

## ***Dispensations***

### **The Problem**

As the Bible predicted, there is much confusion in these last days about doctrinal matters. The reason we have so many different professing “Christian” denominations today, is because of major disagreements, especially on the doctrines of **salvation** and **eternal security**. The major cause of these differences comes from not rightly dividing the Bible. God makes changes and deals with people differently through the ages and we are commanded to study so we can properly make these divisions. *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (II Tim. 2:15)

So according to the Scripture, if we wish to rightly divide the Word, we need to study. Otherwise, you will never be able to determine the doctrine of salvation or other matters for this Age we now live in. It is not enough to just depend on what some preacher or religious person says, because they may be wrong! Sad to say, many do this, and though they profess to be “saved,” are lost, and have never truly been “born again.” God warned us about this. *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* (Prov. 16:25)

Usually, the problem comes when people take all or part of a doctrine that God meant for another Age, and try to apply it to present day. For example, they take things in the Bible that were intended for an **Old Testament Jew under the Law**, or for someone in a **future age**, and apply that to us today doctrinally. This misuse of Scripture makes the Bible appear to contradict itself, which of course we know it doesn’t. When this happens, it is because someone is mixing verses that apply to different people in different times. This is God’s way of telling us to let the Bible interpret itself by comparing Scripture with Scripture, in the proper context. In so doing, you will find that the Holy Spirit will “rightly divide” the Word for you.

Otherwise, if you insist on taking verses out of **context** to make it teach what you want it to teach, *“be sure your sin will find you out!!”* (Num. 32:23)

## Understanding Dispensations

The definition of dispensation, as we apply it in this study, simply refers to a particular period of time in the Bible that is doctrinally different from other periods of time. This study will deal with five (5) specific ages or periods of time, (1) Old Testament times before the law, (2) Old Testament times under the law, (3) the Church Age, (4) Tribulation Age, (5) and the Millennium. These are times in the Bible where the **teaching on salvation is somewhat different**. It should be understood at the beginning of this study that this is a subject of great controversy, among Christians. Having examined both sides of the issue, we find a preponderance of Scripture favors a difference in the requirements for salvation outside of the Church age. We are not concerned with what others teach or believe but will stick with using Scripture for Scripture comparison, as always, for our method of teaching.

**In this case we are simply showing there are many differences between “Church Age Saints” and Saints of other times. Beyond that we will let others argue the merits of those differences.** In learning to spot the different divisions or dispensations in the Bible it is necessary to understand some basic principles. First, be aware that each verse in the Bible has three applications:

**1) Historical:** Meaning either past, present or future. **2) Spiritual:** Spiritual or practical in everyday life. **3) Doctrinal:** Teaching having to do with things like salvation, eternal security of the believer, how we should live as Christians, etc. For this study we mean God’s instruction to those in a particular age or dispensation.

Naturally, all Scripture applies to us Spiritually and we can easily place it Historically. However, not all Scripture applies to us now in the Church Age **doctrinally** since God changes some doctrinal things from one Age to another. The next approach in helping you rightly divide the Word is to ask the following questions when you analyze a particular portion of Scripture.

**1) Who** is this particular book, chapter, or verse talking to? A nation, an individual, or a certain group of people?

**2) When** is this period of time; before or after the Resurrection of Christ, during the Tribulation, or Millennium?

3) **What** is the context (main subject) of the chapter or verse, and what dispensation does that place it in?

Asking these questions will help you determine if a verse applies to you doctrinally in the Church Age, or if it belongs in some other dispensation, for other people in the past, or people in the future after the Church Age. To get a better understanding of what we are talking about, let's look briefly at some different dispensations, and what God required during that time.

### **One**

Adam and Eve died Spiritually and lost their salvation when they disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit. The Lord then killed an animal and clothed them. Through this they learned how to regain that salvation through obedience to Him by the sacrificing of animals as a temporary payment for their sin. (This is shown in God's requirement of an animal offering as Able gave in Genesis 4:4). The price for sin is death (Rom. 6:23), so the animals died in Adam and Eve's place so they wouldn't have to die in their sins. This was a temporary sacrifice. The perfect sacrifice, Jesus, the Lamb of God, who would justify them would die many years later as the permanent sacrifice for everyone. Meanwhile, they had to remain obedient to God to maintain that salvation.

Adam and his wife had to physically do something to regain, and maintain their salvation. So their status as lost or saved depended partially on **WORKS**. We say partially, because there is always an element of **faith** involved in salvation. Also, by the Grace of God, He provided a way to salvation in all Ages. One always has to have faith that God exists, means what He says, and that His instructions must be followed to gain His favor and salvation. In their case no faith was necessary to believe He existed, since He came and walked in the garden where they were. (Gen. 3:10) Having to be obedient and give animal offerings is a physical act they had to do, so **this was a dispensation requiring an element of works before the Law**.

### **Two**

God had a change in store for His people, and from Exodus 20 through Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy He gave what we know today as the **Old Testament Jewish Law**. This was a new dispensation (salvation wise) because God had

added a new element to the **WORKS** He had already set for those before this time. The Law was to serve as a school master to **later bring us by faith alone** to Christ in the “Church Age.” Here, we are not under the Law doctrinally, as those people were. (Gal. 3:13) While God sets the standard in every dispensation regarding salvation, **this was a dispensation requiring additional works under the Law**. **Works were necessary for the salvation of Old Testament Saints.** The Apostle Paul talking about grace in the Church Age said: “*And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*” (Romans 11:6) Works was a factor in the past, but not now.

This is also evident in the fact that the “Law” is called a curse in Galatians and we (Church Age Saints) are redeemed from the curse of the Law! (Gal. 3:13) If obedience was not necessary for salvation, why was it necessary for us to be redeemed from the curse in this present age of salvation?

It is amazing that many still teach that an Old Testament Saint was saved the same way we are, by faith only looking forward to the cross. Although, there were many prophecies concerning the crucifixion of Jesus, the religious people of that time were not looking for Him to come and die on the cross for the sins of the world! They were looking for a King and therefore rejected Jesus when He came as a Prophet!

The Old Testament Saint’s salvation had to be different! Fact is, no OT Saint was ever “born again,” ever Spiritually circumcised, ever baptized by the Holy Ghost, put in Christ, called the Bride of Christ, or called a Son of God etc. They didn’t even go to the same place when they died (as a New Testament Saint)! They were **saved and kept by works**, and at death, went to a holding place called Paradise (Abraham’s bosom) located in the heart of the earth until they were justified by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They are now located in the third Heaven with Him. They were simply not part of the “Body Of Christ.” John the Baptist told us that in John 3:29. He said he was a friend of the bridegroom.

### **Three**

The death of Jesus on the cross was the perfect and final sacrifice for the sins of the world. No other lamb would ever be necessary again because the perfect Lamb of God had made an everlasting sacrifice. He defeated Death and Hell and His

resurrection ushered in the Age of salvation where we **are saved by grace through faith with no works necessary.** *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* (Eph. 2:8) *“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justified the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”* (Rom. 4:5) There are no works of any kind required for salvation in this Age. (If there were no works required of the OT Saint there would be no need to say it is not necessary in this Age). One must simply repent of their sins, and trust in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did on Calvary as full and complete payment for all their sins. **This is a dispensation of faith only.**

#### **Four**

The Tribulation, or “time of Jacob’s trouble,” is a seven (7) year period after the Church Age. The “Church” is gone in the Rapture and at the Judgment Seat of Christ while the Tribulation is going on. This is a time when God starts dealing with the Jewish Nation again. It is described in four (4) separate accounts from Revelation chapters 4 - 19 in the Bible. An element of works is also required in this Age. A prime example of this is Matthew 24:13. *“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”* To have to endure to the end of a period of time is “works”! This is one of the verses that some try to place in the present Church Age doctrinally. However, anyone reading the whole chapter finds that it is a Tribulation context. (Remember the rules of rightly dividing?) No Church Age Saint has to endure until the end of anything, nor do we have to overcome anything! We have already overcome. (I John 4:4 and 5:4) You have to endure to the end in the Tribulation, (WORKS) but not in the Church Age.

For more verification of works in the Tribulation, Revelation 14:12 places these Saints back under the commandments! **This dispensation combines faith in Christ and works!** *“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”* (Rev. 14:12) Ditto 12:17 *“... make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”* and *“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”* (Rev. 22:14) Christians don’t ever have to eat of The Tree of Life (which is works). They already have eternal life! They are one Spirit with the One who made the tree! (I Cor. 6:17)

**So, salvation in the Tribulation comes through faith and works. It is not by faith only as it is in the Church Age.**

Now, we are aware of the verses that say Abraham's faith was counted unto him for righteousness and that some use this to prove all Old Testament and Tribulation Saints are saved the same as we are, by faith. But, there is an answer for that or we have some serious contradictions in our Bible. Since that is not an option for a Bible believer what is the answer?

First of all, Abraham because of his faith obeyed God and did the necessary works. You can rest assured that if he had not been obedient to God's instructions he would have been rejected like Cain and lost his salvation like Adam and Eve did. To say he was saved by faith only with no element of works as Church Age Saints are, is to make him an exception to God's requirements for others of that day. (Gen. 22:5)

Some do believe that he was an exception. We know there are exceptions to the general rules in several cases when God is dealing with certain key people in the Bible. For example: "***And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:***" (Hebrews 9:27) That is the general rule, however, Enoch did not die. God just took him. (Gen. 5:24) Neither did Elijah die, but was taken in a whirlwind! (II Kings 2:11) Also, Church Age Saints and Tribulation Saints will be raptured out and never have to die. Another example is David, to whom God showed exceptional mercy. Although the rule of the day was for those committing adultery to be stoned to death, David was spared. These exceptions are usually types or pictures of something to come in another Age. As Abraham was without question a key person in God's plan being the Father of the Jews, so might he also be one of those exceptions to the Law for God's divine purpose. Whatever the case with Abraham, it doesn't change the verses dealing with salvation in the Tribulation.

## **Five**

The Millennium is a time after the Tribulation and Battle of Armageddon that the Lord Jesus Christ sets up His 1,000 year reign as King here on earth. There will be some major changes at that time. (see Section IV Chapter 3) This is the time when the curse God placed on the earth in Genesis 3:16 will be lifted. The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the earth will be at rest. (Isaiah 11:6, 14:7) Church

Age Saints will reign with Christ (Rev. 1:6, 5:10, 20:1-6) after having been through the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (in Heaven while the Tribulation is going on here on earth).

