



Serving the **T**ruth in a **L**ove **S**andwich

The Return of the King

End Times Prophecy

1st Peter 3:15 "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

This series of courses is about answering difficult questions about Christianity. As disciples of Jesus Christ we have a responsibility to be prepared to defend our faith. We are *not* going to study what Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists etc. believe. We are going to study the truth, not lies, except for a few of their questions, which often have lies as their basis. I hope as we go through these lessons you will create your own personal statement of faith, so you will have a clear idea of what you are defending.

However, as we study, remember God's truth is spread more heart to heart than mind to mind. Since we have minds they must also be included in the communication, but never forget to serve the truth in a love sandwich.

In this course we hope to show that both the saved and the lost will someday be resurrected; the saved to literal everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and the lost to judgment and literal everlasting punishment. In this course we will look at the blessed hope of the return of Jesus Christ.

Lesson 1 – Introduction & Prelude

Lesson 2 – Rapture & Second Coming

Lesson 3 – Resurrection & Judgement

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. The final "Think & Pray" question should always be covered, because that is when everyone takes a quiet moment to listen to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Additional Reading

These lessons are designed for small groups or individuals to use without reference to other materials besides the Bible. However, a lot more could be gained if those involved would do some additional reading between class meetings. (See <http://lovebiblestudy.com/CC/Library.htm>)

We plan to provide specific recommendations with each course at <http://lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/Adjunct/> We also hope to be making specific chapter recommendations from various Christian books that have helped us in our understanding of apologetics, but are not entirely about the topic of the course. Such as these books which would make good companions for this entire series of courses.

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek

The Case for ... series of books by Lee Strobel

Cold Case Christianity, God's Crime Scene, and Forensic Faith – 3 books by J. Warner Wallace

Lesson 1 – Introduction & Prelude

INTRODUCTION – The Return of the King, End Times Prophecy

(1A) Do you believe that Jesus will return? If not, why not? If so, what do you think will happen then?

Think & Pray _____

(1B) The prophet Jonah, after trying avoid God's call, went to Nineveh and prophesied their doom. They repented and God did not destroy them until 120 years later when an unrepentant and rebellious generation appeared. Read Jonah 4:1-2. What did Jonah do when Nineveh was not destroyed?

(1C) What does Jonah’s reaction have to do with discussing end times prophecy with unbelievers?

Think & Pray _____

PRELUDE - Wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, persecution etc., Israel restored to the land.

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(1D) Matthew 24:1-8. What did Jesus call wars, famines, and earthquakes? _____

(1E) As things become worse what will grow cold in many _____

(1F) Where will the gospel be preached or proclaimed right before the end _____

(1G) 1st Tim 4:1-3 Who says many will be deceived and abandon following God? _____

(1H) 2nd Thess 2:1-4 What must happen before the final day? _____

(1I) What does 2nd Thess 2:1-4 mean?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[1j] *Atheist Attack*: Jesus was a terrorist: Luke 12:49-53 Jesus said: I have come to set the Earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing. How great is My anguish until it is accomplished! If the average American Christian watched, saw and heard an Islamic leader, King or President say on TV: "I have come to set the Earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing. How great is my anguish until it is accomplished!" Would he or she claim that these were the words of an evil terrorist? Is this an "evil", terrorist statement? Yes? No? Did Jesus Christ prove to be an evil/insane terrorist by making this evil/murderous statement?

How would you answer this attack? (Hints: John 16:25, Gal 4:24, 1st Cor 4:6, Rev 11:8)

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 1 – Introduction & Prelude

(1A) I believe both the saved and the lost will someday be resurrected; the saved to literal everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and the lost to judgment and literal everlasting punishment. We looked at heaven and hell in the last lesson. In this lesson we will look at the blessed hope of the return of Jesus Christ.

(1B) Jonah became angry with God.

(1C) Although what you find written in this lesson is what I believe is going to happen, I am not married to it. I do not want to be like Jonah, who was angry when God did not do things the way Jonah expected. Nor do I want to be like the Pharisees and Sadducees, who could not recognize who Jesus was when He came, because He did not match their ideas of what He should have been. I believe in a pretribulation rapture of His church and a premillennial return of Jesus Christ, the King, but if actual events prove I am wrong I hope I do not sit under the Jonah plant and complain about it. Except for the simple truths that Jesus is coming again, and our eternal destiny is with God in paradise, I do not try to defend these beliefs with anyone, especially unbelievers.

(1D) Matthew 24:1-8. What did Jesus call wars, famines, and earthquakes?

Beginning of birth pains or sorrows. Matt 24:8

(1E) As things become worse what will grow cold in many? Love Matt 24:12

(1F) Where will the gospel be preached or proclaimed right before the end? Everywhere. Matt 24:14.

