

**PART – I**  
**OLD TESTAMENT**  
**Lesson – 1**  
**Compilation of the Pentateuch**

**Introduction**

You may be able to recall how the first five books in the Holy Bible came to be known as the Pentateuch. It deals with the history of Israel, the descendants of Abraham and how they were elected as the chosen people of God. They strongly believed that they are the ‘select’ people of God and that the Almighty God intervened in history to make them his own people. It also contains an account of creation, the sojourn of Israel in Egypt, their liberation under the leadership of Moses, their wandering through the desert and their arrival at the threshold of Canaan, the promised land.

The Pentateuch as a Book is incomplete, but it contains a number of promises. The most sublime of all these promises is the promise of Canaan, the land where milk & honey flows. The narration in the Pentateuch ends with the arrival of the chosen people at the threshold of Canaan, the promised land. The book actually points to Christ in whom all the promise and prophetic sayings are fulfilled. While we are on earth we have to live according to the teaching of Christ. It is the law of love that Christ taught us. It is the first phase of the salvific mission or redemption of mankind through Christ that is depicted in Pentateuch. The entire Mosaic law and prophetic utterances are fulfilled in Christ, The redeemer of the world.

**The Compilation of the Book**

The first five books in the Old Testament are known as the Books of Moses. This doesn't imply that each word in the P. is written by Moses himself. Pentateuch includes the teachings of Moses both written by himself and the collections of his teachings that were orally transmitted. It took some 500 years to collect, arranged and compile the written and oral traditions into books which are now known as the Pentateuch. Tenth century B.C. to Fifth Century B.C. is supposed to be the period in which these books were formed. Pentateuch deals with the ancient history of Israel. The authorship of these books may be attributed to Kings, Priests and Prophets.

**Traditions**

We can discuss the influence of four major traditions in the writings of the Books of Pentateuch. By traditions we mean both the oral and written traditions that helped in writing the books of the Pentateuch.

**Doublet**

The Pentateuch is a combination of four major traditions. Hence the same incident can be found in more than one traditions with slight differences. The repetition of an incident / event is known as doublet. There is repetition of events or incidents, but they are not exact renderings. They vary

in style and presentation but not in the matter of the central idea. These differences are due to the fact that they are written in different circumstances by different authors and at different historical periods. Let us see some examples of doublets.

### **1. The flight of Hagar (Genesis 16:4-6, 21:8-21)**

Hagar was Abraham's wife Sara's Egyptian house – maid. When Hagar conceived, she had contempt for Sara who was barren. So Sara dealt cruelly with her & Hagar fled from the Presence of Sara. This incident is described in Genesis chapter 16. But in Chapter 21:8-21 she flees with her son. That means she flees after giving birth to her son -

The difference is style (description) narration and date of narration only. Hagar had to run away from Sara because of her son.

### **2. The Oracle concerning the birth of Isaac (Gen.: 17 :15-22, 18:6-15)**

There are two references about the birth of Isaac in Genesis. In one such reference God does not speak directly to Sara (Gen.: 17: 15-22). But in 18: 6-15 when God proclaims the birth of Isaac, we see God speaking directly to Sara.

Thus the same incident is treated differently in different circumstances. These are concrete evidence to prove that different authors and different traditions at different periods worked together in the writing of the Pentateuch. Doublets of this kind can be seen in good numbers in the Pentateuch.

## **The Four Traditions**

### **1. Yahwist Traditions or Jahwist Tradition**

The Jahwist tradition is the oldest tradition in the Pentateuch. As God is known by the name of Yahweh from the very beginning this tradition came to be known as Yahweh, the letter 'J' is used to refer to this tradition as J is the first letter of the German word Jehova (God).

The biblical portions Genesis 2:46- 4:21 belong solely to this tradition. The following passages are seen only in 'J' tradition – 6: 1-8, 12:1-13, 18, Exodus 1:6-14, 3:2 :1-24,28, Deut 34:1-12. The 'J' tradition is mostly found in the Book of Genesis (more than half of the 'J' tradition is found in Genesis). The remaining portions in the 'J' tradition are seen in Exodus and Numbers. The account of the death of Moses is the only 'J' tradition in Deuteronomy. There is not even a single word that belongs to the 'J' tradition in Leviticus.

### **Date of Composition**

These books must have been written somewhere in Jerusalem during the 10-9 centuries B.C.. It tells us about the promises and blessings conferred upon the forefather and the central character here is Abraham.

### **2. Elohist Tradition**

The Elohist tradition is so called because of the reference to God as Elohim. 'E' the first letter in Elohim represents this tradition. There is great similarity in the narrations of E and J when they relate history from the calling of Abraham till the death of Moses. 'E' 's writings can mostly be found in Genesis. There is not even a signal word of 'E' in Leviticus.

Genesis 15:1-19, 20:1-18, 28:10-22, Exodus 5:1-4, numbers 11:4-34 and Deut 34:1-12 belong to the Elohist Tradition.

### **3. Deuteronomistic Tradition**

In Pentateuch, the Deuteronomistic tradition is seen in Deuteronomy only. The letter 'D' symbolizes this tradition. The 'D' tradition is found in chapter 1-30 of Deuteronomy only. Chapter 31-34 of Deuteronomy belong to the J E P traditions. The 'D' tradition mainly deals with the order of worship. There is a good deal of similarity between the E and D traditions.

#### **Date of composition**

This is written in the northern Kingdom of Israel in 70 BC Dt. Mainly tells the story of the selection of Israel and God entering into an eternal covenant with Israel. Moses is the central character here.

### **4. The priestly Tradition**

The priests of both northern and southern Kingdoms played a vital role in preserving the ancient tradition of Israel. The children of Israel, after their return from the Babylonian captivity, had to revive the faith of their forefathers and to follow the order of worship followed by their ancestors. The present tradition is a code of conduct formulated by the priests. The letter 'P' represents this tradition.

'P' starts with the history of creation. Genesis 1:2-4 is found in P alone. The account of creation in Genesis 2:4-25 belongs to the priestly tradition. The following passages are recorded by P alone. Genesis 5:1-32, 9:1-17, 36:1-37, Exodus 1:1-5, 6:2-7:13, Leviticus 11:27-34, Numbers 1:1-10; 28, Deuteronomy 32:1-52

#### **Period of Composition :**

This must have been written in 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C. some of it must have been written during their captivity in Babylon and the rest in Jerusalem in the Northern Kingdom. It aims at inculcating a life of worship or devotional life. The main personalities mentioned in this tradition are Adam, Noah, Abraham & Moses.

#### **Conclusion**

It is worth remembering that the profound insight gained from centuries long life experience and great effort on the part of great souls – all contributed in the making of Pentateuch. The authors and groups who worked behind the composition of the Pentateuch had neither seen nor heard from each other. 'J' is the first written document. 'E' was added to that later D was added to the JE traditions & finally P also was joined to these traditions – Pentateuch is a combination of all the four traditions. Naturally there were repetitions as the different traditions were joined together. Hence we have doublets. We can understand or interpret the text more correctly and vividly with the help of these doublets. Though composed in the ancient times (ie before half a millennium) by different authors this tradition upholds the central idea that God their creator is one who intervenes in history to redeem. His people and that he is worshipped properly. The different traditions by

various authors dealing with God, His name and attributes, sin and its origin, the election of Israel as the people of God, the worship of God and the resultant grace all these are systematically presented in the Pentateuch., It is the spirit of God who worked through the hand of man in this work. The same spirit of God intervenes even today in the lives of people. Let us pray that the same spirit of God intervenes in our lives and lead us in the right path.

## **Lesson – 2**

### **Psalms**

The Psalms or hymns are the prayer songs ensued out of the mouth of the people of Israel. The Book of Psalms is also the biggest book in the holy Bible and the most widely used one. Psalms are not written by a single author. They are written at various periods by different authors. It took more than a millennium and more than eight authors to compose and compile them in the present order. It is surprising to note that a Greek translation of the O.T. which dates back to 200 B.C., contains all the 150 Psalms. So it is evident that the Psalms had been compiled and arranged as a single book even before 200 B.C.

#### **The Division of the Book**

All the 150 Psalms depending upon the content and style of presentation Psalms can be classified under several heads. Some of them are songs of praise or hymns, yet some others are lamentations and we have hymns of thanks giving all the 150 Psalms have been divided by theologians into five books. Psalms 1-41 form one Book. There is not central idea or single theme running through all these Psalms. Each Psalm is unique or special. For example, Psalm one compares the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked. It clearly states that the righteous will be blessed by God and the wicked (people) will (perish) be destroyed by God – Similarly Psalm 41 says that those who are kind and compassionate to the poor are the blessed ones. He will enjoy divine providence at the time of troubles and sorrows. He delivers those who trust him from the hands of their enemies. The Psalm ends with a song of prayer to the Lord. Each Psalm is special in the treatment of the subject matter. But on the whole we can say that they are songs of worship.

#### **Relation to the Pentateuch**

The first book of the Pentateuch has similarity with the first book of the Psalms. Both contain references to the creation of the universe and creation of man (Ps. 19). Man is depicted as the glory of creation by the Psalmist in Psalm 8 (8.5,6)

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Book : - Date of composition its arrangement**

According to ancient tradition it is king David who arranged the psalms in the first book. Between 1020 and 970 B.C this must have been done.

#### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Book**

Psalms 42 – 72 form the second Book. A cry for liberation or salvation is seen in most of the psalms – god is depicted as the Redeemer or savior of the people. And the second book is known as Hymns of National Intrest/

## **Similarity with or Resemblance to Pentateuch**

The second Book has much in common with Exodus, the second book in the Old Testament. Both Exodus and the second Book of Psalms deal with liberation from slavery and suffering redemption by the Lord. Eg. Ps. 42:9, 44:1-3 66:4-6.

The psalmist cries for divine intervention in his life to save him from travel to save him from twals tribulation from as. He had intervened in the history of Israel to save them from Egyptian slavery. The cry for eternal salvation the intense desire to be in the kingdom of the god are clearly seen in the second book. Eg. Psalm 42 :1, 57: 2, 65:4

### **Compilation and date of composition**

According to learned theologians the psalms second Book was collected, compiled during the reign of king Hezekiah or king Josiah who ruled Judea between 790 and 597B.C

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Book**

This book consists of 17 psalms (ps. 73 – 89). These psalms deal with various themes. The third book like the second book is also known as Hymns of national Interest.

### **Percentage the second book**

The book has similarity with the Book of Leviticus in the O.T sanctification / purification of the people and worship of the people loved god are the central themes in both these Books. The people both individuals the nation must purify I sanctify themselves when they come to worship the lord. Eg. Psalm 78: 5 – 8, 84:1, 2,4,10. Thus it deals with the worship pattern ie, how they should lead a life of innocence virtue to receive the blessings of God.

### **The period of compilation**

It is commonly delivered that the third book like the second book has been compiled by king Hezchia or king Josiah during their rule. This must have taken place between B.C 790 and 597.

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Book**

Psalms 90 – 106 form this unit. The term / idea various from psalm. But they can be called as Hymns of praise. As their authorship is unknown they are (treated as) considered as anonymous psalms. But psalm 90 is believed to be a prayer offered to god by mosses, the man of god. Psalms 101 103 are attributed to David.

