

A surreal, artistic image featuring a large, gnarled tree with a thick, textured trunk. The base of the tree is replaced by two large, human-like hands, one on the left and one on the right, which appear to be holding or supporting the tree. The background is a soft, ethereal landscape with a blue and green color palette, suggesting a misty or spiritual atmosphere. The overall composition is centered and evokes a sense of connection between the natural world and the human spirit.

The Spirit World

DO YOU KNOW THE **TRUTH** ABOUT THE SPIRIT WORLD?

THE SPIRIT WORLD

BY ABATE BITEW

Do you know the truth about the spirit world?

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Introduction

Dear friend,

It is not by accident that you have this book in your hand. This may be one of the ways the Almighty God knocks at the door of your heart to give you life, His love, and mercy. Millions of other people all over the world are in search of the truth about God. What about you? Do you desire to know and worship your Creator in truth? Your search for truth is the key for meeting your spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.

This book will help you address some of your questions. Do you ever ask yourself, “where is God in my life?” Furthermore, do you live in fear of what the evil forces of the “spirit world” might do to you? What are some things you fear most? How can you be free from all your fears? Above all, how can you know the truth about God, and discover His eternal plan for your life?

There is good news for you. The good news is that God will be found for those who earnestly seek Him. If you seek Him you will find Him. He will be the answer to all your questions. He knows you and understands all your deepest thoughts and needs. As you read these lessons, you will find key truths that will lead you to your spiritual freedom.

Millions of other people around the world have come to know the truth about God, and have been liberated from their unbelief, sins, fears, and the power of evil forces. God can do it for you too. You will learn more about this as you read the stories of people who have been set free by God’s truth.

My hope and prayer is for you to experience the love of God and His abundant blessing in your life. I urge you to open your heart to God and allow Him to change your life forever. If you do that in faith, God will change your life and give you eternal life. Then you will be completely free from all the powers of darkness.

Grace and peace to you,

Abate Bitew

1 THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

THE AKWA PEOPLE

The Akwa people live in a village near the sea. They are fishermen and cultivate corn. They believe the all powerful God created their village out of a great sea turtle and then left to rest in a far off country of great mountains. Though the people of the village know that God exists, they do not know how to contact Him. In fact, they do not believe it is even possible to contact Him.

The world of the Akwa is filled with evil spirits that torment them. They offer sacrifices to the spirits in an effort to gain their favor. They live in fear of the spirits because they believe the spirits cause sickness and death. But the God who created them and their village cannot help them in their struggles. He has left them to their own devices.

One day a little boy in the Akwa village heard the village elders talking about the creator God. Later he asked his uncle about the elder's words.

Child: I heard the people talking yesterday in the village about the Creator. They said He created the world and then left for a far off country to rest. Is this true uncle?

Uncle: This is what the people believe in our village. Our village believes that He did create the world and that He is no longer with us. No one knows why He left.

Child: The spirits torment us so often, why did He leave us alone?

Uncle: We are not alone my child. I have come to know that God is near. He did create the world, but He did not leave us. He is the very power that keeps us alive. We can know Him because He has revealed himself to us in His book. It is called the Holy Bible.

Child: Oh uncle, can we truly know Him? Can He help us?

Uncle: Yes, my child, we can know Him. His book tells us that He longs for us to know Him.

Child: So God created the world but He did not leave us.

Uncle: Yes, my child. God is near and we can know Him through the book that He has given us. The Holy Bible says, “In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). He is near to help us and able to deliver us from all our fears.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- Who is the Creator of the world?
 - The true nature of the Creator
 - Can we know the Creator personally?
-

WHO IS THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD?

Most people in the world believe in a God who created the world and all that is in it. But many people have a false understanding of who He is. Some believe He created the world and then left it. For them, He is unreachable. In His place, they worship spirits that they believe live with them.

Other people believe that God lives in nature such as in a mountain or in a river or in certain trees. Still others believe that God is the sun or the moon. Because of these beliefs, people worship things that God created rather than God himself. The Holy Bible talks about this:

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator. (Romans 1:21–23, 25)

Some people make images of metal, wood, or stone of their gods. Then they bow before them in worship. Other people believe that God is in everything. They think He lives in all of nature and created things.

However, the Holy Bible tells us that there is only one true God. He created all things, and is separate from His creation. The first words of the Holy Bible are: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). He is the Creator. Therefore, He alone should be worshipped. This means that all other gods are not gods at all. Let us look at what the Holy Bible tells us about God.

THE TRUE NATURE OF THE CREATOR

In Psalm 139, in the Holy Bible, we read about God’s nature. This Psalm was written by a king named David who was a man who knew God personally.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. (Psalm 139:1–6)

***God did create
people but did not
leave us alone.***

These are words of King David who marveled at the closeness of God. God knows everything about each of us. He knows what we think and what we do. He knows where we go and when we sleep. He knows the words that will come out of our mouths even before we say them. His knowledge of us is complete. He is with us every moment of every day. The Holy Bible tells us that God even knows the number of hairs on our heads.

GOD IS EVERYWHERE

We read this in the Holy Bible, God's Word:

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. (Psalm 139:7–12)

We cannot escape from God's presence. God is Spirit. He does not have a body. He is everywhere, but He is separate from the world He created. There is nowhere to run from His presence. He is present to guide us and protect our lives from harm. We need not fear the darkness because God sees in the darkness, and He will keep us safe.

GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL PEOPLE

The Holy Bible tells us: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13–14).

God created us. He made us just the way He wanted us to be. He made us spiritual beings by giving us a soul so that we could know Him. He knew us before we were born, and He has a wonderful plan for our lives. He made us so that we might know Him and enjoy Him.

***God created us
that we might
know Him and
enjoy Him.***

GOD WANTS TO HELP US

God's Word tells us, "If I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast....See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:9–10, 24).

God wants to be your helper. He wants to guide you and lead your life in the way that is best for you. As you trust your life into His hands, He will protect you and supply your needs. He wants to forgive you of the

wrong things you have done and by His grace give you a life full of His presence and blessing.

GOD IS THINKING ABOUT YOU

We read in God's Word: "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you" (Psalm 139:17–18).

***God is concerned
about all people
and wants to
reveal himself to
them***

God is thinking about you. He knows all about your life and your problems. He is concerned about you. He never forgets you whether you are sleeping or you are awake. He wants to help you and reveal himself to you. The prayer in the following sentence indicates that God even knows our anxious thoughts. "Search me,

O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts" (Psalm 139:23).

