

Part 3

JESUS

The God Who Is To Come

Introduction

No name has been or will ever be more important than Jesus Christ. The message of the Bible centers around His life; history climaxed at His death and resurrection; every human being's eternity hinges on the decision to surrender to Him. The person of Jesus Christ is the main focus of this Bible study. Revelation 1: 8 provides the outline; it reads, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

While Part 1 focuses on the Old Testament expressions of Jesus, "the God Who Was," and Part 2 focuses on the Gospels' chronicle of Jesus, "the God Who Is," Part 3 will review Jesus Christ, "the God Who is to come" by focusing on the book of Acts, the epistles, and Christ's own prophetic words concerning Himself. Each lesson will be divided into three days, so that you may supplement your personal devotional time. Please be encouraged to also read in preparation for Sunday and Wednesday Bible studies.

Collectively, creation and disciples long for His return, to be with Him forever, to know Him as we are known, to see His glory. O to love Him more and more! That is the prayer and the desire of my heart as we go through this study. May we open our hearts to Christ as He longs to reveal Himself more and more.

Day 1 of 1

Pray

1. Write your favorite scripture regarding Jesus Christ.
2. What questions do you have regarding Jesus?
3. How do you hope this study will help you to grow in your relationship with the Lord?

4. In which aspect(s) of your character do you hope to become more Christ-like?

(for example: Jesus is faithful; He is merciful; He is obedient to the will of the Father, etc.)

5. Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead you as you commit to this study.

Jesus Christ

Ascended on High

Lesson 1

'Til He Returns

Have you ever noticed how difficult goodbyes can be? Whether it's a "see you later" to a son or daughter who has moved away to go to college, or bidding "farewell" to a friend who leaves town for a new job, or parting ways with an entire city and community because the Lord is calling you somewhere else, such a big change can leave the heart in grief. The finality of saying goodbye sometimes results in tears, even when the new transition is anticipated with joy.

While on this earth, Christ had been with His disciples for three years. They had seen Him crucified. They had lost all hope, but Jesus resurrected as He said He would. Now, forty days later, He is ascending to heaven, as He said He would. Imagine how difficult having to once again say goodbye to your Master, Teacher, Friend. Would you treasure those final moments? Would you listen intently to His final words? Would you dedicate the rest of your life to obey whatever He asked? May the reality of Christ's ascension awaken our desire to trust Him, serve Him, and love Him.

Day 1 of 3

Pray and read Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53

1. According to Acts 1, to what did Christ provide, “many infallible proofs”? Why can we have confidence in Christ’s resurrection?

2. Luke, the author of Acts and the gospel of Luke, records Christ’s instructions to the disciples right before His ascension in both writings. What did Christ command the disciples to do?

How is waiting on the Holy Spirit and being a witness intertwined?

3. How did Christ’s ascension into heaven affect His disciples? How can the truth of His ascension impact disciples of Jesus today? Fill out the chart below.

Luke 24	Disciples-Present at the Ascension	Disciples-Today
Verse: 52		
Verse: 52		
Verse: 53		

Personal Application: David Guzik notes on Acts 1:11 that, “He left physically and will so come in like manner. He left visibly and will so come in like manner. He left from the Mount of Olives and will so come in like manner. He left in the presence of His disciples and will so come in like manner. He left blessing His church and will so come in like manner.”

How should this promise shape a believer’s life? How should your daily choices change or continue based on this promise?

Write a prayer of commitment to the Lord to apply your heart to live in light of His promise to return “in like manner.”

Day 2 of 3

Pray and read Romans 8:31-39

1. The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia summarizes the Ascension of Christ saying it “is the culmination of the Incarnation, the reward of Christ's redemptive work, and the entrance upon a wider sphere of work in His glorified condition, as the Lord and Priest of His church.” As Lord and Priest of His church, what is Christ’s ministry even now?

2. Paul connects God’s love with Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension. How do these three events reveal that we are more than conquerors in Christ?

Personal Application: So many followers of Christ may be under the condemnation of the enemy. Have you ever found yourself doubting God’s love for you, personally and individually? What do these verses in Romans reveal? How can you arm yourself with truth the next time you face similar doubts?

Should Satan ever hassle you concerning God's love for you just look at the cross.

