

"Basic Bible Truths" - Message #4
 "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S SEVEN TESTS"

Introduction:

1. Now...as we begin our fourth session, let me remind you where we've been so far.
 1. *First...*we saw what the Bible teaches about itself.
 1. *Second...*we saw what the Bible teaches about man's biggest problem: SIN.
 2. *Third...*we saw last time what the Bible teaches about man's only hope: SALVATION IN CHRIST.
 2. Now we come to "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S 7 TESTS."
 1. And in the process of this study we're doing what Paul told Timothy to do in II Tim. 2:15...(New King James)

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
 2. A Christian is told here to STUDY!
 3. ***To study WHAT?*** The word of truth, the Bible.
 4. ***How?*** By working hard at it.
 5. ***Why?*** The reason presented in this verse is: *so that we won't be ashamed of ourselves when we meet Christ.*
 6. And...what's the *method* of studying the Bible that's presented in this verse?...RIGHTLY DIVIDING!
 3. Now...the logical conclusion we come to is that the Bible must have *divisions*.
 1. There must be some "structure" to the Scriptures.
 2. We need to understand that the Bible is complete...
 1. And it incorporates every chapter and verse into a perfect unit...
 2. And every part of it is interdependent upon the other parts.
 3. So...without understanding that...
 1. It is really impossible to accurately understand the Bible...
 2. And to properly interpret it!
 4. So...the question is "**How is the Bible divided?**"
 5. And to answer that question thoroughly, it would take more time than we have in this session.
 6. But...as an introduction to the subject "***GOD'S 7 TESTS***"... let me show you just a few of the basic divisions in the Bible.
2. The two major divisions of the Bible are THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.
 1. The two purposes of the Bible are to reveal that which is EARTHLY and that which is HEAVENLY.
 1. The 39 Books of the OT are divided this way...
 1. **Historical**...Genesis to Esther.
 2. **Poetical**...Job to song of Solomon.
 3. **Prophetical**...Isaiah to Malachi.

2. The 27 NT Books are divided this way...
 1. **Historical**...Matthew to Acts.
 2. **Epistolary**...Romans to Jude.
 3. **Prophetical**...Revelation.
3. The OT is classified as PREPARATION.
 1. **Gospels** are MANIFESTATION.
 2. **Acts** is PROPAGATION.
 3. **Epistles** are EXPLANATION.
 4. **Revelation** is CONSUMMATION.
4. Now...as I said in our first session, the Bible **divides people** into 3 classes...
 1. Gentiles
 2. Jews
 3. The Church
2. Now...there are also **Chronological** DIVISIONS in the Bible.
 1. **Period 1**...from Adam to Abraham.
 1. During that time there was only one classification of people on the earth...
 2. Gentiles.
 2. **Period 2**...from Abraham to Jesus Christ...
 1. A period of some 2,000 years...
 2. During which there were 2 classifications of people on the earth...
 3. Gentile and Jew.
 3. **Period 3**...of human history...from the birth of Christ to His Second Coming.
 1. That's the time in which we live...
 2. And this period of time is characterized by 3 classes of people...
 3. Gentile, Jew and The Church (Christians).
 4. **Period 4**...of human history in the Bible is from Christ's Second Coming to what the Bible refers to as THE GREAT WHITE THRONE judgment...
 1. And the creation of a new heaven and a new earth...
 2. A period of 1,000 years...
 3. During which there are 2 classes of people on earth...
 4. Jew and Gentile.
 - (1) These are the only ones left on earth who can still die...
 - (2) All others have already passed through death and have been resurrected.
 5. Now...those aren't all the divisions in the Bible.
 6. We've only briefly mentioned a few.
 7. But...there is one basic division of the Scripture that I am summarizing under the title: **"GOD'S 7 TESTS FOR MANKIND."**

****Now...I'll explain what I mean by "tests" in a minute.**

3. These 7 divisions or periods of human history found in the Bible are called "*DISPENSATIONS*".

***Note:** By "*human history*" I mean "the period of time from the creation of Adam to the creation of the new heaven and the new earth" (Rev. 21:1).