God sees deep down inside of you. He knows your deepest thoughts. He knows what is troubling you deep down in your heart. He loves you and wants to help you with your most secret needs. Maybe no one else knows your problems. Maybe no one else seems to understand. God knows. He understands and wants to reveal His love to you.

CAN WE KNOW THE CREATOR PERSONALLY?

God's Word, the Holy Bible, not only says that God created the world; it also tells us how He did it. He created it through His Son.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:1–3)

These verses in the Holy Bible refer to someone who is called the Word. He is Jesus, God's only Son. He was with God from the beginning and is God himself. God created the world through Him. So Jesus is our Creator, and He is also our Redeemer. The Holy Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Will you believe in Jesus today? He created you and redeemed you by becoming the sacrifice for your sins and for the sins of all people in the world. Please understand this truth: Jesus died for your sins. It was necessary for Him to die because the Holy Bible says every person on earth is a sinner. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

We cannot free ourselves from sin without God’s help. That is why God sent His only Son to become the sacrifice for our sins. Though Jesus never sinned, He took our sins upon himself. He was treated by men as a criminal, and was nailed to a cross, suffering in our place so that we might be forgiven.

■
***God sent the Lord
Jesus Christ to be
the sacrifice for
our sins.***
■

Jesus died and was buried, but three days later He was raised from the dead. If you will accept Him as your Savior, He will forgive your sins and deliver you from the fear of death and from Satan. The Holy Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

When you die and your spirit leaves this world, God wants to take you to paradise to be with Him forever. Your Creator wants to be your Savior. He wants you to live with Him forever. The Holy Bible says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Will you trust in Him today? If you want to trust Jesus to be your Savior, please pray the following prayer to God.

Prayer

Father God, now I know that You created all things. I believe that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I believe He rose from the dead. Please forgive my sins and give me a new life through Jesus Your Son. Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. Did God create the world and all people and then leave us alone?

2. Why did God create people? _____

3. What does the Holy Bible say about God's concern for us? _____

4. Why did God send His Son into the world?

2 WHERE EVIL SPIRITS COME FROM

SAMBA AND HIS DREAM

Samba dreamed that his neighbor, who he knew hated him, approached him with a machete that was covered with blood and feathers. Samba knew his neighbor was making sorcery against him, so he feared for his life. But at that moment Samba's deceased father appeared in the dream and said to the neighbor, "Stop your sorcery against my son!" Samba woke up frightened. When he went out that morning into his compound, he saw something sticking in the ground in front of his house. It was the machete he had seen in his dream, and it was covered with blood and feathers. He knew then that his enemy had come the night before to do him harm. Scared about what would happen to him, Samba prayed to his father's departed spirit to protect him from the evil plan of his enemy.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- The great rebellion
 - The deception of humans
 - Satan is our enemy
 - The Savior and Deliverer
-

God's Word tells us that the world is filled with evil spirits. These spirits work against us—seeking to harm us. God's Word, the Holy Bible, says that evil spirits have power to deceive and that they work to keep us from knowing the truth. It also tells us where these spirits came from and how we can overcome them.

THE GREAT REBELLION

God created spirits called angels who live in His presence. They were created to serve and worship God. Some of the angels He created rebelled in heaven against His rule. This rebellion was led by Satan who was a powerful angel. The result was that Satan and millions of angels were thrown out of heaven.

The Word of God tells us about Satan and his rebellion against God. He was created as a powerful angel known as a guardian cherub. The Holy Bible describes him.

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you.
You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. (Ezekiel 28:14–15)

God had created Satan as a beautiful and powerful angel. His purpose was for Satan to be holy and blameless and to live in the presence of God. But wickedness entered Satan's heart. He began to look at his own beauty and power and became filled with pride, so he rebelled against God.

***Pride caused
Satan to rebel
against God.***

A large number of angels joined in Satan's rebellion and forsook their allegiance to God their creator. These rebellious angels became evil spirits. They rebelled against God's authority to rule and chose to serve Satan.

THE DECEPTION OF HUMANS

God also created the world and the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. He created them to rule over the world. God had placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden and told them that they could eat from any tree in the garden except one. The forbidden tree was "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17). God had planted it in the middle of the garden. But Satan, who had rebelled against God, also wanted to rule over God's creation. He came in the form of a serpent to deceive Adam and Eve. The following story in God's Word, the Holy Bible, explains how Satan deceived them.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Genesis 3:1–6)

Satan blinds the minds of people to keep them from understanding the gospel.

Satan tricked Adam and Eve into believing that God did not really care for them and that He was denying them good things. Adam and Eve believed the lies of Satan and joined in with his rebellion against God. Through their disobedience the whole world fell into spiritual darkness. Satan,

with his fallen angels, now rules the world and humankind has become his slave. The Holy Bible calls Satan the god of this world who blinds people’s minds to the gospel. “The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of how we can be set free from Satan’s power. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, there is freedom from evil spirits.

SATAN IS OUR ENEMY

The Word of God warns us that Satan is always seeking to destroy us: “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Satan, also called the devil, does everything in his power to blind people to the truth. He seeks our allegiance and worship. He has filled the world with lies to keep us in darkness. He sends his evil spirits to blind the minds of people to keep them from the knowledge of God. But God loves

everyone and wants to set every person free from the fear and deception of Satan who causes sicknesses, despair, and destruction in the world.

THE SAVIOR AND DELIVERER

There is good news! God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior to crush the serpent's head. The Savior would set us free from Satan's power. So the Lord Jesus came to earth to be the Savior of the world. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The Lord Jesus defeated Satan by His sacrificial death for our sins.

The Lord Jesus crushed the head of the serpent who is Satan. The Word of God assures us that Satan has been defeated through the victorious sacrificial death of Jesus, God's eternal Son. Now Satan has no power over those who believe in Jesus Christ. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (Acts 16:31).

God sent His Son Jesus to set us free from Satan and deliver us from fear. It is by the name of God's eternal Son, Jesus Christ, that we can be delivered from the attacks of Satan and evil spirits. The Holy Bible promises believers that they will cast out evil spirits in Jesus' name. All over the world people are being set free from Satan by the power of Jesus name. "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons" (Mark 16:17).

The name of the Lord Jesus Christ can set anyone free from the power of evil spirits.