### **Pentateuch the 4<sup>th</sup> book**

There is great similarity between Numbers in O.T the 4<sup>th</sup> book. The toilsome wanderings of the people of Israel after this escape from Egypt, their affliction thus help lessons are all movingly narrated in the numbers. The psalmist due compares the life of a believer to that of the Israelites during their exodus to the promised land the true believers too has to suffer this desert experience ie, loneliness, rejection, afflictions. But god is a true refuge redeemer to those who call upon him. The Psalmist offers adoration of God who delivers those who seek him. Eg. Ps. 91:1, 2,5,6. ps.105: 12-14.

The psalmist reminds us again how he should have been in the dust. This idea is explained in Psalm 95 vs 6 – 11. We, like the Israelites, are also making a journey to the heavenly Jerusalem; we have to undergo this desert experience. While we are on earth we must trust God, live in a spiritual communion with God. If not, (divine punishment will be upon us) we will perish like our forefathers who rebelled against God. The psalmist exhorts us again to live in fear of God.

### **Compilation the date / the period of compilation**

According to tradition, Ezra and Nehemiah are believed to have compiled the book. Between 457 and 425 B.C. these psalms must have been collected or compiled as 2 books.

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> Book**

Psalms beginning with 107 to 150 form the fifth book. In this collection also there is no central idea running through all these books. Each Psalm has a separate idea or theme. The Psalms in this collection are also known as anonymous. As the psalmist repeatedly exhorts people to offer praise and worship to God they are known as Hymns of praise.

### **Similarity with the Pentateuch**

The close resemblance between Dt. in the Pentateuch and the fifth book can be seen. The Deuterist rapidly reminds the people of their calling; how God selected them from the rest of the people as His chosen ones; how they were liberated from the Egyptian bondage under the leadership of Moses; how they were led to Canaan, the land where milk and honey flows.

Deuterist reasserts their fundamental belief in God who chose them and repeated them from the gentiles; lead them to Canaan, the land where milk and honey flows. He wants them to realize that they are the people of God; that He is the God of the Israelites; Israelites alone they have to reiterate their belief in their God. Likewise the psalmist also repeats the Deuterist's aspect of the divine-human relationship and the various dimensions of the divine-human relationship that is portrayed in the other psalms can be seen in these psalms in all its diverse aspects. (The same ideas or thus fundamental beliefs (basic beliefs) are repeated in both these books). There is close relation between the two books as the two books repeatedly affirm their belief in their God. Let us examine some of the examples. Psalm Nr. 4 is an evening prayer. This is a prayer one offers to God before one goes to sleep in the night. The psalmist concludes saying, "I will both lay him down in peace, and sleep: for thou Lord only makest me dwell in safety (4:8) Ps. Nr. 133 is also an evening prayer. Ps. 42 is an ardent prayer of a devotee who longs for God (Ps. 42:1). The same idea is presented in a different manner in Ps. 130.

### **Date & Compilation**

Scholars are of the opinion that the fifth book also has been compiled by Ezra & Nehemiah & this must have taken place between 457 and 425 B.C.

### **Christ & the Psalms**

The Psalms abound in references to Christ. Psalms contain direct and indirect allusions to Messiah. Psalms that contain references to Christ can be divided into 5 groups.

1. Psalms that contain direct ref to Christ.

Christ is symbolically presented in thin kind of psalms. Ex. Ps. 34: 20, 69: 9.

2. Psalms that directly prophesy about Christ.

The psalmist actually relates his own intense experiences. But ultimately they refer to those things that are full filled in Christ. Eg. Ps. 22:1, 22:12, 22: 16 – 18, 110 : 4

3. Psalms that figuratively tell about Christ.

These psalms seem to represent ruler of Israel especially Kg. David. But the prophetic sayings in them are accurately full filled in messiah. Eg. Ps. 2: 1-2, 45 72 :11

4. psalms that indicate the second coming

They contain references to the last intendment, the new heaven the new earth where god reigns. Eg. Ps. 96: 1, 13, 98:3, 8.

5. psalms that are full filled in Christ.

(Many of the prophecies that are mentioned in the psalms are full filled in Christ. It is both difficult and not necessary to mention all of them. Some typical examples are given below. Ps. 2:6. According to St. Mathew. This psalm has been fulfilled in Christ St. Mat 3:17) St. Mat. In his gospel states that ps. 69: 21 has been full filled in Christ ). Many of the prophecies in the psalms are fulfilled in Christ. St. Mathew 3:17 is a fulfillment of ps. 2:6. Then ps. 69:21 is also fulfilled in Christ (St. Mat. 27:34). You may try find out such instance the N.T

Selah – not found in the Holy scripture.

a word which appears 71 time in the psalms. It is actually an instruction given to those who sing the psalms not meant to be read. It Selah appears at the end of a verse, it means either to sing loudly or to sing with the accompaniment of musical instruments. While reading psalms, one need not read selah.

Exercises:-

1. Mention the five books in the psalms / which are the five books in the psalms.
2. How ( should ) can the first book in the psalms be commonly named ?
3. What does psalm 19 describe about ?
4. What is the name given to the second book ?
5. Draw the similarity between the second book the Pentateuch.
6. Which book in the Pentateuch has resemblance with the third book?
7. What is the name given to the 4<sup>th</sup> book ?
8. Mention the book in the Pentateuch that has close relation to the 4<sup>th</sup> Book ?
9. What is the name given to the fifth book ?
10. Draw the parallel between fifth book. The Pentateuch
11. How will you divide the prophetic allusions to Christ into groups?
12. What is the meaning by Selah ?

# Lesson - 3

## Proverbs

Proverbs belong to the wisdom literature. Proverbs, like psalms, cannot be considered as a single book. Its main objective is to impart wisdom to people so that they can tackle the problems that arise in daily life. This book is not only for those who have less wisdom but also for those who have wisdom. The book teaches how a wise man should conduct himself in different life situations. It advises people how to conduct themselves with equanimity of mind in religious, social and family life. Among other matters it also deals with topics like immorality, patience, respect for the poor, loyalty (faithfulness) among friends, sanctity (sacredness) of man – woman relationship. He also draws a parallel between the wise and unwise

(Solomon, the wise, is supposed to be the author of proverbs.)

The authorship of proverbs is attributed to Solomon, the wise. This is not wholly written by Solomon. But it mostly contains the sayings of Solomon. The contributions of other wise men like Ahiqar, Mule etc. also can be seen in it.

### **Date of composition**

There existed a tradition of wisdom literature in the middle east even before the period of Solomon. It is difficult to determine the period of composition of these teachings. The maxims or wise sayings that were prevalent during, before and after the reign of Solomon were collected and compiled into a single book around 350 B.C. The reign of Solomon stretched from B.C 977 – 937 B.C.

### **The Division of the Book.**

Proverbs which contains 31 chapters can be divided into 7 parts for the sake of study.

#### **1. Hymns to Wisdom :- 1 : 1-9 : 18 (proverbs of Solomon)**

Hymns of wisdom forms the first part of the book. The first few chapters of the book (1:1-9:18) are a hymn to wisdom. The prologue deals with the necessity and relevance of acquiring wisdom. The book is written so that “men may know wisdom and instruction, Understand words of insight, Receive instruction in wise dealing, Sightedness, justice, and equality; That prudence may be given to the simple, Knowledge and discretion to the youth – The wise man also may hear and Increase in learning, And the man of understanding Acquire skill, To understand a proverb and a Figure, The words of the wise and the riddles”. (1:2-4)

The author personifies wisdom as a noble lady and exhorts people to seek her. Those who seek her will be weekly rewarded. Then he gives warnings, ‘Wisdom’ warns a person against immorality, idleness etc., then tells us that it is eternal. Next wisdom and folly are contrasted and shows the merits and demerits of each. A man of wisdom knows that adultery is a great sin and that one should keep away from the snares of the adulteress for the adulteress is a great snare / trap.

Ch 5, 6:20 – 25, 7.

Repeatedly he wants the people and says that one should keep one's way from the adulteress and that her house is a death trap. "And now, O sons, listen to me, And be attentive to the words of my Mouth. Let not your heart turn aside to her Ways, Do not stray into her paths; For many a victim has she land low, Yea, all her slaves are a mighty host. (7:24-26)

### **The Proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16)**

There is no common idea running through the verses in this part. But there are many references to the concept of justice. Verses that have no relation to each other are joined together to form a part. The author here does not deal with a particular topic or theme. Instructions or a code of conduct to be followed in daily life to lead an upright life is found in this part. We find many such instructions to be followed in daily life. We can see many doublets also here.

Sometimes the very same verse is repeated. At other times slight variations verses are repeated. Note the examples :

"A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother (10:1) A wise son maketh a glad father : but a foolish man despiseth his mother (15:20) But righteousness delivereth from death (10:26) But righteousness delivereth from death (11:26) 10:66 = 10:116. We can find such several examples Repetitions may be due to the different sources that are used in the compilation of the Book.

### **3. Words of the Wise 22 : 17 – 24:22**

The part known as the words of the wise got its name from verse 17 chapter 22. It reads :- "Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind of my knowledge".

Modern research has brought to light the close similarity between the thoughts and idea found here and the thought and ideas found in "Ameope", the Book of Egyptian Wisdom 'Wisdom of Amenope' preserved in the British museum and first published in 1923 – 24 (ANET 421 – 424). This may be due to the fact that they both were collected from the same source, opines theologians. No definite peroration is followed in the compilation of this part. We find many precepts concerning life and conduct; stresses the importance of cordial relationship neighbors, then the importance in our lives – book at the following examples:-

"Do not rub the poor, because he is Poor Or crush the afflicted at the gate " (22:21) Remove not the ancient land mark Which your father's have set (22 : 28 ) "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And let not your heart be glad When he stumbles " (24 : 17) This part tries to inculcate a sense of justice concern for the poor.

### **4. Words of the wise – part 11( Additional collection of words of the wise'. (24 : 23 – 34)**

This part contains 'the words of the wise' ( 24: 23). The verse in this part exhorts people to lead a life of integrity. We should be truthful in word deed. The kings should be impartial in their judgments for it is written, "( Partiality in judging is not good, It is not good to have respect of persons in judgement)" ( 24 : 236) and further he says – "He who gives a right answer kisses the lips " (24 : 26)

## **5. Proverbs of Solomon.**

Even though this part is attributed to Solomon, verse one of the chapter 25 says that it is written by the friends of King Hezekiah. We find moral instructions / moral lessons in this part.

## **6. The words of Ague Ben Jacket**

Chapter 30 which contains 30 verses are the words of Ague son of Jacket. Moral instructions are conveyed through riddles similarities. E.g (30 ; 4 ), (30 : 15) (30 : 23) (30 : 25). There are several other riddles their answers in this part.

## **7. The words/ teachings of Lemuel**

The 31 verses of chapter 31 deals with for important topics. The first part contains advices to kings ie, how an ideal king – should conduct himself. Then the picture of an ideal house wife – intelligent clever is portrayed.

Kings are instructed to lead a pure life. They should not become addicted to alcoholic drinks. Association with immoral women will rain the life career of a king. He must carefully avoid contact with such, women His verdicts must be fair just. It is the duty of the king to administer justice to the lowly the poor.

The second part explains the qualities of a clever woman. She is more valuable than the most precious stones. Her husband places absolute trust in her; she is hardworking and she looks after (take care of) her family with utmost diligence. She talks wisely; she is compassionate to the poor and the lowly. She is god- fearing and she will be respected by all. She is worthy of respect and admiration.

