

B3 - God

Study 1 - The God of Judgment and Salvation

BIBLE READING:
Genesis 6: 5-22

KEY VERSE:

“The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment.”

2 Peter 2: 9

‘Saviour’, ‘Deliverer’ and ‘Redeemer’ are titles which describe God as the One Who is able to save. During times of crisis in Old Testament history, the Israelites often asked Him for help and deliverance. (See **Exodus 2: 23, 24**) However, there were occasions when only God understood the seriousness of the situation. When people were oblivious, or even careless of the danger, God would take the initiative and bring deliverance in His own distinctive way.

JUDGMENT

Although everything in creation had been described by God as **“very good”**, (**Genesis 1: 31**) within a matter of centuries it was spoiled. Because Adam and Eve had sinned by disobeying God’s Word, their special relationship with the Lord was broken. (**Genesis 3: 17, 23**) Gradually, yet inevitably, the effects of their sin spread. Jealousy, greed and pride marked the human race; violence and immorality increased, and God looked down from Heaven and saw that **“the wickedness of man was great in the earth”**. (**Genesis 6: 5**) Depraved and ruthless, mankind had become a reservoir of evil and because God is righteous, He knew He would have to destroy them. Although He was deeply grieved by their sin; destruction was never God’s plan for His world, so He gave ample opportunity for people to turn away from their sins and be delivered from His judgment. (**1 Peter 3: 20**)

The extent of the judgment was known only by the Lord, but He made it known to one man, who **“walked with God”**. (**Genesis 6: 9**) His life was pleasing to God, and God promised to preserve him from the imminent judgment. His name was Noah.

SALVATION

God took responsibility for the safety of Noah and ultimately for the survival of the human race. He gave him precise instructions for the building of the ark, and when it was completed, He ensured that Noah, his family and all the animals were safely inside before shutting them in. (**Genesis 7: 16**) The ark was secure and those inside could

depend upon God’s protection and provision. The Flood is not a Babylonian myth or symbol of destruction from ancient literature nor a half-remembered, half-imagined, prehistoric tragedy. There was a day (**see Genesis 7: 11**) when deluges of water from above and beneath unleashed their devastating power upon a corrupted earth and all its inhabitants. Noah’s eyes may never have seen the chaos and destruction, his ears may never have heard the cries of those who had ignored his warnings as **“the ark floated on the face of the waters”**. (**Genesis 7:18**) Noah, his family and all the animals were safely inside. They trusted the One Who had shown them the way of protection and deliverance and when the flood eventually subsided, the family emerged into a world made clean, for a little while, from its wickedness and godlessness. (**Genesis 8: 15-19**)

FAITH

Noah’s deliverance from the global catastrophe was not merely because God valued his spiritual character and his companionship (**Genesis 6: 9**); it was because Noah listened to God, paid attention to His warning and did exactly what he was told. (**Hebrews 11: 7**) This means that Noah was a man of faith, who believed and obeyed God’s Word, even in the face of ridicule and condemnation. (**2 Peter 2: 5, 9, 10**)

Faith in God, and obedience to His Word require courage and perseverance and are not easy to practise in today’s world which so often devalues these qualities. But God still guarantees the eternal salvation of those who, like Noah, put their trust in His provision - the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom Noah’s ark is a ‘picture’. **“Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”** (**John 3: 16**)



B3 - God

Study 2 - The Redeemer of His People

BIBLE READING:
Exodus 3: 1-12

KEY VERSE:
“I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.”

Exodus 6: 6

The idea of redemption first appears in the book of Exodus. The verb ‘to redeem’ means to pay a ransom, a named price, so that a slave may have freedom. ‘Exodus’ means ‘the going out’ and this book tells about more than a million people leaving a land which had become for them a prison of misery and slavery.

“I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION.”
(GENESIS 46: 3)

During a severe famine, Jacob and his family (seventy people in all) left their homeland and went to live in Egypt. Jacob had known God’s care and guidance during his lifetime, and he was sure that it was God’s will for them to leave Canaan. **(Genesis 46: 2-7)** Four hundred years later, their descendants had grown into a nation, the Israelites, and the Egyptians were afraid of their increasing strength and military threat. The rulers of Egypt tried to solve the problem by making them slaves, treating them with great cruelty, and even destroying their male children at birth. But God was watching over them and He chose one of them, Moses, as their deliverer from the slavery of Egypt.