Obviously, some major changes have taken place during this time. Understand that Jesus is on the Throne, ruling and reigning as King, with Church Age Saints with Him. Study the following verses carefully and likely you will be shocked at what is happening during this time: *“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. [24] And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.”* (Isaiah 66:23-24)

Since the only time Jesus is on the throne ruling and reigning as King is in the Millennium, the context of these verses has to be the Millennium. Notice that the Jewish Law to observe the Sabbath is back in effect. Therefore, at least part of the Law is in effect again and **salvation in this dispensation includes an element of works.**

In conclusion, from what we have studied, the Scripture indicates there is only one Age where salvation is by faith alone and that is the “Church Age.” So, any scripture that teaches works in any form for salvation belongs in another dispensation. **For present day, it is faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ that will get you to Heaven.** There will be more on rightly dividing the Word, meanwhile, remember the principles you need to apply to properly divide your Bible doctrinally.

# Dispensational

By The grace of God a way of salvation is provided in each dispensation

## OLD TESTAMENT TIMES APPROX. 4,000 YEARS

### Old Covenant In Effect

Jewish Law Given EX.  
20, Lev., Num., Duet.

ADAM & EVE  
R E G A I N  
SALVATION BY  
OBEDIENCE &  
**WORKS W/  
F A I T H  
ELEMENT**

SALVATION BY  
**WORKS** UNDER THE  
JEWISH LAW WITH  
FAITH ELEMENT

Jesus Takes the sins  
of the world to Hell

**Saved** OT Saints went to  
paradise at death because the  
animal sacrifices they were  
making were only temporary  
and did not fully justify them.  
However they were later  
justified by Jesus, who was  
the perfect and final sacrifice  
for sin. At the resurrection  
Jesus set them free so those  
souls could go on to Heaven

Hell

Paradise

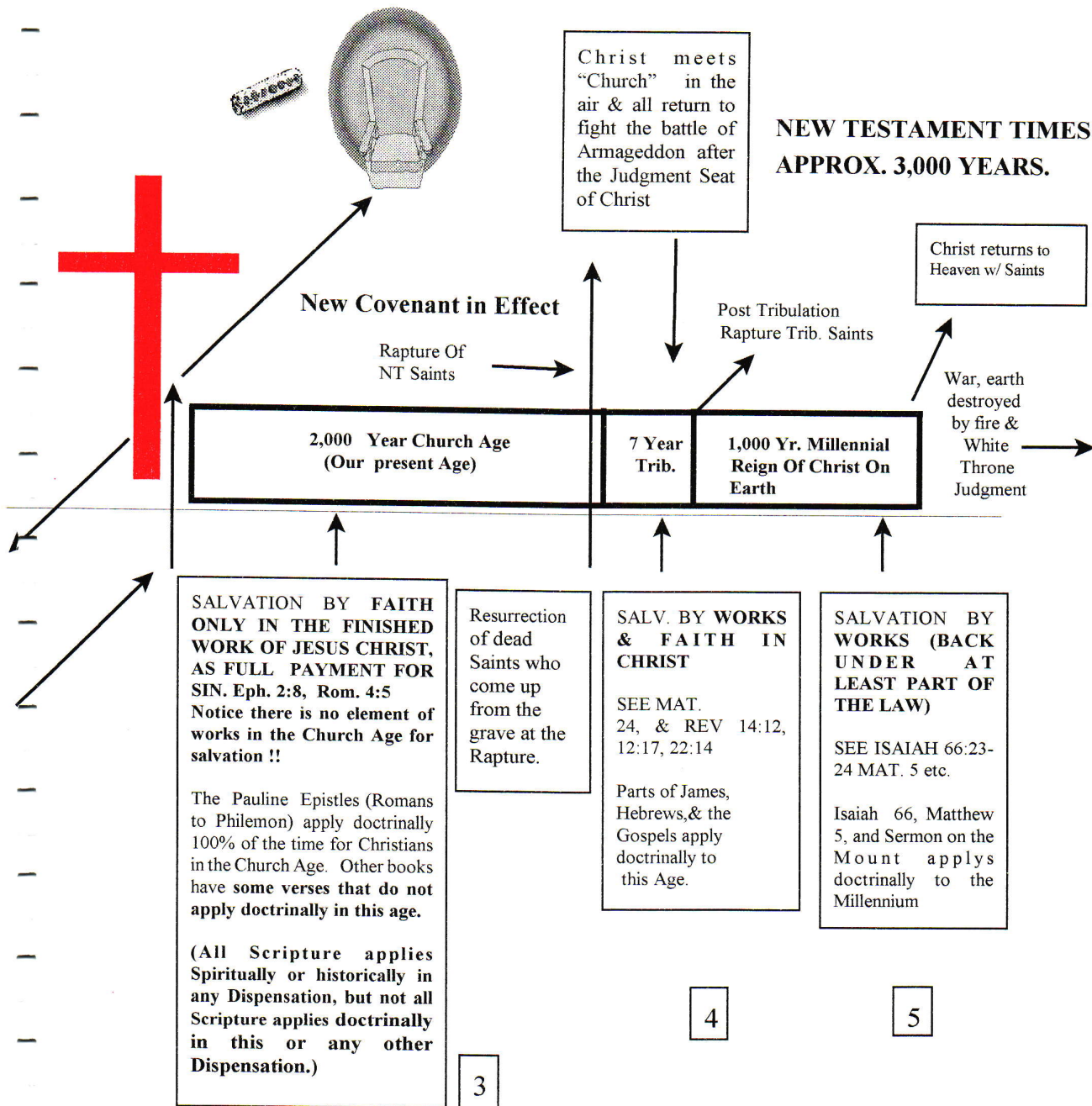
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# Chart

An element of faith is required in each Dispensation for salvation, however, there is some difference in the type of faith necessary.



# Notes

# Bread of Life Quiz

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Doctrinal Series

## DISPENSATIONS

## Lesson 1

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. The major reason there are so many religious beliefs is that people don't obey II Tim. 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Proverbs 16:25 warns not to do what we think is right, or our end will be Hell. \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you study, pray, and ask Him to guide you to the truth the Holy Spirit will help you "rightly divide" the Word of God. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Salvation is the same for Old Testament folks, as it is for people today, and the future! \_\_\_\_\_
5. We should not believe anyone who can't show you, in the Bible, in the proper context, "rightly dividing" and what they teach. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Dispensation of the Scripture is not important to know when you study. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The word "dispensation" in this study means "to divide up in parts." \_\_\_\_\_
8. The three applications in the Bible are doctrinal, spiritual, and historical. \_\_\_\_\_
9. It really doesn't matter who, when, or what the verses are talking about! \_\_\_\_\_
10. Adam and Eve were saved by "grace alone" after they sinned. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Before the law, people were saved by faith only. \_\_\_\_\_
12. In Exodus 20, God added the law, along with the existing works, for people to be saved. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Millennium means million. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Today we are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and not by works. \_\_\_\_\_
15. You should never be in a church that teaches you must do any works to be saved. Jesus' Blood, and only his Blood can save you. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Old Testament Saints are not part of the "Bride of Christ" as we are. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Today we must still observe the Jewish Sabbath. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Water baptism is a "picture" or "type" of the real Spiritual baptism. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Many preachers today are lost sinners who teach people lies. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Rev. 14:12 indicates that in the Tribulation you must have faith in Christ and works to be saved. \_\_\_\_\_

## Section III

## Chapter 2

# ***The Deity of Jesus Christ***

Who is Jesus Christ? Was He simply a man God used as a prophet? Was He just one of several created gods, or was He the virgin-born begotten Son of God, the third part of the Trinity? God Himself manifested in the flesh? This is the greatest single question separating the many different religions of the world. Although the true identity of Jesus Christ is the very heart and soul of the Christian faith, there are many who do not believe He was really the third part of the Trinity, that is, God's Body, here on earth. All cults deny the Deity of Jesus Christ saying He is not part of the Trinity of God (see chapter 2), but rather a created being, one of many prophets, or teachers, used by God.

How do we know for sure who He really was? In Chapter III, the lesson on the different Bibles, you learned how important the Word of God really is. The Bible is the only source or record we have of God. Without it we would only have tradition or rumor passed down from generation to generation. We all know how stories can get twisted around when they are spread by word of mouth. In fact, we all at one time or another have had to correct someone who misquoted us and say, "*That is not what I said!*" So it is obvious that we must trust the Bible, not only on this subject, but in all matters of faith and practice as a Christian.

Remember that over 300 prophecies from the Bible have already come true exactly as the Scripture said (see the Chapter "Is The Bible Really True"). So, anyone would be foolish to doubt what the Bible says in light of its proven accuracy. Knowing then that we can trust God's Book, let's see what it has to say on the subject of the deity of Jesus Christ.

### **Some Prophecies**

There are many Old Testament (OT) prophecies on the birth of Jesus Christ telling us not only of His future coming, but who this coming Saviour really was. The OT made a clear prediction of that coming: "***Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.***" (Isaiah 7:14)

Then in the New Testament ( NT ) the Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him that same prophecy was about to be fulfilled through Mary: ***“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”*** (Matthew 1:23)

Notice that before He was ever born, Jesus was given a name that revealed **Who** was coming. The name He was going to be called (Emmanuel) means **“God with us.”** Therefore when He came, they knew God was there with them in the flesh. There was even more revealed about the coming Christ: ***“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*** (Isaiah 9:6)

Here we have not only several of the names that Jesus would be referred to by, but two which proclaim Him to be God. These are great verses that prove who Jesus is. If there are any doubts about whether or not these verses are talking about Jesus Christ, then this next one should settle it in your mind forever. God is talking in Zachariah and makes this statement: ***“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”*** (Zec. 12:10)

**“Me whom they have pierced!”** God was pierced on the cross! These OT verses leave no doubt as to who Jesus Christ was. If you are having trouble at this point you need to acquire Lesson 2, our Chapter on the Trinity of God and Man. That lesson explains about God having **three** parts, three distinct personalities, although He is **one** God. **God the Father: the Soul, God the Son (Jesus): the Body, God the Holy Ghost: the Spirit**

### **New Testament Verses**

Now we move to the NT and have a look at some verses that support the OT prophecy. **“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”** (Acts 7:59) Here we have Stephen calling on God to receive his spirit, and he referred to Him as Lord Jesus, indicating that God and Jesus are one and the same. Again in this next verse, God is referred to as the One who shed His blood for His church. Since Jesus was The One who died on the

cross, this verse equates the Two as One (because it refers to Jesus).

