



“Let him  
take  
the water  
of life  
freely”

Revelation 22:17

# *SENIOR HIGH BIBLE TEACHER*

**FOR TEACHERS OF TEENS AGES 15-17**

*SPRING QUARTER | MARCH | APRIL | MAY 2025*

# Senior High Bible Teacher

SPRING QUARTER

March, April, May 2025

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# The Weeks Ahead

This quarter we examine some exciting passages about the end times. Such passages offer warning, hope, and expectation. The end times is a time of deceivers infiltrating the church in the quest for personal gain. The warnings help us prepare for their attempts to mislead us. But the end times is a time of hope, as well. There is no better time to follow the Lord, for we have the promise of victory over sin and our Father's eternal presence and comfort. Our expectation is the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We await His reign on earth as our King in His blessed kingdom.

Unit 1 describes challenges to the church as she functions in a sinful world. Lessons 1 (Jude 1:1-13) and 2 (Jude 1:17-25) look at Jude's warnings to a congregation about some false teachers who have entered the church and threaten to corrupt it through their ungodly practices that undermine the gospel message.

Unit 2 focuses on the revelation of Jesus Christ. Lesson 3 exposes the fallacy of false teachers claiming that prophecies of Jesus' return are untrue. God's patience in the delay before Christ's return ensures the salvation of many believers (II Pet. 3:3-15a).

Lessons 4 through 6 take place in heaven. Here we see examples of heavenly worship, focusing first on the worship of the Father (Lesson 4, Rev. 4:1-11), then Jesus Christ, the Lamb (Lesson 5, Rev. 5:1-5, 11-14). Lesson 6 provides a stirring scene where a great multitude of believers gather before the throne to praise God and the Lamb (Rev. 7:9-17).

Lesson 7 provides a call to worship because of His righteous judg-

ment of Babylon, the wicked city that represents all the corruption in this world's system (Rev. 14:6-13).

For Easter, we will look at Luke 24:32-49 (Lesson 8). In this post-resurrection scene on the road to Emmaus, Jesus explains to two of His disciples how He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures.

In Unit 3, we will look at passages in the book of Revelation that describe events in the future of God's final victory over evil. Following the fall of wicked Babylon, we will see the praise in heaven for God as the Lamb, Jesus Christ, prepares for the wedding feast with His saints dressed in the white robes of righteousness (Lesson 9, Rev. 19:5-10). In Lesson 10 we will see God making everything new, free from the curse of sin (Rev. 21:1-8). This section begins with the creation of a new heaven and a new earth.

The New Jerusalem, introduced in Lesson 10 (21:1-8), will be explained more fully in Lesson 11 (Rev. 21:9-14, 22-27). The decor is stunning, the size impressive, and God will live there with His people forever. Lesson 12 describes an essential feature in New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1-9). Pouring out from God's throne is a crystal-clear river of life. The river runs down the middle of the street, watering fruit-bearing trees to provide healing for the nations.

The final lesson of the quarter, Lesson 13, provides an open invitation for those who thirst to drink from the water of life that Christ offers for free (Rev. 22:12-21). We close the lesson with the call for Jesus to return.

*Glenn Weaver*

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and willingness to submit to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

# Looking to the Finish

The end times, from a human perspective, is a time of uncertainty. Catastrophes occur on a global scale. Humanity has endured two world wars, with global powers poised to launch a third if the right conditions present themselves. Global pandemics silently kill millions of people without warning. Hunger and financial instability are continuing problems.

But followers of Jesus Christ can take comfort from the Lord. We know that these trials are only temporary. No matter how bleak the world looks according to the evening news, the future contains eternal joys for those who know the Lord.

While we wait for the Lord's return, we find encouragement and support in the fellowship with other believers in the local church. Unfortunately, not everyone who claims to know the Lord is a genuine believer. Jude warns the church against those who enter the church as if they are believers but do not have a lifestyle in agreement with the gospel (Jude 1:1-13). How we live our lives is just as important as what we believe because when we accept the gospel, we enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus, as the King of all creation, has all authority. We cannot reject His authority and claim to have a family relationship with Him. The self-serving actions and attitudes of the false teachers are antagonistic to Christ and a threat to the gospel. Jude says to defend yourself against such foes by building yourself up in the faith and rescuing whom you are able from such sinful thoughts and actions (Jude 1:17-25).

Peter also warned the church against false teachers who try to mislead us. One approach of false teachers is to deny that Jesus is coming back. If Jesus is not returning, fearing His judgment is unnecessary. We can live however we please with no accountability. But Peter explains that Christ's delay in His return only means that more believers will be saved (II Pet. 3:3-15). Jesus' promise of return remains in effect.

Believers have much to look forward to after our struggles on earth are complete. The book of Revelation gives us much encouragement to sustain us when we face difficulties. We have a bright future ahead of us!

Rather than the self-serving attitudes of the false teachers, we have a joyous atmosphere of heavenly worship in which God is the focus. John describes the rich adornment of God's throne and the heavenly servants surrounding Him (Rev. 4:1-11). There is a continual chorus of praises concerning our God's excellent character.

