloved Son.

Yet in Isaiah 9:6 this mighty God (the pre-existent Christ) is also referred to as ‘Everlasting Father’ – again attesting to His divine status as being God (not to be confused here with God the Father). The word ‘father’ was used in Old Testament times as a title for a religious teacher, one prime example being the king of Israel addressing Elisha the prophet with the words, ‘O my father, my father . . .’ (2 Kings 13:14). Of course the prophesied Messiah had to be a teacher of righteousness, as the Jewish leader Nicodemus admitted when addressing Jesus, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him’ (John 3:2).

Jesus is also represented by the prophet Isaiah as an ‘everlasting’ teacher, and only God has an eternal existence. Notice Micah 5:2: ‘But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2).

Here we see God, the Father of Jesus Christ, referring to His Son as having lived forever, or as the footnote

in the New King James Bible says, ‘from the days of eternity.’ Moses refers to the eternity of God with the following words, ‘from everlasting to everlasting, You are God’ (Psalm 90:2).

The God the children of Israel dealt with on a day-by-day basis was the same God who had revealed Himself to Abraham as God Almighty – El Shaddai in Hebrew (Genesis 17:1). To Moses and the Children of Israel God revealed Himself as ‘I AM THAT I AM’ – YHWH in Hebrew, indicating an everlasting existence (Exodus 3:14).

### **Who was Israel’s God?**

Unlike other nations at the time of the Exodus who believed in polytheism or numerous gods and goddesses, the Israelites were taught to worship one God only. Who was that Divine Being that came in contact with the children of Israel? Was it God the Father? Let the apostle Paul provide the answer, the very apostle who received magnificent revelations and visions from Christ (2 Corinthians 12:1-2).

In 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, Paul records a remarkable statement for posterity about the divinity of Jesus Christ. ‘Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **Is God a Trinity?**

**A**lthough very God, Jesus Christ was not, and is not now, a part of a Trinity or a three-person Godhead. There is no divinely inspired scripture backing up the general assumption among many Christians that there is a third person in the Godhead.

Those who believe in a Trinity have no explanation as to why the apostle Paul in his epistles greets his readers with the customary wording, ‘Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ’ (Romans 1:7; see also 1 Corinthians 1:4; Galatians 1:3. etc.). No mention of a third person here.

The apostle John addresses his readers similarly: “Grace, mercy and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father’ (2 John 1:3). Again, only two divine individuals are addressed. Elsewhere John reminds us that ‘Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ’ (1 John 1:3). It would have been a gross insult to have omitted a third person in a Trinity if the Holy Spirit were really a person. (To understand the nature of the Holy Spirit, ask for our free booklet *Is God a Trinity?*)

# Christian and Addict – *Can You Be Both?*

*From shopping to smoking, from computer games to gambling, from overeating to street drugs, pornography and alcoholism – modern society is replete with harmful addictions. Even smart phones, social networking sites and the unwise use of prescription medicines can lead the unwary into addictive behaviours. What is the biblical solution?*

In prophesying about the latter days, the apostle Paul stated that people would be ‘lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God’ (2 Timothy 3:1-4). According to Damian Thompson, writing in *The Spectator*; there came a point in the early 21st century when, ‘our species mastered the art of manipulating its brain chemistry to produce intense bursts of short-term pleasure’. His article, ‘Age of the Addict’, continues with stark warnings of where these behaviours may take us.

Addictions come in many forms but they all have one thing in common, they affect the mind. Mr Thompson points out that technology has become ‘increasingly adept at producing surges of dopamine and other feelgood brain chemicals’. This seems to be the case not just with known addictive substances and behaviours, but also with computer games, where players usually win sufficiently often to make them want to keep playing.

Social networking sites seem to produce these same brain chemicals, as one gains kudos from increasing one’s tally of ‘friends.’ Likewise foods which might once have been wholesome – but which have been crammed with salt, sugar or other additives to make them increasingly ‘tasty’ – may result in a craving for more and more.

## **A form of idolatry**

When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus Christ responded: ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment’ (Matthew 22:37-38). If our minds are elsewhere, then how can we be fulfilling this most basic of commandments?

Another aspect to this is that whatever we put before God becomes our god, and anything in place of the true God is idolatry. Christ said, ‘You cannot serve God and mammon’ (Luke 16:13). Today’s world is filled with

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riches of a different kind, but equally able to take one away from the true God.

Idolatry is closely linked with another of the commandments, ‘You shall not covet’ (Colossians 3:5). Coveting may be defined as craving or desire, and especially excessive desire for something that belongs to others. Too often addiction-fed covetousness leads to other sins, such as theft to support a drug, alcohol or gambling habit.

