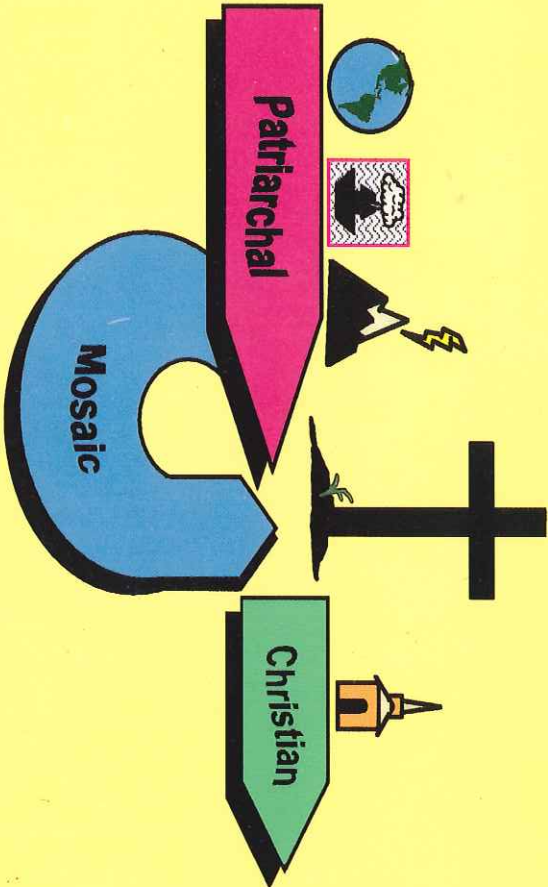


Study Guide



**SCRIPTURES AND SPECIAL
BACKGROUND NOTES**

Follow the Path Through the Bible



WELCOME

Long before history books were written, men and women huddled at night near flickering campfires to tell tribal stories. In the telling and retelling of these stories, the past lived again in their hearts.

Today, in the midst of an electronic information explosion, we live in a time of stunning scientific discovery. However the greatest source about the past is still the Bible.

Yet some people open the Bible with reservation . . . or perhaps even a yawn. They don't know the wonderful stories that wait inside, yearning to be told.

Although the events and stories in the Bible occurred long ago and far away, the book does not begin with the magic words, "Once upon a time"

You see, the Bible is more than a tribal storybook. It's a message from GOD.

Past or present, of all the stories man has ever told, only one deserves the title:

THE STORY

These videos tell that wonderful story.

THE BEGINNING

(Episode One)

Stories explaining scientific discovery and assumption always start with . . . something. Faith begins with nothing, except the God who created everything.

No human eye witnessed the beginning dawn of creation. So it was necessary that God take Moses into His confidence and whisper to him how the story really began.

The story quickly turned to tragedy when the first couple broke their trust agreement with God. With their innocence destroyed by "sin", the world was forever changed.

Cast from his garden paradise, man began his long search for a reunion with God. Jealousy, lust, and murder soiled God's pure creation, until He thought it best to cleanse the world with an awesome flood. Only the ancient patriarch, Noah, his family, and a supply of animals were saved to re-populate the earth.

We see the first ray of hope in a dark world when God chooses a man named Abraham from the ancient city of Ur. To this one man God gave a vision of a "promised land".

Abraham believed that dream so strongly, not even his death could put an end to the quest. Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's twelve sons kept the old man's dream alive in their hearts.

THE BEGINNING

(PATRIARCHAL)

CREATIONGenesis 1 - 2

MAN'S FALL.....Genesis 3 - 5

NOAH & THE GREAT FLOOD . Genesis 6 - 9

GOD'S CALL OF

- Abraham Genesis 12 - 25
- Isaac Genesis 25 - 26
- Jacob (Israel) Genesis 27 - 37
- Joseph Genesis 39 - 50
- Moses in Egypt Exodus 1 - 6
 - The Plagues Exodus 7 - 11
 - The Passover .. Exodus 12 - 13
 - The Exodus Exodus 14 - 15
 - The Wilderness Exodus 16 - 18
 - Israel at Mt. Sinai ... Exodus 19

•TEST YOURSELF ON THIS EPISODE•

What do you think God's purpose was in choosing the nation of Israel?

THE CHOSEN (Episode Two)

When Israel's family fell into slavery down in ancient Egypt, God sent Moses to lead His people on an exodus. On their way to the Promised Land, Moses led them to the foot of a smoking Mount Sinai to hear their new law announced in God's thundering voice.

This generation of slaves eagerly took God's law in hand, but were condemned to forty years of wandering in the wilderness because of their habit of stubborn disobedience. Each time they broke camp in the trackless desert, they left behind freshly dug graves. When all the original slaves from Egypt had died, a new generation crossed the Jordan River and entered the promised land.

The dream remained alive in their hearts through one hundred twenty years of a united kingdom, and several centuries of divided kingdoms.