## **Image of Christ**

The theme of proverbs chapter 8 is wisdom. All the created things have their origin in wisdom. This wisdom is the fountain head of our spiritual of material life. The very same wisdom is the fountains of sublime wisdom, mortality and eternal life. St. Paul in his epistle to the Colossians asserts that Christ is none other than this very same wisdom (col. 2 : 3). He makes this point very clear, ie, Christ is the incarnation – (1cor . 1 : 22 – 24, 1.30).

# **Lesson 4**

## **Ecclesiastes (khalath)**

In the Jewish Holy Bible this book is named as Khalath. It means one who speaks in the synagohne . the one who speaks in the synogone is in smallly the one who preaches there . Hence in Malayalam the book is know as sabharangi and in the English Bible it is called 'Ecclesiastes '. The word means a member of the church, one who preaches there etc.

## **Author and Date of Composition.**

There is no consensus of opinion among scholars about the date of composition of this book .It is generally held that the book is written around 9365 B.C Solomon, king of Israel, is commonly believed to be the author of the book.

## **The central idea of the Book**

There is no consensus of opinion among states that every thing is verify and that one should fear god. The world what ever is in it is vain or magaand those whose sole delight is in it will not be able to enjoy eternal happiness . the author argues that eternal bless will be conferred upon those who fear god, those who place absolute faith in god.

## **The Book he divided into 3 heads**

### **Part 1- The philosophy that everything is verify 1:1-11**

#### **a. Preface/ introduction to verify 1:1-3**

The first these verses are a preface to his philosophized outlook That “All is verify” It reads like this: The words of the Preachers, the Son of David, Kin in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities ! All is vanity that does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun ?

#### **b. Description of Vanity 1 : 4 – 11**

“The sun rises and the sun goes down,..... here is nothing new under the sun. In the very beginning itself, the author presents certain philosophical views that are contradictory to each other.

### **Part II - Evidences to show that all vanity 1 : 12 – 6 : 12**

He provides concrete evidence to show that everything under the sun is vanity. His arguments are based on two factors.

#### **1. Evidences based on personal experience 1 : 12 – 2 : 26**

##### **a. Acquisition (worldly) wisdom is vanity 1 : 12 – 17**

I had earned knowledge more than all my predecessors Jerusalem. My heart had recurred much knowledge and understanding. I decided to secure knowledge and similarities. I found this also is a fruitless toil. Greater the knowledge, greater will be the sorrow. One who increases sorrow as well. The earning of knowledge without god is vain.

##### **b. worldly pleasures are also vanity, 2 : 1 – 3**

All men toil and work hard so that they can enjoy worldly pleasures to the maximum. The author is one who has enjoyed all the pleasures, which he wished to enjoy, to maximum. From his personal experience he certifies that that too is vanity or maya. “ I told myself, I will tempt you with pleasures, enjoy it. But that again is vanity”( 2 : 1 ). The greatest enjoyment is derived from spiritual communion with god.

##### **c. Acquisition of wealth and great deeds are in vain - 2 : 4 – 17**

The author of Ecclesiastes is a person who has performed great feats which no one else would have performed. He was also the richest person of his times for he says, he had the wealth of sheep and cattles more than all my predecessors in Jerusalem. I possessed myself silver and gold, and treasures of king and countries .... what ever my eye coveted for, I did not refuse ... All are vain and fruitless striving (2 : 7 – 11). The noblest thing one can do is to acquire knowledge of god and spiritual wealth.

**d. Hard Toiling is in vain 2 : 18 – 23.**

The author reminds us that it is vain to toil hard to amass wealth.

one makes use of his wisdom, knowledge and skill to become rich. But he has to leave everything as an inheritance to some one who has not at all toiled in this world must be handed over to some one. But the grace of god which one earns through hard work need not be given to some one else.

Hard wealth possessions if they are won by leading a life in communion with god will last for ever.

**e. Advice 2 : 24 – 26.**

The author of Ecclesiastes who had enjoyed all the goodness of this world gives the following advice to those who pursue worldly and pleasures. God grants wisdom, knowledge and happiness to those with whom. He is pleased with. The sinner, through his hard work and toil acquires wealth which is to be handed over to the blessed of god. So that they can enjoy it (2 : 26). So one should strive to receive the blessing ( grace of god).

**2. Evidences based observation 3:1-6:12**

The author Ecclesiastes through his keen observation and intelligence makes it explicit the vanity of worldly pleasures. There is a time for everything a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest, a time to smite and a time to cry. Everything happens according to the will of god. He judges those who deal justly and those who deal unjustly. He will judge both the oppressed and the oppressor and those who overthrow justice righteousness, the author wants those who are in the pursuit of immaterial pleasures and pomp and glory to realize the vanity of all these things.

**Part III - Advice to those who pursue worldly pleasures**

It is impossible it is in vain for man to examine or to question the ways of god. As there is judgment for all, one should fear god and obey his commandment and consider his philosophized ways.

**Christ and Ecclesiastes**

There is no direct reference to Christ in the Ecclesiastes. But Christ is allegorically portrayed through Ecclesiastes. He reminds us that a life without communion with god is vain and the wealth we acquire without the blessing of god cannot confer real happiness to us. It is Christ who grants blessing and eternity which man seeks. Eternal life is the most valuable asset which a man can possess ( 12:11). We receive eternal life only through Christ.

1. Name the author of Ecclesiastes.
2. Describe the main ideas of the book
3. What is Solomon's opinion about vanity ?
4. Explain the statement, " All is vanity."
5. Trace the connection between St. John 10: 9,10 the portrayal of Christ in Ecclesiastes.

# **Lesson 5**

## **Songs of Song**

The very name suggests that this song is the most melodious of all songs. There are very few instances in the Bible where the relationship between god and the people of god (Israel) are so beautifully depicted. The covenant relationship between Israel and god is compared to a marriage contract elsewhere (Hosea) in the Bible. There are eight songs in the form of dialogue between a man and a woman who are in deep love. It is a custom prevalent among the Jews to sing these songs on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Passover. For the early Christmas the song symbolizes the spiritual relationship between Christ and the church.

### **Author and date of composition**

Authorship is attributed to Solomon, king of Israel, by most scholars. But according to modern scholarship the book in its present form must have been compiled in the 30 B.C.

### **CHARACTERS AND PLACES DEPICTED IN THE BOOK**

There are six songs in the form of dialogue and are singing by men and women who are in deep love with each other the three main characters are the bride from Salem, Solomon, the bridegroom and the daughters of Jerusalem, the maids of the bride.

### **THE SCENE OF ACTION**

There are 15 locations in this story. It is spread over vast distances like Lebanon in the north to Egypt in the south. The following are the places where the scenes are laid.

Kedar(1:5),Egypt(1:9) engadr(1:4),Sharon (2:1), Jerusalem (2:7)Lebanon(3:9),Mt.Gilead (4:1),Amana(4:8)Samar(4:8) Mt.Hermon(4:8),Beersheba(6:4), Bessagor (Heishlon) (7:5), Demesnes (7:5) Carmel (7:6), Baal Harmon (8:11), The Holy temple does not record all these place names. But these names are found in the other Bibles.

### **THE BOOK CAN BE DIVIDED UNDER SIX HEADS.**

#### **The first song :- 1:1-2:7**

The bride's intense longing to get united with the bridegroom is described in the first part of the song with ardent love she requests "o King, permit me to enter your sleeping chamber". In the second part of the song we see the bride & bridegroom is exchanging their love for each other and paying compliments to each other. (1:15,16)

#### **Second Song :- 2:8-3:5**

The first part relates the king's arrival to behold his beloved. The latter part vividly describes the bride's intense longing to be united with her lover.

#### **Third Song :- 3:6-5:1**

First it narrates the marriage procession of the bridegroom to receive his enchantingly beautiful bride. Then the king, who is enamored by the beauty of his bride, praises of her celestial beauty, the song ends with their final union with each other.

#### **Fourth song :- 5:2-6:3**

This song reveals the bride's deep love for her bridegroom. She who has been eagerly awaiting

the sound of the foot steps of her bridegroom is highly thrilled by his knocking at her door. She was too excited with happiness, at the arrival of her bridegroom that she stood perplexed for a while and slowly with throbbing heart shyness she went to open the door. By the time she opened the door, the bridegroom has gone away. With deep felt sorrow she went in search of him. As she was wandering in the city, desperately looking for her beloved, the watchmen found her and even beat her. They robbed her clock, humiliated and presented & tried to dissuade her from wandering in the streets looking for her beloved. But she went on looking for her dear one. She tells her maids that she is passionately in love with her beloved and that they should inform him of her profound love for him.

The maids extol (praise) her exquisite beauty. They ask her why she is enticed by this man what accomplishment has he got over other men? Or what is unique about him? They too don't want her to run after him?

She is full of praise for him and tells that he is the most handsome person. He is as radiant as the sun he is greater than ten thousand of his kind that no body is equal to him in any aspect. She declares, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine (6:3). With this the song ends.

#### **Fifth song:- 6:4-8:4**

This song describes their mutual fascination for each other. They are full of praise for each other. The bride and the bridegroom pay compliment to each other beauty and noble qualities of each other. The bride's ardent desire to get united with him and be one with him is poignantly described here (8:1-3).

#### **Sixth song:- 8:5-14**

The last song deals with the union of the bride with the bridegroom. The song begins with the question "who is that coming from the wilderness leaning on her beloved?" After their temporary earthly life, the bride is eagerly waiting to be united with him in eternity (for ever). With this hope the song ends.

### **THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF SONG OF SONG**

In the old testament Israel is depicted as the bride of the loved (Hosea 2:19-20). the bride's extreme anxiety and her intense desire to be one with her beloved, the obstacles, fortunes, torments and temptations which she is subjected to are all beautifully sketched here. The bridegroom is in love with his beloved (Israel) the bride, if she is faithful & true to him in love, she will be able to overcome all the obstacles & will be united with him forever. Like wise the church is the most beautiful & chaste bride of Christ she belongs to him and to him only. She should prayerfully wait for her beloved; keeping herself chaste unpolluted resisting all temptations. The book exhorts the believers' to remain pure faithful.

#### **IMPLICATIONS TO CHRIST**

The bride and the bridegroom represent the church & Christ respectively in the O.T. Israel is the bride of the lord (Is. 54:5, 6. fere. 2:2, zc: 16-18-14, Hos: 2:16-20). The Christian church in the N.T. is the bride of Christ (2 con 11:2, rph. 5:23-25, Rev. 19). Thus it points to the mystical (spiritual) relationship between the church & Christ.

## Lesson 6

### OTHER CANONICAL BOOKS

#### **Preface**

There is difference in the number of books in the old testament of Protestants and the Catholics and Syrian Christians. The books known as 'Other Canonical Texts', eleven in number are included / found in the Protestant Bible, but they are considered part of the Holy Scripture by the Catholics and Syrian Churches. These books are also known as Deuterocanonical Texts. The Protestants call these texts Apocryphal books because they are of doubtful authority or ownership.

The following books included in the Holy scripture are considered other canonical texts :-

1. Tobias
2. Judith
3. Esther
4. Wisdom
5. Ecclesiasticus
6. The Epistle of Jeremiah
7. The first & Second letters of Baruch
8. Second part of Daniel
9. Maccabees – Books I & II

There are many books which are considered as Apocryphal books both by the Catholic and Syrian Christians.