***“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*** (Acts 20:28) There is also little doubt as to the identity of Jesus in the following verse that refers to Him as **“the great God.”** ***“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”*** (Titus 2:13)

All of the previous Scripture is good for proving our point, however, the two greatest verses in the Bible on the Deity are the following: ***“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*** (I Tim. 3:16) ***“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”*** (I John 5:7)

Of course the first chapter of the Gospel of John tells us that the **“Word”** is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is amazing that with all of these clear verses, there are still many who doubt who Jesus is. Some of these cults, or false religions, say He was only a great prophet and not God’s body (that is, God manifest in the flesh). These groups also teach that a prophet cannot lie and therefore contradict themselves in light of what Jesus Christ Himself said. ***“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand. I and my Father are one.”*** (John 10:29-30)

***“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”*** (John 14:9) ***“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”*** (John 14:20)

We have looked at Old Testament prophecy, New Testament verses, and the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we believe what the Bible says in these verses, there is no doubt as to the identity of Jesus. We have put very little narrative in this study simply because there is very little to say or add. The Holy Scriptures have said it all, and there is nothing we can say except, **“AMEN!!”**

## Names For Jesus

Jesus is referred to by many different names in the Bible. Some of those names are as follows: **Jesus Christ, Messiah, Emmanuel, Jehovah, Wonderful, Counsellor, Saviour, Lord, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Lamb of God, Light of the World, The Word, Prince of Life, Bright and Morning Star, Alpha and Omega, Good Shepherd, Advocate, Son of Righteousness, Lion of the Tribe of Judea, Chief Shepherd, and the Prince of Peace.**

## Worship Him

This is the Saviour that suffered, bled, and died for the sins of the world, for your sins and mine. He didn't have to leave the glory of Heaven and come to this earth to pay our **sin debt**. The wages of sin is death. If He had not loved us enough to die in our place, then we would have no way to get rid of our sinful nature. Then we would have to die for our own sins in an eternal Lake of Fire. Thank God for providing a way for us to be cleansed of a lifetime of sin.

**PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME!! THANK YOU JESUS!!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

## Doctrinal Series

## DEITY

## Lesson 2

*This is a true or false quiz, in the space provided place T for True or F for False.*

1. "DEITY" means being part of the Trinity of God." \_\_\_\_\_
  2. All cults say that Jesus isn't God in the flesh. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. The King James Bible tells us that Jesus was born of a virgin. (Isa. 7:14). \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Most of the New Bibles say Jesus was born of a "young lady." There is no difference between A "young lady" and a virgin. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. God has 3 distinct personalities, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. We have 3 parts also: body, soul, and spirit. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. We must trust the Bible in all matters of faith and practice as a Christian. \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Jesus left his home in Heaven to come to earth for us. \_\_\_\_\_
  9. Jesus said, "I and my Father are One". \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Jesus has only one name in the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_
  11. The wages of sin is death (you go to Hell unless you are saved). \_\_\_\_\_
  12. You can be good enough to "pay" for your own sins. \_\_\_\_\_
  13. Jesus is God's "body," God in the flesh. \_\_\_\_\_
  14. There are many verses in the Bible that prove Jesus is God in the flesh. \_\_\_\_\_
  15. I John 5:7 says "For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, The word And the Holy Ghost: AND THESE THREE ARE ONE." \_\_\_\_\_
  16. In John Ch. 1, Jesus is called "The Word." \_\_\_\_\_
  17. Before the birth of Jesus, he was given a name Emmanuel, which means "God with us". \_\_\_\_\_
  18. Jesus rose from the dead, and that proved He was God. \_\_\_\_\_
  19. Mohammed, Buddha, Confucius, and all the rest of the cult leaders never rose from the grave. \_\_\_\_\_
  20. The Bible is the only source or record we have of the one true God. \_\_\_\_\_
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## Section III

## Chapter 3

### ***Which Bible is God's Book ?***

Do we have God's Book today? If so, which one of the 200 or so available versions is it? What are the differences in the numerous versions? Are they **all** accurate? Are **any** accurate? These are only a few of the questions that surround one of the greatest controversies among Christians today. Which Bible do you personally use? Do you know if it has the same origin as the others? The answers to these and other questions will be answered in this study.

For starters, we have all been told for years that the new versions were simply better and more modern translations of the same Bible. These new versions were supposedly saying the same thing, but in the "easier to understand modern English." Most of us have seen, or heard, the advertisement. "*Finally! We have a Bible you can understand! One that is true to the originals! Try this new XYZ version!!*"

**Believe me, nothing could be any further from the truth. In fact, such statements are so far from the truth, that those making them are either ignorant, or purposely misrepresenting the truth, as you will soon see for yourself.**

Although there is a mountain of material associated with the question of "which Bible?" we have attempted here to reduce that vast amount of information to a factual, simple, and understandable form. The result is a very condensed study, designed to educate the Christian on where the various Bibles came from, the credibility of those involved, and some important basic differences between versions.

Regardless of which Bible you personally use, or prefer, this information can be useful if you approach this study **prayerfully, with an open mind and heart, in search of the truth.** With that attitude, the Holy Spirit will reveal to you if you have the right Bible or if you need to change. Be willing to follow That Voice as your final authority in this matter.

## HOW IMPORTANT IS GOD'S WORD??

The Philadelphia Church Age, from 1500-1900, was the greatest period of evangelism, revival, and missionary outreach in Church history. God gave specific credit to the Saints of this Age in Revelation 3:8 where he said, *".....for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."* It is obvious here that our Lord was pleased by those who kept His Word. There is a great lesson to be learned here as we contrast this Philadelphia ("Brotherly Love") Age with the present Age of Laodicea ("rights of the people").

To the Laodicean Age we now live in, God had this to say; *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"* (Rev. 3:15-17)

What a poor testimony for today's Church!! The most obvious difference, of course, is that this Church grew rich and away from God and His **Word**. We can see God's reaction to the change and weakened spiritual condition of the Church. This Church thinks it is great and wonderful, but God thinks otherwise. The modern Church needs to remember that power belongs to God (I Cor. 2:5), not men, and that power is manifested through His **Word**. Let's see what importance the Scripture Itself gives the Word of God.

Psalms 12:6-7 *"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."* In this verse, we have a promise that God's words are pure and will be preserved forever!

Romans 10:17 *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* The Word (Bible) is the source of your faith!

II Timothy 3:15 *"...holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* The Scriptures are holy, and make you wise to salvation.

I Peter 1:23 *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by*

—  
— *the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.*” If you are saved, you were born again by the Word of God, which lives forever!

— Ephesians 6:17 “*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:*” God’s Word is our weapon for spiritual warfare.

— Psalms 138:2 “*.....for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*” He has placed it in a pretty lofty position, wouldn’t you say?

— Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30: **Don’t add to, or take away** from God’s Word. (Revelation 22:18-19) “*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, .....*”

— God placed the warning not to change His Word at the **beginning, middle, and end** of His Book so it would not be missed by those who think their opinion is more accurate than the words God Himself preserved.

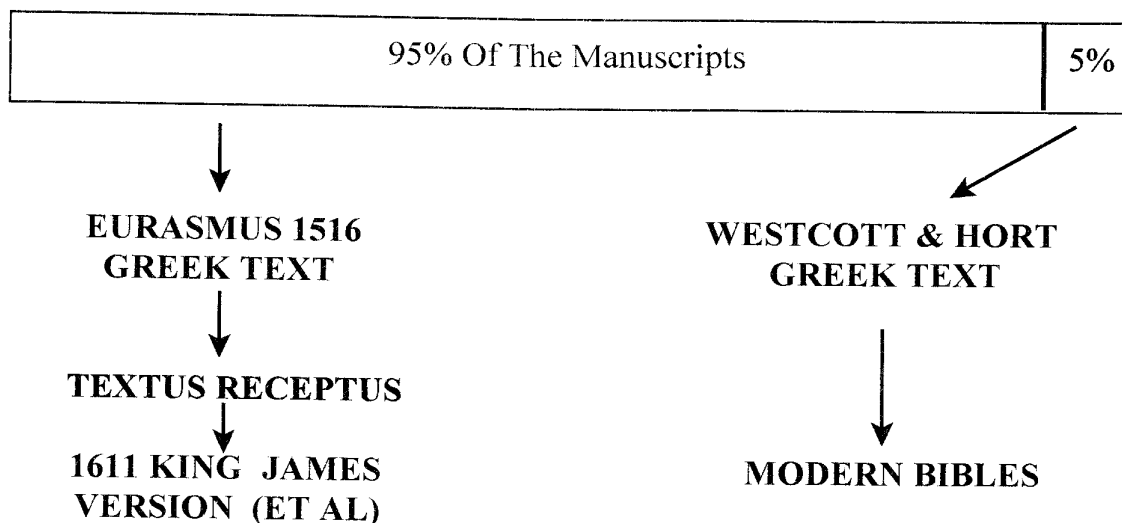
— Believing the verses we have just read concerning God’s Word, we conclude: It’s pure, preserved forever, we get our faith from it, it makes us wise, it saves us, it’s incorruptible, it’s a Christian’s weapon, and God Himself magnifies it above His Name. It’s so perfect like it is that God said not to add to it or take away from it. It’s hard to imagine anything in this universe being more valuable, or important, to the human race than the pure, Living Word of the Living God!! With that in mind, let’s examine the facts and see if we can determine which one of the available versions of the Bible is the one God treasures so much.

### — **Where They Came From**

— Since the originals have never been found, we must depend on copies. So if there are no originals, there is no such thing as “THE” (one) Greek Text. Actually, there are several. Therefore, it is extremely important that we examine the history of the manuscripts, texts, and scholars our Bible came from, in order to find the True Word of God. On that basis, let’s start with the Manuscripts (MSS).

— There are some 5,309 surviving Greek manuscripts containing all or part of the

New Testament, and there are some 28 Greek Texts that were compiled from these MSS. These Greek Texts break down into two main groups. The 95% that agree with each other, and the remaining 5% that do not agree with the 95%, or each other.



As the chart indicates, we have narrowed the surviving MSS down to opposing Greek Texts, the Textus Receptus (TR), and the Westcott and Hort Text. We say opposing, because these two Texts differ in over 5,000 places, and many of those differences involve major doctrines of the Christian faith. At this point, the Body of Christ is severely divided over which of these texts preserve the Word of God. Generally speaking, those who follow the Textus Receptus and King James Bible believe it is the exact preserved Word of God as He promised in Psalms 12:6-7. Those who believe the Westcott and Hort line is better usually maintain that only the originals were perfect and modern versions are simply the nearest to those originals. This group also claims the King James is “out- dated,” and hard to understand. This debate has raged for years and will likely continue until the Lord comes to straighten it out. Meanwhile, those who are sincerely seeking God’s True Word must keep an open heart and mind as they study the facts

Unfortunately, there are those who do not have an open mind, are not interested in the truth on this subject, are too lazy to study and not willing to face any facts that disagree with their own opinion. We are about to lose those type readers when we give the true historical account of the two Texts in question. Those with an open

mind who proceed will spot the counterfeit texts immediately. Be ready for some surprises!!