But still, Israel could not learn her lesson about idolatry. God sent ten of the tribes away into the oblivion of Assyrian captivity. Later He banished Judah into Babylonian exile. By and by, Judah came home to Jerusalem. In a flurry of religious activity, the temple was rebuilt, the walls of Jerusalem were restored, and the hope of a Messiah was re-born in their hearts. They looked longingly down the road of time. Jesus finally came, fulfilled the Mosaic law, and pointed them to something new. The dream was not dead!

THE CHOSEN (MOSAIC)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS Exodus 20
THE LAW FOR A NATION . Exodus 21 - 40
THE WILDERNESS WANDERING .. Numbers
THE SECOND GIVING OF THE LAW

..... Deuteronomy 1 - 33
THE DEATH OF MOSES. . Deuteronomy 34
THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN Joshua
THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES Judges
THE KINGS:

- Saul I Samuel 8 - 31
- David I Samuel 16 - 31
..... II Samuel 1 - 24
- Solomon I Kings 1 - 11

ISRAEL DIVIDES I Kings 12 - 13

10 TRIBES TO ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY
..... I Kings 14 to II Kings 17

JUDAH INTO BABYLONIAN EXILE
..... II Kings 18 - 25

JUDAH RETURNS TO JERUSALEM
..... Ezra and Nehemiah

THE LAW IS FULLFILLED Matthew 5:17
..... Jeremiah 31:31 ff
..... Ephesians 2:14 -15
..... Colossians 2:14 -16
..... Galatians 3:23 - 25

•TEST YOURSELF ON THIS EPISODE•

How was the law of Moses "finished" when Jesus died?

THE SON (Episode Three)

Part of Israel's "promise" included a Messiah. Like watchmen on the walls of a city, God's prophets peered into the dark night of history and kept saying, "He's coming". So the Hebrew nation waited patiently through the long centuries. While they waited, they read the scriptures every Sabbath in the synagogue. From these scriptures, a picture of the Messiah emerged.

But the years flew by. No Messiah came. Until, one night in Bethlehem, Jesus was born. Most did not recognize him . . . at first. But, when the mist of misunderstanding fell from their eyes, they saw in Jesus the very substance of all the shadows they had read about in the law. His teachings, his miracles, indeed his very life, convinced them he was the one for whom they had waited so long. Their hopes soared during Jesus' ministry, but were abruptly shattered on a cross outside Jerusalem. The miracle-working master teacher did not ride the white horse of a conqueror as they expected. Instead he became the "suffering servant" predicted ages before by the prophet Isaiah. Justice demanded that men owed an enormous debt to God which we could not pay. In God's good time, justice combined with mercy to settle this account at the cross.

After Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, Jerusalem exploded with the excitement of the Holy Spirit's presence. On a day called Pentecost, a new religious movement was born . . . and suddenly, the dream was real.

THE SON (CHRISTIAN)

BIRTHPLACE ...	Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1 - 6
VIRGIN BIRTH	Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18 - 25
EARLY YEARS	Luke 2:41 - 52
BAPTISM	Matthew 3:13 - 17
CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE	John 2:13 - 17
RETURN TO HIS HOMETOWN	Luke 4:16 - 30
MIRACLE-WORKING POWER	
• Convinced John the Baptist (Luke 7:18 - 23 fulfilled Isaiah 35:5, 6)	
• Quieted storm on Sea of Galilee (Mark 4:35 - 41)	
• Raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11)	
PROPHETIC TEACHING	
• Like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15 - 19)	
• His amazing Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5,6,7)	
WHO WAS HE?	
• Not a liar, nor a lunatic	
• But the Lord (Matthew 16:13 - 20)	
CRUCIFIXION FORETOLD	Isaiah 53, Psalm 22
RESURRECTION PREDICTED	Psalm 16:9,10
KINGDOM IS COMING	Isaiah 2:2 - 3 Joel 2:28 - 32, Mark 9:1, Matt. 16:18, Acts 1:4 - 5

•TEST YOURSELF ON THIS EPISODE•
*Why was the day of Pentecost so important?
(See Acts 2)*

THE MOVEMENT (Episode Four)

While he lived, Jesus told the disciples his plan. His message was: begin in Jerusalem, spread to the province of Judea, spill over into Samaria, and then rush like a tidal wave into the Gentile world.

Driven by an irresistible force, disciples traveled everywhere preaching the Word. In synagogues. On street corners. In the market place. They constantly talked about Jesus. Their faith and excitement sent the movement across the Roman Empire on seven league boots. The apostle Paul's missionary journeys fed fuel to the message, until the movement advanced like a wild fire, burning out of control.

However, Christianity did meet with opposition.

In Athens, Christianity clashed with an intellectual challenge from Greek philosophers. In Corinth, it wrestled with the moral lifestyle of a secular society. In Ephesus, it crashed head on with pagan religion.

The movement took on all challengers. It vanquished them one by one, and emerged the champion. Before the Apostle Paul laid down his inspired pen at the close of the first century, he was able to say the whole world had heard the gospel!

