

# WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91129

JOSEPH W. TRACH  
PASTOR GENERAL

## BIBLE STUDIES

### HOUSTON NORTH

We will begin a new Bible Study series in the month of September. A variety of subjects will be covered during the series. The Bible Studies will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 P.M. Most of the studies will be held at the Church Hall on Lillja, but there will also be monthly studies in Tomball and Conroe. The following is a listing of the subjects to be covered:

1. The Millennium
2. The Book of Esther
3. The Book of Ecclesiastes
- Jim Franks - 8.26.87* 4. Judging/How to Make Good Decisions
5. The U.S. & Britain in Prophecy, Part I
6. The U.S. & Britain in Prophecy, Part II
7. The Book of Jude
8. Creation/Genesis 1 & 2, Part I
9. Creation/Genesis 1 & 2, Part II
10. The Birth of Christ, What Really Happened
- ~~11.~~ 11. The Old Testament Tabernacle
- 11-11-87* 12. The Law of the Offerings
13. Peter, the Chief Apostle
14. Humility, Key Attribute of a Christian
15. Repentance
16. Melchisedec, Who Was He?
17. The Immortal Soul vs. the Spirit in Man
18. Seven Keys to Understanding the Bible
19. The Truth About Hell & the Second Death
20. The Truth About the Trinity
21. The Fruits of God's Holy Spirit
- 2. Green - 9/9/87 - 22.* 22. The Book of Psalms (Several Parts)
23. The Book of Proverbs (Several Parts)
24. The Book of Lamentations

8-26-87 Jim Franke

### SEVEN RULES TO RIGHT DECISIONS

- RULE # 1: Ask God first for His wisdom. (James 1:5)
- RULE # 2: Get examples from the Bible. (I Cor. 10:11; Mat. 4:4)
- RULE # 3: Get all the pertinent facts.
- RULE # 4: Seek wise counsel. (Prov. 11:14)
- RULE # 5: Make a definite decision. Don't waver. (James 1:6,8)
- RULE # 6: Have faith in the decision. (Mark 9:23)
- RULE # 7: Work diligently for the desired end. (Eccl. 9:10)

9/16/87 Jim Frank

BACKGROUND MATERIAL  
BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

**DATE:** 1010 - 970 B.C. Reign of Solomon.

**TITLE:** The title for this book comes from the opening phrase, "The words of the preacher" (1:1). The word "preacher" comes from the Hebrew text thus: Hebrew "qoheleth"- from the root "qahal", to assemble. Greek version "ecclesiastes"- from "ek", out of; and "klesis", a calling. English "preacher"-one who speaks to an assembly of people. Thus, Ecclesiastes means the same, "one who speaks by a calling to an assembly." Other appearances of the word "preacher" in Ecclesiastes are: 1:1,2,12; 7:17; 12:8,9,10. The word is not found in any other Old Testament book.

**AUTHOR:** The author is not named in the Bible text. In 1:1 he is identified as "the son of David, king of Jerusalem." Internal evidences favor the traditional view that Solomon is meant by this phrase. The following descriptions in the text coincide with what is known about Solomon from the historical record in I Kings: 1). The author's unrivaled wisdom (1:16). 2). His great wealth (2:8). 3). His extensive building projects (2:4-6). 4). His collection of proverbs (12:9).

**PLACE IN BIBLE:** Ecclesiastes is the fourth of the five poetical books in our English Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. In the Hebrew Bible it is the fourth of five megilloth writings ("five rolls"): Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther. Ecclesiastes is traditionally read during the Feast of Tabernacles.

**PURPOSE:** Throughout the book of Ecclesiastes, the author shows two opposite life views. First he views things around him as the natural man would do without the light of divine revelation. His conclusion is, "All is vanity." But then the author writes as one to whom God has revealed Himself, and now his observations and conclusions have a different ring. The book alternates perspectives throughout. The purposes of Ecclesiastes, then, are to show the futility of pursuing materialistic, earthly goals as an end in themselves, and to point to God as the source of all that is truly good. The theme of the book is determined by those purposes, and may be stated in this twofold way: 1). Every pursuit of man is futile if God is excluded. 2). Only God's work endures, so that only He can impart true value to man's life and service.

**ORGANIZATION:** Ecclesiastes can be divided into six major divisions: 1). Introduction/Premise (1:1-11). 2). Bring God Into The Picture (1:12-3:15). 3). God Is On His Throne (3:16-5:20). 4). All Belongs to God (6:1-8:15). 5). Remember Your Creator (8:16-12:7). 6). Conclusion (12:8-14).