The following O.T books are considered Apocryphal books.

1. Esdras - Books of Inbilies
2. Book of Adam & Eve
3. Martyrdom of Sarah
4. Book of Enoch
5. Testaments of the twelve Patriarchs
6. Story of Susanna
7. Song of three children

In the N.T. also there are many apocryphal books. The gospel according to the Hebrew, the gospel of the Egyptians, the gospel of St. James, The childhood gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of St. Thomas, the gospel of St. Peter, The gospel of Bartholomew, The gospel of Nicodemus, Acts of St. John, Acts of St. Paul, Acts of St. Peter, The letters of the Apostles, The epistle of Abgar, the letter to the Laodiceans are some of the Apocryphal books found in the N.T.

#### **Other Canonical Texts**

1. Tobias : Was a member of the tribe of Naphtali, and one among the Jews exiled to Nineveh in B.C 721. He is presented as a model of staunch faith and virtuous life. The book teaches that for a blessed family life strong faith in God and the blessing of the Almighty God are essential. Those

who are compassionate to the poor and the deceased will be assisted by God in times of affliction or misfortune.

This book reveals the importance of looking after one's parents, doing acts of compassion towards the poor and the deceased and to have unshakable belief in God and to render devout & heart-broken prayers. It also teaches that in married life the husband & wife should pray in unison. God will help such people in times of distress and affliction.

## 2. Judith :

It is blessed to be written in the second century B.C. In a didactic manner the book relates a minor historical event. It is the story of the victory of the Israelites over their enemies through the intervention of Judith a pious woman of Bethulia, who was deputed to wreak vengeance on the Jewish people who did not co-operate with King Nebuchadnezzar, surrounded Bethulia with a huge army and the city was besieged by them. Judith, the widow prevented the surrender of the Jews. She boldly went to the tent of Holofernes and assassinated him. Hearing the murder of their captain, the enemy army took to their heels.

The Book points out that the victory was due to her fasting & prayer. This book assures the faithful that God will miraculously redeem His people even when there is insurmountable (great) difficulties.

## 3. Esther Part II

The book of Esther part I has 10 chapters and book II has 6 chapters (11-16). If we read the two parts together we understand that the second part deals with certain historical events that occurred before the events in the first part. A one should read together certain happenings that took place in between the events that took place in the first part and event that followed afterwards.

Chapter 13 is a continuation of the 3rd chapter with view to eliminate the Jews, Haman prepares an order in the name of the King and sends it to all the rulers and chieftrains (ch.3). But chapter 3 does not say much about the content of the order. But chapter 13 gives a full length description of the order. Chapter 4 records Esther saying that she will fast and pray for 3 days. Again her prayer is not recorded in this chapter. We see it recorded in chapter 14. Chapter 5 begins with the description of the King extending his golden scepter towards Esther chapter 15 deals with the events that took place before this event. Chapter 8 mentions the order of the King to the Jewish people and a detailed account of this can be seen in chapter 16.

To be brief, only we read the two parts together do we get a complete idea of the things that are related in the book of Esther.

## 4. (Great) Profound wisdom

Although the book is attributed to Solomon it is generally held that the book is written by an Alexandrian Jew in Greek language in 1c. B.C. The reason why it is attributed to Solomon is chapter nine vs 7,8,& 12. The author points out that wisdom is a divine gift and it is the greatest wealth. The first 5 chapters expound the importance of wisdom and the relation between wisdom and human life. It speaks about the fate / destiny of virtuous and sinful people. Chapters 6-9 explain the origin of wisdom, its growth and how it is to be acquired by people. Chapters 10-19

gives a detailed description of the role of divine (Godly) wisdom in the history of Israel. We also find a discourse/reflection on idolatry in chapter 13, 14 & 154.

#### 5. Esm bar Aasire

This again is another book of wisdom in the other canonical books. It is written around B.C. 180 and the another is believed to be Esn bar Simoun. He lived during the time of the Maccabeans.

The central idea of the book is wisdom. Devotion to God & wisdom are closely realltedy the book says. Content wise the abok has similarity with proverbs. Those whgo follow the teachings of this book will be blessed and will enjoy abundant life.

#### 6. The Epistle of Jeremiah

This is a letter which Jeremiah wrote to the Jews who were in exile in Babylon and were treated as laves there. He warns them that they will have to live there as exile for 70 years but should not worship the idols there, rather they should worship only the true God. Through the letter he tries to convicen the people of the importency of the idols and exhorts them to wait for the Lord.

#### 7. The first & Second letters of Baruch

Baruch the son of Neri was an assistant of Jeremiah. It is held that Jeremiah dicated the prophecies to Baruch and it is Baruch who inscribed it on the parchiment. Baruch tells the exiled ones that God loves Israel with infinite love and that exile suffering are due to their ingratitude towards their God. Bad times or times of affliction are meant to purify the people through repentance and righteous Gopd will not forsake his people. If they repent God will restore them and will grant glory and well being to the people, their enemies will be punished and destroyed. This is the content of Baruch's writings.

#### 8. Second part of Daniel

In standard VIII you have studied about Daniel the prophet. There are 12 chapters in the book of Daniel. In part II there are only 2 chapters. Chjapters 13 & 14 are a continuation of the happeninhgs in chapter 13. This tells the story of a pious girl Susanna and how miraculously she was saved by God through Daniel the prophet.

In chapter 14, 2 instances are given through which Daniel convinces the king that his God is the true God. (Baal and the great serpent).

#### 9. Maccabeaus – Books I & II (Try to recall what you have studied in Standard IX)

These books ideal with certain incidents that happemned in second and third ie. B.C. The Greeks tried to impose their religious beliefs and traditions upon the Jews. Among the Jews, there were some who supported the gks. Antioches Ephiphanes succeed Alexander the Great in B.C 175 and during his seign the persecution of the Jews became more severe. The Jews were forced to eat the flesh of Swine, indulge in idolatry. As a result of religious persention many Jews had to lay down there lives There were Jews who were ready to fight agnist such cruel practice. It was Judas Maccabear son of Mathvas, the priest, who gave leadership to these people the who followed Maccabear came to be know as Maccabeani.

The resistance organised by the Jews against the Greeks under the leadership of Maccabeas is the central theme of the first book. The second book tells the story of the Jews who died a heroic death and won martyrdom because they wanted to remain faithful to their Jewish laws. This book tells a lot about their belief in life after death.

Reading and interpreting the other canonical texts will enable a person to understand God better and strengthen his belief in God.

Exercise

1. What name does our church give to the Epitaphial book ?
2. How does the book of Job emphasize the importance of prayer ?
3. Mention the reason as to why a section of the Jews came to be known as 'Maccabees'
4. How many days did the sister pray and fast ?

**PART – II**  
**NEW TESTAMENT**  
**LESSON – 7**  
**The Epistles of St. Paul**

The New Testament consists of 27 Books, out of which 21 are epistles. The four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation are the other Books. (You have studied the 4 Gospels & the Acts of the Apostles in the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Classes respectively). Out of the 21 Epistles, the first 14 are written by St. Paul. These Epistles are known by the persons or the people to whom they are written. The remaining 7 letters were generally known as common letters or universal letters.

St. Paul's letters are richest legacy which the church possesses. The essence of Christian Theology is summed up in these letters. St. Paul had not intention to write a treatise on Christian Theology. Through these letters he gives specify instructions to solve the problems which arose in those churches where he preached the Gospel. These letters may seem personal, but they contain great theological insights; and so we cannot consider them as mere private letters.

All his letters follow a definite pattern. The sender's and receiver's names are given in the very beginning. Then he expresses his gratitude to those whom he owes it. There after a message fitting to the occasion is conveyed. He concludes the letter either with a formal greeting or a prayerful wish. Writing was a different task in those days. Paper was not available and printing press was not invented in those days. Besides he was always traveling from place to place preaching the Gospel incessantly. So he might not have written these letters personally. He must have dictated them and somebody else might have taken them down.

Fourteen letters are attributed to St. Paul. The last letter – letter to the Hebrews – differs from the other letters. As opposed to his usual style, we do not find Paul's name in this letter. Then the style of presentation is also different in this letter. But the letter expresses his own ideas and opinions.

For the purpose of study, these 14 letters can be classified under five heads.

**1. Early Letters**

The two letters to the Thessalonians belong to this category. He wrote these epistles to the Thessalonian Church which was in its infancy, and wrote them which earlier than those other letter. This is also the first letter in the New Testament.

**2. Evangelical (Letters) Epistles**

To this second category belong the Epistles to the Roams, Corinthians I and II and the letter to the Galatians. They are also known as the Major Epistles.

**3. Letters from the Prison**

The letters which he wrote while he was in prison are known as captivity letters or letters

from the prison. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon are being address through these letters.

#### **4. Pastoral Epistles**

The two letters Timothy and the one to Titus are considered pastoral Epistles. Through these letters he addresses the heads of those churches which was established by himself.

#### **5. Epistle to the Hebrews**

This letter is different from the other letters written by St. Paul. St. Paul's letters assume importance because of their profound theological insight. The chronological order in which they are written is of no importance here.

#### **The Theology of St. Paul**

St. Paul's Theology is Christ – centered. It is the passion of Christ, his death and resurrection and not the incarnation of Christ that is stressed by Paul. It is St. Paul who used the 'Gospel' = good news – to the maximum in the N.T. He uses the designation 'Lord' instead of Yahweh whenever he wants to make a reference to Yahweh. He addresses Christ as 'the Lord' and he proves that Jesus is the Son of God. Crucifixion, death and resurrection are given prime importance in the incarnation of Christ. According to St. Paul a person is in Christ when he becomes a partner in the mystery of the incarnation of Christ and that is what is meant by life in Christ. And as children of God, we are entitled to enjoy absolute freedom. The children of God are no longer under bondage to Mosaic Law, sin and death. It is through the Holy Eucharist that a Christian becomes one with Christ. In our physical body we will be able to experience Christ through the Holy Sacrament.

**Memories** – Acts of the Apostle 20 :32

“And now, brethren I commend you to God and the word of this grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance, among all of them which are sanctified.

#### **Reference**

1. How should the Boos in N.T. be classified ?
2. What is the common pattern followed by St. Paul in his Epistles?
3. Write a note on St. Paul's Theology.
4. Describe the different categories to which his epistles fall. Mention the different categories.

# **Lesson – 8**

## **Early Letters of St. Paul**

### **St. Paul's Letters To The Thessalonians**

Thessalonica, now known as Thessalonika, is a beautiful city in Macedonia. One could find many Jewish settlements here. Thessalonica became the capital of the Macedonia province when the Romans annexed it from the Greeks.

During his second missionary journey, St. Paul reached Thessalonica. Many among the Jews and the Greeks fled to the gospel. Many among the Jews and the Greeks fled to Christ. But some of the Jews organized an uprising / rebellion against Paul and his companion. As a result of this problem St. Paul and Timothy left Thessalonica and came to Berea and from there reached Athens. After sending Timothy back to Thessalonica St. Paul came to Thessalonica and spent one and a half years there, preaching the gospel. Timothy, who went back to Thessalonica wrote a detailed report about the Thessalonica church sent to Paul. St. Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians was written in the light of this report. This was followed by his second epistle. He wrote both these letters in AD 52. In the beginning of the letter we find the names of Silas & Timothy along with the name of St. Paul, the writer of this epistle. Unlike his other letters which give moral lessons based on logical reasoning, this letter contains valuable advice to the church in a very cordial manner.