FREEDOM FOR BOUKARÉ

Boukaré was a young man whose father was serving Satan and evil spirits. His father was a sorcerer, who was possessed by evil spirits and empowered to perform magical works. He often made sacrifices to protect himself and his family from the attack of evil spirits. As a result, Boukaré lived in fear throughout his life.

Boukaré's father had selected him to inherit the power of the evil spirits according to the custom of his people, and to continue his work. This was not something Boukaré wanted. His dream was to continue to

go to school and have a better life. However, his father told him that he had no choice because the spirits had chosen him. He was in despair and did not know what to do. He could not refuse his father because he knew of no other protection from the revenge of the spirits.

The day approached when he was to be dedicated to the spirits. On the Saturday before the dedication, he decided to make a visit to the city. As he passed through a certain area of the city, he saw a lot of people entering a meeting hall. He read the sign which invited all who passed by to enter and hear the Word of God. Boukaré had never attended a meeting like this before. He was curious about what was going on inside, so he entered and listened to the speaker. The Word of God as found in the Holy Bible was being proclaimed. The preacher told about the Creator of the universe who sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to be the sacrifice for our sins. He told about the great power that is in Jesus' name to defeat Satan and his demons.

The truth Boukaré heard about Jesus the Savior touched his heart. He responded to the preacher's invitation to come forward for prayer. Immediately the demon that had possessed him started screaming out of Boukaré's own mouth. The spirit cried out and reminded him that he was to be dedicated to the spirits of sorcery. Then the believers in Jesus commanded the demon to leave and in Jesus' name Boukaré was set free.

If you believe in Jesus Christ, you too will have power in Jesus' name and evil spirits will not have any control over your life—you will be completely free. This is what the Holy Bible says, "So if the Son [Jesus] sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

*If you want to be free from the fear of evil spirits,
please pray this prayer:*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I now know that You are the Savior of the world. I know that there is power in Your name over every evil spirit. I ask You to come into my life to be my Savior and Lord. Please set me free now from every evil spirit that would torment me. Forgive me of my sins. Thank You for answering my prayer, in Jesus' name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. What did pride cause Satan to do?

2. Why does Satan try to blind people's minds?

3. Who defeated Satan, and how did He do it?

4. How can a person be delivered from the attacks of evil spirits?

WHERE EVIL SPIRITS COME FROM

3 PAIN AND SUFFERING

A STORY ABOUT JOB

There is a story in God’s Word, the Holy Bible, about the life of a man named Job. He was blameless and upright. He feared God and stayed away from evil. God had blessed him with seven sons and three daughters. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred donkeys. He also had many servants. Job was a very wealthy man and was known as one of the greatest men among all the people of the East.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- Job suffered great emotional pain
 - Job suffered great physical pain
 - Reasons for pain and suffering
 - Healing and deliverance through Jesus Christ
-

JOB SUFFERED GREAT EMOTIONAL PAIN

But a time of great suffering came into Job’s life. Satan became jealous of Job and despised him because he was faithful to God. Satan went into the presence of God and accused Job of being a hypocrite—of serving God for his own benefit.

Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge

around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.” (Job 1:8–11)

So God allowed Satan to attack Job’s family and to take away his possessions to prove that Job’s motives were pure. The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger” (Job 1:12).

HE LOST ALL HIS POSSESSIONS

Satan left the presence of God and began to destroy everything Job had. This is what the Holy Bible says:

One day when Job’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!” (Job 1:13–17)

HE LOST ALL HIS CHILDREN

While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!” (Job 1:18–19)

HE REMAINED TRUE TO GOD

Although Job lost all his possessions, he remained faithful to God.

So it happened that this righteous man Job lost all his possessions and all of his children on the same day. But Job did not turn his back on God. He continued to worship God and remained faithful to Him.

Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” (Job 1:20–21)

JOB SUFFERED GREAT PHYSICAL PAIN

The Holy Bible tells us that Satan’s jealousy grew worse. He came again into the presence of God, and God spoke to Him.

Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.” “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.” (Job 2:3–5)

JOB SUFFERED PAINFUL SORES ALL OVER HIS BODY

Even though Job suffered great physical pain, he did not blame God.

The Lord allowed Satan to attack Job personally but within limits. He could not take his life. The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.” Then Satan left the presence of God and afflicted Job.

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken

pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.
(Job 2:7–8)

JOB SUFFERED REJECTION BY HIS WIFE

Even after being personally attacked, Job still remained faithful to God. But Job’s wife lost all hope. She said to him, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9).

Job told his wife that she was speaking foolishly. He said, “Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble? In all this, Job did not sin in what he said” (Job 2:10).

JOB’S FAITHFULNESS WAS REWARDED

When Job’s trial was over, and he proved himself faithful, God delivered him from Satan and his suffering. God restored his wealth to him and gave him twice as much as he had before. God blessed the latter part of his life more than the first. He even blessed him with seven more sons and three more daughters.

During the time of his sufferings, Job made this statement about his faith in God. “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him” (Job 13:15). God will always bless the person whose faith in Him remains strong even in the face of adversity. God is faithful. He has always been and He will always be faithful to the person who trusts in Him.

REASONS FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING

Some people wonder why there is so much suffering in the world today. Sometimes the suffering even seems unjust. Why do some people seem to suffer more than others? The Holy Bible tells us the reasons why there is so much pain and suffering.

THEY ARE CAUSED BY REBELLION

The root of all our suffering is the rebellion of both Satan and human beings. Rebellion against God has turned the world into a place of suffering. The Word of God tells us, “We know that the whole creation

has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time” (Romans 8:22).

THEY ARE CAUSED BY DISOBEDIENCE

—■—
**There are 3
reasons for pain
and suffering:**

- **Rebellion**
- **Disobedience**
- **Satan**

—■—
When people chose to disobey God’s commands, the door to suffering was opened. Satan has taken advantage of humankind’s rebellion against God and has encouraged even more rebellion. Satan now rules this fallen world. He often afflicts the righteous just as he afflicted Job. That is why the Holy Bible calls him the accuser of all who follow God. But God wants to deliver us from Satan and all his afflictions just like He delivered Job. The Holy Bible tells us, “For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down” (Revelation 12:10).

THEY ARE BECAUSE OF SATAN

Satan accuses us before God. He wants to destroy us. He has brought suffering and pain into the world. But in Jesus’ name, Satan is thrown down. God sent Jesus into the world to destroy the works of the devil and to liberate those who are afflicted by him. “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (1 John 3:8).