10/21/87 ✓

### 12 APOSTLES - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NAME	MEANING	MINISTRY
Simon Peter	Simon = Hearing Peter = Pebble	N. Asia Minor, Britain, Babylon
Andrew	Manly	N. Asia Minor, Scythia
James	Supplanter	Martyred - 44 A.D. in Jerusalem
John	God is gracious	Ephesus, Gaul
Philip	Lover of horses	N. Asia Minor, Scythia
Bartholomew	Son of Tolmai	N. Asia Minor, Turkey, Arabia, India
Matthew (Levi)	Levi = Joined to this world Matthew = Gift of God	Parthia, India
Thomas (Didymus)	Twin	Parthia (Iran & Afghanistan), N.W. India
James (Son of Alphaeus)	Supplanter	Spain, Britain, Ireland
Thaaddaeus (Jude, Libbaeus)	Man of Heart	Mesopotamia, Assyria
Simon Zelotes	Simon = Hearing Zelotes = Zealous	Egypt, North Africa, Britain
Judas Iscariot	Judah of Kerioth	Killed himself
Matthias	Gift of God	Macedonia, Romania, Ethiopia (India)

Source: Article by Herman L. Hoeh, Book The Search for the Twelve Apostles by William Steuart McBirnie

LAW OF THE OFFERINGS

NAME OF OFFERING	TYPE	ANIMAL/SUBSTANCE OFFERED	SYMBOLISM	MANNER OF OFFERING
<i>Acc.</i> Burnt Ch. 1	Voluntary - <i>La Sagrada</i> Sweet Savour <i>Supreme Off.</i>	Bullock Lamb Goat Turtle Dove	Traits of Christ: Strength, Labor, Leadership, Meek, Submissive, Inno- cence	Carcass divided; Washed with water; Wholly burnt on altar
Meat (MEAT) Ch. 2	<i>off. in salt.</i> Voluntary - <i>let.</i> Sweet Savour <i>to be offering or</i> <i>money to be used</i>	Unbaked fine flour with frankincense, oil and salt; Baked loaves, cakes Green corn ears, dried by fire Turtle Dove	Traits of Christ: Body beaten & bruised; Bread of life; God's Spirit; Love; Endurance	Portion burned; Portion given to priest
<i>by part of burnt w/</i> <i>the offering of peace</i> <i>is offered</i> <i>Ch. 3</i>	<i>to God</i> Voluntary <i>the offering always</i> Sweet Savour <i>the offering</i> <i>unified offering</i>	Bullock Lamb Goat	Christ's death reconciles man and Priest to God. Peace among three.	Portion burned; Remainder consumed by priest and offerer
<i>Requirement of burnt outside of the</i> Sin Ch. 4	Involuntary For: Priest, Congregation, Ruler and Common People	Bullock Lamb Goat Turtle Dove	Traits of Christ: Strength, Labor, Leadership, Meek, Submissive, Inno- cence	Offered outside the camp; Fat burned on altar; Blood put on horns of altar
<i>Commanded</i> Trespass Ch. 5	Involuntary For: Specific act of sin	Fine Flour Lamb Goat Turtle Dove Pigeon Monetary Rest.	Traits of Christ: Strength, Labor, Leadership, Meek, Submissive, Inno- cence	Offered as Sin Offering for specific sins, with monetary restitution

*to God.*  
*to burnt*

*to burnt*  
*to burnt*

*by part of burnt w/*  
*the offering of peace*  
*is offered*  
*Ch. 3*

*to be offering*

*Voluntary Sweet Savour offerings show a good attitude. God enjoyed*  
*Sin/Trespass off. God did not enjoy.*  
*Sin off. is not HAVE SAVED!*  
*Trespass - Commanded.*

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY  
GENESIS

**NAME:** Genesis (from the LXX) means "beginning." Genesis introduces God as the creator, and then proceeds to tell the origin and purpose of all He created. It gives the beginning of marriage, the beginning of human sin and the carnal mind, the beginning of juvenile delinquency, the beginning of nations and language, the beginning of God's nation Israel, etc.

A startling fact about Genesis is God's perspective of the world and "the beginning." The first 11 chapters record the history of the world prior to Abraham (and three of these chapters are about Noah), and then the next 39 chapters are primarily the story of four men-- Abraham (12-25), Isaac (25-28), Jacob (28-36), and Joseph (37-50).

**AUTHOR AND DATE:** Jesus Christ quoted the book of Genesis as part of inspired scripture (Matthew 19:4-5). And the New Testament elsewhere points to Moses as the author of it (compare Gen. 3:15 with Luke 24:37). Moses must have compiled the book during the 40 years wandering following the Exodus-- after his calling at age 80, and before his death at the end of those 40 years. God certainly guided Moses in writing Genesis, but it appears Moses also had certain records that had been preserved and existed in his time. These records are thought to be the Generations of the Heavens and Earth (Gen. 2:4; 4:26); the Generations of Adam (Gen. 5:1-6:8); the Generations of Shem (Gen. 11:10-26); the Generations of Terah (Gen. 11:27-25:11); the Generations of Ishmael (Gen. 25:12-18); the Generations of Isaac (Gen. 25:19-35:29); the Generations of Esau (Gen. 36:1-43); and the Generations of Jacob (Gen. 37:2-50:26).