#### **The First Epistle**

At the very outset congratulates the church for its spiritual growth and remembers the hardships which they had suffered for the Christ. In it he also expresses his desire to visit them. In ch. 3. He appreciates the role played by Timothy as the mediator between himself and the church. This is followed by advice (1:1-12). Then he expresses his conviction about the resurrection of the dead (4:13 – 18). He also believed that the second coming of Christ would take place soon. There are hints about the second coming of Christ in this letter, which he thought would happen in their generation itself (4:17). But we do not find such references in his other epistles. But such a belief prevailed in the early Christian church. He exhorts the people to be vigilant and ready to receive the Lord at his second coming.

He concludes his first letter with a word of advice regarding administration of the church and it is followed by his benediction

#### **Second Letter.**

The Second letter immediately followed his first letter. Certain problems arose in the church as a result of misunderstanding caused by Paul's teachings about the Second coming of Christ. Some people indulged in immorality and some others began to circulate fake letters. Under these circumstances Paul was compelled to write his second letter which immediately followed the first one.

After appreciating their unshakable faith, he tries to strengthen them in their belief. He assures them that those who presented them will be duly punished (1:3-12). He wants them to correct their misunderstanding regarding the second coming of Christ (2:1-12). He (asks) them the Thessalonian church to pray for them. His letter concludes with a warning to those who lead a lawless life and blessing / benediction to the faithful.

**Key verse to the memories** –I Thessalonians 4:14.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

### **Exercise**

1. Explain the reason as to why St. Paul and his companions (other) left Thessolonia.
2. Describe the circumstances under which the first epistle to the Thessalonians was written.
3. Why did the second letter immediately follow the first one?
4. What assurance does St. Paul give to the Thessalonians ?.

## **Lesson 9**

### **Epistles of Gospel Teaching.**

( Romans, Corinthians of Galatians )

The trenching of Jens in the gospels are given prime importance in these epistles. He (panel) gives epeeist interpretation of the gospels tenths the people gospel tin this. As his man objective is to envoy the gospel message to the people these letter as called epistles teaching

### **Letter to the Romans**

This letter has reviewed insigne qualities. This is the longest letter written by Stipule. And it is addressed to a church which was neither established by st.paul nor visited by him before he wrote this letter to them. He marks it élans in his letter that has reared in great deal in lent this rhymed he longed to visit this church rinse some time.(1:8-13, 15:22-24).

The church in Rome was not established by St.Paul. These are two possilirties about the establishment of the Rome church Many Jews who lived in Rome when they went to the Jerusalem happened to here the sermon of St.Petu. Those who believed in heist, got Laptriged became members of the church. These early Christians when they returned to Rome might have established the church these. According to the other possibility Christian from churches established by panel (churches in Asia, Macedonia Greece ) might have migrated to Rome established church these. The majority of Roman heritress was gentiles. But these was also Jewish- Christians. (Christians convents from fideism).

At the crime of writing this letter the church in Rome was famous through out the world. These was a wait majority of believes there. And Rome was the commercials entrée of the world at that time.

Paul stayed in Corinth for 3 months during the last phase of his third missionary journey. This letter was written during that period. He sent it through the maid Phoebe who was a deaconess of the church of Corinth.

### **The objective of writing this letter.**

St. Paul introduces himself to the church because he had no personal relationship with the Roman church so he introduced himself to the church audiences himself in the presence of the gentiles. He acquaints them with the essence of the gospel which he preaches. It is to seek their cooperation moral support for further activities that he has written to them.

### **The central idea**

The cardinal idea put forward by Paul in this epistle is justification by faith. The observance of the Mosaic law does not justify in person. He teaches that justification can be achieved only through Christ. The salvation granted by Christ in faith enables a person to receive justification before the righteous God. The Christ whom Paul had known through his sacrificial death, won salvation justification for all.

### **Epistle to the Corinthians**

During the N.T. Period Corinth was a flourishing commercial trading centre and an important in Greece. It was also a renowned university centre. There was prosperity that at the same time moral degeneration was rampant there. Paul rebuilt the evilly made it his headquarters. Paul, during his second missionary journey came to this prosperous city. He stayed there one and a half year preaching the gospel. During his third missionary journey also he visited Corinth and stayed 3 months there.

The two letters written to the Corinthians are the authoritative texts which the church has received from St. Paul. But from this first letter it is evident that a letter was written to them earlier (1 Cor. 5.9). Unfortunately this letter is lost.

### **The purpose of the first letter**

The Corinthian church established by Paul, grew because very powerful. But Corinth also had many problems because of immorality such as other ignoble thoughts activities that prevailed there. It caused several serious problems in the lives of Christians. A letter which Paul received from Corinth.

This is the immediate reason for writing this epistle (1 Cor. 7.1). A group of representatives under the leadership of Stephanas and others, Antipatros handed over this letter to Paul. The content of the letter was the problems faced by the Corinthian church.

Then again he happened to hear unpalatable news about the church through the people of Laodicea. St. Paul was highly distressed by the immoral moral degeneration that prevailed in the church. Bringing law suits before the gentile judges, matters concerning the offering made to the idols, disorderly conduct during the time of worship these are some of the issues that came to the attention of St. Paul. They had doubts regarding marriage, divorce and remarriage. Through the first letter he clarifies their doubts answers some of their questions.

## **Division of the Book**

The first letter can be divided into 3 parts.

1. Reply to those clearing the doubts/questions about differences- chapter 1-4
2. Answer to the report about immorality – chapter 5-16
3. Reply to the questions raised in the letter by the Corinthians. Chapter 7-16

Second epistle to the Corinthians

After his first letter to the Corinthians false (pseudo) teachers came these along to instigate the people against Paul. In order to meet this (challenge) situation St. Paul sent signs about the change of heart or repentance of the people delighted Paul very much, he wrote his second epistle to express his gratitude to the majority together with those who did not repent. He sent the letter through Titus. Timothy was also sent to collect alms for the poor. Through this letter he reveals the authority which he has received from Christ.

## **Division of the Book**

1. The explanation by Paul about his service – ‘dikonra’
2. Explanation regarding the collection of alms for the poor. Chapter 8-9
3. Confirmation regarding his apostolic authority. Chapter 10-13

The second epistle concludes with a benediction in the name of the triune God. (2 Corin. 13:13)

## **Letter to the Galatians**

This letter is not written to a particular church at a particular town or place. But it is written to church at a particular place. He raises the paradigm churches in 1:2.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> B. C. some of the tribes from Gaul migrated to Asia Minor. The place where the descendants of these people got settled down came to be known as Galatia. Later it was attached by Sigrva, Greece, Rome. In 5 C. B.C. Galatia the surrounding place became a province under Rome. Galatians were a mixture of the various inhabitants like Celts, Greeks, Jews, & Romans. During the time Paul wrote this letter the name ‘galatia’ was used to indicate the place where the Galatians lived and it also referred to the Roman province ‘Galatians’. The Roman province Galatia included the place where the Galatians lived i.e. Galatia and places like Prisdhya, Listra, Debra, Ikonya, (in Galatia). St. Paul during his first missionary journey, had established churches in these places. There are differences of opinion among theologians as to which church this letter is addressed to.

## **The circumstance under which the letter was written**

The Jewish Christians among the believers questioned the authority of St. Paul. As St. Paul was not among the 12 disciples or apostles chosen by Christ these Jewish Christians argued that the converts from other faiths also must get circumcised like the Jews follow Jewish customs, converts. It was to counter the ‘indiscretion’ process activities of the Jewish Christians caused great confusion among the other Christians who got converted from other faiths. St. Paul was trying to remove their doubts/confusion, through his letter.

## **The Main Subject matter**

After a brief salutation St. Paul vehemently criticizes false (pseudof) preachers of the gospel (1:8). Then he boldly asserts that his apostleship is from above, i.e. from God, that he has approval of the disassemblies in Jerusalem (1:11, 2:10). The most important ideas found in this letter are salvation through grace and justification by faith. Salvation is not on the laws of Mosaic law but on the basis of the faith. The law condemns people as sinners and they are under its curse. But faith in Christ liberates people from the bondage of sin so that they can enjoy the grace through Christ (3:1, 4:31). This freedom which one enjoys should enable a person to produce the fruits of the Spirit (5:1-26). The epistle, written by the hand of Paul, concludes with certain instructions that are useful for daily life.

### **Verse to memorize**

If the first part is holy, the whole mass will be holy; the branches there of will be so.

### **Exercise -**

1. Which letter is the longest among St. Paul's letters?
2. What is the central idea in the epistle to the Romans?
3. What subjects does Paul answer in his first letter to the Corinthians?
4. The second letter to the Corinthians is divided into several parts? Which are they?
5. To whom is the letter to the Galatians written?
6. What is the main idea in the letter to the Galatians?
7. Why do we consider the letters Romans, Corinthians, Galatians 'Epistles of Gospel Teaching'?

## **Lesson 10**

### **Letters From Prison**

The letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon are known as prison letters because they were written while he was undergoing imprisonment in Rome. The following references clearly give evidence to the fact they were written while he was in prison (Eph.3:1, 4:1, 6:19, Phil.1:7,13,17, Sol.4:3,10,18, Philemon 1,9,13,23) between AD 51-52.

### **ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS**

Ephesus was an important city in Asia Minor. This city was one of the centers of missionary activity for Paul. He paid several visits to Ephesus and stayed there more than 2 years doing missionary work there. Timothy, an ardent disciple of Paul was the head of the church there. From the prison he sent the letter through Onesiphorus.

It is to strengthen and encourage the Ephesian church that he wrote this epistle. He explains the status of the church in relation to Christ & gives practical suggestions in accordance with their

Christian calling. He confides to them that God has arraigned a special mission to them (chapter 3), Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of His power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints ..... 3: 8,9. He depicts the intimate relationship between Christ and the church using several metaphors. Paul compares the church to a temple where Christ is the cornerstone, again church is the body where Christ is the head & further church is the bride where Christ is the bridegroom.

#### THE CENTRAL IDEA CONTAINS 4 POINTS

##### I. The status of a Christian (1-3)

- a. Chosen by God the Father (1:3-6)
- b. Redeemed by Jesus Christ, the son of God (1:7-12)
- c. Sealed by the Holy Spirit (1:13-14)
- d. The former state of the Christian (in a vegetative state) (2:1-3)
- e. The present state of the Christian-(having fullness of life) (2:4-22)

##### II. The life of a Christian (4-6)

- a. Unity in the church (4:1-16)
- b. Sanctity in the life.(4:17,5:21)

##### III. Duties of a Christian (5:22,6:9)

- a. Wives -5:22-27
- b. Husbands -5:28-32.
- c. Children-6:1-3
- d. Parents -6:4
- e. Servants-6:5-8
- f. Masters -6:9.

##### IV. Must be firm & be united in the fight against Satan(6:10-20)

#### **Verse to be memorized:-Eph.4:7**

“But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.”

#### **LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

Philippine is one of the important cities in Macedonia. The city was established by Emperor Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. He came here during his second missionary journey. Silas, Timothy & Luke were with him. Paul visited their city during his third missionary journey also. The church there is the first church established by Paul in Europe.