As we progress through this study it will become more and more apparent that somewhere along the line someone has changed the Word of God, and for whatever reason, produced some counterfeit manuscripts. Which of these two groups, if either, have the true manuscripts? One has to wonder why 95% of the MSS agree with each other while 5% disagree and even teach different doctrines than the majority of the manuscripts. Who changed them? Further, why did two expert Greek scholars, Westcott and Hort, choose the 5% that incidentally, **did not even agree with each other**, to use in compiling their Greek text? We need some answers! As we examine some fundamental facts, look for your answer in the history of both the MSS and the scholars who promoted the MSS.

### **The Textus Receptus Text**

The Textus Receptus was taken from the majority of manuscripts (95%) that agreed with each other and had been accepted by early Bible believing Christians for hundreds of years. This acceptance was **universal** among Bible believers, as there were Bibles from this text in many languages in use long before the King James was translated into English in 1611. The Textus Receptus was so well received because it supported the fundamentals of the faith. Many of these fundamentals were later altered in places by the Wescott and Hort Text.

The roots of the Textus Receptus go all the way back to Antioch, where the disciples were first called "Christians." (Acts 11:26) Antioch was chosen by God to be the center of the New Testament Church. Here, God separated His early Church from the Gentile heathenism, and the ritualism of Judaism. This alignment with the early Church gives great credibility to the Textus Receptus, along with the fact that God blessed it for hundreds of years. There is much more that could be said along these historical lines, but space in this short lesson prohibits giving those accounts here. However, at the end of the study we will recommend more complete works for those who desire to gather more facts on the subject. Of all the Bibles produced from the Textus Receptus, the King James Version in English is the masterpiece. In spite of all the modern versions that have come along, it is still the benchmark, and standard, by which all are compared. For some reason each new version is compared to the KJV rather than the last modern version preceding it. Without controversy, as history proves, the Textus Receptus Bibles, especially

the King James, have been the power behind every major revival and work of God, from 1600 to this present day. Remember what God said to those who were faithful to His Word? “.....*Thou hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*” (Rev. 3:8)

### **The Westcott And Hort Text**

This Text was the basis of the modern versions including the ASV, RV, NASV, NIV, CEV, NRSV, Good News, Amplified, Living Bible and many others. It is important to note that the Westcott and Hort Text differs from the Textus Receptus in **5,337** places and the respective Bibles each produced differ in as many as **64,000** places. It is unfortunate that many of these changes are verses that support the fundamentals of the Christian faith found in the Textus Receptus. **Maybe you should read this paragraph again and let it soak in.** It is usually a real surprise for Christians to discover these facts. We will examine some of these changes and give more detail later, but for now let's continue our look at the manuscripts.

The Greek scholars, Westcott and Hort, chose to compile their Text using 5% of the available MSS. Of this 5% they used two (2) almost exclusively. These two MSS are a source of great controversy between Bible Believers and the “**modern version advocates.**” In order to shed some light on why these particular MSS were used, it is necessary to examine the origin, and history of them, as well as the background, beliefs, and convictions of both Westcott, and Hort.

### **The Primary Manuscripts Used By Westcott & Hort**

#### **VATICANUS**

This MSS was found in the Roman Catholic Vatican Library in 1481 AD. It omits Psalms 106-138, Genesis 1-46:28, the books of Romans, Philipians, Philemon, Revelation, all of Hebrews after 9:14, the Pauline Pastoral Epistles, and Matthew 16:2-3. In the Gospels alone it leaves out 237 words, 452 clauses, and 748 whole sentences. It also contains the 14 books of the corrupt Apocrypha, which was never used by the Jews or New Testament writers, and was rejected by the early Church. Vaticanus was found to be of very poor literary quality. In fact there are many places where the scribe has written the same word or phrase twice in succession. Also, the entire manuscript has been traced over by the pen of some later scribe. Many say Vaticanus and Siniaticus are the oldest MSS, but this has not been proven.

## SINIATICUS

Siniaticus was found in the trash in 1844 at St. Catherines Monastery near Mount Sinai by a man named Tichendorf, who returned again in 1859 and found some more Greek writings. He published several editions of this manuscript, however, his eighth edition differs from his seventh edition in 3,369 places, yet we are expected to believe it is accurate!!??!?

Siniaticus includes part of the corrupt Apocrypha and all of the New Testament, but has as many as 10 - 40 words dropped in different places through carelessness. It has letters, words and even whole sentences written twice over, or sometimes begun and then canceled. The gross blunder of omitting a clause 115 times occurs when the previous clause happens to end in the same words. Additionally, this manuscript shows the marks of ten different correctors down through the centuries, indicating it quite possibly could have been Vaticanus before it was changed.

## General

**Vaticanus and Siniaticus disagree in over 3,000 places in the New Testament alone!** They are the only two MSS out of 618 that leave out the last 12 verses of Mark concerning the resurrection of Christ!

These are known as Alexandrian Text MSS. with roots in Alexandria Egypt, where known pagans did not believe or teach the deity of Christ, the Virgin birth, and other fundamentals of the faith. Since our Bible tells us that Egypt is a type of the world, you can rest assured that God's Word did not come from there. Additionally, the Alexandrian Text used by Westcott and Hort was a "**local**" text not used and accepted "**universally**" by early Christians and scholars as was the Textus Receptus.

These are the MSS that many today would have us believe are the best and most accurate, although they were rejected by the early Church. We are expected to cast aside the 95% that agreed and lacked the errors, omissions, and changes found in Vaticanus and Siniaticus. This comedy of errors alone mark these MSS as unreliable. Especially, since early scribes were known to be so careful and particular in copying God's Word **that if even one letter of a word was found added, or subtracted, they would throw the whole copy away.** Obviously, this was not the case with Vaticanus and Siniaticus. So much for the MSS, they used, let's look at the men, **Westcott and Hort.**

## Westcott

Brooke Foss Westcott was a man who did not believe in the miracles that Christ performed, and held that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ was spiritual, and not literal as the Bible teaches. He did not believe in the creation as given in Genesis, and he believed that Heaven was a state of mind rather than a literal physical place. Further, he believed in praying for the dead, in Mary worship, and that Christ came to bring peace through international disarmament. He was also convinced that Moses and David were poetic, and not literal characters, even though Jesus referred to them by name.

He did not believe in “salvation by grace through faith,” and never experienced it. In fact, he was undecided, but favored water regeneration for salvation. Westcott was a devout socialist who favored communal living under a socialist government. These facts and many more are well documented in the many letters he wrote, and the testimony of his own son in his book, “The Life and Letters of Brook Foss Westcott.” Some of his quotes:

On Jesus’s miracles, *“I never read an account of a miracle but I seem instinctively to feel it’s improbability, .....*”

On Jesus’s coming again, *“.....I cannot doubt that He is coming to us now (spiritually).”*

On Genesis, *“No one now, I suppose, holds that the first three chapters of Genesis, for example, give a literal history.. I could never understand how anyone reading them with open eyes could think they did....”*

On Mary worship, *“.....it is very small with one kneeling- place, and behind a screen was a ‘Pieta’ the size of life (i.e., a Virgin and dead Christ)...Had I been alone, I could have knelt there for hours.”*

Westcott’s admiration for Mary was so intense that he wanted his fiancée to change her name to Mary. She did in fact, later add “Mary” to her name.

## Hort

Again, information supplied, for the most part is from a book on the life of Fenton John Anthony Hort, written by his son Arthur, and based on his father’s life and





heaven by worshipping Mary, ignoring that Jesus said you could only get there through Him!! (John 14:6)

### Summary

There is much more that could be given about these scholars to reveal how their personal opinions and beliefs were reflected in their Greek Text, but space is limited. However, if you are going to use a Bible derived from the work of these two, you may want to gather more of those facts before making a final decision. As anyone can see, the theology of these two men is contrary to the Christian faith. If their theology is wrong, it follows that the work that they produced will contain errors as well. It is not likely that any theologian would write about doctrinal matters without injecting some of his own ideas.

It is well established that the MSS Vaticanus and Siniaticus changed many verses that attacked the same fundamentals Westcott and Hort also did not believe. Therefore, it is easy to conclude why they would choose these “Local” MSS over the “Universally” accepted Textus Receptus. Simply put, these MSS agreed with their own preconceived beliefs. They did not care that they opposed Bible believing Christians all the way back to Antioch. There was a choice to be made between MSS with Antioch roots representing God’s Word, or those with roots in Egypt, representing the world. They chose the world. Which do you choose??

What is hard to figure, is why their text and the resultant Bibles are accepted so blindly today. It is truly amazing that the work of men who believed things so contrary to the fundamental beliefs of preachers and educators today, are so willingly accepted. If you professed these men's beliefs today, you would immediately be labeled a heretic by the Christian community.

There is only one logical answer. Obviously, a great ignorance and lack of understanding exists concerning the history behind today’s Bibles. This brings us to the point where we have what certainly appears to be corrupt manuscripts, used by unbelieving Greek scholars, that resulted in the modern Bibles. It follows, that if there were problems with the MSS, there will be problems with the resulting translations. What are some of these problems?

There is no way to list the many thousands of changes here, so we will give a few of the more important ones. It should soon become apparent to you that a major

doctrine can be affected, or even changed by the wording of a verse. More changes in succeeding editions could even eliminate a doctrine (such as the Church Age doctrine of salvation by faith).

### **Problems with Modern Bibles**

We have established through our study that all the English Bibles in use today were not translated from the same manuscripts. Further, we know that among the popular versions available today the 1611 King James alone was translated from the Textus Receptus Greek Text, while the modern versions were translated from the Westcott and Hort Greek Text. As we mentioned at the beginning of the study, there are literally thousands of differences in these two groups of Bibles. **They do not say the same thing**, as some would have you believe, and we will show examples to prove that. **In addition to words being changed, there are many removed completely.** For example, there are over 64,000 less words in the popular New International Version than there are in the King James Version!! We will include that chart also later in the study.

Throughout this study we have shown great concern for changes that affect the fundamentals of the faith, such as the Deity of Christ, the Blood Atonement, the Virgin Birth, and the Trinity. To change verses that weaken these doctrines is to take away from the Person, Purpose, and Glory of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Why would anyone who knew Jesus as their Lord and Saviour do that, when it does not make the verse easier to understand, or serve any purpose?? Maybe they don't know Him personally, or even who He is!! Here are a few of the verses we are talking about. Notice how the changes take away from, or demean Jesus Christ. Also, be aware that not all versions change the same verse, and even different editions of a version may change the wording from those illustrated, but they still lose the doctrine.

	<b>KJV</b>	<b>NIV</b>
* <b>Deity of Christ:</b> I Tim. 3:16	<b>God</b> was manifest in the flesh	<b>He</b> appeared in a body
	Luke 23:42 <b>Lord</b> remember me	<b>Jesus</b> remember me

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The words **God** and **Lord** tells you who Jesus was and the **NIV** **takes that deity away**. **If all these verses were changed you would not know Jesus was God's body.** God manifest in the flesh!



were arrived at by using a computer with word-count software. This is a very revealing study, showing that the NIV has 64,098 less words than the KJV. The Bible even predicted this!!