1. Now...there are a number of ways to define a "*dispensation*".

1. Here's the one I think is best...

*"A dispensation is a period of time during which man is **tested** in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God."* -C.I. Scofield

2. Now...it's important to note at this point that God never changes.

3. That's called His "*Immutability*".

1. God is a Spirit.

2. He is infinite, eternal and unchangeable.

4. So...He never changes.

5. **AND...HIS WAY OF SALVATION NEVER CHANGES!**

6. **BUT...(now watch this)...**

1. The **way** in which He has dealt with mankind...

2. **HAS CHANGED** over the centuries!

7. In other words God has not always dealt with man in the same way!

2. But...when it comes to the way of his salvation...

1. Whether it is Adam and Eve or Moses, or Peter or Paul...they all had to be saved by the death of Christ on the Cross.

2. Acts 4:12 says...

"...there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

3. Is. 53:6 was written hundreds of years before Christ...

"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."

4. The Bible says that God laid on Jesus Christ all of our sins (iniquities).

5. So...when Adam and Eve sinned...

1. The only way God could forgive their sin...

2. Was by the death of Jesus Christ...

3. Which wasn't going to happen until hundreds of years later.

6. And so...right there in the Garden... God promised Adam and Eve that a Redeemer would come.

7. **QUESTION: Why didn't God just send them to hell right then and there?**

8. Because His plan was that a Savior would come and die for their sins!

9. Now...I repeat for emphasis...

1. **GOD NEVER CHANGES.**

2. **HIS WAY OF SAVING PEOPLE NEVER CHANGES.**

4. But...His *method of dealing with man* **DOES CHANGE!**

1. **Why?** Well...because there's a very important LESSON He wants to teach every human being on this earth.
 1. Here it is...

Jer 17:9

"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick..."

Ps 14:3

"They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Rom 3:12

All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one."

2. Now...in order to teach man this lesson...God has chosen to do certain things.
 3. The goal is to teach man that without God, man can do nothing...
 1. That he is helpless and hopeless...
 2. And that he is doomed to eternal separation from God.
- *GOD HAS PUT MAN TO A VARIETY OF TESTS...IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT WAYS... THROUGHOUT HISTORY...IN ORDER TO TEACH THE SAME LESSON..but...the natural man has failed...**AND CONTINUES TO FAIL**...every single one of them!
4. And when the time comes...
 1. And God has finished giving the natural man these tests...
 2. There will be no excuse for any man ever believing...
 3. That he could save himself!!
 5. As we'll see...man has failed and continues to fail the test every time!
 2. Now...exactly how does God prove to man that he is unable to save himself?
 1. We see how He does it in *GOD'S 7 TESTS*...

***Or...in God's 7 testing periods designed to teach man the same lesson.**

2. We could also call them *7 DISPENSATIONS*.
3. Now...remember the definition we're using of a "dispensation"...

*"A dispensation is a period of time during which man is **tested** in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God." -C.I. Scofield*
3. Now...during each of these 7 time periods God deals in a particular way with the natural man in respect to *sin* and *man's responsibility*.
 1. God tells man what the conditions are and what man's responsibility is.
 2. BUT...every single period ends in God's judgment.
 3. Which means that the natural man utterly fails every single test God gives to him!
4. So...we've got 7 testing periods or *dispensations*.
 1. Five have already passed.
 2. We're living in the sixth and there's one more to come.
 3. Also...in each of these 7 tests we see five things:
 1. (1) Man's condition at the beginning of the test.
 2. (2) The test itself or man's responsibility.

3. (3) The failure of the natural man.
 4. (4) The judgment of God
 5. (5) God's way of salvation.
5. To begin with...the first testing period is usually called *THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE*. (Gen. 1:28-3:6)

*Now...we'll spend more time on this one than most of the other six.

1. The time period covered during this test is from the Creation of Adam to his banishment from the Garden of Eden.
 1. The very first time that God tested man took place in the Garden of Eden.
 2. God gave Adam just one commandment.
 3. **Remember what it was?** *"He was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"* (Gen. 2:16-17)...

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.'"