(1G) 1st Tim 4:1-3 Who says many will be deceived and abandon following God? The Spirit 1st Tim 4:1

(1H) 2nd Thess 2:1-4 What must happen before the final day?

There will be a falling away, rebellion, or apostasy. 2nd Thess 2:3.

(1I) It means that many will turn away from Godliness. That means people who are calling themselves Christian. You cannot turn away from something you never started to do in the first place

My further thoughts:

[1j] My Response: Unlike you, I do not think I can speak for large segments of the population. I would hope that they would listen to the context and see if the speaker was talking about actual fire bombs or metaphorically about energizing people with new ideas. Jesus was speaking of His ideas and Spirit, not fire bombs. That makes the rest of this argument just silly. (Of course, if he had made his argument from 2nd Peter 3:10-13, it would be literal fire. In that case, Jesus is just warning what is coming so we can repent and avoid it.)

How could I put this truth in a love sandwich?

Recommended for further study of End Times Prophecy:

Ezekiel 45:1 through Ezekiel 48:29	Jude
John 14 & 17	Matthew 13 & 24-25
2 Peter	2 Thessalonians
Daniel	Revelation
1 Thessalonians	

Lesson 2 – Rapture & Second Coming

RAPTURE & TRIBULATION

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(2A) 1st Cor 15:52 How much time will the resurrection take? _____

(2B) Read Luke 17:34-36 Will everyone go up in the rapture? _____

(2C) Matt 24:21-22 What keeps the Great Tribulation from killing everyone.
God cuts the time short for the sake of His own people, the elect.

(2D) Dan 12:1 When things become worse than they have ever been who will be rescued?
Everyone whose name is in the book

(2E) In Revelation 5:10 it says we are being made into priests in order to help the Lord rule the earth. How is God preparing you for your duties? How do you know ?

Think & Pray _____

2ND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST, ARMAGEDDON, SATAN BOUND

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(2F) Acts 1:6-11 What did the two men in white promise? _____

(2G) 2nd Thess 1:7-10 Jesus will be revealed with who? _____

(2H) Rev 19:11-21 What will Jesus' name tag say? _____

(2I) Revelations 20:1-10 How long will Christ rule on earth? _____

(2J) Revelations 20:7-9 What happens to the enemies of God? _____ 9

(2K) How could God's coming vengeance be comforting as Isaiah says in 61:2? (Hint: Isaiah 61:1-11)

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[2L] *Atheist Attack*: Jesus promoted murdering parents: Jesus said: Mark 13:12 Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will raise up against their parents and put them to death. Did Jesus lie concerning His agenda for children to kill their parents?

How would you answer this attack? (Hint: Mark 13:3-13)

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 2 – Rapture & Second Coming

(2A) 1st Cor 15:52 How much time will the resurrection take? a moment, a twinkling of the eye

(2B) Read Luke 17:34-36 Will everyone go up in the rapture? No.

(2C) Matt 24:21-22 What keeps the Great Tribulation from killing everyone.

God cuts the time short for the sake of His own people, the elect.

(2D) Dan 12:1 When things become worse than they have ever been who will be rescued?

Everyone whose name is in the book

(2E) God prepared me for my ministry in a number of ways. One of them was to have me be a professional trainer for seven years in a major corporation, so that I could learn to write lessons like these. That is one of the things that confirms for me that God is preparing us for our future. If He is preparing me for my current life, doesn't it make sense He is preparing me for my next one as well?

(2F) Acts 1:6-11 What did the two men in white promise?

Jesus would return in the same way he went. Acts 1:11

(2G) 2nd Thess 1:7-10 Jesus will be revealed with who? His mighty or powerful angels. 2nd Thess 1:7-8

(2H) Rev 19:11-21 What will Jesus' name tag say?

King of Kings and Lord of Lords Rev 19:16

(2I) Revelations 20:1-10 How long will Christ rule on earth? 1,000 Years Rev 20:6

(2J) Revelations 20:7-9 What happens to the enemies of God?