God had made a solemn promise, many years before, to Abraham (Jacob’s grandfather) that his descendants would have their own land. **(Genesis 17: 8)** After four hundred years it seemed that God had forgotten His promise. God, however, always keeps His promises, and when the time was right, He spoke to Moses, **“I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”** **(Exodus 3: 10)**

“I WILL BE WITH YOU.” **(EXODUS 3: 12)**

God told Moses that He had seen the misery of His people. He had heard their cry and He was concerned about their suffering. He had come down to deliver them. **(verses 7-8)** God was totally involved with the Israelites. He loved them, watched over them and would become their Saviour, their Redeemer. **(Deuteronomy 7: 7-9)** God Himself would initiate and fulfil their deliverance, just as He had done for Noah in the time of the flood.

“I WILL STRETCH OUT MY HAND AND STRIKE EGYPT.” **(EXODUS 3: 20)**

Pharaoh, king of Egypt, had no respect for the God of the Israelites and he refused outright when Moses requested that the people should leave Egypt, and go back to their own country. It took ten terrible plagues from God to break down the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart. **(Chapters 7-12)** The final judgment was the death of the firstborn of every family in Egypt. The Israelites were commanded by Moses to kill a lamb for each household and put its blood on the lintel and door-posts of their houses. **“When I see the blood, I will pass over you”** **(Exodus 12: 13)** was the promise that God gave them. This was the price of their redemption. Death would not enter the home where God’s Word was believed and obeyed. **(See Exodus 12: 21-23)**

“I WILL BRING YOU INTO THE LAND THAT I SWORE TO GIVE TO ABRAHAM, TO ISAAC, AND TO JACOB.” **(EXODUS 6: 8)**

Passover night marked the Israelites’ deliverance out of Egypt and the beginning of their journey to the Promised Land. In addition to putting the blood of the lamb upon their doors, they were to eat its roasted flesh and be ready to leave as soon as the order was given. **“You shall eat it with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand.”** **(Exodus 12: 11)**

Our Christian life is like a journey; as we continue on our way, we are strengthened by remembering the great price God paid for our redemption, by the death of His Son on the cross. For the Jews, the Passover became an annual feast, or festival, during which they look back to recall their great deliverance. Without the Passover, they would lose all appreciation of what the Lord had done for them. Similarly, we must remember what the Lord Jesus did for us in His sacrifice at Calvary. We owe our eternal salvation to Him. Let us ensure that we never turn aside from following Him.



Answer Sheet

B3 - God

Study 1 - The God of Judgment and Salvation

Name: _____ Return address on back of answer sheet

Address: _____

1. Using the Bible Reading, write a sentence about each of these:

- a) What God saw. _____
- b) What God felt. _____
- c) The decision God made. _____

□ /6

2. Give the verse numbers from the Bible Reading for the following verses which tell us:

- a) Even birds and animals would share the consequences of man's sin. verse _____
- b) They would share in Noah's deliverance. verse _____

□ /2

3. Answer the following questions:

- a) What does the Bible mean when it says, "**Noah walked with God**"?
- _____
- b) Give three examples of how a Christian today could 'walk with God'.
- _____
- _____
- _____

□ /4

4. What similarities are there between how people lived and behaved in Noah's time and how they act today?

□ /3

5. Read *Matthew 24: 36-39*.

What great future event does the Lord Jesus link with what happened in Noah's day?

□ /1

6. Noah was saved from God's judgment upon the ungodly world because "*the Lord shut him in*". (*Genesis 7: 16*) What can we learn about the character of God from the record of the flood and the ark?

□ /4

7. Read *Hebrews 11: 6, 7* where Noah's faith is commended.

- a) What is faith? _____
- b) What did Noah's faith prompt him to do? _____
- c) In what way did his faith in God benefit him? _____
- _____

□ /5

THINK: Reflect on the provision that God has made for you to be saved from judgment. Give thanks for the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and security.

TOTAL = □ /25

Answer Sheet

B3 - God

Study 2 - The Redeemer of His People

1. Write TRUE or FALSE after each of the following:

- a) 'Exodus' means 'the going out'. _____
- b) Jacob's family came to Egypt in a time of famine. _____
- c) God chose Abraham to be the deliverer of His people. _____
- d) The Israelites lived in Egypt for more than 400 years. _____
- e) They were to put the lamb's blood on their door-step. _____

/5

2. According to 1 Peter 1: 18, 19, Christians are "redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ". Explain why this was necessary and how it was achieved.

/4

3. In Exodus 3: 7, 8 God says four things about Himself to show his care and interest in His people. Write a summary of them here:

- a) "I _____."
- b) "I _____."
- c) "I _____."
- d) "I _____."