4. Now...that doesn't sound so difficult, does it?
 5. Adam and Eve could eat of any of the other trees in the Garden, except one.
 6. And everything went fine until along comes Satan in a beautiful form and tempts Eve.
2. And in the process of this temptation, Satan tells her lies about God.
 1. He told her that the reason God wouldn't let them eat of that fruit...
 1. Was because God knew it would make them as wise as He was...
 2. And they would become god of their own lives...
 3. **And she bought it!**
 2. But...God had said that if they ate of that particular tree they would surely die.
 1. However, Satan convinced Eve that...
 2. She would NOT surely die.
 3. So...Eve and Adam both ate and when they did...**THEY FAILED THE FIRST TEST!**
 4. They demonstrated that even with no sin in their hearts to begin with...
 1. In themselves they could not be good...
 2. And they could not perfectly obey God!
 3. So..we see those 5 things I mentioned earlier.
 1. ONE - *Man's condition at the beginning of the test* was INNOCENCE.
 2. TWO - *The test itself or man's responsibility* was PERFECT OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S ONE COMMAND.
 3. THREE - *The failure* was DISOBEDIENCE.
 4. FOUR - *The judgment of God* is seen in Gen. 3:24...

"So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life."

4. But...number FIVE is the most important - *God's way of salvation*.

1. We see it in two ways.
2. We see it first in Gen. 3:15 where God speaks to Satan...
"...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."
3. Now...what's that got to do with God's way of salvation?
4. Well...in that verse, God speaks to Satan about *"the seed of the woman."*
5. **Who's that?**
6. Gal. 3:16 tells us who the "seed" of Abraham is...CHRIST!

Gal 3:16

"Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ."

7. The seed of the woman and the seed of Abraham is the same.
8. It means *"The Son of the woman."*

5. Now...we know that Jesus was not the Son of any man.
 1. He was the Son of a woman...Mary.
 2. And here...God is saying to Satan that this Seed of the Woman would bruise his head...
 1. But that Satan...
 2. Would bruise His heal.
 3. **AND...THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CROSS!**
6. On the Cross, Jesus was hurt by the powers of Satan.
 1. But...at the same time He crushed Satan forever! (Col. 2:15)
 2. So Gen. 3:15 is the first promise in the Bible of the coming Messiah (*Savior*).
 3. And...it was only through this Savior to come that Adam and Eve could be forgiven for their sin.
7. Now...in order to make sure Adam and Eve understood how they would be forgiven, God did something else.
 1. Gen 3:21 - *"And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."*
 2. God killed an animal...
 1. Shed its blood...
 2. And then clothed the guilty man and woman with the skin.
 3. **Why?** This was a picture of how Christ would shed His blood in order that we might be forgiven.
 4. **SALVATION IS ALWAYS THE SAME**...by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
 5. So...that's #1 of GOD'S 7 TESTING PERIODS.

6. The second testing period is called *THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE*. (Gen. 4:1-8:14)

1. The time period covered during this test is from the Fall of Adam to the Flood. (*overlapping periods*)
 1. When Adam and Eve sinned, they acquired the knowledge of good and evil, right and wrong.
 2. This gave man's conscience a basis for making right moral judgments.

Rom 2:15

"...their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them."

2. Now...it was the matter of CONSCIENCE that became the 2nd time God tested man.

***Remember**...we see 5 things in each of these little tests that God gives man:

1. Man's condition at the beginning of the test.
2. The test itself or man's responsibility.
3. The failure of natural man.
4. The judgment of God.
5. God's Way of salvation.

1. First...we see man's CONDITION at the beginning of Test #2.

Gen 3:22

"Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil...'"

2. His condition is that he is now making moral judgments on the basis of his CONSCIENCE.
3. Man is now responsible to respond to God...
 1. Through the promptings of his conscience...
 2. Because man now **knew** right and wrong...
 3. Good and evil!
4. The TEST was *DO RIGHT AND AVOID EVIL!*
5. So...*"Would man do what was right?"*
6. If man could pass this test, he would show that he could be righteous without God's help.
3. Did man FAIL? (**Big time!**)
 1. First of all...Cain killed his brother Abel.
 1. And then...refused to admit that he was a sinner...
 2. Even when God exposed his sin! (*Gen. 4:3,7*)
 2. But...man's miserable failure in this test is best described in Genesis 6:5...

"Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 *And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."*

3. Now...the Bible tells us that there were a few who did not fail this test.
4. Men like Abel, Enoch and Noah...are pictured as heroes of faith.

4. Okay...so now what was God's JUDGMENT?
 1. The patience of God was brought to an end.
 2. And God brought the FLOOD...as JUDGMENT on the universal wickedness of man!
 3. But...for the first time, the word "**GRACE**" is used in the Bible in Genesis 6:8...

"But Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of the LORD."

4. And Noah and his family were saved from God's judgment.
5. Not because Noah was a righteous man in his own strength...
 1. But because he offered sacrifices to the Lord...
 2. Which showed that he trusted God...
 3. For the sacrifice that would one day be offered on a Cross...
 4. Just outside the city of Jerusalem...
 5. The Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world!
6. So...we see that THE WAY OF SALVATION **HAS NOT CHANGED!**

7. Now comes TESTING PERIOD #3...*THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT*. (Gen. 8:15-11:9)

1. The time period covered by this TEST is from the end of the Flood to the Dispersion at the Tower of Babel.
 1. Now...what's man's CONDITION at the beginning of this little TEST?
 2. Well...we see man's CONDITION in this man, Noah...

Gen 7:1

"Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household; for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time."

Heb 11:7

"By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

3. Man's CONDITION was that he was righteous before God...
 1. Not by trying to be good by depending upon himself...
 2. But according to "*faith*".
2. Now...man's RESPONSIBILITY during this testing period was to obey the command of God to multiply, scatter and fill the earth...and to govern each other.

*God's gonna let man govern!

Gen 9:1,6

1 ***And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."***

6 ***"Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man."***

1. Noah and his descendants were now responsible to multiply...
 1. And to scatter over the earth...
 2. And replenish it.

2. And to **govern** the earth. (Even to the point of capital punishment)
3. Up until this time men just did what was right in their own eyes.
4. But...man FAILED this test, too.

Gen 11:1-4

1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

2 And it came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.

4 And they said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name; lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

5. They didn't want to spread all over the earth!
6. They wanted to build some tower which represented a false religious system...
 1. And to all live together...
 2. In spite of what God had commanded them to do.
3. Okay...now it's JUDGMENT TIME!

Gen 11:5-9

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.

7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth."

1. So...man fails again at his attempt to be independent of God.
 2. But...be sure to note this:...THE WAY OF SALVATION HAS REMAINED THE SAME.
8. Testing period #4 is called *THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE*. (Gen. 11:10-Exodus 18:27).
1. The time period covered by this test is from the call of Abram to the giving of the Law.
 1. Man's **CONDITION** at the beginning of this TEST is that he has been given a **PROMISE**.
 2. Out of the dispersed people's God called one man named Abram.
 3. And God entered into "covenant" or "**promise**".

4. God promised Abram...
 1. A land (Promised Land). **ISRAEL**
 2. A natural or earthly seed.
THE JEWS
 3. A spiritual or heavenly seed. **JESUS CHRIST**

Gen 13:14-17

14 "And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.

16 "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.

17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

Gen 15:5

5 "And He took him outside and said, 'Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'"

*So...man's CONDITION was that he was separated and blessed by God's PROMISE.

(So...we've got the *Dispensation of Promise*)

2. Now...the TEST or man's responsibility was to obey God's command to stay in the land of promise.

Gen 26:2-3

2 "And the LORD appeared to him and said, 'Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

3 'Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.'"

1. At this point in human history, God marked out one family...and one nation.
2. All of the promises of God were theirs...
 1. And the land was theirs...
 2. AS LONG AS THEY REMAINED IN THE LAND.
3. But...just like man had FAILED the other 3 versions of the TEST...he failed this one, too.
 1. Man's failure during this dispensation is seen in Genesis 47:1...

Gen 47:1

"Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, 'My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen.'"

And just like in all the other versions of the TEST, God brought JUDGMENT on man for his disobedience.

