

Presenting the Study Sheet:

“Is Jesus the New Way For Man?”

The study sheet “Is Jesus the New Way for Man?” can be used as the first study, or it can follow either the study sheet “What Is the Source of Sin and Death?” (Lesson 1) or the study sheet “What Is God’s Plan?” (Lesson 2). The most logical use of this study sheet is to present it following the study “What Is God’s Plan?”

Purpose

The purpose of the “Jesus the Way” sheet is to show that the blood of Jesus, as the basis of man’s forgiveness, began to be preached from Jerusalem. The conditions of forgiveness that were preached in Jerusalem are for all nations.

Lesson in Brief

This study sheet shows that the animal sacrifices, mere shadows of the true sacrifice, could not forgive sins, and that the blood of Jesus now provides a new and effective way of forgiveness. After adequate preparation, the *new way* began to be preached from Jerusalem, and then to the rest of the world. The conditions of forgiveness that were taught in Jerusalem, which are recorded in the book of Acts, are the same conditions the rest of the world must fulfill. All responses in the book of Acts are the same, so all must have been taught the same conditions of forgiveness.

Introduction

In the previous lesson we learned that the law could not provide mercy. If it had provided mercy, grace, and righteousness, then Jesus died an unnecessary and useless death. In this lesson we are going to investigate what those under the *old* covenant did when they unknowingly sinned, and are also going to study what we are to do for forgiveness under the *new* way, the new covenant.

1. Old and New Ways

In this section of the study we will consider whether or not the way of forgiveness under the *old* covenant is the same as the way of forgiveness under the *new* covenant. [*On the back* to the left of the page draw Mt. Sinai and then write “Old Covenant” above it.]

1. What did the priests use in order to make atonement for the sins of the common people? [Read Lev. 4:30, 31.] The priests used *what* of the animal for forgiveness? [Fill in the blank with “blood.”]

2. Did the blood of the animal provide forgiveness? [Read Heb. 10:1.] The animal’s blood was merely a *what*? [Fill in the blank with “shadow.”] Does a shadow have any substance? Which would you rather do, cross a deep ditch on a bridge or on a shadow? What can a shadow do? Doesn’t a shadow merely indicate the nature of a reality?

[Read Heb. 10:4.] *What* could the blood of animals not take away? [Fill in the blank with “sins.”] The blood of animals was only a shadow of the reality—the blood Jesus shed on the cross. [*On the back* of the study sheet draw a cross and a shadow of the cross. See page 6.]

3. What is the new way of forgiveness? [Read Heb. 10:19, 20.] The new way of forgiveness is *what*? [Fill in the blank with “blood.”]

4. When did this new way come into force? [Read Heb. 9:16, 17.] The new way came into force at Jesus’ *what*? [Fill in the blank with “death.”] *Where* would forgiveness in Jesus’ name begin to be preached? [Read Luke 24:46, 47. Fill in the blank with “Jerusalem.”]

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that the old way of forgiveness was merely a shadow forgiveness, that the blood of Jesus is the basis of forgiveness for those under the *second*, the new way, as well as for those under the *first* (Heb. 9:15). The blood of animals was simply a token, but

that token was backed by the blood of Jesus. God did not have to wait until Jesus died on the cross to know that Jesus would die on the cross. God had planned, foreseen, and foreknown Jesus' death even before the creation (1 Pet. 1:18-20).

II. Preparation for the New Way

The Old Testament had been given through the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:19, 20) and had been written down before Jesus came to earth; but even after Jesus had died on the cross, none of His teaching had been written down. Some means of *remembering* the teaching of Jesus and a *beginning place* for the preaching of the new way had to be provided.

1. God had promised that in the last days the word of the Lord would go out from a certain city. [Read Isa. 2:3.] The word of the Lord would go out from *what* city? [Fill in the blank with "Jerusalem."] This would happen in the "last days" (Isa. 2:2). According to the New Testament we are now in the last days (Heb. 1:1, 2), even as Peter indicated on the first Pentecost feast after the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:1, 14).