HEALING AND DELIVERANCE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

When Jesus was here on earth, He healed the sick and delivered those bound by Satan. This is what the Holy Bible says about His healing ministry:

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill

with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. (Matthew 4:23–24)

JESUS HEALED A BOY WHO HAD CONVULSIONS

Jesus came down from a mountain, and a large crowd of people came to meet Him. A man in the crowd told Jesus about his son. He said a spirit would often seize his son and throw him into convulsions. So Jesus called for the boy to come to Him.

Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. (Luke 9:42)

JESUS HEALED A CRIPPLED WOMAN

One day a woman came into the synagogue where Jesus was teaching. She had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up.

When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. (Luke 13:12–13)

JESUS IS STILL THE SAME TODAY

Jesus is the same today as when He walked on this earth. He has power to heal you and deliver you from every affliction of Satan. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

The Lord Jesus Christ has power to heal us and deliver us from Satan because of who He is.

- He is the One and Only Son of God
- He is the Word of God
- He is the Love of God

Jesus has the power to heal and deliver us from Satan and evil spirits because of who He is.

- He is the Lamb of God
- He is the Power of God
- He is the Wisdom of God
- He is the Fullness of God

In fact, everything that God is and all His power are found in the Lord Jesus. Jesus was crucified on the Cross for our sins, but three days later God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is alive! And He is just the same today as He always was!

If you will pray to God in Jesus' name, He will save you and heal you. He will crush Satan's power that is afflicting your life. If you want to be healed and free from Satan's power, please pray this prayer from your heart to God.

Prayer

Father God, I thank You for sending Jesus to be my Savior. I ask You to save me and forgive my sins. Please deliver me now from Satan's power, heal me from every sickness, and make me well. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. How did Job react to the loss of all his possessions?

2. What did Job say about God when God allowed him to suffer great physical pain?

3. What are the three causes for pain and suffering?

4. Why does the Lord Jesus have power to heal and deliver people from evil spirits?

4 FEAR

NIKO'S STORY: DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR

Niko lives near a lake. Some of the people in her village are fishermen; others are farmers. One day when Niko's husband was away in the city, their son suddenly became seriously ill. The illness began with a high fever and diarrhea, and soon the boy was unconscious. Fear gripped Niko's heart.

Niko went to the village witchdoctor who consults the spirits to find help for people who are in trouble. The witchdoctor killed a chicken and examined its entrails. Then he told her that someone had put a curse on her son. He said the curse had caused him to become ill and fall unconscious. The witchdoctor gave her a powerful medicine in a pouch and told her to attach it to her son's body to counteract the curse that made him ill.

Although Niko did everything the witchdoctor had told her to do, her son got worse. She was afraid her son would die.

It was at this time that Niko heard about a man in her village who prayed for people in the powerful name of Jesus. Her fear and desperation caused her to go to the man's house. He was a preacher and a follower of Jesus.

The preacher told Niko that God sent a Savior into the world to save us from our sins. This same Savior has power to heal the sick and drive out demons. His name is Jesus. He told her that Jesus died on a cross to pay the price for our sins and for the sins of all people in the world. His body was taken down from the cross and buried. But three days later, Jesus arose from the dead. He appeared to His followers many times, and then He returned to heaven where He prays for us every day. The preacher told Niko that Jesus has the power to heal her son.

Niko took the preacher to her home, where he prayed for her son in the name of Jesus. The boy was completely delivered and restored to health. Fear left Niko, and peace filled her heart. Now Niko and her family are followers of Jesus.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- No fear of illness
- No fear of darkness
- No fear of sorcery
- No fear of death

There are many things in this world that bring fear to our hearts. Many people have fear when someone in their family becomes ill. Others have a hard time sleeping at night because they know that much evil is done in the darkness.

There are those who have fear of evil men who might harm them. Many have fear of those who practice sorcery. They fear those who use evil objects to gain power from the spirits to send curses and bring harm to others. Others have a great fear of death because they do not know what awaits them after they pass from this life.

***The sources of
fear are:***

- ***Illness***
 - ***Darkness***
 - ***Sorcery***
 - ***Death***
-

NO FEAR OF ILLNESS

The believer who follows Jesus does not fear times of illness. The believer puts his or her faith in God, who is our healer and deliverer. This is what a writer of the Psalms wrote:

Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. (Psalm 103:1–4)

God is worthy of all praise. We praise Him from our inmost being for all He has done for us. God is our healer. As we call on Him in our times of illness, He heals all our diseases. He delivers us from the pit of suffering and shows us His love and compassion.

NO FEAR OF DARKNESS

The believer who follows Jesus sleeps well at night. He or she does not fear the darkness because Jesus is near. The follower of Jesus does not fear evil men who often do evil things in the darkness because God will never leave nor forsake those who follow Him. Jesus promised, “I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

These are promises that God made in the Holy Bible, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. (Psalm 91:5–6)

When we trust in God, we know He is near. Therefore, we do not fear the evil that happens in the darkness. God is our refuge and strength. He is our protector.

NO FEAR OF SORCERY

The follower of Jesus does not fear sorcery. In the name of Jesus, we have power over every curse, over the evil eye, and over every evil object. Jesus is the powerful Savior. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18).

NO FEAR OF DEATH

***The follower
of Jesus does
not fear death
because Jesus is
the resurrection
and the life.***

The believer who follows Jesus has no fear of death. Jesus not only died for our sins, but three days later He arose from the dead and defeated death. Because He lives, all who follow Him will live forever in God’s presence and experience His blessings in heaven. This is what Jesus promised, “I am the resurrection and

the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies” (John 11:25).

God’s Word tells us that at death everyone’s soul either goes to heaven with God or to a place of suffering called hell. The wicked will go to hell to be punished for their sins. However, the followers of Jesus know that when they die their bodies will be buried, but their soul will go to be with God in heaven.

The Holy Bible says that one day our bodies will come out of the grave when Jesus returns to earth. He died, rose again, and then ascended into heaven. And the Holy Bible promises that He is going to come to earth again to take all His followers to heaven to be with him in the presence of God forever. When He returns all those who have died in Christ will come to life again, coming out of their graves. They will join the believers who are still alive, and they will all be caught up into heaven. They will all be with Jesus in the presence of God forever. This is the promise:

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:14, 16–17)

■
***The Holy Bible
 promises that
 all who follow
 Jesus will one
 day be with Him in
 heaven.***
 ■

Jesus is coming to earth again. He is coming to take all believers to heaven where they will be with God forever. Through Jesus we have no fear of death, for as Jesus rose from the dead, so we will rise to a new life. Jesus has won the victory over the grave.

Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54–57)

The follower of Jesus does not fear evil men and witchcraft, for Jesus is near. In His name we have power over every evil force. The believer

has no fear of illness or death because Jesus is our healer, and He has already conquered death. Jesus is coming again to take all His followers, both those who have already died and those still living, to be with Him forever in paradise.

What brings fear to your heart? You need to trust in Jesus. If you will call on His name, He will save you and deliver you from all evil. If you want to be free from fear, please pray this prayer.

Prayer

Jesus, I trust You as my Savior. Forgive me of my sins. I know that You are the powerful Savior. Please remove all fear from my heart and fill my life with Your peace as I follow you. I ask this in Your Almighty Name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. What are the four sources of fear?

2. Why doesn't the follower of Jesus fear sorcery?

3. The follower of Jesus does not fear death because Jesus is

4. Where will the follower of Jesus go after death?

5 THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY OVER SATAN

KOUKA: DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL SPIRITS

One day a man called Kouka went to the market and met some of his friends. They decided to go and drink beer. As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly Kouka's laughter stopped and a look of despair came over him. Kouka became angry and extremely violent. An evil spirit had entered into him.

His father began searching for a witchdoctor who would have strong enough charms to drive out the evil spirit. All the charms the family tried seemed ineffective. Kouka's family finally gave up in despair. They cut down a tree to make a stock, as the custom is in their village for those who become violently insane. They bore holes in the tree trunk and fastened Kouka's feet through the holes in the tree. Then they forced him to sit on the ground. He sat under a straw shelter for six months with his legs fastened securely. He often raved and fought to try to free himself only to drop repeatedly to the ground in exhaustion.

Kouka's father soon became tired of taking care of him and decided to take him to a friend. The friend had offered to help because he was sure he could find a powerful charm to set Kouka free.

Kouka was led with a rope around his neck to his friend's village. His feet were again put in stocks, and he was forced to sit under a small grass shelter. However, the shelter did not block the rain. So like a beast of the field, he squatted on the ground while the rain poured upon him. The people spread many kinds of mixtures on his body and gave him foul smelling liquids to drink. They would beat him severely when he refused to eat and drink what they gave him.

Then one day a preacher came to the village where Kouka was bound. The preacher was a follower of Jesus. He told those who were taking care of Kouka that he would pray for him and ask God to deliver him. But first, they needed to remove all the fetishes that had been attached

to Kouka's body. A fierce battle started when the fetishes were removed and the preacher began to pray. The evil spirit did not want to leave, so the preacher and other followers of Jesus continued to pray for Kouka for several days. They commanded the evil spirit to leave in Jesus' name. Finally, Kouka was completely set free from the evil spirits, and his mind was restored. Then the preacher taught him about Jesus. Kouka repented of his sins and received Jesus as his Savior. His life was miraculously changed, and he became a follower of Jesus.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- The authority of Jesus over Satan and evil spirits
 - The power of Jesus' name
 - Spiritual weapons to defeat Satan
-

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS OVER SATAN AND EVIL SPIRITS

This amazing story about Kouka's deliverance from evil spirits causes us to wonder. How did the preacher receive such authority that he was able to see Kouka completely set free? Many people tried to help him. They wanted to see him set free, but all their efforts failed. Sadly, they inflicted Kouka with a lot of pain and suffering as they made many fruitless attempts to help him. The witchdoctors could not deliver him because they have no authority over Satan. They themselves are controlled by evil spirits because they do the work of Satan.

But Jesus has complete authority over Satan and all his demons. When Jesus was here on earth, demons feared Him. There is a story in the Holy Bible about the authority Jesus has over evil spirits. Jesus had crossed a lake in a boat and was met by two men who were possessed by evil spirits.

Jesus has complete authority over Satan and all his demons.

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him.

They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:28–34)

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The demons were afraid that Jesus had come to judge them and cast them into hell.
■

The two men were driven by the demons to live in the tombs. Everyone was afraid of them because they were so violent. But when they came into contact with Jesus, they were afraid of Him! The demons were afraid that Jesus had come to judge them and cast them into hell.

They begged Him not to destroy them but to let them enter into a herd of pigs. Jesus allowed them to enter the pigs, and when they did the whole herd ran off a cliff and drowned in the water because they were tormented by the demons.

THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

There is great power in the name of Jesus. Demons and Satan himself must flee at the command given in the powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, we can use His name to resist the devil. And when we do, Satan must flee from us. “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

■
The most powerful name in the universe is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
■

The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most powerful name in the universe. His name is exalted above all other names.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every

knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory

of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9–11)

PRAY AND DRIVE OUT DEMONS IN JESUS' NAME

Jesus has given His followers the privilege to pray in His name.

I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. (John 16:23–24)

Jesus has also given us the authority to use His name to drive out evil spirits. “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons” (Mark 16:17).

SPIRITUAL WEAPONS TO DEFEAT SATAN

Jesus rules over all God's creation. He came to establish His kingdom in the hearts of people here on earth. It is Jesus' kingdom of light that overthrows the kingdom of Satan, which is the kingdom of darkness. Each time someone is set free from evil spirits in Jesus' name we see evidence of the kingdom of God defeating the kingdom of Satan.

God gives every follower of Jesus the spiritual weapons of His kingdom to fight against Satan and destroy his works. God's Word says:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, ... the belt of truth ... the breastplate of righteousness ... your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.... take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:10–18)

***Every follower of
Jesus has been
given spiritual
weapons to defeat
Satan.***

THE BELT OF TRUTH

God has promised the followers of Jesus many wonderful things in His Word, the Holy Bible. God's Word is like a belt of truth around our lives. It protects us and sets us free from Satan's lies. Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32).

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

We have the breastplate of righteousness to protect us from evil spirits. Jesus is our righteousness. When we believe in Him and follow Him as our Savior, His righteousness covers us and He declares that we are children of God. We have been purchased with Jesus' own blood when He died on the cross. His righteousness is given to us. We can stand in His righteousness being more than conquerors through Him. The Holy Bible tells us:

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37–39)

FITTED WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

As followers of Jesus, we have our feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. We are always ready through Jesus for every trick of the devil. The good news of the death of Jesus for our sins and His resurrection from the dead gives peace in our hearts. We know that He will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus is always near and when we call on His name, He hears and delivers us. We are ready to face the devil and to overcome him in Jesus' name. The Word of God tells us, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8–9).

