

What makes this series so valuable is that each Bible event leads the reader or the group to discover the deepest truths of the Bible for themselves. This is done through insightful multiple choice questions which draw the readers to enter into the story and find for themselves its meanings and implications which they then can apply to their own lives.

The series is best “taught” by persons who encourage the group to do most of the talking and thinking. The teacher best acts as a leader in which the group discovers its way through the Scriptural events. The teacher may help the group when he or she believes that valuable truths have been overlooked, but the first discoverers should be members of the group itself. This stirs tremendous interest on the part of the group. This also relieves the teacher of the responsibility, under older systems of teaching, to carefully master all the truths of the text and present them in a way that would hopefully interest and “teach” the group.

Individuals who use these lessons for their own personal study find this investigative method interesting and meaningful. The reader is invited to sense the drama of each story in his or her own Bible and be led to discern the spiritual truths that are packed into each story.

*“Every Community on Earth Deserves a New Testament Church”*



# *There Is* **HOPE**

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## The Bible says it clearly:

***“People are born for trouble as predictably as sparks fly upward from a fire.” Job 5:7***

In the 21st century, human problems seem to abound more than ever. The discoveries in science, the modernization of society and the advances in education give no evidence of reducing human problems. On the contrary, while society makes advances in many fields, there is more poverty, more crime, more sickness, more solitude, more human destruction because of vices, and more unhappiness in the family and as individuals. What solutions are offered that truly can change the human situation? Above all, how can the individual and the family find more happiness and more security? For the young person, the adult and the older person, where is the road to true happiness to be found? What hope is there?

### There is hope!

God himself says in the Bible:

***“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.” Jeremiah 17:7***

Upon saying, “blessed are those,” God affirms that the person who truly learns to trust in Him will find a blessed solution to each problem of life. In a poetic form, He expresses how the life of this person will be.



***“They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they go right on producing delicious fruit.” Jeremiah 17:8***

God affirms that the person who has learned to put his trust in Him, just like a tree can experience moments of heat and “drought.” Nevertheless, he will not be worried because he has deep “roots” that extend to the river. In bad times, he will be refreshed and will prosper because his strength comes from God. Perhaps one may respond by saying, “Well, I have believed in God, but I still suffer. What am I missing that keeps God from blessing my life and relieving my problems?”

## A Study that Can Change Your Life

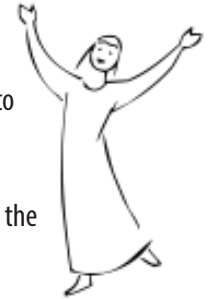
You have in your hands a study that can change your life. It will be different, possibly, from other studies, for three reasons.

- 1) The basis of this study is just the Bible and not the teachings of any church or religion in particular.
- 2) The thinker is you. You yourself will have to decide what the Bible is telling you.
- 3) The result can be a life totally changed into a life that God can bless and help every day in extraordinary ways.

The study is based on two important books of the Bible, the Book of Psalms and the prophecies of Isaiah.

### THE PSALMS: SONGS OF HOPE

In this book of songs of hope from the people of God, we guide you through only two Psalms. I hope that this gives you the desire to meditate on all of the 150 Psalms, finding peace, confidence and direction for your life. Use the Bible of your choice. We recommend that you use a modern version, one which is easy to understand, as the one that appears in this booklet.



We suggest that you meditate every day on a Psalm. In the next two studies, you will better understand why the Psalms are for you and your daily life.



## Study One: Psalm 34

**“God Will Protect Us”****Testimony of One Liberated from Fear****Psalm 34, Verses 1-4**

**[1] I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. [2] I will boast only in the LORD; let all who are discouraged take heart. [3] Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness; let us exalt his name together. [4] I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me, freeing me from all my fears.**

**1. Why does the psalmist praise the Lord?**

- The Lord heard his prayer
- The Lord freed him from all his fears
- The Lord didn't pay attention to him.

**Those Whom the Lord Helps****Verses 5-7**

**[5] Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. [6] I cried out to the LORD in my suffering, and he heard me. He set me free from all my fears. [7] For the angel of the LORD guards all who fear him, and he rescues them.**

**2. Who does the Lord help?**

- Those who look upon Him with faith.
- Those who recognize their poverty.
- The rich and the proud.
- Those who honor God.