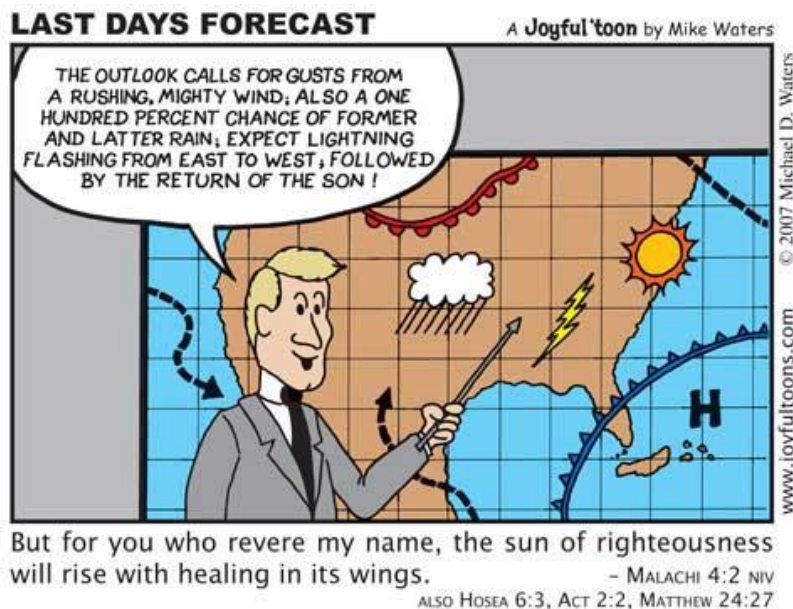
Fire falls from heaven and destroys them. Rev 20:9

(2K) God's justice is comforting to the saved, because it means that Satan will be dealt with, and we will be gathered to God. For the unsaved, God's justice means a destiny in hell, so for them it is not comforting at all.

My further thoughts:

[2L] My Response: You are accusing Jesus of the crimes these people perpetrate on each other. Jesus was prophesying about the future. That is different than an agenda.

How could I have been more kind and gracious?



Lesson 3 – Resurrection & Judgement

RESURRECTION & JUDGEMENT

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(3A) 1st Thess 4:14-18 How are we to use the words of prophecy? _____

(3B) 1st Cor 15:42-55 What is swallowed up in victory? _____

(3C) Rev 20:11-15 When the Lord sits in judgement what color is His great throne? _____

(3D) Matt 25:32-41 How will the Lord be like a shepherd when He renders judgement.

(3E) John 14:1-6 How much space is there for us in heaven _____

(3F) John 17:1-5 What is the same thing as eternal life? _____

(3G) What do you believe about the end times?

Think & Pray _____

GET READY - There is uncertainty, so be prepared

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(3H) Matt 24:42 Why should we be always ready? _____

(3I) 2nd Pet 3:1-18 How should we want to be found? _____

(3J) 1st Thess 1:10 When Jesus returns what will he do? _____

(3K) Read Mark 13:33 & Luke 12:40. Are you ready for Him to come? How do you know?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[3L] *Atheist Attack:* Jesus lied – Jesus did not keep his promise in Matt. 16:28 when he said, "There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." Surely you realize his listeners are all dead.

How would you answer this attack? (Hints: Matt 17:1-7, 1st John 4:2-3, John 1:14)

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 3 – Resurrection & Judgement

(3A) 1st Thess 4:14-18 How are we to use the words of prophecy?

To comfort or encourage one another. 1st Thess 4:18

(3B) 1st Cor 15:42-55 What is swallowed up in victory? Death 1st Cor 15:54

(3C) Rev 20:11-15 When the Lord sits in judgement what color is His great throne? White Rev 20:11

(3D) Matt 25:32-41 How will the Lord be like a shepherd when He renders judgement.

He will be like a shepherd who separates the sheep from the goats. Matt 25:32-33

(3E) John 14:1-6 How much space is there for us in heaven? many rooms, places, or mansions John 14:2

(3F) John 17:1-5 What is the same thing as eternal life? knowing God John 17:3

(3G) I believe, God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Revelation 22:20 He who testifieth these things saith, Yea: I come quickly. Amen: come, Lord Jesus.

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as You see the day drawing near.

(3H) Matt 24:42 Why should we be always ready? Because we do not know when the end will come.

(3I) 2nd Pet 3:1-18 How should we want to be found? Spotless, without blemish, at peace 2Pet 3:14

(3J) 1st Thess 1:10 When Jesus returns what will he do? Rescue us from the wrath to come.

(3K) I am saved and ready. I am more than ready. I am hoping for it to come soon.

My further thoughts:

[3L] My Answer: Jesus was speaking of His own resurrection, not the general resurrection at the end of time. He was speaking of the foundation of His church, in New Testament times, not end times.

Atheist Retort: The foundation of his church hardly has anything to do with this passage. Jesus "coming in his kingdom" is assumed to refer to his Second Coming, which belongs in the remote future.

My response: Assumed by who? You? I'm sorry, you will have to defend your own assumptions. Do not expect me to do it for you. Another possible explanation is that He was referring to His glorification at the transfiguration which happened shortly thereafter.

How could I have been more loving?

See <http://lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/Resources/EndTimesProphecy.htm> for list of Scriptures used in preparation of this course.