THE MOVEMENT (CHRISTIAN)

THE BIBLE

- I Timothy 3:16 -17
(The inspired Word of God)
- Galatians 1:6 - 9
(No new gospel ever!)
- Revelation 22:18 -19
(Neither add, nor subtract anything)

THE PLAN (Acts 1:8)

- Jerusalem Acts 2:41 - Acts 7
- Judea Acts 8:1 - 4
- Samaria Acts 8:5 - 25
- Rest of the world Acts 9 - 28
 - Acts 9
(Paul)
 - Acts 10, 11, 15
(A Gentile "Test Case")
 - Acts 11:26
(Called "Christians" first at Antioch)
 - Acts 13 - 28
(Paul's missionary journeys)

THE RESULT (Colossians 1:23)

The whole world heard the gospel

CHALLENGES TO THE CHURCH

- Acts 17
(Intellectual challenge at Athens)
- Acts 18
(Moral challenge at Corinth)
- Acts 19
(Pagan religion challenge at Ephesus)

•TEST YOURSELF ON THIS EPISODE•

What was Jesus' plan for spreading the gospel?

THE DISCIPLES (Episode Five)

The ancient world felt the impact of the greatest story ever told.

Both Jew and pagan were overwhelmed by the tidal wave of life style change Christianity demanded.

Jews were no longer bound by the Sabbath. The first day of the week was the new worship day.

They had a new name, Christian.

In worship, the Passover gave way to the Lord's Supper.

An unloving world learned the power of Christian fellowship, love, and forgiveness.

The songs Christians sang about their Jesus echoed through the market place, and into the darkest depths of Roman prisons.

New was the watchword of these Christians. Jews were trapped in their lifeless ritual, and pagans were mired in hopelessness. Both felt a breath of fresh air sweetening a world grown stale.

That breeze became a whirlwind.

THE DISCIPLES (CHRISTIAN)

A NEW DAY OF WORSHIP

- Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. (Matthew 28:1ff, Mark 16:1ff, John 20:1ff)
- Many of Jesus' appearances were on the first day of the week. (John 20:19,26)
- The church began on the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15-21), later called Pentecost (Acts 2:1) which fell on Sunday.
- The church met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:1,2)

A NEW NAME FOR DISCIPLES -CHRISTIANS

- Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, I Peter 4:12 -16)

A NEW ORGANIZATION

- Elders (Acts 14:23, I Timothy 3:1 ff)
- Shepherds (I Peter 5:1 ff)
- Overseers (Titus 1:7 ff)
- Deacons (I Timothy 3:8 ff, Philippians 1:1)
- Preachers (I I Timothy 4:1 - 5)

A NEW TYPE OF ASSEMBLY

- Giving
(I Corinthians 16: 1-2, II Corinthians 8,9)
- The Lord's Supper
(Matthew 26:26ff, Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 11)
- Singing (I Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16)
- Fellowship (Acts 2:42, Acts 4:32 - 37)

•TEST YOURSELF ON THIS EPISODE•
Why do you think everything became "new" for Christians?

EPILOG

What difference did Christianity really make to a confused world?

A new understanding about the meaning of life?

Certainly the Greek philosophers, centuries before Jesus, had created a thirst for knowledge.

Did man need more religious laws and ceremonies?

The Hebrews had already cherished the laws of God for more than a thousand years before the time of Christ.

No, Christianity was much more than enlightenment or new ritual.

Jesus Christ showed us how the sons and daughters of God ought to live.

Jesus Christ died on a cross and brought hope of forgiveness to all mankind.

Jesus Christ came to show us what we must do!

Following in his footsteps and imitating his lifestyle is the difference Christianity really makes.

When all is said and done . . .

That is THE STORY.

EPILOG

THE BIBLE'S PURPOSE?

- To be a light to our pathway
(Psalm 119:105)
- To make us complete
(I I Timothy 3:16,17)
- To show us what we must DO!
(Acts 2:37, Acts 22:10)

RESTORATION IS NECESSARY

- By King Josiah
(I I Kings 22)
- By Ezra
(Nehemiah 8)
- By Jesus
(Matthew 19:1 - 9)

BACK TO BIBLE FOR ANSWERS

- FAITH
(Mark 16:16)
- REPENTANCE
(Acts 2:38)
- BAPTISM (3 questions)
 1. WHAT WAS IT?
 - * A burial Romans 6:1 - 4
..... Colossians 2:12
 - * Done in water ... Matthew 3:13 -17
..... Acts 8:36 ff
..... Acts 10:47
 2. WHY WAS IT DONE?
 - * For forgiveness of sins .. Acts 2:38
 - * To wash away sins Acts 22:16
 - * To save us I Peter 3:21
 3. WHO DID IT?
 - * Those old enough to believe
..... Mark 16:16
 - * Those old enough to change
their hearts in repentance
..... Acts 2:38