**3. How does the Lord help those who seek Him?**

- He hears them attentively.
- He frees them from their anxieties.
- He protects them with His presence.
- He frees them from danger.
- He makes them rich.

**Verse 8**

**[8] Taste (test) and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who trust in him!**

**4. What is the invitation that is given to the reader in this Psalm?**

- To be more religious.
- To discover for himself how good the Lord is.
- To find true happiness, trusting in the Lord.

**Those God Promises to Care For****Verses 9-14**

**[9] Let the LORD's people show him reverence, for those who honor him will have all they need. [10] Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will never lack any good thing. [11] Come, my children, and listen to me, and I will teach you to fear the LORD. [12] Do any of you want to live a life that is long and good? [13] Then watch your tongue! Keep your lips from telling lies! [14] Turn away from evil and do good. Work hard at living in peace with others.**

**5. Who will lack for nothing?**

- The rich.
- Those who honor the Lord with their lives.
- Those who are surrendered to the Lord.
- Those who sincerely seek God.

**6. How can we honor the Lord and live well?**

- Speak harshly to those who do not honor Him.
- Not lie or deceive.
- Draw away from evil and do what is good.
- Not speak evil.
- Seek peace with others.

**How the Lord Takes Care of His Own****Verses 15-22**

**[15] The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. [16] But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil; he will erase their memory from the earth. [17] The LORD hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. [18] The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit. [19] The righteous face many troubles, but the LORD rescues them from each and every one. [20] For the LORD protects them from harm— not one of their bones will be broken! [21] Calamity will surely overtake the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished. [22] But the LORD will redeem those who serve him. Everyone who trusts in him will be freely pardoned.**

**7. How does the Lord demonstrate his care?**

- He is always looking at the righteous.
- He always listens to the cry of his servants.
- He opposes the enemies of his people.
- He hears the prayers and frees His own from their anxieties.
- He saves those who have lost all hope.
- The Lord, by His greatness, cannot attend to those who suffer.
- He saves the life of those who serve Him.
- The Lord punishes the wicked.
- The Lord does not punish those who trust in Him.



8. According to this last reading,

- The just suffer many things.
- The just do not suffer from major problems.

9. Whom does the Lord hear and help?

- The just.
- Those who serve God.
- The broken-hearted.
- The wicked.
- Those who have lost hope.
- Those who trust in Him.
- Those that think that they don't need God.



10. In your opinion, what are the most pressing problems of people that you know? Next, you will find a list of very common problems. Please mark the three most pressing problems, according to your opinion.

- Solitude, the lack of understanding and friendship.
- Lack of goals or hope in life.
- Mistreatment at the hands of other people.
- Material poverty.
- Illnesses.
- Death.
- The feeling of guilt and self-scorn.
- Marital unhappiness.
- Lack of understanding in the family.
- The lack of a healthy or adequate sexual life.
- Unemployment.
- The effects of alcohol or drugs.
- Uncertainty of the future.
- Dangers of violence and crime.
- Lack of a living faith or lack of an intimate relationship with God.

11. Optional and personal question: If you could ask one thing of the Lord for your own life, what would it be?

Now, the first study of this series is over. Why don't you put into practice what you have learned and present the problems to the Lord that you find today in your life?

Perhaps it would be good to make a secret written list of these problems and take them daily to God in prayer. Can God hear your prayers? Does He count you as one of the righteous? If you have any doubt about this, ask the Lord to instruct you. It is very possible that the following studies, with their biblical readings, will help you.



## Study Two: Psalm 37

**“How to Find True Happiness”**

God can help us with solving problems, but happiness is more than solving problems. True happiness is a daily experience that is based on the special work of God in our lives.



When you ask people how they are, they often respond sadly with words like, “Just getting by.” God proposes that our lives be much more than that but, in order to achieve true happiness, one must live according to the secrets of life revealed by God in His Word. In Psalms 37, the Lord reveals much about how to find true happiness.