**“Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word..” MK. 4:15**

Book	KJV Total Words	NIV Total Words	Difference	Book	KJV Total Words	NIV Total Words	Difference
Genesis	38,263	35,276	-2,987	Habakkuk	1,475	1,324	-151
Exodus	32,687	28,518	-4,169	Zephaniah	1,616	1,498	-118
Leviticus	24,541	21,994	-2,547	Haggai	1,130	1,029	-101
Numbers	32,895	27,962	-4,933	Zechariah	6,443	5,585	-858
Deuteronomy	28,355	25,530	-2,825	Malachi	1,781	1,677	-104
Joshua	8,852	16,188	-2,664	Matthew	23,684	22,610	-1,074
Judges	18,966	16,212	-2,754	Mark	15,166	13,831	-1,335
Ruth	2,575	2,348	-227	Luke	25,939	24,180	-1,759
I Samuel	25,049	22,263	-2,786	John	19,094	18,599	-495
II Samuel	20,600	18,877	-1,723	Acts	24,245	22,973	-1,272
I Kings	24,513	21,895	-2,618	Romans	9,423	9,734	+311
II Kings	25,518	21,484	-2,034	I Corinthians	9,462	9,527	+65
I Chronicles	20,365	18,526	-1,839	II Corinthians	6,069	6,213	+144
II Chronicles	26,069	23,643	-2,426	Galatians	3,084	3,177	+93
Ezra	7,440	6,213	-1,227	Ephesians	3,024	3,081	+57
Nehemiah.	10,480	9,431	-1,049	Philippians	2,183	2,248	+65
Esther	5,633	5,141	-492	Colossians	1,979	2,040	+61
Job	18,098	16,907	-1,191	I Thessalonians	1,838	1,884	+46
Psalms	43,738	41,348	-2,390	II Thessalonians.	1,022	1,072	+50
Proverbs	15,038	14,201	-837	I Timothy	2,244	2,379	+135
Ecclesiastes	5,579	5,038	-541	II Timothy	1,666	1,723	+57
Song of Solomon.	2,658	1,537	-1,121	Titus	896	1,055	+159
Isaiah.	37,039	34,434	-2,605	Philemon	430	468	+38
Jeremiah	42,654	38,468	-4,186	Hebrews	6,897	6,959	+62
Lamentations	3,411	3,216	-195	James	2,304	2,295	-9
Ezekiel	39,401	35,918	-3,483	I Peter	2,476	2,484	+8
Daniel	11,602	10,569	-1,033	II Peter	1,554	1,561	+7
Hosea	5,174	4,838	-336	I John	2,517	2,511	-6
Amos	4,216	3,803	-413	II John.	298	291	-7
Obadiah.	669	594	-75	III John.	294	328	+34
Jonah	1,320	1,178	-142	Jude	609	619	+10
Micah	3,152	2,853	-299	Revelation.	11,995	11,337	-658
Nahum	1,284	1,112	-172				
				Total	790,704	726,606	-64,098

**After seeing how many words have been removed, you are probably shocked!! However, these are not all the differences. Many verses have also been altered in the new Bible versions. Check out the following verses and see if you think they say the same thing. God doesn't! (These are only a few out of many.)**

**Study these words and see if they mean the same thing!**

NASB, NIV, et al.	Verse	KJV	NASB, NIV, et al.	Verse	KJV
Omit	Rev. 1:11	I am the Alpha and Omega	Visions he hath seen	Col.2:18	things which he hath not seen
One, man	John 4:42	God, Christ, the Son	men	II Pet 1:21	holy men
Only one	Matt. 19:17	God	adequate	II Tim. 3:17	perfect
a son of the gods	Dan 3:25	the Son of God	prosper	Jer. 29:11	peace
Son of man	John 9:35	Son of God	boast	Heb. 3:6	rejoice
a God	Acts 14:15	God	men shall not live by bread alone	Luke 4:4	That man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God
I can do everything through him who gives me strength	Phil. 4:13	I can do all things through Christ Which strengtheneth me	and the nations shall walk by it's light	Rev. 21:24	and the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it
He who was revealed in the flesh	I Tim. 3:16	God was manifest in the flesh			

**SALVATION BY WORKS OR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST?**

NASB, NIV, et al.	Verse	KJV	NASB, NIV, et al.	Verse	KJV
by standing firm you will save yourself	Luke 21:19	In your patience possess ye your souls	obey	John 3:36	believe
Omit	Rom. 11:6	But if it be of works it is no more grace	the gospel	Rom 1:16	the gospel of Christ

New Age Versions By G. A. Riplinger

**The Bible always says it best!**

**“...ye have perverted the words of the living God...” Jer. 23:36**

**If you have studied the verses above you now know for sure that the new Bibles don't say the same thing as the KJV. In fact they are so different that both can't be right. Following is a comparison for you to consider.**

## New versions

- \* Based on 2 local, corrupt MSS
- \* Are hard to memorize
- \* Takes away from our Saviour
- \* Not responsible for any major work or revival
- \* Has man's copyright on text

VS

## King James Version

- \* Based on trusted, agreeing, universal MSS
- \* Is poetic-easy to memorize
- \* Glorifies Jesus Christ
- \* Honored through the ages by the Holy Spirit like none other
- \* Text not copyrighted, concordance, etc. (only margin notes etc)

**It doesn't matter if it is easier to understand if it's wrong to begin with, does it???**

In conclusion, you are about to see the final and conclusive proof that God wrote only one Book and that Book was the 1611 King James Bible. Earlier in the lesson we quoted a very special promise God gave us in Psalms 12:6-7. Let's look at it again. ***"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."*** That promise was fulfilled in only one Bible.

**A.** The King James Bible was purified through the following seven languages, the new Bibles were not:

- 1) Hebrew
- 2) Aramaic
- 3) Greek
- 4) Old Syriac
- 5) German
- 6) Old Latin
- 7) English 1611 Version

**B.** The Bible went through seven purifications in the English. The new Bibles did not. There are seven Bibles in the purified line. They are as follows:

- 1) Tyndales
- 2) Matthew's
- 3) Coverdale's
- 4) The Great Bible
- 5) The Geneva Bible
- 6) The Bishops' Bible
- 7) The King James Bible

Now that the evidence is on the table it is decision time. Do you want to study and use a corrupt version or do you want God's Book, the one you will be judged by?

The words of the Lord are pure words:  
as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified  
seven times. [7] Thou shalt keep them, O  
Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this  
generation for ever. Psalm 12:6-7 (KJV)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

Doctrinal Series

WHICH BIBLE?

Lesson 3

*This is a true or false quiz. place "T" for true or a "F" for false in the space provided*

1. The only difference in the new Bibles is that they are easier to understand. \_\_\_\_\_
2. God said in the Bible that He would preserve His Word forever. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The KJV comes from the 95% of the manuscripts that agree with each other. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Textus Receptus differs from the Westcott and Hort Text in over 5,000 places. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:17 that God magnified His Word above His name. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The roots of the Textus Receptus go all the way back to Antioch where the word Christian originated. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Manuscripts Westcott and Hort used did not even agree with each other! \_\_\_\_\_
8. The manuscript Siniaticus used for the new Bibles was found in a trash dump. \_\_\_\_\_
9. All the new versions of the Bible came basically from the Westcott and Hort Text. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The King James Bible is the true Word of God. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Some new versions of the Bible have over 64,000 words taken out! \_\_\_\_\_
12. The new versions attacked the Deity, virgin birth, and blood atonement of Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The changes in the new versions are not important and do not change what the Bible says. \_\_\_\_\_
14. One of the greatest verses in the Bible on the Deity of Jesus Christ is I John 5:7 \_\_\_\_\_
15. In the book of Isaiah the NIV version took out 2605 words that were in the KJV. \_\_\_\_\_
16. The new Bibles do not change verses that affect the fundamentals of the Christian faith. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Mark 4:15 says "...Satan cometh immediately and taketh away the word.." \_\_\_\_\_
18. Westcott and Hort were both saved men. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Vaticanus and Siniaticus disagree with each other in over 3,000 places. \_\_\_\_\_
20. It does not matter which Bible you use because they are all accurate. \_\_\_\_\_

## Section III

## Chapter 4

### ***Is The Bible True?***

The odds are more than 1, followed by 157 zeros to 1 that the Bible is true and **“God breathed.”** Read on for proof! For hundreds of years, people have questioned the accuracy and authenticity of a Book called the Holy Bible. No other book in the world has ever been the topic of such controversy. Among believers, there are many who are convinced that God inspired the translation of His Word as well as the originals. This group insist that the 1611 King James translation is that inspired work, and that every word, along with the chapter and verse arrangements, are pure and God breathed.

Other believers consider such blind faith in a book written and translated by men as ridiculous or even stupid. They insist that only the originals were pure and inspired. Citing what, in their opinion, are many so called errors or mistranslations, they commonly go back to the original languages (Hebrew or Greek) and substitute, what they personally believe is a better translation. Naturally, with these two extremes among believers, there are also many who fall somewhere in between in their beliefs. Then of course, there is the unbeliever who says the Bible has been translated too many times, is full of errors, and cannot be relied upon at all. So the debate rages on and will never be completely settled until the Final Judgment (White Throne) of men.

Meanwhile, the lost will use the controversy, among believers or any other excuse, to avoid the Bible and it's message of salvation. This Chapter is to help those who are searching for the truth and to prove that the Bible is truly a “God Breathed” Book. It doesn't matter to a person what the Bible says if they don't believe it. However, once a person realizes that the Bible is truly God's message to man, then what it **says** suddenly becomes more important and it's power more evident. ***“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*** (Heb. 4:12)

Hopefully, this Chapter will convince unbelievers that the Bible is really true, and help the weak believer gain confidence and faith in God's Book as, ***“...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*** (Rom. 10:17) May the

Holy Spirit open eyes that need to be opened and minister to hearts that need to be filled as the Word of God speaks for Itself.

Our Bible is composed of 66 books written by 40 Jewish authors over some 1500 years. The fact that writings by the early authors complement and agree so well with those over a thousand years removed, and that hundreds of prophecies were fulfilled exactly as predicted, is in itself a miracle. Although, we are not debating manuscript evidence or the various Bible versions, it is worth noting that with all the translations available today, the one the Holy Spirit has honored with the greatest amount of fruit is the King James Version. Without controversy, it has been the power behind every major work and revival since 1611. In fact, the greatest period of revival on earth was between 1500 and 1900. This was the period known as the "Philadelphia Church Age" that God referred to in Revelation 3:7-8. He said about this church "*.....and hast keep my word and not denied my name.*" God's every word is important to Him and should be to us, as you will learn later in this lesson.