Adultery may be the end result for those obsessed with pornography. Remember Christ said, ‘Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart’ (Matthew 5:28). Instead of following the lusts of our flesh and minds (Ephesians 2:3), our hearts and minds should be pure and holy, reflecting the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16; Ephesians 2:5).

## **Damaging to physical and mental health**

Some addictions are directly damaging to health. Smoking, excessive use of alcohol and drug-taking are examples. King David wrote: ‘I am fearfully and wonderfully made’ (Psalm 139:14). In the original creation, God created human beings to be fit and healthy. Sadly, through the ages mankind’s constitution has deteriorated, but the immunity and reparative ability of most people’s bodies remains astounding.

A recent report found that smokers who stopped smoking before middle age could improve their life expectancy by ten years (*Daily Telegraph*, 27 October 2012). Another report, this time from America, states that the number of infants born addicted to drugs, including prescription painkillers, has

tripled in a decade (*USA Today*, 1 May 2012). Many people are becoming addicted to other drugs such as tranquillisers, anti-depressants and sleeping pills.

With an environment that is increasingly polluted, voluntarily adding poisons to one's system can only boost the likelihood of falling prey to a life-threatening disease. Gluttony puts a terrific strain on the vital organs. Clearly this is not something God intended.

## Steps in conquering addictions

Addiction is not easy to fight, deeply rooted as it is in the mind. Rarely can it be fought alone, and even with the help of God and man, it is an ongoing struggle. Usually it means giving up the root cause of the addiction for the remainder of one's life.

As with many issues, the obligatory first step remains for the addict to admit that a serious problem exists. He or she should not excuse or justify an addictive habit. Most forms of addiction are sins against God, and could even threaten our eternal inheritance (see Ephesians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Thankfully, all addictions can be repented of (verse 11).

For the Christian, this means going to God in prayer in an attitude of deep repentance. We should all ask for our Creator's help and guidance in overcoming the pulls of the flesh and the mind. Those battling these tendencies should call on Him when the cravings begin, fighting the desires before they can take hold. Remember the enormous cost of humanity's sins. They took the life of our Heavenly Father's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 7:23).

Addicts should be determined to overcome these problems. They should avoid those things that may ensnare again. 'Make no provision for the

flesh, to fulfill its lusts' (Romans 13:14). Consider cutting up credit cards if the pull of unwise spending cannot be resisted. Gamblers should avoid betting shops. Sex addicts should destroy all pornographic magazines and block harmful internet sites. (Those afflicted with this latter problem and those who wish to help may request our free reprint article 'Breaking Free from Sexual Addictions.')

## Use human ingenuity

Be inventive about how to win the battle. Distract your thoughts away from the addiction and try to embark on activities that require full concentration. If you need help, maybe one or two trusted 'buddies' would assist, whom you could call or perhaps text for additional support.

Counselling and talking therapies can often prove useful, as can self-help groups such as Alcoholics

## *Some addictions are so strong that professional help may be required.*

Anonymous. However, some of these may tend to minimise the sinful nature of addiction. In that case they should be approached with a degree of caution. None of us are immune from sin, and trying to blame it on someone or some thing would prove spiritually unproductive.

For severe drug-related dependencies, any proposed medical interventions or remedies should be carefully considered and checked for other harmful effects. It would be unwise to swap one addiction for another, or worse still, gain a second.

For more information on the general subject of addictions, visit our *Breaking Free* web site ([www.breakingfree.ucg.org](http://www.breakingfree.ucg.org)) where there are arti-

cles offering support for overcoming a number of addictive practices. Also request a back copy of the November-December 2007 *Good News*. The cover theme is 'Breaking Free From Addictions.' This particular issue has three feature articles about the general subject. Alternatively you can download this back issue from our online *Good News* archive.

## Live a balanced life

While there is nothing intrinsically wrong in desiring pleasurable experiences, seeking illicit or unwise short-term pleasures may result in a potential lifetime of addiction. This is not what God wanted for His human creation. However, God does want us to enjoy life and be very thankful for the good things He has readily provided.

God specifically commands that we rejoice before Him during the annual Festival of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:40; Nehemiah 8:13-18).

Verse 17 states that 'There was very great gladness.'

The Bible recommends the enjoyment and even medicinal value of alcoholic drinks, consumed in moderation (1 Timothy 5:23;

Proverbs 31:6). Although biblically permitted, its misuse often leads to drunkenness – a highly-damaging sin affecting both physical and spiritual health. Eating healthy foods is obviously a necessity and a pleasure, but gluttony is a sin. The Bible even cautions against eating too much sweet food (Proverbs 25:16).