-Chuck Smith

Day 3 of 3

Pray and Read Ephesians 1:19-23; 2:4-7; 4:7-16

1. What was at work in Christ both when He was resurrected and when He ascended? (Eph. 1:19-20)
2. How is grace manifested in salvation? (Eph. 2:4-7)
3. Paul points out that grace will also be manifested in the age that is to come when we (those who have been saved through grace) are seated in heavenly places in Christ. Why is this distinction between salvation and sitting in heavenly places important? (Eph. 2:4-7)
4. Christ's ascension to heaven shows His triumph over captivity and His authority over the church. On what should the ministry of the church be focused? How can this focus lead to unity? (Eph. 4:7-16)

Jesus Christ

2nd Person of the Trinity

Lesson 2

Promise Kept

September 2003 seems like a hundred years ago. At the time, I had just finished a month-long time of seeking the Lord about, well, about a boy. We had known of our feelings for each other for almost six years, and we were young, still in college. Our relationship had come to the point where we were either going to fully pursue marriage, or we would have to end our relationship. We were trusting God to lead us, trusting Him to speak to us, to confirm to us through His word whether to dive into a future life together as husband and wife or to separate. We fasted. The month crept by, and the Lord so faithfully showed me that His promise would be fulfilled. We met up for breakfast. Imagine the joy and relief I felt, when I heard that the Lord had also confirmed to him our future together. A few days later, Adrian gave me a promise ring. How I treasure that promise ring to this day. Not much had changed in our relationship from the day before he gave me the ring to the days after, but it was a beautiful symbol that one day I would be his wife. The promise ring signified the family we are today.

Hope and anticipation instead of dread and avoidance can be the experiences associated with waiting for a promise if what is known about the heart and the character of the person making the promise is goodness, kindness, and love. How much more can we trust Christ promises to us as He has given us His Spirit as a guarantee!

Day 1 of 3

Pray and Read John 15:11-27

1. What aspect of His relationship with His disciples does Christ emphasize(vs. 15)?

How does this emphasis in relationship provide the context for the promises in this section of scripture? In other words, how does being called His friend shape the way a disciple receives His promises found in these verses?

2. As Christ sets His face towards Jerusalem, His crucifixion just hours away, He comforts and prepares His disciples. What does He promise them?
3. Not only does Jesus comfort His disciples with promises, He also instructs them with specific commands. What does He command His disciples?

How can instructions (commandments of what God has called one to do) be a source of comfort?

4. Verses 18 through 25 can almost seem out of context. Here Christ is comforting His disciples, when all of a sudden he warns them severely. What warnings does Christ provide for His disciples?

How can Christ's warnings be a source of comfort?

Personal Application: What promise is found at the close of this chapter? How do the relationship emphasized, the promises made, the instructions provided, and the warnings given deepen your yearning for the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Dig Deeper: Read John 16:5-15. Christ describes three of the ways the Holy Spirit will work: conviction, guidance, glorification. How does scripture show the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's conviction, guidance and glorification? How have you seen the Spirit's work in these ways manifested in your life? Fill out the chart below

	Conviction	Guidance	Glorification
Manifested-in the Word			
Manifested-in your life			

Day 2 of 3

Pray and Read Acts 2:1-39

1. David Guzik points out, “On the Old Testament Day of Pentecost Israel received the Law; on the New Testament Day of Pentecost the Church received the Spirit of Grace in fullness.” How did the Holy Spirit manifest Himself through the disciples on that day of Pentecost (vs. 1-4)?

2. What did the multitudes witness being spoken by the Spirit-filled disciples (v. 11)? What should proceed from the mouths of believers today who are filled with the Spirit?

3. Peter rises up and preaches a beautiful sermon regarding fulfillment of God’s promises. Fill in the chart below regarding the prophecies and fulfillment of God’s word concerning the Spirit.

Prophecy	Fulfillment

4. What verses in this chapter confirm that the Spirit-filled life promised to believers still applies today?

Day 3 of 3

Pray and Read 1 Corinthians 12:3-11; Ephesians 5:15-21

1. Through Whose work is anyone able to say that Jesus is Lord?
2. How does knowing there are different gifts, ministries, and activities and that the same Spirit is working through them encourage believers to not depend on the flesh?
3. As the days are evil, what are believers instructed to do? What are believers instructed to not do? Fill out the chart below.

DO	DO NOT

What observations do you have on these instructions?