Additionally, there are certain characteristics of Scripture composition, and numerical arrangements that totally and completely set this Book apart from any other book or Bible version in the world. The following are only a few of those features, and barely scratch the surface of all the proof God has provided that man could never have written or translated the Bible without Divine help. Characteristics and Scriptures used are from the King James Version.

**IT'S ONE OF A KIND:** First of all, this book is unlike any other book on the face of the earth. For example: While there are literally hundreds of translations of the Bible, only one (1) does not have a copyright. Which one? That's right, it's the 1611 King James Bible. Although some editions have copyrights on the subject index, concordance, maps, or marginal references, the text itself, the Scripture, is not copyrighted. Most Christians don't realize that the new versions were translated from entirely different manuscripts than the King James Version, and that each has a copyright date and literally thousands of changes in text.

**IT'S INDESTRUCTIBLE:** Voltaire, a French writer and philosopher, held a King James Bible up in public and declared, "In 100 years this book will be forgotten! Eliminated!" Ironically, his house became headquarters for the Geneva Bible Society, who started selling Bibles out of his home 100 years to the day after

that foolish statement. God must have an incredible sense of humor!

**IT'S GOD'S BOOK:** The King James Version has 31,175 verses. Some scholars say the middle verse is Psalms 118:8. That verse in the King James Version has 14 words. Seven is God's number in the Bible and 14 is a multiple of 7. Since there is no middle word with 14 words, the middle two words are "**The Lord.**" If this is true, the King James Version is likely the only book in the world that has "The Lord" in the exact middle! All the "so called" new Bibles have 20 to 25 verses left out before you even get to the middle! Coincidence? Not likely!

**PROPHECIES MAKE IT DIFFERENT:** The Bible contains hundreds of prophecies and over 300 have already come true exactly as The Book said they would. Mathematicians have calculated the odds of only 48 of these prophecies fulfilled in the birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. One stated that the chance of those 48 being fulfilled in the life of any one person, given the fact that there were millions on earth then, were 10, followed by 157 zeros. Knowing that, would you bet against the next one?

**Bible rejectors are betting their "soul" against these odds!!**

**There is not another book in the world that can match this phenomenon of prophecy.** What do you do with that kind of book? How about believe it, love it, study it, live by it, and teach it to others?

**GOD WROTE IT:** "*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*" (II Peter 1:21)

**GOD GAVE IT A SPECIAL PLACE:** Psalms 138:2 "**I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**" A pretty lofty place for a book, wouldn't you say? If God thought it was that important, wouldn't He provide an accurate translation for us today? He did, and here it is!

**IT'S WORDS ARE CORRECT:** "*Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*" (Proverbs 30:6) We are told not to add to God's Word because it's correct the way it is. If you add to it, you are a liar! Therefore,

the religious committees who changed and added to the text, are found to be liars by the Scripture Itself. Not by me, not by you, but by the Word of God! Beginning to get interesting? Read on! Did you know there were up to 64,000 words removed and some 1,500 changed in the new versions? (See Chapter III Doctrinal)

**THE MATTER IS SETTLED:** *"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."* (Ps: 119:89) It's settled! It's pure!

**HIS WORD IS PURE:** *"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."* (Psalms 12:6) How could anything be any more pure than that which God has purified? Would God say it was pure and then not give us a pure translation from cover to cover? *"God is not a man that he should lie,"* (Num. 23:19) but we all know that men are experts at lying!

Man has always tried to set himself up as a higher authority than God with his own version of the Scripture. Which of the two would you rather trust? The one God wrote or the one man wrote?

**IT'S SCIENTIFICALLY PERFECT:** Man's science has been changing for thousands of years. The science books you were taught from in school have been changed. (Likely several times depending on your age!) Over and over again we find examples of God's Word running from 1000 - 2000 years ahead of man's science.

For example: Man's science said the earth was flat in 1492, but interestingly enough, approximately 1900 years earlier, Isaiah 40:21-22 revealed the earth was round. *"Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth..."*

The word for circle is "sphere," which means "round like a ball". The Bible was right, and man was wrong. Another good verse on this subject is Luke 17:31-34, which pictures a "rapture" taking place, and it was both day and night at the same time! This further proves the earth is round because the sun can only shine on one side at a time.

\* Less than 100 years ago, scientists said the Bible was wrong in **II Peter 3:10** because science knew nothing could "melt an element." And then the A-bomb was invented. Man was wrong. Then the H-bomb. Again man was wrong. Man's knowledge is foolishness compared to God's Word! (I Cor. 3:19)

\* Again, early science said something had to hold the earth up in space but Job 26:7 states, "***He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.***" How did Job, the oldest book in the Bible, happen to have that information? Coincidence? Luck? You decide for yourself!

\* The oldest book in the Bible also revealed in **Job 25:5** that the moon does not "shine." Therefore, we know it has no light of its own, but rather reflects light from the sun. If you are a Christian, you also should reflect the light of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, because His is the only Light you have! Also, as the moon follows the "**sun**" across the sky, east to west, you should likewise, follow Jesus Christ. "***Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.***" Revealing, isn't it?

\* **Job 37:7**, "***He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work.***" There are your hand and fingerprints "sealed up" and different from anyone else's. This revelation was thousands of years before man discovered it!

\* **Job 38:16**, "***Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?***" Man discovered fresh water springs in the sea in 1850!

\* **Job 38:19**, "***Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof.***" The "way where?" Light moves. It travels, and has a way that it goes!

\* **Job 38:22**, "***Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail?***" An acre of snow 2 inches thick has \$8.00 or \$9.00 worth of fertilizer and chemicals in it.

\* **Job 38:35**, "***Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?***" How can lightning (electricity) go (travel) and speak, "***Here we are.***" Try your telephone, it uses electricity!

**\* Job 38:32, "Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?"** How about that! Arcturus is a "run-away" star system that moves at 257 miles a second. That is about 20 times as fast as our sun moves!

So there you have eight (8) references from the Bible's oldest book giving information long before man's science worked it out. How did the writer of Job know those things? Smart man? Obviously, he was smart enough to listen well when God spoke since he could not have known these things on his own. Here are some more examples:

**\* Ecclesiastes 1:6** was written around 977 BC. It states, "**The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.**" How did the writer know in 977 BC, that the wind actually traveled in circuits and patterns, when man's science just figured it out in the last 100 years or so? Just another lucky guess?

**\* Look at verse 7, "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again."** This is an obvious description of the water cycle. Water evaporates up and then comes back down in the form of rain, sleet, or snow, to the rivers and streams and then back to the ocean. Up, back down, up, back down, on and on, etc. This knowledge was available in the Bible almost 2,000 years before man figured it out.

**\* Leviticus 15:13** was 30 centuries ahead of medical science when it said to "**bathe his flesh in running water and shall be clean.**" Until the turn of the century, people, including doctors and nurses, were still washing hands and arms in a community bowl before doctoring or operating. The results were infections, gangrene, loss of limb, and often death.

**\* Nahum 2:4, "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings."** These vehicles are running into one another in the streets. They "shall" seem like torches and run like lightning? Certainly, these are not horse drawn chariots but more likely a reference to the future and modern day cars and trucks.

Match this verse with **Isaiah 9:5**, "*For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.*" "Confused noise" and "fuel of fire." That's a good description of a combustible engine and ignition system, maybe in tanks and armored personnel carriers? "Garments rolled in blood." Like body bags used in Desert Storm or some other battle? Is all this beginning to form a pattern in your mind yet?

Hopefully, by now you are convinced that the Bible could not have been written by man alone, and that God was the Real Author. This being the case, it follows, that God would provide us a perfect translation so Christians could have **the final authority** in all matters of faith and practice. Many believe the original manuscripts are the only **perfect** Word of God. However, the "originals" have never been found. Consequently, they are **of no importance** today. However, those seeking further assurance may be interested in certain findings that surround the **manuscript copies** our Bible was translated from. Obviously, if they are pure, our God honored translation has more credibility.

**SOME POWERFUL EVIDENCE:** Ivan Panin was a Russian immigrant and devoted atheist who had a miraculous conversion to Christ. This conversion was brought about after Panin discovered the amazing mathematical structure of the Bible. Panin was a Harvard graduate, one of the ten top mathematicians in the United States, spoke seven (7) languages fluently, and knew as many as fourteen (14). With this knowledge and background, Panin began to study the Scriptures in the original languages and made some startling discoveries.

The Bible was written primarily in Hebrew and Greek. These are two (2) languages that do not have a number system, but instead use letters of their alphabets to represent numbers. Panin began to experiment by replacing the letters of Scripture with their corresponding numbers. Being a mathematical genius, he immediately began to see a definite mathematical pattern.

This excited Panin, and as he studied more, he began to realize that the pattern was too elaborate for chance or even for the unaided human mind to construct the Bible without divine guidance. This discovery became the turning point for him. Subsequently his entire life was devoted to the study and research of Bible numerics producing an amazing amount of material.



Over 40,000 sheets of studies were submitted as undisputed evidence that the Bible was a supernatural product far beyond the ability of man to construct. A recipient of his studies, the Nobel Research Foundation concurred with Panin's conclusion stating, "We find the evidence overwhelmingly in favor of such a statement."

Challenges were issued for anyone to show evidence refuting his studies. Even rewards were offered; but, no one has ever been able to do so. A small example of what he found follows: Patterns of prime numbers were found such as 7, 11, 13, 17, and 23. Sevens especially were found in clusters. Take for example the first sentence in the Bible: "***In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.***" In Hebrew that sentence is exactly seven words. Seven is called "God's number" because God does things in sevens all through the Bible. Those seven words have exactly 28 (4x 7) letters. There are three nouns: God, heaven and earth. Taking the letters of these, substituting their number equivalents, and adding them up, you get a combined total of 777 (111 x 7).

There is one Hebrew verb: It's total numerical value is 203 (29 x 7). The first three words contain the subject with exactly 14 (2 x 7) letters. The Hebrew words for the two objects (heaven and earth) each have seven letters. The value for the first, middle, and last letters in the sentence is 133 (19 x 7). The numeric value for the first and last words in the sentence is 1393 (199 x 7). The value of the first and last letters of the verse is 497 (71 x 7). The value of the first and last letters of each of the words between is 896 (128 x 7). And on and on. Although there are thirty different features of seven in this sentence only eleven are listed here. One scholar said the chance of this numerical arrangement happening by accident is 1 in 33,000,000,000,000 (33 trillion). Suddenly the Bible takes on a new meaning and importance in face of these odds. Don't you agree?

There is much more that could be given as evidence to prove the Bible is truly "God's Book," however it is unlikely that anyone not convinced by now would believe any amount of evidence. The Bible has an answer for blindness in II Corinthians 4:3-4 "***But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***" Of course the "god of this world" mentioned is Satan!