God wants mankind to live happy, healthy lives, with wholesome family relationships and a right relationship with Him and His Son Jesus Christ – enjoying a life free from unhealthy addictions. For further understanding, ask for in print or download our free booklets *Making Life Work* and *The Ten Commandments*.

*Author: Barbara Fenney  
Contributing writer: John Ross Schroeder*

# The Feast of Tabernacles in North Wales

Jason Godfrey from the south of England wrote the following report on United Church of God's Feast of Tabernacles celebrations in the British Isles.

Landudno was the very pleasant site for the 2012 Feast of Tabernacles. Located on the north coast of Wales and nestling peacefully in an area of great natural beauty adjacent to the Snowdonia National Park, this popular venue saw 180 people assemble for the Festival. Visitors came from many areas including the British Isles, USA, Canada and Australia. Initial wet and blustery conditions soon gave way to glorious days, matching the warmth already felt by members sharing a common purpose.

The Feast, as always, afforded a perfect opportunity to enhance old friendships and to create new ones, particularly in the time before and after services, but also in lodgings, cafes and restaurants at other times.

Rejoicing at the Feast, as God expects, was not a difficult task, given the theme of inspiring sermons detailing the hope of the coming Kingdom of God. They encouraged us all in the roles we have been given, both now and to come, and to continue with that enthusiasm way beyond the time of the Feast.

In addition to congregational singing there was a range of other musical performances, a treat for all listening. They included a violin trio, other instrumental solos, and a number of vocal pieces. The effort involved in all of these presentations was certainly appreciated.

During the Feast members could experience organised bus trips to historic Chester and the naturally beautiful Snowdonia. Locally, many took trips up the rocky Great Orme by walking, by tram, or by cable car, with the time spent at the top very much proportional to conditions on the day. Some even swam in the ocean!

The children's party provided an array of excitement, including pony rides and just simple fun. A hymn singing evening gave an opportunity to praise God together and, for the aspiring, a chance to lead songs.

For many, this Feast was a first experience, and comments such as 'amazing', 'inspiring', 'friendly', 'encouraging', 'unity' and 'purpose' were not uncommon. Another comment, 'went too fast', was probably shared by all.

During the talent show on the last evening, several expressed the sentiment, 'I don't want to go home'. One day the events the Feast looks forward to will have come to pass and we shall all be together forever. We will all be 'home' in the Kingdom of God.



## Understanding the Autumn Festivals

The Feast of Tabernacles, also called the Feast of Ingathering, lasts for seven days, the first being an annual Sabbath. This festival teaches us that when Jesus Christ returns, He will begin the ingathering or harvest of the greater part of mankind, and establish a new society with Himself as King of Kings and Lord of Lords on earth under God the Father.

Christ, assisted by the resurrected saints, will set up His government on the earth for 1,000 years (Revelation 19:11-16; 20:4; Leviticus 23:39-43; Hebrews 11:8-9).

Rule under His laws will spread from Jerusalem throughout the world to usher in an unprecedented period

of peace and prosperity (Isaiah 2:2-4; Daniel 2:35, 44; 7:13-14). This festival is observed today through regional gatherings throughout the world, with Church members living in temporary dwellings for the entire period, in line with the Bible's instructions.

*The Eighth Day*, the annual Sabbath immediately following the Feast of Tabernacles, teaches us that Jesus Christ will complete His harvest of human beings by raising from the dead, and offering salvation to, all who have died in the past and have never been given a full opportunity for salvation (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 11:25-27; Revelation 20:11-13). (For further understanding, ask for our free booklet about *God's Holy Day Plan*.)

# Who Was Jesus Christ?

(Continued from page 2)

the sea, all ate the same spiritual food and all drank that spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, *and that Rock was Christ* (1 Corinthians 10:1-4, emphasis added).

So the God who shepherded the children of Israel in the wilderness was indeed the pre-existent Christ who later was born of Mary.

## Christ the Creator

In John's gospel in reference to Jesus Christ, we read that 'All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made' (John 1:3). The preceding verses as

well as verse 14 make it plain that John was referring to Jesus Christ, and not to God the Father – the most High who is mentioned sparingly in the Old Testament, as in Daniel 7:13-14.

It was God the Father who worked together with His Son in planning the creation of mankind. Hebrews 1:1-3 mentions two divine Beings – God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Again it was Jesus Christ whom the Father commissioned to create life on earth. 'God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds, who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when

He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high' (Hebrews 1:1-3; see also Ephesians 3:9).

## A divine invitation requires a spiritual response

Jesus of Nazareth, the long promised Messiah, was not only a prophet, He was God-in-the-flesh who as a Divine Being and Creator of the universe atoned for our sins and opened the door for us to receive everlasting life.