2. Jesus promised that the Spirit would be sent to prepare the apostles for their ministry. [Read Acts 1:8.] The Spirit came with *what* so that the apostles could begin witnessing *where*? [Fill in the blanks with "power" and "Jerusalem." *On the back* draw Jerusalem, indicating that the word would go out from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and then to the rest of the world. Above it write "Jesus" and then "Holy Spirit." See page 6.]

3. How would the Spirit prepare the apostles? [Read John 14:26.] *How much* would He teach the apostles, and *how much* would He help them remember of what Jesus had taught them? [Fill in the blanks with "all."] How much truth would He give the apostles? [Read John 16:13.] *How much* truth would He give them? [Fill in the blank with "all."]

[If the learner should have any question about the Spirit giving all the truth to *just* the apostles, point out that only the apostles were present when this promise was given (John 13:1-4; Matt. 26:20; Luke 22:13, 14).]

4. When and where did the Holy Spirit come on the apostles? [Read Acts 2:4.] While they were waiting in Jerusalem (Acts 2:5), the place Jesus had told them to wait for the Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4), *with whom* were they filled? [Fill in the blank with "Holy Spirit."] They then began to witness concerning Jesus (Acts 2:22).

[*On the back* draw Jesus buried, raised, and ascended. Above this write "New Covenant." See page 6.] The feast of Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover feast (Lev. 23:15), and therefore, fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, who was raised at the end of the Passover feast. He was on earth forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3) before He ascended to heaven. The feast of Pentecost would have been only ten days after He went back to heaven. The Spirit, therefore, was sent to the apostles ten days after Jesus' return to heaven. [*On the back* write in "40 days" and "10 days" to indicate this. See page 6.]

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that God prophesied and prepared for the word of the Lord to go from Jerusalem in the last days. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles so that they could be prepared to preach salvation in His name beginning from *Jerusalem* just as God had promised in the Scriptures (Luke 24:46, 47). This is what they did the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection (Acts 2:5, 22).

III. Forgiveness Offered

1. Peter was the *first one* to preach salvation in the name of Jesus Christ. If Peter had told those who asked him what to do that they were to fulfill the requirements taught from Mt. Sinai, what would he have told them to do? He would have told them to offer animal sacrifice. With the death of Jesus completed, the new way of forgiveness by the blood of Jesus had now begun. What are the conditions of forgiveness under the new way? [Read Acts 2:38.] Believers in Jesus were told to do *what* in the name of Jesus Christ? [Fill in the blanks with "repent" and "baptized."]

2. Why did Peter *not* tell them to offer animal sacrifice? The old way had terminated when Jesus died on the cross. Beginning in Jerusalem, what Peter preached are the requirements of the new way. [Read Luke 24:47.] This message Peter preached in Jerusalem is *for whom*? [Fill in the blank with "all." *On the back* under "All Nations" write "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 2:38).]

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that those who believe in Jesus under the new way are to repent and be baptized so that the blood of Jesus will cleanse them of their sins.

IV. Responses

How did people respond in the rest of the world,

when the message that was preached in Jerusalem was preached to them? Did they all respond in the same way? The book of Acts does not tell in all cases what was preached that one needed to do to be forgiven, but it does tell how they responded. It is not necessary to give the conditions of forgiveness in each case because assurance is given that what was preached, beginning in Jerusalem, would be preached to the rest of the world. In order to find out what was preached to the rest of the world, one needs only to find out what was preached in Jerusalem.

This is to be compared to a sales manager of a vacuum cleaner company instructing his salesmen to demonstrate and sell a specific vacuum cleaner to every one of the United States according to the book price, beginning in Chicago. The person telling what happened could tell it in the following way:

The salesmen went to Chicago and demonstrated the vacuum cleaner. Some people in Chicago were impressed and asked, "How much do we pay for a vacuum cleaner?" To this the salesmen replied, "You can buy the vacuum cleaner for \$300.00." Those who were pleased with the demonstration bought a vacuum cleaner.