Hopefully, your eyes were opened at some time in the past, you have already been "born again", and what you have read has helped give you more faith in the Bible. ***"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*** (Rom. 10:17)

However, if you know you have never been saved, or if you are simply not sure, now is the time to make sure. The same Bible that has been so accurate in all its statements and prophecies, for so many years, also has the solution we all need concerning salvation in Romans 10:9-10.

After receiving Christ the saved sinner can know for sure that they are saved. ***"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. [13] These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*** (1 John 5:11-13)

***".....Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved....."***

Acts

# Notes

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

Doctrinal Series

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

Lesson 4

*This is a true or false quiz. Mark "T" for true or a "F" for false in the space provided.*

1. The odds are 1 Trillion 1,000,000,000,000 to 1(one) that the Bible is God's Book. \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Original" manuscripts have never been found. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Your telephone uses electricity and Job 38:35 may be referring to them! \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Bible is very ahead of science because God wrote it and He knows everything(past, present, and future!) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ecclesiastes 1:6 was written about the times of Jesus' birth. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Our moon has it's own light. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Our moon follows the sun as we are to follow the SON ! \_\_\_\_\_
8. Many people think they are smarter than God. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Genesis is the oldest book in the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The King James Bible is the pure Word of God. \_\_\_\_\_
11. The Bible was written primarily in English and Spanish. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Panin was a mathematical genius. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Panin was born in China. \_\_\_\_\_
14. There is a reference in Nahum that seems like God is talking about our modern day cars and other vehicles. \_\_\_\_\_
15. If we work real hard we can be good enough, on our own, to get to heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Some people have never sinned. \_\_\_\_\_
17. The "God of this World" is Satan. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Men who were holy wrote the Bible as they were directed by the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Over 300 prophecies have already happened as predicted in the King James Bible. \_\_\_\_\_
20. The Bible couldn't have been written by man alone. \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Study On Water Baptism***

Water baptism has a different meaning for different denominations and religious groups in the present New Testament times. Some say it is necessary for salvation today, and others say it is absolutely not necessary to be baptized in water to be saved. Which group is right? Well, that depends on how you read your Bible. Different people reading the same Scripture often come up with opposite conclusions. During our examination of water baptism we will compare Scripture with Scripture, in the proper context, to determine God's instruction to us on this subject.

It will be much easier to understand this lesson if you have already completed Chapter 4 in section one on Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let's look at some verses from that study to briefly review what the Bible says: ***“One Lord, one faith, one baptism,..”*** (Ephesians 4:5) Now that verse says there's only one baptism, but this next verse has three! ***“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:”*** (Mat. 3:11)

This is not a contradiction in your Bible. There are seven baptisms in the Bible and not all are water. Obviously, there's only **one real baptism** for this Age, so which one of the three baptisms in that verse is the right one for Christians today? Well?? Which one do you want? The water **Baptism that man gives**, or the **Baptism of the Holy Ghost that Jesus Christ gives**? Surely you don't want the baptism of fire. That's Hell fire!! (See verse 12 which explains V11.) If you are still having a hard time deciding, look at what God's Word says. ***“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...”*** (I Corinthians 12:13 ) There's your answer. The one saving baptism that baptizes you into Jesus Christ is a Spiritual baptism done by the Holy Spirit, not by water.

Here is some more proof that water baptism does not save you. ***“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”*** (Acts 10:43) There is no water here for remission of sins, it's faith! Here is another one showing salvation without water. ***“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the***

*word.....Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" (Acts 10: 44&47) Saved first, baptized second.*

Verse 43 makes it plain that you are saved by believing in Christ, and then again in verse 44 you see those people were saved before they were baptized!! This was the Holy Spirit showing Peter that the Old Testament Jewish water baptism was not required for salvation under the new covenant of salvation by grace through faith. You will find another good example of salvation before water baptism in Acts 8:37. The Ethiopian eunuch wanted to be baptized but Phillip said: ***"If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.."***

Water baptism is works, and works are no longer required for salvation, as Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law. (Gal. 3:13) See also Acts 16 :31, Rom. 10:9, Eph. 2:8, Tit. 3:5 for salvation in our present Age. Read, and believe these verses!!

So if this is true, what is water baptism used for in our present time? Should we be baptized in water or not, and what about all the verses that look like you need to be baptized to be saved? We will answer all those questions in reverse order by starting with the verses on water baptism that many people take out of context to make them teach what they want them to.

This verse is a good example: Acts 2:38 ***"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."*** This one looks like you need the water baptism, however since there are many, many verses that indicate otherwise, we must examine this one a little better to see if it really contradicts. Consider the following:

- 1) Peter is the Apostle to the Jews (Gal. 2:7), and the Jews were asking what to do in light of the fact they had crucified the Messiah, not what to do to be saved.
- 2) Acts is a transitional book between the Old Covenant under works of the law, and the New Covenant of salvation by grace through faith. (Eph. 2:8) And Peter was not aware of the different way God was doing things until Acts ten, when **some were saved before they were baptized.**

3) The difference was made plain by Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:8), in Acts 16:30-31. This man asked "...*what must I do to be saved?*" The answer under the new covenant? "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.....*" There was no mention of water there. Paul is giving the new plan of salvation, where your faith is enough!

Another verse that many use to prove water baptism is necessary for salvation is Mark 16:16. "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" This is a poor verse to use since it does not support water baptism, but rather proves you do not need the water!!! Read the verse again!! It says that he who doesn't **believe** shall be damned, not he that is not baptized!! See how simple the Bible is if we just believe what we read in the context it is given??

Here's another good one in John 3:3-6: Jesus is telling Nicodemus, "**Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" He then describes that new birth he is talking about in V 5. "...*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*" This is not talking about water baptism. It's so simple many miss it! Now, in verse 6 watch Him explain the 2 births mentioned in verse 5: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." It's simple! They are two different things! Nicodemus is wondering how he can go back to the mother's womb and be born again, and Jesus explains in verse 6 that the water birth is the birth of the flesh. One is born after the mother's "water breaks," thus we all came into this world with a water birth that has nothing to do with water baptism. Jesus is simply saying, that you need re- birth of the **Spirit**, not the **flesh!!**

	<u>Same</u>		<u>Same</u>
Verse 5	water	&	Spirit
Verse 6	flesh	&	Spirit

Water and flesh are the same and Spirit matches Spirit. Note the capital "S" in that verse that tells you this Spiritual birth is by the Holy Spirit.

After examining these verses, it is easy to see that a verse does not always mean what it appears to say at first glance. There will be occasions, as you study your Bible, when you will find a verse that seems to contradict several other verses that all agree on a subject. In a case like this you must always believe the several verses you know are plain in what they teach rather than the “odd” verse that seems to contradict. Once the odd verses are examined and you determine the correct context, and who the verse is talking to, it is usually quite easy to understand. Remember God’s instructions: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (II Tim. 2:15)

Now for the best one of all! This verse is used by most who teach water baptism is necessary for salvation in the New Testament times, yet we will show you where it actually teaches the opposite. I Pet. 3:21 *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”* First of all, notice that the water baptism, or washing away the filth of the flesh, does not save you, but rather **it’s the like figure of water baptism that saves you!** The water is a physical picture of what happens **Spiritually** when a person is saved, is showing a good conscience toward God, and serves as a testimony of our salvation to those who are lost. Noah is a good example. Verse 20 is talking about Noah and his family. Let’s review what happened.

Noah and his family were saved by being **in the ark**, which is a type of you being in Jesus Christ. They were not saved by being baptized in the water! Notice that the ones that were in the water died! The baptism they received was the baptism of death!!!

We have studied the main verses used to teach water regeneration and have dealt with them simply by believing what we read in it’s proper context. **The true plan of salvation is critical if one is to be saved.** Consequently, the student must understand the importance of getting this doctrinal matter straight.

The Bible says in Acts 20:28 that God purchased the Church (the saved body of Christ) with His own blood. It was not purchased with blood and water, but only blood. You get to Heaven by trusting the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross plus nothing!! Not the blood plus water, or anything



else, just the blood atonement.

To say you need anything else, especially your own works, to cover your sins is a false gospel that belittles, and takes away from the sacrifice God made for us. Remember, it's trusting the finished work of Jesus Christ and His dying in your place for your sins that will get you saved. Like the song says, "It's not the water in the water main, but the blood in Emmanuel's vein that washes away our sins."

\* **You were redeemed by the blood of Christ. (I Peter I: 18-19, Col. 1:14)  
Not water!**

\* **You are cleansed by the blood of Christ. (I John 1:7) Not water!**

\* **You are made nigh to Christ by the blood. (Eph. 2: 13) Not water!**

Yes, as an act of obedience, you should be baptized in water, but only **after** you have repented, received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and have been baptized by the Holy Spirit. Then the water baptism **pictures** your death, burial, and resurrection, as a new creature in Christ. It is also a "**like figure**" of that Spiritual baptism, and serves as a public testimony of your new life in Christ and your commitment to Him. Trust Him.

# Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread or Life Quiz

Doctrinal Series

WATER BAPTISM

Lesson 5

*This is a true or false quiz. Mark "T" for true or a "F" for false in the space provided*

1. The best way to be baptized is by fire. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In Acts 10:44 and 47, people were saved first, then baptized. \_\_\_\_\_
3. People who trust in water baptism to be saved think they can "work their way to heaven." \_\_\_\_\_
4. Col. 1:14 says we are saved by water. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Eph. 2:13 teaches we are saved by Christ's blood. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The people on Noah's Ark were saved from water, the people who were in the water died. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Water baptism is the physical picture of what happens spiritually when a person is saved. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Eph. 4:5 says there is "One Lord, one faith, and one baptism." \_\_\_\_\_
9. The saving baptism, baptizes you into Jesus Christ and it's a Spiritual Baptism - NOT Water!! \_\_\_\_\_
10. Most people don't even study their Bibles to find out what God really wants them to do. \_\_\_\_\_
11. The baptism of fire means the fire of hell. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Being "sprinkled" when you are a baby saves you. \_\_\_\_\_
14. You can go to heaven if you go to a church that teaches you get saved by being dunked in water. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Water can wash away your sins! \_\_\_\_\_
16. Jesus died on a cross to pay our sin debt. We all deserve to die and go to hell because we're all sinners. \_\_\_\_\_
17. The water birth is your flesh birth (when your mother's water broke while birthing you). \_\_\_\_\_
18. Many people listen to what other people say, and they don't study to see what God says in His Word. \_\_\_\_\_
19. To show you want to obey God you should be baptized by water after you are saved. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Col. 2:10 and 1 Cor 12:13 say the Holy Spirit baptizes you with his Holy Spirit when you accept Jesus as your Savior. \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Eternal Security***

One of the most controversial subjects among professing Christians today is Eternal Security of the Believer in the Church Age. Can you lose your salvation or not? Some say “yes you can,” and others insist that once truly saved you cannot possibly lose it. Who is right?? Surprisingly, the answer is simple if you believe God and follow His simple instructions to find the truth.