Jesus Christ appears in this magnificent scene, as well. As the Lion of the tribe of Judah, He appears as the only one who is worthy to open the scroll of judgment. In John's apocalyptic vision, Jesus is a slain Lamb, who sacrificed Himself to pay for sins. Countless beings appear, offering praise to the Lamb, for He is worthy to receive praise along with Him who sits on the throne (Rev. 5:1-5, 11-14).

Joining the heavenly group is a multitude of believers from every nation and people group (Rev. 7:9-17). They are clothed in the white robes of righteousness, for they partake of

Christ's gift of salvation. Suffering and persecution will never again affect them. Jesus Christ, their Shepherd, will care for them and provide for all their needs. Their times of sorrow are no more.

One of the most anticipated events in the end times is God's judgment and removal of evil. In John's vision, he sees angels as they pronounce God's judgment on the wicked city of Babylon (Rev. 14:6-13). Throughout the Old Testament and culminating in Israel's Babylonian captivity, Babylon has often been the archenemy of God's people. This city represents all that is evil in this world's system.

Acting independently from God, in Babylon's thirst for riches and power, she seduced the nations and led them away from God. This world's system is antagonistic toward God and His people. Efforts to reform the system can only fail, for God is not in the system. God will judge and replace the system with His righteous rule. Only then will justice and equity have a place in human existence. Until the glorious day of Christ's authoritative reign over all creation and the removal of sin, Christians are responsible for showing the world what it will be like under Christ's authority in our actions toward one another.

Those who will attend the wedding feast of the Lamb, who partake of Christ's righteousness, have a blessed future ahead of them (Rev. 19:5-10)! They will see the new creation that God will make. The old creation, tainted by sin, will be replaced by a new heavens and a new earth (Rev. 21:1-8).

In the new heaven and earth is a magnificent city, New Jerusalem. John described the city as it was descending from heaven (Rev. 21:9-14). Its splendor is unlike any other city, looking as if it was constructed of precious stones. It is secure, having

high walls and angels at the gates. God built the city for His people, for the twelve gates are inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and the foundations are inscribed with the names of the twelve apostles.

The one thing that the previous Jerusalem had that is missing in the New Jerusalem is a temple (Rev. 21:22-27). Because God and the Lamb are in the city, they take the place of the temple. There is unfettered access to God for His people. Neither the sun nor the moon needs to give to the city, for light comes from God and the Lamb to provide light for His people, and there will be no night. The gates of the city are always open, enabling access to God for every nation. But no evil will ever enter the city, for only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life have permission to enter its gates.

New Jerusalem contains the river of life (Rev. 22:1-9). The origin is God's throne, and the crystal-clear water flows through the middle of the city. Trees along its banks yield fruit every month, and leaves provide healing for the nations. The curse that has plagued humanity and the earth will be gone! We will have direct access to God and worship Him forever.

Believers continue to have trouble in this life, but it is only for a moment. God is triumphing over evil as He spreads His gospel to all nations. We who are joyful recipients of God's grace are also active partners in work on earth. There is much to do. When our tasks for the Lord are completed, He will take us home to experience the eternal joys that John described and much more. We will have eternity to enjoy God and His creation, unhindered by the blinders of sin. This is why we cry out for Jesus to return (Rev. 22:20).

*Glenn Weaver*

# SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**JUDE 1:1** Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, *and* called:

**2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.**

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

**4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

**6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.**

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to forni-

cation, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

**8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.**

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

**10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.**

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

**12 These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;**

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

## NOTES

# Beware of False Teachers

Lesson Text: Jude 1:1-13

Related Scriptures: II Thessalonians 1:1-10; II Timothy 3:1-9; II Peter 2:1-22

TIME: about A.D. 70

PLACE: unknown

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—“It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3b).

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## *Studying the Text*

Jude’s letter is short but contains important information for the church today. False teachers crept into a local church in Jude’s day, bringing a sinful lifestyle that God condemns. Jude’s concern for the church led him to write his letter. He does not say much about the false teachers’ doctrinal beliefs. Instead, he describes their practices that are contrary to the gospel. While believers continue to sin, the wicked actions of the false teachers show that they are not believers and have no loyalty to Jesus Christ. Jude writes to the church to make believers aware of such deceivers and their character and to guard against them.

Today’s church has the same threat that the church in Jude’s day faced. In fact, the problem is bigger than ever. There are many persuasive teachers trying to gain our attention. Books, radio, and the Internet influence our congregations, leading people away from God and His truth. It isn’t easy to evaluate the teachers since we often cannot meet them in person and evaluate their character as they interact with others. The threat of false teachers and their aftermath is too great for

us not to evaluate every teacher to see if their intentions and motives are honoring to God.

### **GREETINGS—Jude 1:1-2**

Jude begins his letter by describing himself. He rightly places himself under Christ’s authority, proclaiming he is a servant to his master Jesus. Jude also lists his family, that he is a brother to James. This James is none other than the leader of the church in Jerusalem (cf. Acts 15:13), who is also the brother of Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 13:55). By his description, Jude demonstrated his humility and submission to authority. He did not claim privilege because he is Jesus’ brother. He was only a servant who is under authority. His humility and understanding of his rightful place before God set the stage for his accusations against the false teachers later in his letter.

Jude was writing to believers, as those who were loved by God and kept for Jesus Christ. Later in his letter, Jude described the judgment that will befall the false teachers. He assured the believers to whom he is writing that they