2. And...Jacob led the people down to Egypt and God's JUDGMENT on them is seen as He brings them into **SLAVERY!** (*Exodus 1:8-14*)
 3. And...the way of salvation is still the same.
9. Okay...it's time for TESTING PERIOD #5, which is called *THE DISPENSATION OF LAW*. (*Exodus 18:28 - Acts 1:26*)

1. The time period covered during this dispensation was from Moses until the death of Christ.

***From one hill to another - From Mt. Sinai (LAW) to Mt. Calvary (GRACE).**

1. Man's **CONDITION** was that he promised to do everything God said. (Exodus 19:1-4)
2. His **RESPONSIBILITY** or the **TEST** was God's **COMMAND** to keep God's Laws.
3. At this time, God gave Israel the Ten Commandments.
4. But what we call the Mosaic Law included a lot more than just the Ten Commandments.
5. It consisted of 613 commandments covering all phases of life and activity.

Exodus 19:5-6

5 *'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;*

6 *and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.'*

2. Now...they had a specific set of commandments.
 1. So...they knew exactly what God wanted and expected of them.
 2. **Now...they're gonna be okay, right?**
 3. *"Just give us some direction, Lord! And...be specific! No problem, we can do it!"*
 4. *"If we just had a set of instructions... a set of commands...*
 1. *"Which would tell us exactly what you want us to do..."*
 2. *"Then...we wouldn't FAIL you, Lord, like we did the other times!"*
3. Well...how did they do?

II Ki 17:15-16; 19

15 *"And they rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings with which He warned them.*

And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the LORD had commanded them not to do like them.

16 *And they forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal.*

19 *Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced.'*

1. Now...remember what the **LESSON** God's attempting to teach man by these various **TESTS**...
 1. He's trying to show man that without God, he can do nothing...
 2. That he is helpless and hopelessly lost...
 3. And that he is doomed to eventual physical and spiritual death!
2. So...God gave man some specific commands.
3. And how did man do? **MAN BROKE THEM ALL!!**
4. Now...you'd think that mankind would be getting the message by now, wouldn't you?

4. So... because man **FAILED** again...God brought **JUDGMENT** again!
 1. He brought the 10 tribes of Israel into the Assyrian captivity.
 2. He brought the other 2 tribes into the Babylonian captivity.
 3. And eventually...he scattered the Jewish people all over the face of the earth! (*Mt. 23:37-39*)
 4. **NOTE:** THE WAY OF SALVATION HASN'T CHANGED!

So...5 TESTING PERIODS down...2 to go!

10. The sixth TESTING PERIOD is called *THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE*. (Acts 2:1 - Revelation 19:21)

1. The time period covered by this TEST is from the Resurrection of Christ to His Second Coming. (*Not the Rapture*)

**THIS IS THE TESTING PERIOD/DISPENSATION WE'RE LIVING IN AT THE PRESENT TIME.*

1. Man's **CONDITION** at the beginning of this TEST is found in Mt. 18:11... (*Also in Rom. 3:19,23*).

Matt 18:11

"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."

2. Man's **RESPONSIBILITY** is to believe that... "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:23).
3. God's **COMMAND** is that all should receive Christ.

BUT...John 1:11-13

11 "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

13 who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

4. Now...at first glance...this seems like the easiest TEST of all!
5. **Why?** Because the only thing God requires is that man should receive His Son, Jesus Christ...
 1. Into his life...by faith...
 2. For the forgiveness of his sin!
6. And...**MANY MILLIONS HAVE DONE EXACTLY THAT!**
2. BUT...**MORE HAVE FAILED TO DO SO!** (Failed the TEST! *Didn't learn the lesson!*)
 1. Now...what's so hard about putting our faith in Christ alone?
 2. Well...same old problem: Man's heart!
 3. Man continues to be deceived by Satan into believing he can live his life without God!