While Paul was in prison in Rome, the Philippians raised a fund to help him & sent it through Epaphroditus to Rome. On two other occasions also they arrested him financially (4:16). In Rome Epaphroditus suffered ill health, but when he regained his health. Paul sent him to Philipp with his letter. He writes to them that his imprisonment has not caused any hindrance to his evangelization further he congratulates them for their courage & expresses his gratitude to them for their finely

& generous financial help. He appreciates their steadfast faith, at the same time reminds them to give up rivalry & competition among them. He wants them to imbibe the spirit of Christ –to go forward.

This is a letter where there is not even a single quotation from the O.T. Word's "joy" & "rejoice" are repeated several times in several most of the chapters in this letter. Allegations are few & words of praises are more in this letter.

### **PORTRAYAL OF CHRIST IN THIS EPISTLE**

Christ, even though, he is equal to god, without regarding his equality with god, Emptied himself & took the likeness of man the image which he draws about Christ in this epistle is very important. He draws a parallel image between his life & that of Christ's in the first chapter. He presents Christ as the model of humility. They should also cultivate the same attitude of humility (2:5). In the third chapter he presents Christ as one who transforms one humble body into the likeness of his glorious body. In the fourth chapter he refers to Christ as the unfailing source of strength who grants victory to us under any circumstance (4:13).

**Verse to be memorized:-**Philippians-4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice”

### **LETTERS TO THE COLOSSIANS:-**

Colossian was an important city in Asia Minor. This ancient city does not exist now. This has been destroyed instead there is a village called Lones (kenos). St. Paul has not visited this church. It was Epaphras, a disciple of St. Paul, who established the church there.

The Colossian church faced a very serious issue that threatened the very existence of the church there. False teachings began to spread in the church. St. Paul came to know about it from Epaphras. He wrote this letter to refute the false teachings & to strengthen the church in true Christian faith. In those days there were certain philosophical outlooks that were opposed to Christian understanding of god & creation. (They taught that everything was created by angels & heavenly beings & not by god). It is through angels that god created the world & everything in it. Man must subdue flesh (body) through renunciation and they must follow the sites & rituals (traditions) of the few & thereby they must acquire absolute knowledge. According to their way of thinking they must subdue flesh through renunciation of the world... This began the worship of the angels in the Colossian church. It was a mixture of gnosticism & Jewish faith. It is to portray Christ above everything & to emphasize the salvation which he confers as absolute that St. Paul wrote their letter.

In style & subject matter this letter has great similarity with the letter to the Ephesians, the mess topics like universal powers, fullness of creation, church the body of Christ, Messiah, the head of the church can be seen in both Ephesians. Some of the ideas which he mentions in Col –fully developed in Eph. There are certain common themes like elemental spirits of the universe, perfection of creation, church the body of Christ, Christ the head of the church in both the letter. Some of these ideas mentioned in the Colossians are fully developed in Ephesians scholars & theologians

opine that the letter to the Ephesians is braid in Colossian and the ideas there in are further developed in Ephesians. Example: only the practical side of husband-wife relationship is health with in Colossian whereas in Ephesians, when he relates man-woman relationship he Compress it with the relationship between Christ and the church.

### **HOW IS CHRIST PORTRAYED IN COLO.(1:14-20)2:13-15,3:1)**

1. One who confers absolution of sins &salvation to us?
2. Image of god (likeness of god)
3. First born among all creation.
4. Everything has been created by him.
5. The head of all rule &authority.
6. Everything exists became of him.
7. Head &first born among the dead
8. Head of the church which is the body of Christ
9. The whole fullness of deity dwells in him
10. God has reconciled the earthly &the spiritual through xts blood on the Eros

### **VERSE TO BE MEMORISSED:’-COLO :2:10**

“And you have come to fullness of life in him ,who is the head of all site and authority”.

### **LETTER TO PHILEMON**

This is the smallest letter of st.Paul. There are only 25 verses in this letter. Paul does not discuss any serious theological matter in this letter. Philemon, a native of Colossian, became a Christian as a result of Paul’s missionary activities. He was generous in giving alms – enthusiastic in even evangelization. His house was a meeting place for Christians of Colossian. According to tradition he was the bishop of Colossian & finally he won martyrdom

One sinks slave of Philemon, fled from his master, reached Rome & finally came to st. Paul who was undergoing imprisonment. Stayed with Paul serving him & became a convert to Christianity. Philemon & Paul were friends. Paul sent him back to Philemon with this letter along with Thihikos.

St. Paul requisites Philemon to pardon his former slave (Onesimus) & to accept him as Paul’s beloved son. Further, if he has wronged him or owe him something it can be charged in Paul’s account it will be repaid by him.

Through the example of Philemon Paul depicts how Christian believes will receive absolution of sins through Christ. As Paul has interceded to Philemon, Christ intercedes to god on behalf of us. According to Mosave law onesimns deserves punishment but he is redeemed through grace.

### **EXERSICE**

1. What is meant by prison letters? Which are they?
2. Describe st.Paul intention in writing a letter to the Ephesians?

3. Mention the Areas of comparison he makes about the church
4. Explain define the status of a Christian in the light of the letter to the Ephesians.
5. Why did Paul write to the Philippians?
6. Mention the letter without any quotations from the O.T.
7. How does Paul portray christ in his letter to Philippians?
8. What are the false teachings spread among the Colossian church?
9. Compare the Colossian & Ephesians' letter
10. What is the image he conveys about christ in his letter to the Colossians?
11. What lesson does he convey through the letter to the Philemon?

## **Lesson -11**

### **Pastoral Epistles**

The two epistles to Timothy and one to Titus are known as pastoral epistles of St. Paul. The name Pastoral epistles for these three epistles was begun to be used generally from the 18th century onwards. These epistles contained necessary directions and instructions to carry out the duties with regard to good administration of the church and hence they were given their name.

#### **Epistles to Timothy**

Timothy was the son of a Greek gentleman and a Jewish woman, lived in Lystra in Asia Minor. They embraced Christianity when St. Paul visited Lystra during his first Missionary Tour. St. Paul bears witness for the ..... of Timothy's mother and grandmother in the true faith (2 Timothy 1:5). St. Paul calls Timothy many ways: My own sower in faith (1 Timothy 1:1) beloved son (2 Timothy 1:2) my beloved son and faithful in the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:17). St. Paul qualifies Timothy in these ways. Timothy and Titus were St. Paul's intimate friends. Timothy served St. Paul in his good times and bad times faithfully. Tradition says that Timothy lived long and ministered as Bishop and finally embraced martyrdom.

#### **Epistles**

It is believed that the first epistle was written in AD 50 and the second in AD 66.

#### **First Epistle**

In the very beginning of the epistle St. Paul warns the fond preachers for their false teaching in the church. They taught different faith and different observances and gave it more importance than the salvation through Christ. St. Paul accuses (1:3-12). In the first epistle St. Paul accuses them (1:3-12). In the first epistle St. Paul sets forth two different important topics:

1. Accuses false teaching and false teachers.

2. Describes the qualities of the servants of the church and instructions to the administrator of the church.

In the second chapter he described the ways and methods when the church members assemble and about the conduction of public prayers. In the third chapter he gives the description of the

qualities of the ecclesiastical hierarchy should have (3:1-13) In the fourth chapter St. Paul instructs and shows the correct way. In the fifth chapter the directions for the good administration of the church is described. The epistle concludes by the sixth chapter where in he was not against the false teachers and given necessary personal instructions.

### **Verse to memorise (1 Tim -4:12 )**

Let no man despise thy youth. But we there have an example of the believing in word in conversation in charity in spirit, in faith and purity.

### **Second Epistle**

The main idea of this epistle due personal instructions to Timothy. He informs Timothy. He informs Timothy to serve sincerely witness in a Jesus in the circumstances of oppositions and tribulations. He was to the person who advises others as well as a preacher of the gospel. He works Timothy to follow his lead and avoid argument.

When he was writing this epistle he was in the know of the approaching death and his brave and hopeful words are specially notable. For I am ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course I have kept the faith Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness

### **The verse to memorise 2 Timothy 2:15**

study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.

### **Epistle to Titus**

Titus was a Greek and he embraced Christianity through the work of St. Paul. After his embrace of Christianity through the work of St. Paul. After his report he followed St. Paul to many places as a co-worker of St. Paul. But in the Acts of the Apostles there is no reference about this Titus is notable. But it is clear that Titus was a very close friend of St. Paul from his different epistles. Gal. 2:13 4 Corin 2:13, 7:6,7, 7:14, 16:19, 12:18 ) "My books" (2 cor 2:13) In general faith a true son ( Titus 1:4) 25 is in these ways St. Paul has embellished He was consecrated an Episcopos in acts by St. Paul.

### **Epistle**

It is believed the epistle to Titus was written before his second epistle to Timothy. He informs Titus to do necessary arrangements in church of and to ordain priests the father informed about the Such persons who are ordained should have the necessary character the leaders of the church should have the necessity of a loving Christian life without oppositions are the main thought dealt with in the epistle. The epistle conducts reminding the duty of a Christian to be submissive to the powers lawfully binding

### **Verse to memorise Titus 2:11.**

(for) The peace of God that bringeth Salvation hath appeared to all men

### **Exercise**

1. What is meant by pastoral Epistolical wisdom they
- 2 write short note about Timothy

- 3 what are the topics exposed in the 1st Epistle to Timothy
- 4 what are the qualities that the Ecclesiastical order should have as referred in the epistle to Timothy
5. why did he write his first epistle to Timothy ?
6. What are the hopeful words St. Paul remarks as he understands the approaching death ?
- 7 What are the topics dealt in the epistle to Titus !

## **Lesson 12**

### **Epistle to the Hebrews**

This epistle is written to the Jewish – Christian in Palestine. These Jewish – Christian are converts from Judaism. Because of persecution these Christians wanted to return to their old faith. St. Paul through this letter tries to strengthen the people in their Christian faith. He exhorts the people to remain faithful to their calling and to receive the fullness of knowledge instead of going back. He wants to establish Christ's authority over every thing, especially Judaism.

St. Paul says that Christ is the fulfillment of the prophetic sayings in references that the saying events described in the O.T are a mere shadow of the things that are fulfilled in Christ. Moses, their great leader the law giver is inferior to Christ for Christ is the creator of all. Christ is the mediator of the new covenant as such he is above the Mosaic law. The law which they now suffer is nothing compared to the blessing or grace which they will receive from Christ. He tries to convince them that their present state is a blessed one than what they can expect from Judaism.

This epistle when included among the other letters of St. Paul differs from his other letters in many respects. The usual pattern followed by St. Paul in his other letters is not seen in this epistle. The sender's name, salutation, the receiver's name, personal reference etc. are missing in this letter.

There are differences of opinion among theologians about the authorship of this letter. But our Syrian church believes that it is St. Paul who wrote this epistle. But the Western church has doubts regarding its authorship. But its language, manner of presentation, theological outlook all are typically of St. Paul, there is great similarity between the teachings found in this letter concludes the same way as the other letters conclude.