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

God has given us a shield of faith to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the devil. Satan throws temptations at us. He is the god of this world in that he controls the hearts and minds of wicked people. But through faith in Jesus and through His Word we can overcome Satan and the darkness of this sinful world. We are able through the shield of faith to put out all the flaming arrows that Satan shoots at us.

—■—
Through faith in Jesus and His Word we can overcome Satan and the darkness of this sinful world.
—■—

Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5:4–5)

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

God has given us the helmet of salvation. We are saved through the Lord Jesus Christ—through His death on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead. We are saved from our sins. We are saved from the judgment of hell. We are saved from the devil who wants to destroy us. We are saved from the fear of death. This is why we must confess Jesus as our Savior and Lord. The Holy Bible says:

—■—
Romans 10:9–10 explains two things we must do to be saved.
—■—

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, [declared by God to be forgiven], and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

God has given us the Holy Bible. It is the Word of God, and is also referred to as the Sword of the Spirit.

When Jesus walked on earth, He used the Sword of the Spirit to defeat Satan. After His baptism in water, Jesus went into the desert where He

fasted and prayed for 40 days. At the end of this time, Jesus was very hungry so Satan tempted Him. The Word of God tells us:

The tempter [Satan] came to him [Jesus] and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

(Matthew 4:3–4)

Satan tempted Jesus three times, and each time Jesus defeated him with the Word of God. Followers of Jesus can also defeat Satan with the Word of God. As we read and meditate on the Word of God, it becomes our spiritual food. It strengthens our faith and gives us spiritual power. Then we can use it to overcome Satan and all his evil spirits.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Finally, we overcome Satan by praying in the Spirit. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, God’s Spirit enters our lives and gives us power to live in victory. As we fast and pray, as Jesus did, we can defeat every evil spirit. We can pray through the help of the Holy Spirit, calling on God in Jesus’ name, and this will cause every evil spirit to flee.

If you want to have strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you need to be filled with His Holy Spirit so that you can pray more effectively in the Spirit. If you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will be protected from Satan and all his evil spirits.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank You that You died for my sins. I know that in Your name I have power over Satan and all his evil spirits. By faith I want to put on all the spiritual armor You have given me so that I can resist the devil. He must flee from me through the powerful name of Jesus. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. Who in the following list has authority over Satan and all his demons? (Draw a circle around the correct name.)

Sorcerer

Witchdoctor

Jesus

Shaman

2. Why are demons afraid of Jesus?

3. Which one of the following is not a spiritual weapon for followers of Jesus to use to defeat Satan? (Draw a circle around the one that is not correct.)

Belt of Truth

Helmet of Salvation

Shield of Faith

Faith in a witchdoctor

4. According to Romans 10:8–9, what are the two things we must do to be saved?

THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY OVER SATAN

6 BLOOD SACRIFICE

DAMA AND TAABU OFFER SACRIFICES

Dama and Taabu were married in their village four years ago, but Taabu has not been able to conceive and bear a child. They fear the ancestral spirits are not pleased with them and are keeping them from having a child.

Dama and Taabu decided to go to a diviner to find out what was wrong. They gave the diviner a goat, and he took them into his home where a small fire was burning. Then he took pieces of animal bones and teeth and repeated some magic words as he scattered the bones and teeth on the floor. The diviner then read the meaning of the arrangement of the bones and teeth. He looked disturbed by what he saw. He told Dama and Taabu that the village ancestral spirits had been greatly offended and must receive a sacrifice to be appeased. He said that this was the reason why Taabu had not been able to have a child.

Dama and Taabu returned home. They immediately sacrificed three chickens to the village spirits and sprinkled the blood at the door of their home. They believed this would appease the spirits and gain their favor. Because of the sacrifices they made, Dama and Taabu had great hope that Taabu would soon conceive and give birth to a child.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- Why do people offer sacrifices?
 - What does the Holy Bible say about sacrifices?
 - Why did Jesus Christ give His life as a sacrifice?
-

WHY DO PEOPLE OFFER SACRIFICES?

All over the world people make animal sacrifices. There is a worldwide belief that the shedding of blood has power to deliver from difficulties. There are those who offer sacrifices to spirits to insure a good harvest. Others offer sacrifices to gain wealth. Still others sacrifice to the spirits when a family member falls ill.

There is a worldwide belief that shedding of blood has power to deliver people from difficulties.

Animal sacrifices and even human sacrifices have been made. These are attempts to appease the spirits and gain their favor. But is this the way God wants us to live? What kind of sacrifice must be made to gain the favor of God?

WHAT DOES THE HOLY BIBLE SAY ABOUT SACRIFICES?

ANIMAL SACRIFICES CANNOT TAKE OUR SINS AWAY

The Holy Bible tells about the Hebrew people who offered animal sacrifices for their sins for hundreds of years. They finally learned that God was not pleased with their sacrifices. The blood of animals was only useful for man-made religious traditions. They learned that if humans are to have their errors or sins forgiven and be free from the power of Satan, they need a better sacrifice.

The life of a creature is in the blood. (Leviticus 17:11)

And without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
(Hebrews 9:22)

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (Hebrews 10:4)

The Holy Bible says we have all offended God through our disobedience and failure to keep His commands. We have all gone astray like sheep, seeking our own sinful ways (lying, stealing, adultery, boasting, idolatry, murder, strife, slander, envy). We are all rebellious and filled with sinful thoughts and actions.

If the blood sacrifices of animals cannot take away the shame of our wrong doing, how can we please God? If sacrifices cannot free us from the power of evil spirits, how can we be set free? The answer is found in God's own provision for our salvation. He provided His own perfect sacrifice.

■
If animal sacrifices cannot free us from the power of evil spirits, how can we be free?
■

GOD PROVIDED HIS OWN PERFECT SACRIFICE

Many years before Jesus came to earth, the prophet Isaiah spoke about Him. He prophesied that Jesus would take our place and be the sacrifice for our sins.