/4

4. What evidence do we have today that God is concerned about us?

/2

5. Answer the following questions:

- a) What was the last of the ten plagues which came upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians? _____
- b) What had the Israelites to do to be saved from it? _____
- c) The way in which they were saved is a 'picture' of how we can be saved from the power of sin and Satan. Explain how the "picture" helps us to understand our salvation. _____

/6

6. Read 1 Corinthians 5: 7.

- a) Who is our Passover Lamb? _____
- b) What happened to Him for us? _____
- c) Why do you think this name is used for Him? _____

/4

THINK: Think about how thankful the firstborn son in an Israelite family would have been for the blood of the lamb. Are you equally thankful for the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, our Passover Lamb?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

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Study 3 - The Love of God

1. **Answer the following questions:**

a) Explain in your own words why the world needs a Saviour. _____

b) Describe briefly God's rescue plan. _____

□ /4

2. **What do the following verses teach us of things which happened "before the foundation of the world":**

a) **John 17: 24** _____

b) **Ephesians 1: 4** _____

□ /4

3. **Why is the Lord Jesus a greater deliverer than Moses, Gideon or any of the other deliverers mentioned in the Bible?**

□ /2

4. **Explain briefly why is Jesus described as "The Lamb of God" in John 1: 29?**

□ /2

5. **Answer the following questions:**

a) According to **Hebrews 2: 14-15**, the Lord Jesus, in His death, did two things. What were they?

(i) _____

(ii) _____

b) How can we benefit from what He has done? _____

□ /5

6. **Explain in your own words God's purpose in saving us.**

□ /4

7. **Jesus is "The Saviour of the World". (see Key Verse) Does this mean that everyone will ultimately be in Heaven? Give reasons for your answer.**

□ /4

THINK: Can you truthfully speak of God as "My Saviour"? (**Luke 1: 47**)

TOTAL = □ /25

Answer Sheet

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Study 4 - The Restorer of Creation

1. How does the Bible explain the world's present unhappy state?

/2

2. Adam's sin resulted in the spoiling of creation. From *Genesis 3: 17-19*, list the effects of God's curse upon the ground.

/3

3. Using *Isaiah 11: 6-9*, summarise in your own words the effect on creation when the Lord Jesus returns, and rules upon the earth for 1,000 years.

/4

4. Write out a verse from the Bible Reading which tells us that God's redemption involves people's bodies as well as their souls.

/3

5. A Christian's body is subject to all the same diseases as that of a non-Christian. The difference, however, is that the Christian has a bright hope. Read *Philippians 3: 20-21*, and say, in your own words, what the Christian's hope is.

/4

6. According to *Revelation 21: 4* what are some of the ways in which the 'new heaven and new earth' will be different to the 'old' one.

/4

7. God's command to take care of His creation still stands. Read *Genesis 2: 15*, and give examples of how we can obey His Word and show our care for His world.

/3

8. "...you also must be ready" was the advice which Jesus gave when He talked about His coming again. (*Matthew 24: 44*) Explain as clearly as you can how we can be ready for that great event.

/2

THINK: Spend some time thanking God for the future hope that we have as Christians.

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL = /25 UNIT TOTAL = /100

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Study 3 - The Saviour of the World

BIBLE READING:

Matthew 1: 18-25

KEY VERSE:

“...the Father has sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world.”

1 John 4: 14

The previous studies have shown God’s power to save, whether from a global disaster (as in the case of Noah), or out of slavery (as in the case of the Israelites leaving Egypt). God saves because He is a God of love, and He has no desire to see any part of His creation suffer in His necessary and righteous judgments upon sin.

A GREATER PLAN

The Old Testament tells us of many ways in which people experienced the mercy and power of God, when they cried out to Him for help. God, however, had in His mind something greater than short-term and local deliverances from such things as war, flood and drought. God knew that the world was in need of much more than a temporary rescue from its current problems. What was needed was a spiritual salvation, for the whole race had wandered away from its Creator and had come under the controlling power of God’s great enemy - Satan. God’s greater plan was to provide a Saviour for the whole world!

The Bible reveals the amazing fact that God had formulated this plan **“before the foundation of the world”**. (1 Peter 1: 18-20) Only a loving, all-knowing and all-wise God could do such a thing! Even before sin spoiled everything, God had His plan in readiness!

A GREATER PERSON

The Old Testament records the deeds of great deliverers, such as Moses, Gideon and Samson, and many others. But to put into effect His plan for the salvation of the whole world, God sent **“His only Son”**. (John 3: 16) His earthly name is Jesus (which means ‘Saviour’), but we must never forget that He is the Son of God, who came from the Father to provide salvation for all, as the Key Verse tells us. His coming to earth as the Baby born at Bethlehem, took place just at the time God had appointed. (Galatians 4: 4)

A GREATER PRICE

We saw, in the last study, that if the Israelites were to escape from God’s judgment upon Egypt and gain their freedom, a lamb had to be killed and its blood put upon the doorposts and the lintel. God promised that when He saw the blood, He would pass over their houses. (Exodus 12: 13)

The price of freedom was the death of a lamb!