4. And therefore, man rejects the Word of God...
 1. When it tells us that we can do nothing to save ourselves...
 2. And that we must humble ourselves, repent...
 3. And put our faith in God's one and only provision for our sin!
 5. **NOTE:** The way of salvation hasn't changed. (The Cross is just now behind man instead of yet to come)
 6. But...during this TESTING PERIOD or DISPENSATION...
 1. There are many churches...and many ministers...
 2. Who preach that Jesus was NOT the Savior
 3. That He is NOT the only way to God...
 4. But...just a nice guy...a real good teacher...a moral example!
 3. Well...for those who fail this TEST...there's going to be *HELL TO PAY!*
 1. Now...near the end of this test...
 1. Jesus will come and take His people out of this present world...
 2. To live with Him in Heaven.
 2. And then...the Tribulation Period will begin...
 1. And there will be judgment on those who are living on the earth...
 2. Who have rejected Christ.
 4. First...the Rapture (I Thess. 4:16-17).
 1. Then...a 7-year period on the earth called "*The Great Tribulation*". (Mt. 24:21,22; Zeph. 1:15-18; Dan. 12:1; Jer. 30:5-7; Rev. 7:14)
 2. And then...Jesus Christ will personally Return to the earth in power and great glory.
 3. He will then carry-out His judgment!
 4. And that will close the 6th and introduce the 7th and last DISPENSATION!
 5. THAT...will be the end of Testing Period #6.
11. So...we've come to the 7th and final TESTING PERIOD which is called *THE DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM or MILLENNIUM.*
1. This time period covered during this last **TEST** is from Jesus's Second Coming to the creation of a New Heaven and a New Earth.
 1. Man's **CONDITION** during this testing period will be that he is free from Satanic temptation.
 2. Jesus Christ will personally take charge of running the affairs of the world during this time.
- **MORE IN A LATER SESSION!**
3. Man's **RESPONSIBILITY** during this time period will be to obey the *King of Kings* and His laws.
 4. During this time the Devil will be chained for 1,000 years.
 5. But...even without Satan around, man's heart proves to be sinful.
 6. The natural heart will prove to be as evil as ever.

7. And when the Devil is loosed for a short time at the end of the 1,000 years...
 1. Myriads will follow him...
 2. And reject the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Now...at the end of this testing period...there will be what is called THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT!
 1. And those who have failed to learn THE LESSON will be punished.
 2. And the Bible says they will be cast into the "lake of fire".

Rev 20:11-15

11 *"And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.*

12 *And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*

13 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.*

14 *And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.*

15 *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

12. These 7 TESTING PERIODS show us that only those who put their faith in *God's Way of Salvation* can please Him.
 1. Only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ will be acceptable to God. (Jn. 14:6)
 1. God must do it all.
 2. And He has.
 3. Jesus said it very clearly in Jn. 15:5...

"Without me, you can do nothing."

Basic Bible Truths - Lesson #4
 "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S 7 TESTS"

1. In II Timothy 2:15, the Christian is told to study the Word of God. What is the method of studying the Bible that's presented in this verse? (p. 1)
 "Rightly _____."

2. The two major divisions of the Bible are: (p. 1) 1. _____
 2. _____

3. The two major purposes of the Bible are to reveal that which is _____ and that which is _____. (p. 2)

4. The 7 divisions or periods of time from the creation of Adam to the creation of the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21:1), are called _____ . (p. 3)

5. The Bible teaches that God never changes, and His way of _____ also never changes. (p. 3)

6. When Adam and Eve sinned, why didn't God just send them to hell right then and there? (p. 4)

7. What is the main lesson that God is trying to teach man throughout history? (p. 4)

8. God's 7 testing periods could also be called 7 *dispensations*. What is the definition of a "*dispensation*"? (p. 5)

9. In each of "God's 7 Tests" what 5 things do we see? (p. 5)
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
10. Please write below the titles given to each of the 7 testing periods in this lesson:
1. The dispensation of _____
 2. The dispensation of _____
 3. The dispensation of _____
 4. The dispensation of _____
 5. The dispensation of _____
 6. The dispensation of _____
 7. The dispensation of _____
11. We are now living in the dispensation of _____. (p. 13)
12. These 7 testing periods show us that only those who _____
 _____ in God's way of _____ can please Him. (p. 15)

Return completed lesson to:

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