The invitation to become members of God's family (Philippians 3:20-21) has gone out to each of us who has been called to an understanding of His plan – but needs a personal response.

For starters, request our free booklets *Transforming Your Life* and *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*.

Gerhard Marx

# The Plurality of God

Throughout Scripture we come back to the reality that God has chosen to express His personal nature in terms of a family relationship. *Elohim* is the Hebrew word for God in every passage of Genesis 1, as well as in more than 2,000 places throughout the Old Testament.

*Elohim* is a noun that is plural in form but normally singular in usage – it is paired with singular verbs – when designating the true God. Proper nouns can be plural in form, but singular in usage. The plural form does signify multiples – but, taken collectively, they are viewed as one. It is the same with *Elohim*. The word *Eloah*, meaning 'Mighty One,' is the singular form. *Elohim*, meaning 'Mighty Ones,' is plural. And, indeed, there are two Mighty Ones, the Most High and the Word. But, collectively, as *Elohim*, the two are seen as one God. *Elohim* said, 'Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness' (verse 26).

We should note that since *Elohim* is the name of the God family, each family member can be called by this name. (Some Bible writers also use the word *elohim* as a plural noun with plural usage to describe false gods. So one factor in comprehending the meaning of this Hebrew word is determining what is intended by the context.)

When Adam and Eve made the momentous decision to disobey their Creator by eating of the fruit God had forbidden them to eat, the divine reaction was, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil' (Genesis 3:22). And God cut them off from the tree of life (verses 22-24).

The Hebrew word here translated 'know' often means to learn or become aware of something through one's personal experience. For Adam and Eve it was not enough to simply accept God's command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They instead chose to step into God's place and determine for themselves what was good and what was evil. The psalmist notes that the ungodly question God's knowledge: 'And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"' (Psalm 73:11).

The phrase 'one of Us,' we should note, provides clear evidence that more than one constituted the 'Us.' Moreover, to 'become like one of Us' was actually our Creator's original intention for all humanity, but it must be done God's way and in His own time frame. That way is to submit ourselves to every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

Only our Creator has the right and wisdom to determine what is good and evil. He knows what's best for us and never wanted humans to learn what is evil through experimentation. He tells us: 'The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes' (Psalm 19:7-8). He wants us to trust Him and His righteous judgements. (For further information ask for our free booklet *Who Is God?*)



offers spiritual guidance, encouragement and practical direction. For information on this, read our free booklet *Making Life Work*.

Scripture describes the way mankind should walk (Psalm 1:1-3) – always encouraging us to live by a sure code of biblical conduct

(Proverbs 3:4-7). The Bible remains the best self-help book ever published.

A careful study of Scripture reveals that it contains eternal truths we humans could never discover for ourselves. History has shown that our own efforts are sadly insufficient and we have to rely on our Creator for essential guidance (Jeremiah 33:1-3). So God has provided a spiritual manual for all mankind, but not one that includes loads of information that we could discover on our own. Indeed He gave us the mental capacity with which we could acquire and develop an abundance of useful practical knowledge. Yet we misuse even this kind of knowledge if we refuse the Bible's spiritual guidance on how to use it properly (see 2 Timothy 2:15).

Yet Scripture does contain important information about material matters as well. God's Word reveals decisive principles of success in occupational and financial matters – upholding scientific knowledge that has been proved to be true. But can the Bible withstand

scrutiny? Is it only true because it claims to be true?

Both archaeology and history's written documents have confirmed both the accuracy and veracity of the Bible. Consider the cylinder of King Cyrus of Persia, recent archaeological discoveries of the Assyrian Empire, and an ancient inscription verifying King David's existence apart from the Bible. More detailed confirmation of these and other evidences is available in our free booklet *Is the Bible True?* Request a printed copy by post or access it online at [www.ucg.org/booklets/](http://www.ucg.org/booklets/).

Some may ask: Are the Scriptures that we read today essentially the same ones originally written so long ago by the Hebrew prophets and the New Testament apostles? Our free reprint article, 'Has the Bible Been Preserved Accurately?', answers in the affirmative and explains how the text has been maintained over millennia.

**Q** Do you have anything on water baptism, what counts as biblical – and what does not?

*J T, London*

**A** Yes, we do. Please request in print or download our free booklets *The Road to Eternal Life* and *Transforming Your Life*. Also ask for the reprint article, 'Baptism: The Beginning of a New Life.' This topic is also covered in Lesson 8 of our *Bible Study Course*.