But he [Jesus] was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5–6)

■
Jesus became the blood sacrifice for the sins of all people.
■

God the Father sent the Lord Jesus into the world to become the blood sacrifice for the sins of all people. We can have peace with God through the sacrifice of Jesus. It is through His sacrifice that we can be delivered from the power of evil spirits.

WHY DID JESUS CHRIST GIVE HIS LIFE AS A SACRIFICE?

BECAUSE GOD LOVES US

The answer to this question is clearly explained in the Holy Bible. God loves all people with a love that is greater than we can understand. However, there is a serious problem that has separated us from experiencing God's love. The problem is sin—our breaking of God's laws. Sin must be judged because it is an offence against a holy God. This problem affects all people because we have all sinned.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION

God had a plan to solve the sin problem. He gave His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be the sacrifice for our sins.

God's plan for our salvation is the sacrifice of His Son for our sins.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

THE LORD JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED FOR OUR SINS

Although Jesus never did anything wrong, He was crucified like a common criminal. His hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross. Two other men who had committed crimes were also crucified with Him. The Holy Bible tells us that while Jesus was hanging on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Then He said, "It is finished." (John 19:30). With that He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Jesus' purpose for coming into the world—to save us—had been accomplished.

To make sure that Jesus was dead, the soldiers who crucified Jesus took a sword and pierced His side as He hung on the Cross. Blood and water flowed out of His side as a sign that He was really dead. All the wickedness of all people had fallen upon Jesus. He had taken the place of punishment for every human being. He was punished that we can be forgiven.

We deserve to die for our own sins, but Jesus took all the wrong that all people had ever done upon himself. He became sin, though He himself never sinned. He became the blood sacrifice to satisfy God's judgment for our sins so that we might have our sins forgiven and be made righteous in God's sight. The blood of

We deserve to die for our own sins, but the Lord Jesus Christ took our place on the Cross.

Jesus washes away all our sin and shame. His blood frees us from the punishment of sin so that we can know and serve the Living God. His cleansing blood gives us power to overcome Satan and his evil spirits.

THE LORD JESUS COMPLETED GOD'S PLAN

The work that God sent the Lord Jesus into the world to do has been completed. He became the blood sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. "God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Now anyone who will believe in Him will receive forgiveness for their sins and be set free from the power of Satan. When we pray to God and ask the Lord Jesus to take our sins away, He forgives us and gives us His righteousness.

A STORY ABOUT TWIN BROTHERS

The story is told of twin brothers; one was very wicked, and the other righteous. One day the wicked brother went out and drank a lot of beer and had a heated argument with another man. Then, angrily, he stabbed the man several times. The man fell down and died.

The drunken brother now had blood on his hands and clothes. He went home to hide because he was afraid the police would come for him. He went into a room in his house and fell asleep due to his drunkenness and exhaustion.

The righteous brother, who dearly loved his twin brother, heard what he had done and went home to find him. He found his brother lying on the floor drunk and asleep. The righteous brother washed the blood off his wicked brother's hands and exchanged clothes with him. When the police arrived they found the innocent brother wearing his twin brother's blood-covered clothes. So they arrested him. The innocent brother was tried for murder. Although he did not commit the crime, he was put to death for the wicked deeds of his brother.

NO MORE SACRIFICES NEEDED

This story illustrates what Jesus did for us. Because of His great love for all people, Jesus took our place on the Cross by shedding His own blood. "He himself [Jesus] bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Now there is no need for any more sacrifices to be offered. Jesus is the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). He is God's perfect sacrifice. And because He is perfect, He only needed to be

offered as a sacrifice once. “He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26).

MORE GOOD NEWS!

The good news is that the Lord Jesus not only died for our sins, He also arose from the dead! His body was buried in a tomb after He died on the Cross, but three days later, He arose from the dead. He conquered death, hell, and Satan through His resurrection from the dead.

***The good news
is that the Lord
Jesus Christ
arose from the
dead!***

Now He can save us from our sins because He is the Living Savior. He can give us new life because His life is eternal. Through His life we are saved. God’s Word says:

For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (Romans 5:10)

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?

This is what the Holy Bible tells us to do:

1. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord.
2. Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.
3. Ask Jesus to take your sins away.
4. Ask God for the gift of eternal life (the assurance that when you die you will go to heaven in the presence of God).

The Holy Bible promises that if you will believe that the Lord Jesus is the blood sacrifice for your sins and if you ask Him to take your sins away, He will wash away your sins and give you the gift of eternal life. You will never need to offer any more animal sacrifices, because the blood sacrifice of the Lord Jesus will cover your life and give you power to overcome every evil spirit.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank You for dying on the cross and taking my place. I ask You to cleanse me from all my sins. Thank You for saving me. Thank You for giving me power through Your sacrifice and through Your resurrected life so that I can be free from every evil spirit. Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. I want You to be my Lord and Savior. I ask this in Your name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. If animal sacrifices cannot free us from the power of evil spirits, how can we be free?

2. Who is the blood sacrifice for the sins of all people?

3. What is God's plan for our salvation?

4. What is the good news about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ?

7 THE AFTERLIFE

NWAAGAA AND THE SPIRIT WORLD

Loud mournful crying was heard in the village as the sun began to rise on the horizon. An elder in the village had died and the family was mourning his death. Nwaagaa ran breathlessly to Poko's home, the eldest son of the village elder who had died. Poko had to be informed as soon as possible so that the necessary preparations for the funeral could begin. Proper sacrifices needed to be made so that the spirit of the deceased father would not suffer and linger near the village. The father's spirit also had to be appeased so that it would not return later and bring vengeance upon the family. Many other village customs would be observed to honor the dead and make sure his spirit was at peace in the spirit world.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- What happens after death?
 - Preparing for life after death
 - How to choose your eternal destiny—heaven or hell?
-

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

DEATH IS CERTAIN

Where does the human spirit go when it enters the afterlife? What awaits the souls of people when they breathe their last breath and pass into the spirit world? Will the afterlife be a place of peace and rest or a

place of suffering? What must a person do in this life that will prepare his or her soul to enter into the next life? These are some of the questions that people all over the world ask themselves. Perhaps you have asked yourself these same questions.

Everyone must face death—the rich, the poor, the wise and the unwise. No one knows the hour when death will call a person into the next life. God’s Word gives the believer great hope. The follower of Jesus knows that when this life is over he or she will go to heaven and be in the presence of God; a place where the peace and blessings of God will be experienced forever.