This epistle originally written in Hebrew language in A.D 67 while he was in Italy. St. Luke translated it into the Greek language

#### **How Christ is portrayed in this epistle**

He emphatically asserts that Christ is a high priest belonging to the order of Melchizedek. He portrays Christ as prophet, priest king. He gives equal importance to his divine and human natures. Some of the attributes of Christ in this epistle are: 'the apostle of faith' (1:2) 'the priest' (7:20, 10:21) 'mediator' (8:6, 9:15) 'leader of faith' and 'the one in whom faith is fulfilled' (12:2). Letter to the Hebrews can be divided into 3 parts:-

1.The personality of Christ	-	1 : 1- 4 : 13
Christ is greater than prophets	-	1 : 1 -3
Christ is greater than the angles	-	1 : 4, 2 : 18
Christ is greater than Moses	-	3 : 1 - 4 : 13
2.The mission of Christ	-	4 : 14 – 10 : 18
Priest hood	-	4 : 14 – 7 : 28
Covenant	-	8 : 1 – 13
The holy place the sacrifice	-	9 : 1 – 10 : 18
3. Faith life in Christ	-	10 : 19 – 13 : 25
surety of faith	-	10 : 19 – 11 : 40
stead fastness in belief	-	12 : 1 – 29
extortion to love	-	13 : 1 – 17
conclusion	-	13 : 18 – 25

**Verse to be by heard** - **Hebrews 13 : 16**

#### **Exercise :-**

1. What is the purpose of the letter to the Hebrews ?
2. What is the message conveyed to the Jews in this letter ?
3. How can we say that this epistle is written by St. Paul himself ?
4. How does St. Paul portray Christ in this letter ?
5. How can we divide epistle based on its content ?

## **Lesson -13**

### **Universal Epistle**

Out of the 21 Epistles of the New Testament 14 Epistles written by St. Paul have been studied in the Previous lessons. The remaining 7 Epistles are written by St. James, St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude. None of these epistles is written to a particular place or a particular individual. It is written to the church in general and hence these seven epistles are known as catholic Epistles or Universal epistle. It is called Holy Father of the Church.

#### **Epistles of the James**

The New Testament says about five James

- 1, James father of Joseph the foster father of Jesus of (St. Matthew 1: 15)
- 2 James known as the brother of Jesus (Mark 1:15)
- 3 James The father of epistle Jude (Thaddeus) Luke 6:16
- 4 James Apostle son of Alphaeus (St. Luke 6:16)
- 5 James Apostle (son of Zebedee) (St. Mark 1:19)

The Author of this epistle is James brother St. Jesus .Who is remamberd with fifth Diptych (Thubden). He was the first high prist in Jerusalem, saint,Apostle and martys (you have studied about him in standard VI)

In the first verse it is een that third is written for the 18 clansring seateard in different places But the mattu conveyed shows that it is writtern to christians in general . This is an epistle written giving special stress as practical christian life. The Jewish christian at that time had to face with so many problem related to their former fith.such people who had to meet such difficulties were to the strontherd in the faith and be made cousageous and show he new faith through their practical lifeThis was the main intention in writing their epistle . This contains a lot of pieces of advicend instuction as that of the proverds of Soloman It is called the proverbs of the New Tastament.

### **Main Thoughts**

1 Those poor people in the same faith should be considerd with brotherly affidion (2:1-10)

2 Hear the words and act accordingly (1:19,-27,2:10-26)

3 Bewareof the tongue(1:26,3:2-12)

4 Bc humble (4:1-12)

5 Bc in perpilial pardoning nature (6:7-10)

6 The inbeatable power of prayers (5 : 13-18)

Verse to memorise - james 4:10

" Hinndle yoursless in the sight of the LORD and he shall lift you up "

First Epistle of St. Peters

This epistle is one of the authoritativeli accepted Catholic epistle from the very early time St. Petershas referred about This epistle in his second epistle (2 peter 3:1) This epithle is written to the saints living seatered in different aluun countries like (1: 11,18,2:9-10) 4:3-4 pontes ,Galtia Cappadolia Asia,Bithynia -We can assume that they were jews This epistle was written by syluanos .along with markose as directed by St.Peter (5 . 13,14) This epistle was written to those people who began to back slide feding the persention of Emperior Niss and to make them be live that the ordeals are but temporary and to encourage them to the steadfast in the time faithi . He reminds them of the Hope fulness they god through Christ and proclains is necessary to suttu ordials (1: 3-13) Along with their he gives some six points inevitable to christian living.

1. Bc. ideal to other (2:11,12)

2 Submissive to authorities(2:13,)

3 Have noble husband -wife relation (3:1-7)

4 lead a Holy life bahiving that suffering ordeals in the name of crist in fortified.

5 The duties of priest (5:1-4)

6 The dutees of the youngmen (5:5-8)

The epistle concludes with the assestion that if you stand steadfast in faith ignoring the temperary ordeals you are sure to enter into eternal glory

Verse to mamorise 1 Peter 4:1 -As christ hath suffered for us in the flesh arm yourselves likewise with the same mind

## Second Epistle of St. Peter

If the first epistle of St. Peter was to deal with external problems of the church, the second epistle was to face problems internally accrued. St. Peter warns the brethren inside the Church and their false teaching bring spread in the church. Only thing is that there is no mention as to whom it was written.

The epistle was to retaliate and revoke the two kinds of wrong teaching we read epistle itself.

1 One set of people who referred to believe the Jews Christ (2: 1-22)

2 Second group of people who refused the second coming of our Lord (3:1-13)

The apostle asserts that the false teachers will be cursed and ..... whereas those who fear God and live accordingly will be blessed with eternal salvation. The apostle similes the false preachers to the wells having no water and the clouds rocked to and fro by a hurricane.

St. Peter proclaims through the epistle to the vigilance hoping for the new earth and new heavens doing justice soon by the symbols of the Lord's second coming. Moreover, the second coming of Christ is delayed just because of sin.

St. Peter indicates his impending death in this Epistle (1:14,15)

### **Verse to memorise 2 Peter 1:21**

"The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"

### **Exercise**

1 What is meant by catholic epistles? Which are they?

2 Who are the five James is referred in New Testament

3 What are the main thoughts mentioned in St. James Epistle? What are they?

4 What was the aim of the first epistle of the Peter?

5 With the help of the book prepare a note on the perfect relationship of the husband and wife according to St. Peter.

6. What is the reason for Christ's delay for the second coming as pointed out by St. Peter?

7 To what all St. Peter similes the false teachers?

## **Lesson 14**

### **Universal Letters – 2**

#### **1. Letters written by St. John**

These three letters are written by St. John the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ. The first letter is written commonly to the Churches in Asia Minor and the second letter is addressed to a Particular church there and the third letter is written to an particular (specific) individual.

#### **The First Epistle**

In very strong language he refutes the heresies that began to crop up in the church about the divinity and humanity of Christ. He condemns those who did not believe Jesus as the Messiah (2:22) those who deny father and the son(2:23) and also who consider the incarnation of Christ as an illusion and not real. Such false teaching were prevent in the church there. He portrays these false teachers as fake Messiahs fake properties etc. in his epistle.

Salutation, conclusion, benediction, personal allusions etc., commonly seen in epistles, are not found in this letter. Repeated use of expressions like ‘Children’ (2:12, 18, 28, 3:7, 18, 4:4, 5:21, ‘beloved’ (2:7, 3:2, 21; 4:1,7,11) etc. show his personal relationships and his spiritual authority over them. St. John, the apostle of love, through out this letter empathically talks about love and its various emotional implications.

Chapter 5 V. 13 indicates the purpose of writing this letter “know that you who believe in the name of the Son of God will have eternal life”. He uses the word ‘know’ several time in this letter. Union with God or harmonious relation with God is the central idea of this letter. By giving emphasis to the main attributes of God he explains how we can attain union with God – 1. God is light, 2. God is love and then God is righteous.

1. **God light.** Therefore those who walk in light are in union with God (1:5 – 2:28)
2. **God is righteous.** Therefore those who practice justice are from God (2:29 – 4:6)
3. God is love. Therefore those who love are born of God (4:7 – 5:12)

The Gospel according to St. John and St. John’s first epistle have several things in common. Similarity of ideas, similarity in language etc. can be seen in both the Gospel and the first epistle. The incarnation of Christ, (John 1:14, 1 John 4:2), the idea to live in union with God (John 15, 1 John 2 : 2-4). The idea to love each other (John 13:34, 1 John 3:23), advice regarding eternal life (John 5:24, 1 John 5:13) etc. are evidences to show the relation between the two books.

Verse to learn by heart :- 1 John 4:9

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only son into the world, so that we might live through him”

## **Second Epistle**

To whom is it written :- There are differences of opinion among learned theologians whom the second letter is addressed to. According to some it is written to a noble lady. The hold semitone records that it is written to (the elect lady) Kyria and her children and the English Bibles say it is to the Elect lady and her children. Kyria is the Greek word for Lady. The first impression we gather may be that the letter is written to a noble lady & her children. But a careful reading and analysis of the content will make it clear that the Elect lady is the local church there (4,6,8,10,12 verses). Verse 13 conveys the greetings of the church from where he writes. Here it is written the children of the Elect sister. Such expressions are used because church is considered the bride of Christ.

There is close relation between the second and first epistle in terms of ideas. He exhorts them not only to love but reminds them that love is life (living) in accordance with law / commandments. He wants them to be wary of those who deny the incarnation of Christ. According to him those who do

not confess that Christ has come in the flesh are “deceivers” and ‘anti-christs’. Hospitality should not be accorded to those who come to your houses with false teachings. One should not engage in friendly chat with such people.

### **Vese to be memorized (2 John V.9)**

Any one who goes a head and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the doctrine has both the father and the son.

### **Third Epistle**

The third epistle is addressed to a person called Gaos, “Walk in truth” – that is the central idea of the letter. He mentions the names of three people – Gaos, Deeyothrapos and Demetrious – members of the local church which is under his authority.

Gaos used to welcome those who were engaged in evangelization (missionaries and extended hospitality and did all kinds of assistance to people. But Diathropos was an over ambitious person who rejected (denied) the letter of St. John, spread scandals against him, ill-treated the missionaries and excommunicated those who welcomed received the missionaries. Demetrious, was one among those who were expelled from the church. St. John when he came to know about these troubles in the church, appreciates the services of Gaos and exhorts him to continue such services.

### **Vese to be memorized**

3<sup>rd</sup> John V II beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. He who does good is of God, he who does evil has not seen God.

## **2. The Letter of Jude**

The auther of the Epistle- In the Holy Bible we find 5 persons by the name Jude 1 (St. Jude) Judas, the Son of James (Thaddai) (St. Luke 6:16) 2. Judas, the brother of Jesus Christ, (St. Mark 6:3) 3. Judas the Galilean, (Praxis 5:37) 4 Judas of Demasens (Praxis 9:11) 5. Judas Iscanot (St. Luke 6:16).

It is Judas, the brother of the Lord, who has written their epistle. St. Johns, the auther of the epistle, was his brother. It is after the resurrection of Christ that bother Judas and James became bvelivers.

It is not eleas into whom the letter is written to the auther tries to consentise the people against the degeneration fotheir faith and the un dogly life they are leading. St. Paul and other letter writens mostly deal with the dangers of heresines that playgued the churches. But St. Judas not onl;y denounces / condemns the false teachers he also exhorts the Christians to fight against this danger and to remain steadfast in their faith.

The contents of Judas letter remind us of St. Peter’s secnd letter. A close examination of the letters show how deep the relation between the two is. It is different to decide who has intimated the other as there is no common couse for them to imitate. Because of the following reasons we assume that the second letter of St. Peter must have been written earlier

The second letter of St. Peter warns against false teachers who will appear in the future. But Judas in his letter says that they have already come. Quoting 2. Peter 3.3. Judas in VS 17 and 18 states that this has been foretold by the apostles. The Epistle of Judas also contains ideas and quotations from Apocalyptic literature like the Apocalypse of Hanaoch and Assumption of Moses. For Example

V. 9 – from the Ascension of Moses.

Vs. 14-15 – from the apocalypse of Hanaoch.