**Verses 1-7a**

**[1] Don't worry about the wicked. Don't envy those who do wrong. [2] For like grass, they soon fade away. Like springtime flowers, they soon wither. [3] Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. [4] Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. [5] Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. [6] He will make your innocence as clear as the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. [7] Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act.**

1. In order to find peace and tranquility, it is necessary that you:

- Seek vengeance.
- Not be jealous of those who do evil.
- Know that those who do evil will dry up like the grass.
- Stay faithful to the Lord and do what is just.
- Love the Lord, trusting in Him.
- Put your life in the hands of the Lord.
- Try to justify yourself before others.
- Trust in the Lord that He will justify you in due time.
- Be silent before the Lord, waiting patiently for His powerful help.

**Verses 7b-15**

**Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes. [8] Stop your anger! Turn from your rage! Do not envy others— it only leads to harm. [9] For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the Lord will possess the land. [10] In a little while, the wicked will disappear. Though you look for them, they will be gone. [11] Those who are gentle and lowly will possess the land; they will live in prosperous security. [12] The wicked plot against the godly; they snarl at them in defiance. [13] But the Lord just laughs, for he sees their day of judgment coming. [14] The wicked draw their swords and string their bows to kill the poor and the oppressed, to slaughter those who do right. [15] But they will be stabbed through the heart with their own swords, and their bows will be broken.**



2. What does the Bible assure us as far as the wicked are concerned?

- It can be that the wicked triumph for a while.
- It's not worth it to envy others.
- It's better for us not to get angry because of them.
- We can trust that the Lord is going to make them accountable.
- We don't know what will be the end of the wicked.
- The instruments of the wicked will destroy the wicked.

3. From your own experience, or from the pages of history, what wicked person suffered what is described here to be the fate of the wicked?

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**Verses 16-24**

**[16] It is better to be godly and have little than to be evil and possess much. [17] For the strength of the wicked will be shattered, but the LORD takes care of the godly. [18] Day by day the LORD takes care of the innocent, and they will receive a reward that lasts forever. [19] They will survive through hard times; even in famine they will have more than enough. [20] But the wicked will perish. The LORD's enemies are like flowers in a field— they will disappear like smoke. [21] The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers. [22] Those blessed by the LORD will inherit the land, but those cursed by him will die. [23] The steps of the godly are directed by the LORD. He delights in every detail of their lives. [24] Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.**

4. In the list that follows, mark with a letter “J” what the Bible says about the “just” and mark with a letter “W” what the Bible says about the “wicked”:

- \_\_\_ They are cared for by the Lord.
- \_\_\_ They will be broken by God.
- \_\_\_ They will receive an eternal inheritance.
- \_\_\_ They will have sufficient amount to eat in difficult times.
- \_\_\_ They are responsible, generous givers.
- \_\_\_ They borrow but don't pay their debts.
- \_\_\_ Their steps are directed by the Lord.
- \_\_\_ Their ways please the Lord.
- \_\_\_ They will burn like dry grass.
- \_\_\_ If they fall on the way, the Lord will lift them up.
- \_\_\_ The Lord holds them by the hand.

**Verses 25-31**

**[25] Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly forsaken, nor seen their children begging for bread. [26] The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing. [27] Turn from evil and do good, and you will live in the land forever. [28] For the LORD loves justice, and he will never abandon the godly. He will keep them safe forever, but the children of the wicked will perish. [29] The godly will inherit the land and will live there forever. [30] The godly offer good counsel; they know what is right from wrong. [31] They fill their hearts with God's law, so they will never slip from his path.**



5. What are the conclusions of the Psalmist?

- In his many years of life, he has never seen a just man forsaken.
- God's people are generous.
- The children of those who are faithful to the Lord are a blessing.
- Just people are those who turn from evil.
- God will take care of those who keep the Word of God in their hearts.

A "just" person is a person whose life is distinguished from that of others – he or she walks uprightly. But, when we consider our failings, we wonder how God, in His absolute holiness, sees us. When we read this Psalm, and other similar ones, we ask ourselves, "Does God consider me as a just man or as a wicked man?"

The following two studies respond to this question and make clear the fact that no one is considered "just" apart from the special work that Jesus Christ can do in our lives. Christ saves us, makes us just, and enables us to live according to the plan of God.



## Study Three: Isaiah 53

## Isaiah: PROPHECIES OF HOPE

## “Prophecies of Hope for the Sinner”

Surely, many of our problems are our own faults. Often our biggest problems are caused, not by others, but by ourselves. We make wrong decisions; we act in inappropriate ways, even when we know how to do better. We bring hardships on ourselves and to the people we love most. We suffer pain for our misbehavior and we are depressed by our own weakness.