For us, a greater price has been paid by the death of the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, at Calvary. He is **“the Lamb of God”**, as John the Baptist called Him. (John 1: 29) His death is unique in that He died **“for our sins”**. (1 Corinthians 15: 3) So great was His love for us that He **“gave Himself for our sins”**. (Galatians 1: 4) Peter writes about the fact that the price of our redemption is **“the precious blood of Christ”**. (1 Peter 1: 19)

A GREATER POWER

Throughout Old Testament times, God’s deliverances were displays of His power. For example, He made a pathway through the Red Sea, thus allowing the Israelites to escape from the pursuing Egyptians. For us, however, a greater victory has been achieved! When the Lord Jesus paid the ‘greater price’ at Calvary, He defeated Satan. Hebrews 2: 14-15 explains that He destroyed the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and released those who were subject to lifelong slavery. The benefits of His great victory become ours personally when we repent of our sins and commit ourselves to Him in total trust.

A GREATER PURPOSE

Deliverance from sin and Satan is only the beginning. All who believe in the Lord Jesus are adopted into God’s family, becoming God’s children and receiving His Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to live as God’s children ought to live. Instead of going our own ways and doing our own will, we are helped to reflect the ways and the will of God. God’s purpose is that His children should walk **“as children of light... and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord”**. (Ephesians 5: 8-10) Is His purpose being fulfilled in your life?



B3 - God

Study 4 - The Restorer of Creation

BIBLE READING:

Romans 8: 18-25

KEY VERSE:

“Creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption.”

Romans 8: 21

Thanks to the wonders of technology, we can know, almost immediately, what is happening anywhere in the world. Within minutes we may hear breaking news about earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and disasters of all kinds! The pain and suffering of the world are no longer hidden from those of us who enjoy peace and plenty. At times, we may wonder, ‘Is the world going to continue for ever in its present state of sadness and suffering?’ Let us think about the Bible’s perspective on these things!

CREATION: AN INHERITANCE OF SUFFERING

In the Bible Reading, Paul graphically describes the plight of creation. **“We know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.” (verse 22)** This state of affairs is not through any fault of its own, even though its imperfections cause much havoc in the lives of its inhabitants. Creation’s flaws and weaknesses were brought about by the Fall of man. **(Genesis 3: 17-19)** The ground was cursed with thorns and thistles, climate became unstable, and the nature of many animals became aggressive. The delicate balance of creation was spoiled by Adam’s disobedience. When man sinned, the whole of creation suffered, for God had appointed man to be the head of creation. **(Genesis 1: 28)**

CREATION: A PRESENT HOPE

Pain, illness and the frailty of old age are the common experiences of the human race. But Christians are confident that a wonderful change is coming! **“We await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body...” (Philippians 3: 20-21)** This hope sustains Christians at all times, and especially when we are most conscious of our mortality. Perhaps we are mourning the death of a friend or relative: or we may be passing through a time of illness or injury, or caring for the needs of the sick and elderly. In such circumstances, we can be sure that the day will come when the effects of sin on our bodies, souls and spirits will be no more, and God Himself will wipe every tear away from our eyes. **(Revelation 21: 4)**

CREATION: A FUTURE GLORY

The Bible teaches us that every part of God’s wonderful creation shares this hope. The Key Verse speaks about

being **“set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God”**. In **Isaiah 11: 6-7**, such a world is portrayed, **“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together”**.

In that day (and only God knows when it will be), the knowledge of God will fill the earth, and His Son, Jesus, will reign over all the world for a thousand years. **(Revelation 20: 4)** At the end of this millennium (a one-thousand-year period) of peace and harmony, Satan, the one who had brought pain, suffering and death into our world, will be assigned to eternal punishment, along with all those who had opposed God. The old, spoiled creation will disappear, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth in which there will be no death, mourning, crying or pain. **“Behold, I am making all things new,”** says God in **Revelation 21: 5**.

In the Bible Reading, Paul says that **“creation waits with eager longing”** for the day of its release. **(Romans 8: 19)** This will take place when the Lord Jesus comes again in power and glory. When that happens, creation which was ruined through Adam’s sin and through his descendants’ greed and neglect, will be restored. As Christians we firmly believe that **“the coming of the Lord is at hand”!** **(James 5: 8)** Until that great day comes, we should remember that we have been entrusted with the care of God’s creation **(Genesis 2: 15)**



This is the third of four units on **God**.

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