These records, or documents, were merely reference works supplying the information, and are of no importance in themselves. They don't form the organizational pattern of the book. Neither are any "generations" listed under Abraham-- and yet our eternal salvation depends upon the promises God made to him!

Genesis begins with the beginning of time at the creation (Gen. 1:1). It records the recreation; the 1656 years from Adam to the flood (Chapter 5); the one year of the flood (Gen. 8:13); and the 352 years till Abraham's birth (chapter 11, Gen. 12:4; Acts 7:4). Then Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 (Gen. 17:1,21). Jacob was born when Isaac was 60 (Gen. 25:26). And Jacob was about 92 when Joseph was born (compare Gen. 41:46,53 and Gen. 47:9). Genesis concludes with the death of Joseph at age 110 (Gen. 50:26).

The date for writing Genesis was the 40 years of wandering, which roughly correspond to 1486 B.C. - 1446 B.C.

## SURVEY OF GENESIS

Genesis Chapter 1 records the creation of twenty-two things:

1. **First Day:**

- Light (Day)
- Darkness (Night)

2. **Second Day:**

- Firmament (Heaven)

3. **Third Day:**

- Seas
- Land (Earth)
- Grass
- Herbs
- Seeds
- Trees
- Fruit

4. **Fourth Day:**

- Sun (Placed in proper position)
- Moon (Placed in proper position)
- Stars
- Years
- Seasons

5. **Fifth Day:**

- Whales
- Sea Creatures
- Fowls

6. **Sixth Day:**

- Beasts
- Cattle
- Creeping Things
- Mankind

Twenty-two is a number of completion. There are twenty-two letters in the Hebrew alphabet and twenty-two books in the Old Testament according to the Hebrew canon.

## JORDAN

- Isa. 15 Moab to be laid waste.  
16 Moab proud & haughty, to become small and feeble remnant. God's outcasts in Moab (Sela=Petra).  
Jer. 48 Moab's pride humbled, conquered, into captivity, to be restored in latter days, Israel to possess land.  
49 Ammon to be desolate, treasures lost, later restored.  
Ezk. 21:28 Ammonites devastated.  
25 Ammonites punished for gloating over Israel's demise to be occupied by Kings of East (who gather at Armageddon, Rev. 9:14; 16:12). Jordan lies in path of invasion.  
Dan. 11:40 Moab and Ammon and Edom to escape occupation by King of North at time of end (in league with him).  
Zeph. 2:8-11 Moab and Ammon punished for pride and boasts against Israel.  
Isa. 60:7-12 Gentiles (Arabs) to serve and learn from Israel in the Millennium.

## ISRAEL & JERUSALEM

- Zech. 12 Jerusalem to be a burdensome stone to all who possess, to be opposed by all nations.  
14 Jerusalem to be overrun, taken into captivity, Christ returns to Jerusalem, city restored and safely inhabited, becomes focal point of world government and worship.  
8 Jerusalem place where Christ rules, city of truth.  
Isa. 2 Jerusalem to become world headquarters in Millennium.  
7:18 Egypt and Assyria allied against Israel.  
10 Assyria to be God's instrument to correct Israel.  
11 Coming exodus of Israelites from Egypt, Assyria, & other locations.  
Ezk. 5 One-third of Israel in captivity, two-thirds die.  
Amos 9:14 Coming captivity of Israel.  
Dan. 11:41 King of North (Beast) occupies Palestine.  
Luke 21:20 Jerusalem surrounded by armies just prior to her desolation.  
21:24 Jerusalem under heel of Gentiles till their time expires.  
Rev. 11:2 Gentiles control Jerusalem for 3½ years.  
Matt. 24:15 Abomination put in Jerusalem.  
Dan. 12:11 Daily sacrifices cease and abomination set up in Jerusalem.  
Rev. 17:16 Gentile armies gather at Armageddon.  
Joel 3:9 Gentile armies battle in Valley of Jehoshaphat outside Jerusalem.  
Zech. 10:10 Israelite captives regathered from Assyria, Egypt and other locations.