If we are conscious of our own evil, how much more is a Holy God! How can God, in His holiness, care about us and receive us as His own people – a people truly holy? According to God, who are the just and who are the wicked?

We begin to discover the answers in the following two chapters of Isaiah. Isaiah is called the Prince of the Prophets, in part because he was of royal lineage and in part because no other prophet prophesied with such power and grace about the life of Jesus Christ and his death for our sins. Isaiah lived 700 years before Jesus, but described the death of Christ with more power than the Apostles who personally witnessed the crucifixion. In chapter 53, Isaiah not only describes the death of Christ but explains the significance of this death in a way that clears up many things.

## Verse 1

**[1] Who has believed our message? To whom will the LORD reveal his saving power?**

1. What is the marvel of Isaiah when he contemplates his prophecy about Christ?
  - The truth was so strange that it would be difficult for his people to believe it.
  - His prophecy would have to do with some person, Christ, in whom God was going to manifest His great power.
  - Isaiah was thinking that this message was something very simple to understand and believe.

## Verses 2-3

**[2] My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. [3] He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised, and we did not care.**

2. According to Isaiah, why was his vision so amazing of the Messiah, the Savior, whom God was going to send to save all His people? Because:
  - Christ would not come in riches nor glory as was hoped for in a king.
  - Christ would probably not be unusually attractive in appearance.
  - The people would receive him with great rejoicing.



- The world would despise Him.
- Christ would be rejected by most people.
- Christ was going to make his enemies suffer.
- Christ would suffer pain in the hands of his enemies.
- The world's tendency would be to not pay attention to Christ.

3. In your opinion: Was Isaiah right in being so amazed at his vision of the Messiah who would come?

- Yes
- No

4. Mark the phrases that best express your opinion: Your answer or answers are acceptable since they are your own personal opinion.

- Isaiah thought that Israel was really hoping for an elegant Messiah, possibly a great military leader, in place of a humble carpenter.
- Isaiah believed that Christ came in humility to show His compassion and love for the humble and poor.
- Isaiah believed that God was wrong in sending Christ in the simple form in which He came.
- If God had sent Christ in grand pomp and power, it is more probable that People would have received Him.
- Receiving Christ requires humility and simplicity of heart.
- If Christ had come in great power, He probably would have turned out like another king or political leader, without power to change men's hearts.
- Today, it is probably true that the majority of the people still don't know how to receive Christ.
- Being king of a nation and ruling over the life of an individual are two very different things.

## Verses 4-6

**[4] Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! [5] But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! [6] All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.**

5. Mark what Christ did for us by way of His suffering.

- He identified with us, experienced human suffering.
- He suffered for His own sins.
- Instead, he suffered for our sins and wrong-doing.
- He received, on Himself, the punishment deserved by us.



6. According to these verses, what did humanity do?

- We thought that Christ suffered at the hands of God, probably because of His own sins.
- We acted out of rebellion, looking for our own way in life.
- We all repented and received Christ as our Lord and Savior.





**Verses 7-9**

**[7] He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. [8] From prison and trial they led him away to his death. But who among the people realized that he was dying for their sins—that he was suffering their punishment? [9] He had done no wrong, and he never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.**

As you read these words, remember that they were written 700 years before Christ's death, burial and resurrection. During all those centuries, the Jews wondered who this prophet was talking about. They couldn't understand, because it was a great mystery. But now it is not a mystery. It is your privilege to know that he spoke of Christ, who came to be sacrificed perfectly for all sin, including all of your sins. Study, for yourself, the meaning of this passage by means of the following questions:

7. What vision did the prophet have of the Christ that would come?
- That the Lord would suffer in silence and would be subjected without resistance to the punishment of the cross.
  - That the Lord would be arrested and sentenced unjustly and without the defense of others.
  - That Jesus would suffer death through the rebellion of the people.
  - That men of faith would fight to save Jesus.
  - That Christ experienced death for sin though he never sinned.

**Verses 10-12**

**[10] But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have a multitude of children, many heirs. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's plan will prosper in his hands. [11] When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of what he has experienced, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. [12] I will give him the honors of one who is mighty and great, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among those who were sinners. He bore the sins of many and interceded for sinners.**

The death of Jesus was due neither to the failure of the plans of God nor to the weakness of Christ Himself. Jesus was not a victim, but rather the divine sacrifice provided by God for those who would take Him by faith as Lord and Savior.

