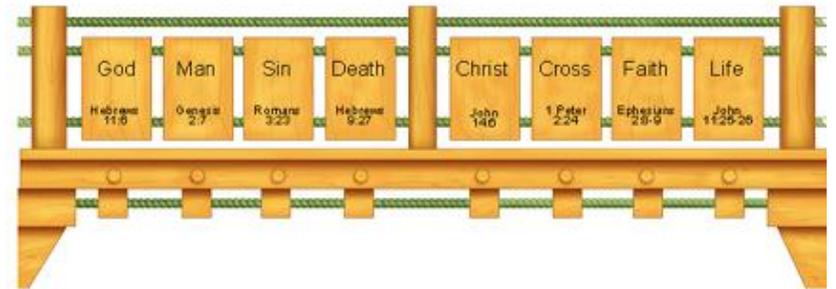


# THE BIG PICTURE

## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE



**Discovering  
The Bible's  
Central Subject,  
Primary Object,  
&  
Eternal Promise**

Jesus comes back. This new life we have in Christ will never come to an end. It is eternal life. It is eternal life in relationship with God through Christ.

If we have understood and believed the message of Jesus Christ, God's bridge to life, we have crossed over from death to life through faith in Him. God my Creator and Judge is now God my Savior and Father forever. This is good news indeed!

As believers, it is our joy to learn from the Bible, memorize its verses and obey its commands. We learn to pray to God and spend time worshiping Him with others. We love to tell others the wonderful story of God's love and forgiveness, because Jesus Christ restores the life, love, joy and fulfillment God created us to enjoy from the beginning of time.

## **CONCLUSION**

<b>God:</b>	Creator,	Judge,	Savior
<b>Man:</b>	Spiritual,	Loved,	Accountable
<b>Sin:</b>	Rebellion,	Disobedience,	Universal
<b>Death:</b>	Spiritual,	Physical,	Eternal
<b>Christ:</b>	God,	Man,	Savior
<b>Cross:</b>	Substitute,	Sacrifice,	Sufficient
<b>Faith:</b>	Turn,	Trust,	Follow
<b>Life:</b>	Spiritual,	Physical,	Eternal

Each step in understanding the gospel is important. The order is logical and biblical. The essential truths of the gospel presented in the bridge are meant for you to share. We have resources available to help you continue to grow in your understanding of God's Word, the Bible. Please contact us at [CEIMResources@abwe.org](mailto:CEIMResources@abwe.org) for more information or assistance in your new life with God.

The death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection from the dead fully satisfied God's righteous judgment against our rebellion and sin. We must admit our sins and turn away (repent) from our sins and rebellion against God. We must come to God, believing that His Son can and will forgive our sins. God promises to forgive our sins, to give us His righteousness, and to restore our relationship with Himself if we repent and believe in His Son. We must trust Christ as our only Savior and Lord, and give our lives to Him to follow and obey.

Our faith must grow from a general belief in God's existence, to a specific belief in Jesus Christ as our only Savior and Lord. Faith includes confessing our sins to Him, turning away from our old life of rebellion against God, humbly trusting Christ, asking Him to save us and giving our lives to Him in loving obedience.

We must personally turn from our rebellion and sin, trust Christ to save us, and give our lives to follow Him, to take the seventh step on this bridge to eternal life.

***Do you understand why you need Jesus Christ? Do you believe He is God's Son and the only way of eternal life? Are willing to turn from your sin and place your trust in Him to rescue you from death and give you eternal life? If the answer to all of these is "Yes," then put your trust in the One True God and ask His Son to forgive your sins and give you the gift of eternal life. In Romans 10:13 God has promised, "For whoever will call (in faith) on the name of The Lord (Jesus) will be saved (rescued from eternal death)."***

**THE EIGHTH TRUTH - LIFE John 11:25-26**

When we understand the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins on the cross and rose to life again and place our faith in Him as our Lord and Savior, we enter the life that God has promised. We now possess spiritual life. We are no longer in rebellion against God. We are now His children through faith in Christ. God is our Father. Even physical death will not separate us from God. If we die physically, God will raise our bodies from the grave and make them perfect when

**LESSON 1**

**GOD HAS SPOKEN: FOUR VOICES**

- Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
(A painting demands a painter)
- Psalm 19:12-13; Ps 32, Romans 2:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
(image of God, guilt, need for forgiveness)
- Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:105 \_\_\_\_\_  
(prophets, apostles)
- Psalm 19:14; Hebrews 1:1-3 John 1:1-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
(the Word made flesh)