LIFE IS SHORT

God’s Word reminds us how short life is. Our time in this world will pass very quickly. The Holy Bible compares our lives to a mist that is seen for a moment and then is seen no more. “Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a while and then vanishes” (James 4:14).

—■—
The life of every person is like a mist that is seen for a moment and then is seen no more.
—■—

The Holy Bible also compares our lives to grass and a flower that comes up from the ground but lasts for only a brief time. The wind blows on it, and it withers and dies.

“As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more” (Psalm 103:15–16).

A WARNING FROM THE LORD JESUS

The Lord Jesus warned us about the foolishness of storing up wealth in this life rather than preparing for the life to come. He said, “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” (Matthew 16:26). Jesus also told a story about a man who lived only for this life and did not prepare for the life to come.

The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, “What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.” Then he said, “This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my

grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God. (Luke 12:16–21)

If we live only for ourselves, we are not prepared for the life to come.

This man thought only of today; he did not think about his soul. He did not plan for his life after death. He forgot that God saw everything and knew everything that was in his heart. He forgot how short life really is, so he lived only for this life. But God called him a foolish man.

All that he stored up in this life was left behind when he died. And so it is with us. If we live for ourselves and are not serving God and following Jesus, we are not prepared for the life to come.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19–24)

PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER DEATH

How can a person be sure he or she is ready for the life to come? How do we store up treasures in heaven?

FIRST, WE MUST KNOW OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

How can a person be sure he or she is ready for the life to come?

God is a holy God, and all people are sinners. We need to have our sins washed away. Only Jesus has power to forgive our sins so that we can be ready for the life to come. When He comes into our lives and takes away our sins, we become a new creation. Our sinful lives are of the past, and a new life begins in following Jesus. God's Word tells us, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

SECOND, WE MUST FOLLOW JESUS

We begin a new life when we decide to follow Jesus. He forgives our sins and changes our hearts. He makes our hearts and minds clean and new. He also gives us a desire to please God and obey Him. God's Spirit enters our hearts and gives us power to do what pleases Him. "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).

When this has happened in our lives, we can then begin to lay up treasures in heaven, the place where God dwells. This will cause us to be prepared when this life is over. All the treasures stored up in this world will one day pass away, but the treasure stored up in the presence of God will last forever.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY—HEAVEN OR HELL?

HELL IS NOT GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

The Bible tells us that when the soul of a person passes from this life to the next, it either enters into the joy of God's presence in heaven, or into hell. Hell is a place of suffering that will never end. It is not God's will for you to leave this life and enter into hell. Hell was created for Satan and his evil spirits. One day Satan and his demons will be cast into hell. Jesus died so that all people might have the opportunity to go to heaven and be with Him forever. Your decision concerning Jesus now will determine your destiny in the next life.

It is not God's will for anyone to go to hell. Your destiny depends on your decision.

THE BOOK OF LIFE

The Holy Bible tells us that when you accept Jesus as your Savior and ask Him to forgive your sins, your name will be written in the Book of Life in heaven. Then on the Day of Judgment, the Book of Life will be opened to see if your name has been written in it. Anyone whose name is not found in the book of life will be lost forever. "If anyone's name

was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15).

Accepting Jesus as your Savior and living for Him each day of your life will ensure that your name is written in the Book of Life. Jesus died and arose from the dead. Then He ascended into heaven and is preparing a place for all of His followers. This is what He said about the place He is preparing for you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:1–3)

THE BLESSINGS OF HEAVEN

God is going to show all the followers of Jesus the riches of His love and grace. He will give us His wonderful blessings throughout eternity. The Holy Bible says that God saved us “in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:7).

■
***Heaven is a place
of overflowing
peace and joy.***
■

Followers of Jesus will live in heaven forever. It is a place of overflowing peace and joy—a place where there will be no more suffering, crying, death, or pain.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:3–4)

You can have the assurance that when this life is over you will go to be with God in heaven. Anyone who turns away from sin and accepts Jesus as Savior will have that assurance. If you and your family accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, if you confess your sins to Him and ask Him to come into your heart, you would not need to worry about the spirit world. You will be safe in the protection of the all-powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first step in ensuring your eternal destiny in heaven is by accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior. You can start on this new journey by saying the prayer below. Make this your personal prayer by adding your own words. May God bless you as you surrender the control of your life to the Lord Jesus Christ and serve Him with all your heart.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to earth and dying for my sins. I believe that You died for all the wrong things I have done, and that three days later You arose from the dead. I accept You as my Savior and as the Lord of my life. Thank You that my name is now written in Your book in heaven. Thank You for preparing a place for me in heaven. Lord Jesus, I want to live with You forever. I pray this in Your name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. What does it mean when we say that life is like a mist?

2. How can a person be sure he or she is ready for the life to come?

3. If the Lord Jesus is your Savior, when you die, where will your soul go? (Draw a circle around the correct answer.)

Heaven

Hell

4. What is heaven like?

RESPONSE PAGE

Your Name _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** _____

Postal Code _____ **Country** _____

Thank you so much for reading *THE SPIRIT WORLD*. If you have enjoyed this book, please let us know how it has helped you.

We would also request that you tell us how you feel about Jesus Christ. Have you experienced the miracle of forgiveness and eternal life through repentance and faith in Him? If you have, do tell us about it.

YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Perhaps you would like to express your personal comments about these lessons. If so, respond to each as you are directed.

- 1 Have you understood God's plan of salvation and accepted Jesus as your Savior before starting to study Lesson 1? Y / N
- 2 If you did not, did you accept Jesus as a result of studying these lessons? Y / N
- 3 If you have not accepted Him yet, will you accept Him now? Y / N
- 4 Would you like to have an address of a group of Jesus Followers in your area? Y / N
- 5 These lessons include many truths about God. Which has/have been the most help to you in your life right now? _____

- 6 If you like, state a special need or problem that you would like a follower of Jesus to pray about with you. _____

- 7 Would you like to have information about other courses like this that you can study? Y / N

Congratulations on having finished these lessons and completed the Lesson Review Questions. Send the answer sheets to your local ICI director or office whose address is shown on page 2.

May God bless you as you love and serve Him.



SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR FRIENDS

WE WILL SEND THEM LESSON 1 OF

“THE SPIRIT WORLD“

Print Clearly _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

Country _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

Country _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ Zip or Postal Code _____

Country _____

Your Last Name _____

Your First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

Province or State _____ **Zip or Postal Code** _____

Country _____