THE MIDDLE EAST IN PROPHECY

EGYPT

- Ezk. 29 Egypt to become a base kingdom, captivity foretold.  
30 Demise of Egypt in the Day of the Lord. Never again an Egyptian ruler (Arabs rule there now). Egyptians scattered and to be regathered.
- Isa. 7:18 Egypt and Assyria to be adversaries of Israel and Judah.  
19:4 Egypt to be conquered by a fierce cruel nation (Assyria) Judah to be a terror unto Egypt.  
19:19 Egyptians to be converted when Christ returns.  
19:23 Egypt, Assyria, Israel to be leading nations in Millennium.  
20 Assyria to conquer Egypt and Ethiopia.
- Hosea 7:11 Ephraim seeks assistance from Egypt & Assyria (Jer. 42:19).  
9:3 Ephraim captive in Egypt and Assyria.
- Nahum 3:9 Egypt in league with Assyria.
- Psalm 83 Arab nations & Assyrians against Israel.
- Dan. 11:42 King of North dominates Egypt at time of end.
- Joel 3:19 Egypt & Edom desolate in Day of Lord for violence against Israel.

LIBYA

- Ezk. 30:1-11 At the Day of the Lord, destruction of Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Lydia, Chub.
- Jer. 46 Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, & Lydia to be conquered.
- Nahum 3:9 Egypt, Ethiopia, Put & Lubim (Libya) in league with Assyria.
- Dan. 11:43 King of North dominates Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya.

ARABIA

- Isa. 21:13 Burden of Arabia, glory of Kedar (Ishmael's son) shall fail.
- Jer. 25:24 Kings of Arabia and mingled peoples of the desert punished with nations of earth at Day of Lord (Jer. 25:15,31,33).  
49:28 Kedar spoiled.
- Ezk. 30:4-5 Mingled people along with Egypt, Libya, & Ethiopia conquered.  
30:13 Arabs now rule in Egypt in place of native Egyptians.  
27:21 Arabia and princes of Kedar in league with prince of Tyre.
- Psalm 83 Ishmaelites (Arabs) in league with Assyria against Israel.
- Dan. 11:42 King of North (Beast) dominates Middle East countries prior to invasion from countries from North and East.

1. animal sacrifices re-instituted

2. There will be a European power  
10 nation army, they are Christians

3. This E. power will have a strong religious power.  
Religion & military allies. living in Jerusalem

when this occurs Mt 24 get out. when Jerusalem is surrounded, the tribulation begins

5. The hords - from the East & North prepares for control of Jer.

6. Christ will return & prevent this war from a nuclear war.

The stage is set for middle East now -

BACKGROUND MATERIAL  
BOOK OF ESTHER

**DATE:** Events occurred during the years 483 B.C. & 473 B.C.  
Esther falls between the books of Haggai and Ezra.

**TITLE:** The title "Esther" is assigned to this book because Esther is its main character. Jews call the book Megilloth Esther (Esther Roll) because it is one of the five rolls assigned for reading during Jewish Holy Days. Esther is read during the Feast of Purim.

**AUTHOR:** Authorship of the book is unknown. The author was possibly a Jew living in Persia during the latter half of the fifth century B.C. when the action of the book took place. It is possible that either Ezra or Nehemiah was the author. The book is similar in style.

**PLACE IN CANON:** The book of Esther is listed last in the historical books of the English Bible, and eighth in the Writings section of the Hebrew Bible. Though its canonicity has been challenged by some, it has remained firmly in the canon, having been confirmed by council in the 90's A.D. The Jews have always accepted the book as canonical.

**THE LADY ESTHER:** Esther was a Jewish orphan maiden who lived in Shushan (Greek Susa) in Persia. She was reared by a cousin, Mordecai, who was an official in the king's palace. King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) chose Esther to be the new queen. Through Esther's influence Jews living in Persia were spared total destruction. The name Esther may have been derived from the Persian word for "star." Esther's Hebrew name was Hadassah, which means "myrtle." The story of Esther reveals a woman of very commendable character. Among her traits were genuine piety, faith, courage, patriotism, compassion, maturity and natural charm.

**HISTORY:** The story of Esther took place between the first return of exiles under Zerubbabel (536 B.C.) and the second return under Ezra (458 B.C.). The book covers a period of 10 years (483-473 B.C.). Xerxes was king during this period.

**PURPOSE:** The major purpose of the book of Esther is to show how a host of Jews living in exile were saved from being exterminated by the hand of a Gentile monarch. Though no name of God appears in the book, the divine intervention of God is evident throughout. The book opens with a Feast and closes with a Feast.

**POINTS:** Two special points about the book of Esther are worth noting: 1). A key word of the book is "Jew." The singular form appears eight times; the plural form, forty-three times. The term Jew is derived from the word Judah. Most of the returning exiles were of the tribe of Judah. 2). A notable exclusion is any name of God. Also, there is no explicit references to the law, Jerusalem or the temple. There is no good explanation as to why this is true. But nonetheless, Esther stands firmly as a part of the sacred canon, inspired by God.