8. What did God say in reference to Christ?
- The sufferings of Christ for our sins would give God justification to pardon to those who trusted in Christ.
  - The Lord, after dying, would live again, seeing salvation of His "descendants" – those that inherited the salvation that Christ won on the cross.
  - Christ will live eternally, being the way through which God can save sinners.
  - The sad thing is that Jesus died in vain.
  - Through Christ, ALL are justified.
  - Through Christ, MANY are justified.
  - Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has been elevated by God, his Father, to the place of supreme honor.

The Apostle Paul, commenting about the victory of Jesus over sin and death, said: **[8]And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. [9] Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:8-11**

9. According to Paul, what meaning does the death of Jesus have?
- It means that Jesus was a weak victim.
  - It means that his subjection to the cross was an act of courage and obedience.
  - It is the means by which God has exalted Him to the highest in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth.
  - It is the reason God commands that we all kneel and confess that Jesus is our true Savior.

Peter, the Apostle, speaking of the death and resurrection of Christ, explained very clearly in the following: **"There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them." Acts 4:12**

10. What authority does Jesus have, according to Peter?
- Perhaps He is able to save us from our sins.
  - Only in the name of Jesus is there salvation.
  - The name of Jesus has been given to us by God in order for us to be able to be saved from our sins.
  - Apart from a faith in Jesus, and a personal submission to Him, there is no salvation.

11. Personal Reflection: After your careful study of Isaiah 53, what are your conclusions about the following?

Why did Christ die on the cross? Why didn't He resist the crucifixion? What satisfaction does Jesus have as a result of His death and His resurrection as far as those who have faith in Him are concerned?

How much authority does Christ deserve over our everyday lives? Will the Lord Jesus be capable of saving us from our sins? Have you received Christ as your true Lord and as the Divine Sacrifice for all of your sins? Are you continuing to have doubts as far as the plan of God for your salvation?



## Study Four: Isaiah 55

**“The Glorious Invitation of God”****Isaiah 53:11a**

***When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of what he has experienced...***



Isaiah clearly said, “. . . **my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.**” **Isaiah 53:11b.** This indicates two things of supreme importance:

1. That the death of Christ serves to justify many, carrying all their sins.
2. That this was for MANY, but not for ALL

The question of each person will be, “Will I be one of the ‘many’ who Christ justifies by way of his sacrificial death? Will He carry all my sins, making my salvation possible? What do I have to do to be one of the ‘many’ justified and pardoned?”

Chapter 55 of Isaiah clarifies this doubt. Prepare yourself for some pleasant surprises!

**Verses 1-2**

**[1] “Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink—even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk—it’s all free! [2] Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen, and I will tell you where to get food that is good for the soul!”**

1. What is the good news of Christ in these two verses?

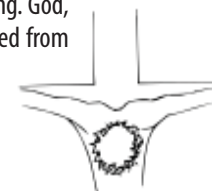
- God calls us lovingly.
- God says that we have to pay dearly for His blessings.
- God indicates that the best thing is already paid for by Christ, and we can “buy” it without money and without cost.
- God calls us from a mistaken and vain search for happiness.
- God promises the “food good for the soul” if only we hear Him well, heeding His Word.

**Verses 3-5**

**[3] “Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, for the life of your soul is at stake. I am ready to make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the mercies and unfailing love that I promised to David. [4] He displayed my power by being my witness and a leader among the nations. [5] You also will command the nations, and they will come running to obey, because I, the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, have made you glorious.”**

Parts of this passage are difficult to understand because they mix history with prophecy. God speaks to His people of an eternal life that He will provide through an eternal pact, a pact that will fulfill the promises God made to David. God promised that the Messiah would descend in lineage from David. The great promises of God for David would be fulfilled in their totality in the Messiah, in Christ. Jesus would not only be the Christ of Israel, but He would call unknown people, those who were not Jews, and these people would run to the Messiah, recognizing Him as their Lord.