They went from there and demonstrated the vacuum cleaner in St. Louis. Those who were pleased with the demonstration bought a vacuum cleaner. Then they went to Los Angeles, and people bought vacuum cleaners there.

Would the narrator need to state each time that those who bought vacuum cleaners were told that they could buy them for \$300.00? Certainly not.

So also Luke, in writing the book of Acts, did not need to mention each time that those who wanted forgiveness were told that they needed to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins. This was to be understood because what was preached in Jerusalem was to be preached to the rest of the world. The fact that they responded by being baptized indicates that they were instructed to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

1-8. *How* did the people respond? [After reading each of the following Acts passages—2:41; 8:12; 8:36-39; 9:18; 10:48; 16:33; 18:8; 19:5—fill in the blanks with "baptized."] The fact that the responses were always consistent must indicate that the message must have been consistent also. Even though what they were told to do to be saved is not revealed, the consistency of the response must indicate that what was preached in Jerusalem was also taught to all people, everywhere the word was preached.

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that everywhere the word was preached all responded the same way.

V. After Baptism

1. What was to be expected after one was baptized? What kind of life was a baptized person supposed to live? [Read Rom. 6:4.] A baptized person was to live *what kind* of life? [Fill in the blank with "newness."]

2. Why is a person to be baptized? [Read Acts 2:38.] Peter told the believers that they were to repent and be baptized *for what* reason? [Fill in the blank with "forgiven."] What was Saul of Tarsus (later called Paul the apostle) told to do so his sins would be washed away? [Read Acts 22:16.] Saul was told to arise and be baptized and *what* would happen to his sins? [Fill in the blank with "washed" away.]

3. Jesus had told the apostles to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Who did Jesus say would be saved when the gospel was preached? [Read Mark 16:15, 16.] Jesus said that those who believed the gospel and were baptized would be *what*? [Fill in the blank with "saved."]

What have we learned in this section? We have learned that if a person is baptized he is expected to live a new life. The person who has believed in Jesus, has repented of his sins, and has been baptized is forgiven, his sins are washed away, and he is saved.

Summary

In this lesson we learned that Jesus is the way of salvation for man. His *new* way of salvation is not the same as the *old* way of the first covenant, the requirements of the law.

I. *Are the old and new ways the same?* The old way required the *shadow*, the blood of animals, but the new way provides the *reality*, the blood of Jesus. This *way* began to be preached from Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

II. *What preparation was made for the new way so it could be taught?* God promised that in the last days His word would go out from Jerusalem, which began when the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles. On the day of Pentecost, through the help of the Spirit, they began to be guided into all truth. With the coming of the Spirit, they were prepared to begin preaching forgiveness in the name of Jesus, first, in Jerusalem, and then to the whole world.

III. *What began to be taught in Jerusalem that needed to be done for the forgiveness of sins?* Peter taught that

they needed to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

IV. *When this was taught, how did people respond?* They responded by believing and repenting (which are either stated or seemingly implied in some cases), and being baptized (which is specifically stated in most cases).

V. *What followed their baptism?* They were expected to live a new life because they were forgiven,

their sins were washed away, and they were saved.

What do you think Peter would teach people to do to be forgiven if he were here today? Do the preachers you hear preach what Peter preached?

[If questions arise concerning baptism, assure the learner that this will be covered more completely in the next lesson. Arrange for a time for the next study.]

©Copyright, 1992, 2002 by Truth for Today
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

IS JESUS THE NEW WAY FOR MAN?