God said: ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*** (2 Tim. 2:15) Unfortunately, this commandment has been removed from all the new Bibles. I wonder **who** does not want you to study your Bible? If everyone followed these instructions there would not be so many different denominations. The reason there are so many different doctrinal teachings among professing Christians today is that people have not been taught how to rightly divide the Word and won’t study anyway!

Most people just take up the same opinion some friend or preacher has without searching the Scriptures for themselves. However, if a person has an honest heart they will seek the truth. And if that truth is to be found, then God’s Word must be our “final authority” in all matters of faith and practice. Otherwise we can be easily misled by those teaching false doctrine. (I Timothy 4:1)

The confusion in this particular subject is brought on by the fact that there are some verses in the Bible that indicate you can lose you salvation. There are also many that indicate you cannot lose it! So, does the Bible contradict itself? Of course not. But there has to be an answer as to why these verses do not agree. Most are simply taken out of context and are simply not directed to a “Church Age Saint.” The root problem is that there are major differences in how God deals with Old Testament and Tribulation Saints compared to the Church Age Saints. We will look at some of those differences, but first let’s establish proper guidelines for studying the Bible: We know from the Scripture above that we must rightly divide the Word to understand it. **It would help the student at this point to carefully study the chapter on Dispensations, and Understanding Salvation.** These

chapters explain how God does things differently in the different Ages and explains exactly what happens when you are saved. **People always have a problem with eternal security unless they understand these subjects.**

A) To study any subject in the Bible you must compare Scripture with Scripture in the **proper context**. For example, what is the subject of the verse, who is the verse talking to? When, or in what period of time is the verse referring to?

B) Understand that all verses have three applications, **historical, spiritual (or practical), and doctrinal**. Therefore, a verse directed to someone in another Age can apply to the modern Christian under **spiritual** or **historical** application but not necessarily apply **doctrinally** in that Age. The subject of Eternal Security of the believer is a doctrinal matter.

C) You always interpret a few unclear verses in light of the many clear verses on a subject. You simply cannot build a doctrine on a few unclear verses. So with these rules to keep us on the right track let's examine some of the controversial verses:

1) ***“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”*** (Mat. 24:13) This is one of the verses that many use to try and prove that you can lose your salvation. However, in this case it is easy to show that this verse is not talking to a Christian in the present “Church Age.” Simply read the rest of the chapter! ***[14] “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*** This cannot be in the Church Age because we do not preach the “Gospel of the Kingdom.” We preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ! (I Cor. 15) Remember what Paul said about anyone preaching another Gospel in Galatians 1:8 being accursed??!!

Also, look Matthew 24:15 ***“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)”*** That is the anti-Christ who comes to power in the Tribulation not in the Church Age we are now in! Check this... ***“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”*** (Matthew 24:21)

So, as you can see, by simply believing what we read we find that rules one and

two apply here. The context of Matthew 24:13 is the Tribulation. This is a period of time after the Church Age Saints have already been Raptured up to the third Heaven. **Saved people from the Church Age are not even here on earth so the verse cannot be talking to them!**

2) 2 Peter 2:21 is another one. *“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”* This is another simple one. Read the chapter and you will find these people were never saved anyway!! They deny the Lord (V1), they follow Balaam (V15), and they don’t have the Holy Spirit (V17). They never fell from righteousness, they refused the commandment to be righteous verse 21!

3) Here is a more difficult one: Hebrews 6:4-6 *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, [5] And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, [6] If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”* See Also: *“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, [27] But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. [28] He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:”* (Hebrews 10:26-28)

Scholars have numerous explanations for these verses which appear to indicate you can lose your salvation. These solutions range from: you can lose it, the verses are hypothetical illustrations, or, the Jews described in the verses were never really saved to begin with, and on and on. There is not enough space in this short lesson to examine all of the scholar’s opinions. It doesn’t matter anyway. Why? If those described in Hebrews can lose their salvation we know for certain those verses do not apply to us. How do we know that? Because there are over a hundred plain verses that teach you **cannot lose your salvation in this Church Age**. Remember rule three on page one? You cannot build a doctrine on a few unclear verses when there are so many clear ones that contradict them. So, what is the answer?

The most likely explanations are: **A.** These are hypothetical verses simply saying if you could lose it you could not get it back again like one could in the Old

Testament by simply making another sacrifice because Jesus was the end of sacrifices, the final payment for all sin. Paul is simply using an illustration to show the difference in two separate times. If the verses are hypothetical, they are actually supporting eternal security of the believer! **B.** The verses in Hebrews apply doctrinally to the Jew in the Tribulation! Scripture supports this in Hebrews 10:39 which describes saved Jews who backslid and “*drew back unto perdition.*” This phrase indicates a Tribulation context since the Anti Christ is the “Son of Perdition.” **They likely backslid, took the mark of the beast, and lost their salvation!** (Rev. 14:11)

Scripture also bears out the fact that Tribulation Saints, like Old Testament Saints, are under a faith and works set-up for salvation. If you have to earn your salvation by works, then naturally you must also keep it by works. Here are some verses to show that works are necessary for salvation in the Tribulation. First of all, God is dealing with the Jew in the Tribulation. That is why it is called “the time of Jacob’s trouble.” (Jer. 30:7) Revelation 12: 17, 14:12, and 22:14 all indicate that Tribulation Saints are back under a faith-works set up and must keep the commandments. Salvation by Works!!! If you must work to get it, or to keep it, you can lose it!

This is not hard to believe since the Old Testament Saints were also under the Jewish Law and those requirements were a part of their salvation. Obedience after salvation was necessary to keep it or they lost it like Saul in I Samuel 28:15, or Samson in Judges 16:20. (It looks like Samson got it back, V28!)

Also, notice that the books of Hebrews and James were written directly to the Jews and were not directed to the Gentiles. This is strange, for in Christianity, there is no difference between the Jew and the Gentile. (Rom. 10:12) So, it is likely that the doctrinal application is directed to the Jews in the Tribulation.

You see, everyone in the Tribulation must “endure until the end” to be saved. (Mat. 24:13) The “Church” is already gone in the Rapture so Tribulation Saints are obviously not part of the “Bride”. **Tribulation Saints are not born again, not Spiritually circumcised, not part of the Bride of Christ, and never called Sons of God! Their salvation is different than yours!! They can lose it!**

In Revelation 22:14 **Tribulation and Millennial Saints are keeping the**

**commandments to have a right to the “tree of life” and be allowed to enter into The City.** That city is New Jerusalem!! Christians will be living there and never have to eat of any tree! (Rev. 21:9) We are part of Him who made the tree!! The controversy comes down to one thing. Anyone who thinks you can lose you salvation in this Age does not understand New Testament Salvation! On page one we recommended two lessons that will better explain all this, but two clues to the truth are:

**1) When you are born again** the body of the sins of the flesh is put off from the soul (Col. 2:11), and the soul is sealed until the day of redemption. (Eph. 4:30) The body (flesh) is what sins, but the Spiritual circumcision separates it and the sin cannot touch the soul because it is sealed. Any sin after salvation is reaped in the flesh. Crowns, rewards, and fellowship with God are lost, but not salvation. (I Cor. 3:11-15, and I Cor. 5:1-5) Read the lessons!

Unlike the Tribulation Saint, the “Church Age” Christian does not have to endure to the end of anything. You have already “overcome.” (I John 4:4, 5:4) Your salvation is by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ plus nothing. (Eph. 2:8) There are no works involved, in fact it’s not yours. Salvation belongs to Jesus Christ! It’s a free gift. You don’t work to get or to keep a gift! (Rom. 6:23)

Salvation is a new birth! You are a new creature in Christ. (II Cor. 5:17) There is no new birth for Tribulation Saints.

\* Christians Have **ETERNAL** life: *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,.....”* 1 John 5:13. *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life....”* (John 3:36) *“..... He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”* (John 5:24)

\* Christians are **SEALED**: *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...,”* (Eph.. 1:13) *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* (Eph. 4:30)



\* Christians are **PRESERVED**: “*And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*” (II Tim. 4:18)

“*Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:” (Jude 1:1)*

\* Christians are **PART OF CHRIST’S BODY**: “*For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.” (Eph. 5:30) “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.” (1 Cor. 12:18)*

\* Christians cannot be **SEPARATED** from God: “*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)*

\* Christians will never be **CAST OUT**: “*.....him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37)*

\* Christians are kept from **FALLING** by His **POWER**: “*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:5) “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” (Jude 1:24)*

\* Christians can **LOSE REWARDS BUT NOT SALVATION**: “*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (I Cor. 3:11-15)*

“*It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such*



# Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

Doctrinal Series

ETERNAL SECURITY?

Lesson 6

*This is a true or false quiz. -place "T" for true or a "F" for false in the space provided*

1. Satan doesn't want us to study the Bible. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The truth about your eternal salvation can be found in the Word of God. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Many preachers, churches, friends, and loved ones, believe lies from Satan and try to get us to believe what they tell us. \_\_\_\_\_
4. When you study the Bible you need to ask: "what is the subject?, Who is the verse talking to? Is the verse for the past, present, or future?" \_\_\_\_\_
5. People in different times in history are saved in different ways. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Adam and Eve were saved by the cross alone. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Jude 1:24 says Jesus is able to keep us from falling. \_\_\_\_\_
8. People who say you can lose your salvation believe their "good works" can keep them. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Christians can not be cast out, so we can't lose our salvation! (John 6:37) \_\_\_\_\_
10. In 1 Peter 1:15 we learn that we are kept saved by God's power! \_\_\_\_\_
11. The devil wants us to think we can lose our salvation. \_\_\_\_\_
12. We know we are saved eternally because we are a part of Christ's body! (Eph 5:30) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Jesus preserves (keeps) us himself after we're saved. (Jude 1:1) \_\_\_\_\_
14. We will still do sins of the flesh after we're saved. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Eph. 4:30 indicates God sealed us when He saved us. \_\_\_\_\_
16. John 3:16 says you can have everlasting life in Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Some folks make God a liar when they don't believe His Words. (I John 5:10). \_\_\_\_\_
18. Rom. 8:38-39 says we CAN BE separated from God. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19.. 1 John 1:9 says if we sin after we are saved, we can't be forgiven. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Old Testament Saints were saved by faith and works. \_\_\_\_\_

# Bread of Life Quiz

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Master Answer Sheet # 3

### Doctrinal

Dispensations	Deity Of Jesus Christ	Which Bible Is True	Is The Bible True	Study On Water Baptism	Eternal Security
Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 6
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____
11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____	11. _____
12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____	12. _____
13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____	13. _____
14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____	14. _____
15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____	15. _____
16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____	16. _____
17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____	17. _____
18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____	18. _____
19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____	19. _____
20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____	20. _____