**TWO SECTIONS**

- Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_ Books
  - Law of Moses . Gen . Deut
  - History . Joshua . Esther
  - Poetry . Job . Song of Solomon
  - Prophets . Major & Minor
- New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ Books
  - History . Gospels & Acts
  - Letters . Romans . Jude (Paul 13)
  - Prophecy . Revelation

**ONE PRIMARY OBJECT 2 Tim. 3:15-17**

So we may understand and receive God's gift of \_\_\_\_\_ through personal \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ

**ONE PRIMARY SUBJECT**

- Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_ His coming Gen 3:15
- Gospels \_\_\_\_\_ His coming
- Letters Explain His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ His Return

**KEY PROMISE** Genesis \_\_\_\_\_

**THREE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS (Read for next time)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ . Gen 1-2 Our Purpose
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Gen 3, Exodus 20:1-17 Our Problem
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Romans 1-3 (Gen. 3:15) God's Promise

## LESSON 2

### THREE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

God is \_\_\_\_\_. we are made \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ God  
(image), and \_\_\_\_\_ God Genesis 1:26 . 2:25

God is \_\_\_\_\_. we are separated \_\_\_\_\_ and accountable  
\_\_\_\_\_ God Genesis 3:1-24 Isa. 59:2

God is \_\_\_\_\_. we are rescued \_\_\_\_\_ judgment by God,  
so that we might live \_\_\_\_\_ God forever Genesis 3:15

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS GOD'S CHARACTER & OUR SIN

God is \_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_: pure, perfect, sinless, just Exodus 20

Man is \_\_\_\_\_. guilty & accountable Rom. 3:19-23 (MRI)

Man needs a \_\_\_\_\_. he is helpless, facing judgment

### THE OLD TESTAMENT PREPARATORY & PROPHETIC Galatians 3:24

Sin and \_\_\_\_\_ - Garden of Eden, Temple layout

Justice and \_\_\_\_\_ - Romans 6:23 Sin, Death

Forgiveness & \_\_\_\_\_ - Justice/Mercy Holiness/Love

### JESUS CHRIST FULFILLED THE LAW'S PROPHECIES AND DEMANDS

John 1:36 \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Perfect substitute & sacrifice)

Matt 5:17-18 Fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_ John 19:30 Paid In \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 1:5-2:2 Sin, Justice, Atonement (Law is \_\_\_\_\_)

Read for next time.. Romans 3:9-26

God is \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

Christ is the only perfect man who ever lived a completely perfect life of love and obedience to God. He is both God and man, in one perfect person. He is the only way to eternal life.

We must believe that Jesus Christ is the perfect Son of God, the only way to eternal life, to take the fifth step on this bridge that leads from death to life.

### THE SIXTH TRUTH – CROSS 1 Peter 2:24

The consequence of and punishment for our sin is eternal death and separation from God. God sent Jesus Christ, His only Son, to rescue us from death. Jesus did this by dying in our place, taking the punishment we deserved for our sins. Jesus became the perfect, sinless man. He lived the perfect life of love and obedience. He had no sin in Himself, but took our sin and punishment, dying in our place on the cross. God is righteous. He will not overlook the breaking of His commandments. Because He loves us, He satisfied His own justice by sending His Son to die in our place. Jesus loved His Father and willingly laid down His life to rescue us. Three days after He died, Jesus rose to life again. He is alive forevermore with God in heaven. He is coming back one day to judge the world. He loves us and he is able to save us from death and eternal punishment for our sins.

We must believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, died for our sins and rose from the dead to rescue us from death and give us eternal life, to take the sixth step on this bridge to eternal life.

### THE SEVENTH TRUTH – FAITH Ephesians 2:8-9

We cannot earn the forgiveness of sins. Our good deeds, acts of kindness and generosity, even religious ceremonies cannot rescue us from death and judgment. We must admit to God that we deserve His punishment, and that we are helpless to rescue ourselves. It is only through Jesus Christ that we can receive forgiveness and be reconciled to God.

## THE FOURTH TRUTH – DEATH Hebrews 9:27

Death is the righteous judgment that we deserve from God because of our sin. This death is spiritual, physical and eternal.

Adam and Eve died spiritually the moment they sinned. Fear, guilt, shame, and blaming of others for their own sinful choices all resulted from being spiritually dead. As their descendents, we are born spiritually dead. We are rebels against God. A physically dead man is unresponsive to others. In the same way, spiritually dead people are unresponsive to God. We are dead in sin and separated from God. This is why we do not know God personally and have no relationship with Him. Physical death followed spiritual death.