In summary, Christ was faithful unto death, death on the cross, and by way of His death and His resurrection, He made possible salvation of sinners. Not only for sinners of Israel, but He saves us also, without regard to our nationality. Those of us who recognize Christ as Lord belong to one holy “nation,” which is the Kingdom of God in which Christ is the supreme King. God, the Father, has given this honor and this glory to Christ Jesus, descended from David, the friend of God. We enter into the pact of eternal life with God when we recognize his Son as our King and personal Lord.

**Verses 6-7**

**[6] Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. [7] Let the people turn from their wicked deeds. Let them banish from their minds the very thought of doing wrong! Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

2. What does God command of those who desire eternal life?

- Look for the Lord while there is opportunity to do it.
- Call on the Lord now because He is near.
- Turn your back on the sinful path that represents rebellion against God and Christ.
- Abandon your ideas, concepts, and traditions that go against the Word of God.
- There are no commands. God allows us to live and believe any way we choose.

**Verses 8-9**

**[8] “My thoughts are completely different from yours,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. [9] For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.**

3. What does God say about Himself in these verses?

- He says that He is near you.
- He says that you can find Him.
- He says that He has mercy on all that serve Him.
- He says that He is generous to pardon, even poor sinners.
- He says that His thoughts and His ways are infinitely better than ours.
- He says that He will accept anything people might believe.

**Verses 10-11**

**[10] “The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. [11] It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.**

Dear student, during these days you have opened your heart to the voice of God that comes to us by way of his Holy Word. God has wanted to talk to you and, through these words of His, He has done it. What has been your answer to the sweet voice of God?

4. What does God say to you in regards to His communication with you through His Holy Word?

- The Word of God is like rain and snow that come down from the sky.
- The Word of God brings life and hope wherever it is taken in.
- The Word of God makes eternal life bloom in the lives of those who receive it, like rain produces life on the earth.
- The Word of God is just another earthly philosophy.
- The Word of God does not come to the heart in vain but if there is heartfelt acceptance, eternal life will bloom.

5. Personal Evaluation: How have you received the Word of God contained in these studies?

- I haven't been able to understand it.
- I doubt that the Bible is the Word of God.
- I understand it, but I believe that I can respond to it whenever I choose.
- It has inspired in me my faith in Jesus Christ, whom I receive as my personal Lord and Savior.
- It has helped me in my faith in Jesus, and I want to keep on hearing the voice of God and studying His Word more.

What are the plans of God for those who respond to Him in pure faith, accepting His Word and receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Isaiah concludes this chapter with a glorious panorama for those who have decided to live for God through their faith in and loyalty to Jesus Christ. Read on!

### Verses 12-13

**[12] You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! [13] Where once there were thorns, cypress trees will grow. Where briars grew, myrtles will sprout up. This miracle will bring great honor to the LORD's name; it will be an everlasting sign of his power and love.**

6. Mark the truths found in this poetic passage:

- Those who receive Jesus as Lord and Savior are free from "places of oppression" – factors in their lives that oppress them.
- Receiving the Kingdom of Christ produces great pleasure in those who enter, becoming the Lord's humble subjects.
- To know God's forgiveness and acceptance brings no pleasure.
- New life in one person causes joy in others.
- The life of one who is placed in Christ is a life of grace and beauty in place of thorns.
- It is God Himself who changes and blesses the life of the person turned over to Him and the changes bring more glory to God.<sup>5</sup>

## What To Do Now

Whether your study of God's promises changes your life or makes no difference depends on what you choose to do now. We suggest four things you can do:

1. Tell the person who gave you this study that you have completed it and you want to receive the certificate that is offered.
2. Tell other people right away how these promises have affected your life.
3. Offer to help family members or friends to take the same study under your guidance. Ask for free copies from the person who gave you this copy.
4. Ask for another similar Bible study. One of the most popular is entitled "*People Who Knew Jesus.*"

The National Bible Reading Campaign is delighted to offer you this study desiring that it be of great blessing in your personal life. Other similar Bible studies are available, most of which have a total of six Bible events with explanations and interactive questions that can help you to enjoy and understand the Bible for Yourself. Some of them are below:

*Overcoming Loneliness*  
*Stress Survivors*  
*True Beauty*  
*People Who Knew Jesus*  
*Where Is God When I Need Him?*  
*God's Strange Road to Success*

For persons who are concerned about their relationship with God, we will be glad to send a free copy of a brief interactive Bible study entitled "God's Eternity Quiz."