Personal Application: Spend some time in the Lord's presence. Ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Wait on Him and for Him. Write down what He shows you.

Jesus Christ Prince of Life

Lesson 3

And that abundantly

Life! It's funny how that word can have so many meanings and applications. What one "does for a living" can signify a person's career or profession. While at other times, someone may joke that the reason she never got around to doing something was "life," representing both the mundane and the unexpected nature of things that comprise the day-to-day. All the while society is bombarding individuals with the notion that there's more to "life" than existing, looking everywhere except to the Source of Life, King Jesus!

Recently I have been encouraged by noticing that three of Jesus's seven "I AM" statements in the gospel of John express LIFE. He declares, "I Am the Bread of LIFE," "I Am the Resurrection and the LIFE," and "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the LIFE." My sisters, Jesus designed life, He created life, He sustains life, He lived life, He redeemed life, He is life. All this not only for the world but for you. He has a plan for your life, He knows the means for you to fulfill this life, He equips you for life, He desires to walk with you in life, He is the answer to your life, He has covered every aspect of your life, He is the reason for your life! Search for Him; know Him, and your life will be found.

...and your life is hidden with Christ...

Colossians 3:3

Day 1 of 3

Pray and Read Acts 3:1-26

1. Peter now, as a Spirit-filled follower of Christ, has a new boldness and sensitivity to the work of God. How is this Spirit-filled life manifested in his interaction with the lame man? How is this Spirit-filled life manifested in his response to the crowds?

2. Re-read verses 7-9. Describe the lame man's first actions immediately after receiving strength and the ability to walk.

How can a believer respond in a similar way when she has received strength and the ability to overcome an obstacle in her life?

3. Throughout his teaching, Peter gives only one direct command to the audience. What does He command them to do?

4. What titles are ascribed to Jesus Christ throughout Peter’s teaching (vs. 12-26)?
5. The Greek word for Prince in the title “Prince of Life” is *archēgos*. It is used only three other times in the King James Version of the Bible. Read Acts 5:31[Prince], Hebrews 2:10 [captain], and Hebrews 12:2 [author]. Fill out the chart below noting what Christ’s titles show of His authority and how believers’ lives should be affected.

	Title	Authority Over	Effect(s) in Believer’s Life
Acts 3:15	Prince	Life	
Acts 5:31	Prince		
Hebrews 2:10	Captain		
Hebrews 12:2	Author		

Day 2 of 3

Pray and Read Hebrews 12:1-15

1. The first verse in Hebrews 12 states that the lives of believers before us can serve as encouragement. Name a believer whose life serves as a witness and encouragement to you. (Help: Hebrews 12 lists some believers in scripture; you may also mention missionaries or other founders of our faith.)
2. How should we “run... the race that is set before us,¹” and what ought we to lay aside in order to run in this manner?
3. Jesus is not only the author, nor is He only the perfect example, He is the finisher of our faith. How should the fact that Jesus began, showed, and accomplished all that is needed for a life of faith shape everything for a believer? (vs. 2-3)

Aspects of Life	Actions	Decisions	Words	Feelings	Thoughts
Shaped by Jesus “the Finisher of our faith”					

4. Why is there a correlation between running life’s race with endurance and a life willing to be disciplined and corrected?

¹ This metaphorical *race* refers to the Christian’s daily life as well as her full life before entering heaven.

5. What warnings are found in this chapter for those who are not allowing discipline and correction to be a part of their lives?

What effect(s) should these warnings have?

Personal Application: We saw in Day 1 of this lesson that the word for *author* in this chapter occurs very few times in the New Testament, always referring to Jesus (one use found in Hebrews 12:2). The word (in the same verse) for *finisher* is *teleiōtēs*. *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* comments on this word's Strong's entry 5051: "one who has in his own person raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith, Hebrews 12:2. The word occurs nowhere else." Nowhere else. No one else. Only Jesus perfects that which concerns you; only Jesus accomplishes; only Jesus satisfies; only Jesus can.

What are ways that your heart longs to be completed by someone or something else?

What safeguards will you set up to avoid straying to other people/things for fulfillment?

Write a prayer to the Author and Finisher of your faith.

May He strengthen you for your race.

Day 3 of 3

Pray and Read Revelation 22

1. How many times does the word “life” appear in this chapter?
2. This, the final chapter of the Bible, speaks of heaven. To whom is this promised? In other words, what does one have to do to receive the promise of eternal life?
3. What other place in scripture speaks of the “tree of life” and of the “curse?” How is the full restoration of mankind portrayed in this chapter?