Physical death is obvious and universal. When our hearts stop beating and we draw our final breath, this is physical death. It is not the end of our existence. It is the end of our existence on earth. The moment we die physically, our souls leave our bodies and come before God for judgment.

If we are not rescued from spiritual death, after physical death we will face a final and eternal death. Eternal death is separation from God in everlasting conscious punishment. Eternal death is the final and unchangeable result of our sin against God.

We must believe that we are facing God's judgment and cannot escape it on our own, to take the fourth step on this bridge that leads from death to life.

## THE FIFTH TRUTH – CHRIST John 14:6

We were created by God to have a special relationship with Him. We rebelled against God and, consequently, are separated from Him, facing eternal judgment. The good news is that God has provided a way to rescue us from death, forgive our sins, and restore us to a relationship with Himself. He has done this by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son who lived with God in heaven from eternity past. God sent Him to earth to become a man who would live a perfect life of love and obedience to God's commands. Jesus

## A FEW PROPHECIES FULFILLED BY CHRIST

These few prophecies only scratch the surface. The Lord Jesus fulfilled over 200 prophecies of the Old Testament in His first coming. He will fulfill as many more at His second coming. God is faithful to every Word He has spoken. Let us rejoice, and look in expectancy to our LORD for His promised return!

Luke 1:37 %For no word of God shall be impossibleq

Romans 4:21 %fully persuaded what God promised, God was able to do+

	PROPHECY	SCRIPTURE	FULFILLMENT
1.	Born of woman	Genesis 3:15 Gal. 4:4;	Matt. 16-25
2.	Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matt. 1:16, 18, 24, 25
3.	Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:17
4.	Seed of Abraham	Genesis 22:18	Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16
5.	Son of Isaac	Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:23-34
6.	Son of Jacob	Numbers 24:17	Luke 3:23-34
7.	Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:23-34
8.	Family of Jesse	Isaiah 11:1	Luke 3:23-34
9.	House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:31
10.	Born at Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-20
11.	Presented with gifts	Psalms 72:10	Matthew 2:1-11
12.	Death of infants	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16
13.	Messiah pre-existent	Micah 5:2	Philippians 2:5-8
14.	Called %Lord+	Psalms 110:1	Luke 2:11; 20:41-44
15.	Immanuel	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
16.	Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:18	Matthew 21:11
17.	Priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 3:1; 5:5-6
18.	Judge	Isaiah 33:22	John 5:30
19.	King	Psalms 2:6	Matthew 27:37
20.	Anointed by the Spirit	Isaiah 11:2	Matthew 3:16-17
21.	Zeal for God	Psalms 69:9	John 2:15-17
22.	Preceded by messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1-2
23.	Ministry in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1	Matthew 4:12-17
24.	Miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6	Matthew 9:35
25.	Teacher of Parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34
26.	Entered the Temple	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 21:12
27.	Entry on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Luke 19:35-37
28.	Stone of Stumbling	Psalms 118:22	1 Peter 2:7
29.	Light to Gentiles	Isaiah 60:3	Acts 13:47-48
30.	Death on a cross	Psalms 22:1-18	All gospels
31.	Death as a substitute	Isaiah 53:6	2 Corinthians 5:21
32.	Resurrection	Psalms 68:18	Acts 2:31
33.	Ascension	Psalms 110:1	Hebrews 1:3

## LESSON 3

### How can a perfect God restore a broken relationship with imperfect people?

**Answer: Perfectly!**

#### To put it another way.....

How can a holy God pardon a guilty sinner, and yet remain a righteous judge?

#### Romans 3:9-26

The reality of universal and personal \_\_\_\_\_.

What two things the Law (10 commandments) can do:

What the law cannot do:

How do I become righteous in God's sight?

How necessary is personal faith in Christ?

How many people are guilty of sin?

Is forgiveness free?

Is God a righteous judge when he pardons sin?