I. Are the old and new ways the same?

1. Under the old way the priest made atonement with the _____ of an animal.
Lev. 4:30, 31
2. This was merely a _____ (Heb. 10:1) that could not take away _____.
Heb. 10:4
3. The new way of atonement is the _____ of Jesus. Heb. 10:19, 20
4. Through the _____ of Jesus the new covenant came into force (Heb. 9:16, 17)
and for this reason began to be preached in _____. Luke 24:46, 47

II. What preparation was made for the new way so it could be taught?

1. God promised the word would go out from _____. Isa. 2:3
2. The Spirit would come with _____ so the apostles could witness first in _____, then Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the world. Acts 1:8
3. When the Spirit came, He would teach them _____ things and bring to their minds _____ Jesus had taught (John 14:26) and teach _____ truth. John 16:13
4. In Jerusalem (Acts 2:5) on the day of Pentecost they were filled with the _____
_____ (Acts 2:4) and began to witness for Jesus. Acts 2:22

III. What began to be taught in Jerusalem needed to be done for the forgiveness of sins?

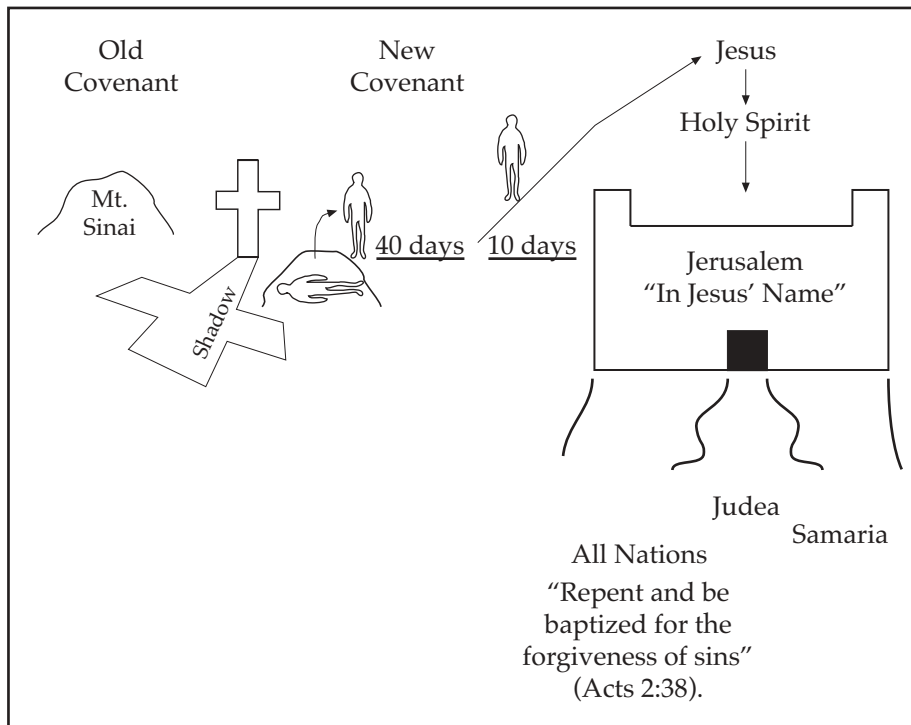
1. Peter told those who believed to _____ and be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ
for the forgiveness of sins. Acts 2:36-38
2. This message that was taught in Jerusalem is for _____ nations. Luke 24:47

IV. When this was taught, how did people respond? (The references below are in Acts.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. 2:41—Jerusalem _____ | 5. 10:48—Cornelius _____ |
| 2. 8:12—Samaria _____ | 6. 16:33—Jailer _____ |
| 3. 8:36-39—Ethiopian _____ | 7. 18:8—Corinth _____ |
| 4. 9:18—Paul _____ | 8. 19:5—Ephesus _____ |

V. What followed their baptisms?

1. They were to walk in _____ of life. Rom. 6:4
2. Their sins were _____ (Acts 2:38) and _____ away. Acts 22:16
3. They were _____. Mark 16:15, 16



The Drawing for the Back of the "Jesus the Way" Sheet. (See page 5.)