**Q** How can I really be sure that the Bible is God's Word?

*W B, Stroud*

**A** In spite of a secular age of doubt, many still regard the Holy Bible as the written word of the true God. Scripture claims this distinction for itself. The Word of God asserts its own divine authority (see 2 Timothy 3:15-17; John 10:35). And in the eyes of many others, the Bible is highly regarded as a collection of some of the world's greatest classical literature.

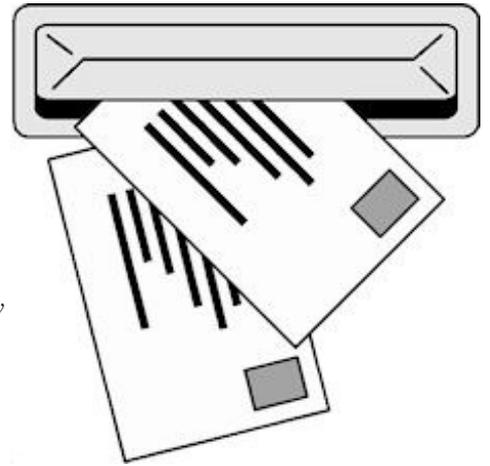
This unique collection of books does what practically no other literary work does. It declares a credible understanding of mankind's purpose on this earth – showing how to attain our awesome human destiny planned anciently in advance by our Creator (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 8:15-23; Titus 1:2). Moreover at every turn, the Bible

## **How our literature is funded**

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# Letters

## from our readers



### Kingdom of God Seminar

I attended a Kingdom of God seminar in London this afternoon and found it very informative. Unfortunately I had to leave early to catch a coach home, just as the question time was starting. I have found all your information trustworthy and biblical.

*A E, Canterbury*

### The Good News

*The Good News* arrived and rescued me from the stresses and strains of the modern world. The Bible is full of wisdom, but it is easy to get caught up in the negatives of this world. *The Good News* magazine helps me to refocus on what is really important – to read the Bible and live my life through its teachings.

*P A, Barnsley*

Your magazine is very important to me. I read every word and look up the Bible quotations. I have learned so much.

*I H, Cranbrook*

*We wish everyone would follow your example. There are great benefits to be derived from looking up the Bible quotations.*

These were excellent articles on the Kingdom of God and so clear, including the restoration of planet earth for the saints to rule with Christ.

*Mr B B, Warminster*

I have been reading the magazine for months and I am very impressed. I now have a lot of biblical understanding.

*R G, Manchester*

I do value your magazine and the insight you have into world affairs. But I don't agree with everything. Thank you for continuing my subscription.

*Mrs J C, Westgate-on-Sea*

*If we published only what our*

*readers agree with and they don't learn anything new, we would be sadly neglecting our basic task (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20).*

### Wants literature for a searching atheist

Please may I have any literature for an atheist who is searching for God? I've been bringing her to my church. She has asked the Lord to open her heart.

*A J, Newtownabbey, N Ireland*

*We have posted* Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist? *and* Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?

I would like to know if you have any literature on salvation. And if you have any, it would be appreciated.

*D B, Drogheda, Ireland*

*We have posted* The Road to Eternal Life *and* Transforming Your Life *plus the free reprint* 'What Is Salvation?' *Comments on the Bible Study Course follow.*

### Comment on lesson five

It is extremely sad that our political leaders always choose to divert the earth's limited resources into the building of extremely destructive weapons to use against other human beings (including civilians) solely because they look different, speak a different language or supposedly come from a different country and perhaps follow a different political theology. Does the United Church of God worship on Saturdays or Sundays?

*J T, London*

*We worship on the seventh-day Sabbath, which begins at sunset on Friday evening. For a full explanation, ask for our free booklet* Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest.

### Comment on lesson two

I thank God that I now understand Bible history very well, the foundation of God's knowledge in His Word. I have learned the lesson of obedience to God. I can see the lesson from King Jehoiakim, who was abusing the people. He was disobedient to God's Word and decided to burn the written message of God from Jeremiah. Finally God punished him and he died on the way to captivity in Babylon.

*A M G, Edinburgh*

### Comment on lesson eight

This is my eighth lesson of the *Bible Study Course*. Now I am beginning to understand the Bible properly. These lessons are very enlightening. I am a born-again Christian. I have taken the baptism of full immersion in water. My life has improved and continues to improve. I am so grateful for the lessons.

*R B, Bedford*

*Please be sure to see the answer to the last question on page seven of this Supplement.*

### Spreading the gospel

Thank you very much for the September-October *Good News*. The messages are very inspiring. I enclose an offering. I hope you had a profitable, enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles.

*Mrs H B F, Kettering*

*Please see the article about the Feast of Tabernacles in Llandudno on page five.*