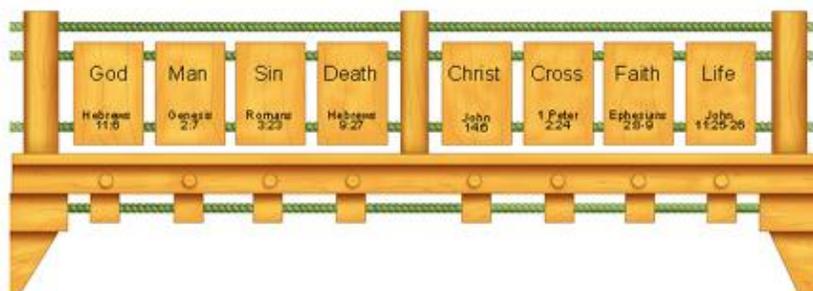
with his body what he thinks and decides in his soul. God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed for life, peace, joy and fulfillment. Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God and each other. God gave Adam and Eve authority over the earth and the animals. God commanded Adam and Eve to care for the garden and to enjoy everything God had made for them. God also commanded that they must not eat of one certain tree. By obeying this command, Adam and Eve would have proved their loving loyalty to God their Creator.

We must believe that we are made by God, loved by God, and owe to God our full obedience, to take the second step on this bridge that leads from death to life.

#### THE THIRD TRUTH – SIN Romans 3:23

Even though God created, loved and provided for Adam and Eve, they rebelled against Him. They disobeyed, eating of that one tree of which God commanded them not to eat. The act of disobeying God is called ~~sin~~ sin. God warned them that if they disobeyed, they would die. God is a perfectly righteous Judge. He always does what He says He will do. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God and disobeyed, God placed the curse of death on them, on their descendents, and on the world in which we all live. Their sin ruined the perfect relationship mankind had with God and with each other. Their sin resulted in a physical and spiritual change for all mankind. As Adam's descendents, all of us are born with rebellious souls having inherited this sinful nature. We rebel against God, parents, and other authorities. Fighting, war, anger, selfishness, cruelty, arrogance and stubbornness are all the results of our inner rebellion against God. We all make these same kinds of sinful choices, doing what we know in our hearts is wrong.

We must believe that we have sinned against God and deserve His punishment, to take the third step on this bridge that leads from death to life.



### THE METAPHOR

A bridge is necessary to cross a barrier that separates one from where we are and where we need to be. The message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is the bridge that takes us from our present condition of spiritual death and alienation from God, to the place of spiritual life and an intimate relationship with God. (John 5:24; John 8:32)

### THE FIRST TRUTH – GOD Hebrews 11:6

The One and Only True God is our all-powerful Creator and perfectly righteous Judge. He has made all things, including us, by Himself and for Himself. He is perfect and pure, without limit or fault, and it is He who made all things perfect and pure at the beginning. He knows everything. He sustains everything. We are accountable to obey and serve Him, and He is fully worthy of our love, trust and obedience. Every individual will stand before Him at death, to give an account for their every thought, word and deed.

We must believe that God is, that He is our Creator and Judge, and that we are accountable to Him, to take the first step on this bridge that leads from death to life.

### THE SECOND TRUTH – MAN Genesis 2:7

God created the first man, named Adam, and the first woman, named Eve. God made them perfect and pure, and placed them in the garden of Eden, the perfect place he had prepared for them. Adam and Eve were created as living souls with physical bodies. The soul of man is his essential being, his personality+where he thinks, feels and decides. Man acts out

### Facts about God's forgiveness of our sins:

- Forgiveness from God must be a \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness
- God cannot \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ sin
- God's holiness and love are not \_\_\_\_\_ to each other
- Holiness and love are perfectly revealed at the \_\_\_\_\_

### The Romans Road

Romans 3:23 I have \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:23 Sin's consequence is \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 5:8 God proved His \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 10:9-10 I must \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 10:13 I must \_\_\_\_\_ personally

### Ephesians 2:8-9

Salvation is.... by \_\_\_\_\_...through \_\_\_\_\_, not by \_\_\_\_\_

### John 1:10-12

as many as \_\_\_\_\_ Him ... become His children.

### 1 John 5:11-13 Eternal life is...

In God's \_\_\_\_\_ . If I have the \_\_\_\_\_,

I have \_\_\_\_\_; If I do not have the \_\_\_\_\_,

I do not have \_\_\_\_\_. I can \_\_\_\_\_ it for sure!



## **FACTS**

## **FAITH**

## **FEELINGS**

**God's Word**

**My Belief**

**My Emotions**

Which is the reliable source of truth?

Which one is to empower and direct the others?

What do I do when I am plagued with doubts?

## The Eight Foundational Truths

1. God      Hebrews 11:6
2. Man      Genesis 2:7
3. Sin      Romans 3:23
4. Death      Hebrews 9:27
5. Christ      John 14:6
6. Cross      1 Peter 2:24
7. Faith      Ephesians 2:8-9
8. Life      John 11:25-26