Personal Application: If you have been with us since Part 1 of this study, *Jesus: the God who was*, you may remember that we looked at this chapter in Revelation when we studied the “Tree of Life” in Genesis. Eternal life is a central theme and doctrine of the Christian faith, yet some may mock our hope. How does studying about Jesus as the Prince of Life strengthen your relationship with Him? How does it help you to love Him more deeply and obey Him more fully?

Jesus Christ

The Just One

Lesson 4

The Lord Saves

Recently, I listened to a teaching on 1 Samuel 14, which records Jonathan and his armor bearer's act of faith— to attack the entire Philistine army. Just two individuals with one sword between them, up against thousands upon thousands of well-trained, armed soldiers (13:5). Imagine those odds! Yet in the face of the impossible, Jonathan prophetically declares, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.” I so appreciate what David Guzik has to say about this verse:

The odds were already against Israel. Did it matter if it was a million-to-one or a thousand-to-one? Numbers or odds did not restrain God, but unbelief could. The only thing that can be said to restrain God is our unbelief (Matthew 13:58). God's power is never restrained, but His will may be restrained by our unbelief.

As much as the odds were against these two men of God, when we consider sin and its penalty, we find even more impossible odds. Our chances were infinity-to-one. And oh my sisters, the Just One is the only who could save! Let's pray for those unbelievers around us. May His power displayed in our lives disarm their unbelief that His good and perfect will would be unrestrained in their lives!

Day 1 of 3

Pray and Read Romans 3:9-26

1. What do verse 10 and 23 reveal about all of humanity, throughout all of time?
2. Every heartache, every form of evil, every problem, every injustice is the result of the presence of sin in this world. What is the only solution? (vs. 22-25)
3. Why *must* one conclusively believe that “no one is good,” that “only God is just,” and that “Jesus’s sacrifice alone paid the penalty of sin” in order to be saved?
4. The Holy Spirit through Paul writes to us that Jesus is not only the Just One, He is also the justifier. Why is it significant that only grace through faith can save? How should this shape your life as a believer?

Day 2 of 3

Pray and Read 1 Peter 3:13-22

1. The world has twisted the definition of “justice” because it is operating under the false notion that the human heart is essentially good and deserves only good, happy things to happen. Here, Peter is exhorting an oppressed, persecuted and suffering church. What is the church told to do when they suffer unfairly?
2. Reread verse 18. Peter continues to express how Jesus was treated unfairly. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. What example did Jesus give through His suffering?
3. How can knowing Christ suffered unfairly encourage a believer when she faces undeserved suffering?
4. What is the difference between suffering for righteousness sake and suffering for wrong doing? Why is this distinction necessary?
5. How does ministering to someone suffering for righteousness sake differ from ministering to someone suffering for wrong doing?

Day 3 of 3

Pray and Read Revelation 15

1. What does the Song of Moses as recorded in verses 3 and 4 say about Jesus, the Lamb?

2. Who is singing this song?

3. The title in the *New King James Bible* translation for this chapter reads, “Prelude to the Bowl Judgments.” How can knowing Christ, the Just One is about to judge the world cause praise in the believer’s heart?

Personal Application: This song gives praise to God’s works, God’s ways, and God worthiness. True worship focuses on Christ, what He has done, what He will do and is doing, and who He is. What are some reasons to praise Him? How have you experienced the goodness of His works, His ways and His worthiness. Fill out the chart below.

Works	Ways	Worthiness

Take some time to worship the Lord. Give glory to the Lord, the Just One!

Christ's Life Manifested & His Return

1. ~~Ascension of Christ~~

~~(Jhn 20:19-23; Act 1:6-8)~~

2. ~~Promise of the Spirit~~

Early Church-Following the teachings of Christ Acts

3. ~~Prince of Life Act 3:14-15; [Act 3:15 "and killed the **Prince** of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.~~

4. ~~the coming of the Just One 7:52~~

5. Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of All 10:36)

Epistles-Explaining how to live in a Christ-Like Way

6. Head of The Church

By whom we have received Atonement Romans 5:11

7. Sanctification in Christ

8. Grace by Christ

9. Rapture

10. 2nd Coming-Rule & Reign