St. Judas compares false teachers to Cain, Balaam and Korah. He denounces those who indulge in Physical passions and revile the glorious name of the Lord and calls them ‘waterless’, ‘Frontless trees’ and ‘wild waves of the Sea’, The apostle exhorts the believers to lead a pure, godly life and to convince and save some who doubt the true Christian faith and wait for the mercy of the Lord unto eternal life. He concludes the letter glorifying the Lord.

**Verse to learn by heart : St. Judas V . 17**

“But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

**Exercise :**

1. How does St. John depict the false teachers in his first epistle?
2. What is the purpose of St. John in writing the first epistle?
3. Which letter has the central idea – ‘union with God’
4. Compare the epistle and the Gospel written by St. John
5. The second letter is addressed to whom?
6. What is the relation between the first and second epistles of St. John?

## **Lesson 15**

### **The Book of Revelation**

#### **1. Author of the Book and the Period of Writing**

A couple of instances in the Book indicate the name of the author as John, the disciple of Jesus (1:1, 4,9; 22:8). From the book we gather the information that the author calls himself – servant and ‘brother’ and that he was in the island of Patmos. During the reign of Domitian, the Roman emperor (A.D 90-95) St. John was exiled to Patmos, an island in the Aegean Sea. Patmos, an island full of volcanic rocks, was a place where criminals and political opponents were exiled. When St. John was here he was shown this revelation by Jesus Christ and he was ordered to write down this vision. John used to write down the visions which were shown to him. He reached Ephesus after his release from there in A.D. 96. He wrote the Book which he was in Ephesus and sent it to seven churches in Asia Minor.

## **The Name of the Book**

'The Apoealypse of St. John' is the title of the Book found in the Holy Bible and in the Greek Bible. Apoealypse a Greek word is used here. Apoealypse means to unveil or to unravel. 1:1 records it as the vision or revelation of Jesus Christ. It can either mean a revelation from Christ or a revelation about Christ.

## **The Purpose of writing the Book**

1. To reveal Christ fully
2. To boost the morals and to fortify the faith of those Christians who have suffered persecution because of their belief in Christ.

## **Apocalyptic Literature.**

God reveals those mysteries to which are known to him only either by Himself or through a message to man is called revelation. These are revelations of hidden secrets or mysterious. God reveals them through revelations. Those who receive them record them and inform the others. The language here will be such in symbols. This is known as apocalyptic literature. This branch of literature began to flourish with the end of the prophetic period. The concluding chapters of the prophetic book of Ezekiel and chapters seven to twelve of the prophetic book of Daniel belong to this category. The whole of the book of Revelations is written in this literary style. The visions described here cannot be interpreted literally as the language used here is such in allegory everything described and here persons (individuals), places animals activities, numbers, stars, colours – has allegorical symbolic value or significance. Extreme care must be shown to interpret these passages and to arrive at its message. We must also relate it to the interpretations of similar biblical passages.

## **Interpretations**

For centuries the book of revelation has been interpreted in 4 different ways. Even though each of these different schools, of interpreters has a number of followers none of these is sufficient enough to interpret this book.

### **1. Preterits (Out look) view point**

According to this school of thought all the prophecies in the Book of Revelations are already fulfilled. They believe that St. John wrote this book to instill courage to those who underwent religious persecution in the Roman empire.

### **2. Futurist view point**

The prophecies / visions found in the book are not fulfilled; they are yet to be fulfilled.

### **3. Historic view point**

According to this school the book gives a historic account from the period of St. John (the Baptist) to the advent of Christ and the things that followed that period.

#### **4. Idealist outlook**

They hold the view that it has nothing to do with reality. It has neither historical significance nor any fulfillment of history. It is an allegorical representation of the conflict between good and evil.

#### **Reference to Christ in the Book of Revelations :**

Though the book says a lot of things about the three persons in the trinity, it is about Christ that the book gives clear witness to Christ is addressed using the following names :

1. Faithful witness, first born among from) the dead, loved of kings.
2. Olaph and that (first and last letter in syriac) alpha and Omega, indicates that he is the first and the last (1:8; 22:13)
3. Son of man (1:13)
4. The first and the last and the living (1:17)
5. Son of God (2:18)
6. The witness, the faithful, the truthful and amen, the head of Gods creation (3:14)
7. The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the root of Davis (5:5)
8. The lamb that has been slaughtered (5:6)
9. Word of God (19:13)
10. King of Kings, Lord of the Lords (19:16)
11. Shining Morning Star (22:16)

#### **Conclusion**

The Book of revelation concludes like a covenant. St. John gives the testimonies of 3 persons to ratify the contents of the book. First is the testimony of the angel who has shown the visions to St. John. It is followed by the testimony of Christ who says it is he, the Alpha and the Omega, who has sent the angel to show these visions to St. John. The third testimony is that of St. John himself. Curse will befall those who make alterations to what is written in this book says St. John.

#### **Verse to lower by heart : Revel 22:12**

#### **Exercise :**

1. Name the author of the Book of Revelation
2. What is meant by Apocalyptic Literature?
3. Under what circumstance did he write the Book of Revelation and what is its purpose.
4. The different interpretations of the Book of Revelation.
5. How is Christ depicted in the Book of Revelation?

## **Lesson -16**

### **The Second coming of the LORD**

#### **Introduction**

The Second coming of Christ is said parousia in quick. This world is used for the majestic official processer the kings and such people. It means presence or arrival. This word is used in the New Testament to describe the second coming of Jesus Christ.

#### **I The proclamations regarding the second coming.**

##### **1 comes in the glory of father**

For the son of man shall in the glory of his Father and with the angles (st. Mathew 16:27, 25:31, St. Mark 8: 38 St. Luku 9:26)

##### **2 He will come in the clouds**

"They shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and glory ( St. Math 24:30 26 :64, St. Mark 13 :26, Luku 21 :27)

##### **3 He will come like a thief**

The thief who wants to note comes suddenly without any prior information. Similarly the second coming of Christ will be at a time quite unexpected (1 John 5:2)

##### **4 come along with his Angels (st. Mathew 25:31)**

The son of man shall come with glory with all his Holy Angels and sit on the throne of his glory

#### **II The Aim of the Coming**

##### **1 For the fulfilment of the promise ( St. John 14:3)**

I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself and where I am there maybe also.

##### **2. To unite the chosen people. St. Mathew 24: 31**

He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds from one end of the heaven to the others

##### **3 To judge the nations St. Mathew 25: 31-32**

When the son of man shall even in his glory and all his angels with him, then shall he sit up on the throne of his glory. And before him be gathered all nations and he shall separate them as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

##### **4 To reward everyone according to his work St. Mathew 16:27 .**

##### **5 To rise the dead 1Thes 4:13-17**

I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with voice of the Archangel and with trumpet of God. and the dead in Christ shall rise first then we which are alive and remain

shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

### **III The time of the Second Coming**

The lord has not given the correct time of his second coming but certain indications are given.

#### **1. The Time is unknown**

Regarding the day and hour of coming, nobody, even the angels of heaven know except the father alone knows it.

#### **2 In all the world the gospel of the kingdom should be preached St. Math 24:14)**

For the witness of all nations in all the world the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached. Then will come the end.

#### **3 After the appearance of Antichrist (2 Thes 2: 3)**

justly faith will be abandoned and son of man son of the man of sin will appear,  
4 It will happen as that of time of Noah, ( St. Mathe 24: 37,47, How was the time of Noah, So will be coming of the son of man.

### **IV The preparation of the faithful.**

Since the second coming of the Lord is so sudden and unexpected and since people have no certainty of the time there are certain things they should observe.

#### **1 wait anxiously (1 cori 1: 7)**

So that you come behind in no gift. waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

#### **2 Be prepared (St. Mathew 24:44)**

Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh.

#### **3 Be Active (St. Luke 19: 13 -27)**

In this part our Lord says a Simihi to his disciples It is related to the second coming of son of man.

A rich man went away to acquire kingship to a foreign country. He entrusted his servants some money and asked them to merchandise with the money he comes. Some obeyed him and dealt properly with the money. Some refused to use the money properly. In an unexpected time, the master came and checked the accounts of everyone. He rewarded each according to their work. Those who were lazy were punished and sent them in to the darkness outside.

Until the second coming of the LORD the faithful are to be diligent throughout this life, is what the sinitic .....

#### **4 Pray ardently for his coming (Reve 22 :20)**

"Surely I come quickly Amen even so comes LORD Jesus

#### **Verse to memorise St. Mathai 25: 13**

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the son of man cometh

### **Excercise**

1 What are the things said about the second coming of the LORD ?

2 What is the aim of the second coming

- 3 When is the second coming of the Lord.
- 4 How are we to be prepaid for the second coming ?

**PART 3**  
**True Faith**  
**LESSON 17**  
**TRINITY**

**Introduction**

It is beyond human intellect to know God fully. He could have revealed himself only by what God was kind enough to reveal about himself. The mysterious character of the Three in one is revealed in the Holy Script in different ways at different occasions .

**The faith of the church about God**

We believe in the one true God the Almighty Father, creator of the heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible

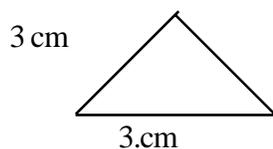
**The Holy Trinity**

When we think about God we say three Gods in one God, that is three in one and one in three- This being a mysterious union it is beyond the comprehension of human mind. This is not possible to prove .... by argument or by intellect. Only through faith can we comprehend this mysterious character of God.

In God there are three personalities or otherwise known as "knemos" The Holy Father the "Holy Son" and the Holy Ghost they are equal in every respect, one is neither bigger or shorter, neither powerful more ..... than the other two. In character and in essence, there is no difference and showing no mark of any difference they are mysteriously united and hence we say three in one God or Trinity.

**Example**

consider an equilateral triangle all three sides are equal.



In this which side is longer and which is shorter if asked it will be a sheer foolery

similarly in God the persons Father, Son and Holy Ghost are without any difference whatsoever these three persons have the same characters and same substance. Where we say Father, do not misunderstand that there was a time when there was no Son when we say Father it is understood the 'Son' the Father and Holy Ghost are included. That is we can not include two persons and single out one among the three. The prayer given below in the early part of the service of Pentecost

O God invisible and incomprehensible, one having no beginning and no end, one who is boundless you are known in essence, and differentiated as three persons. All intellectual beings comprehend you with the three special qualities, The only one God you are known as three Holy knemos with only one .... with the character having no beginning and no end Father Son and Holy

ghost three persons indied, the true one God,

This prayers of the church elucidates fully the teaching of Trinity in the Holy church. In the Service of pentecost part of the prayer in the introducing 'Preemion' is also given below.

"god is self born. self knowing and self able. He is the creator and the our who books after all things visible He has no beginning and he will be eternal . He is mysteriously self born incomprehensible and having no beginning and no ending . He is the three one god with some and the Holy ghost with one character, one power and one mind.He has no name with out kumo, One Kumo is neither small no older than any other one. Kumos have no difference in size nither big nor small In This eternity the kumos or his name is neither different nor small. when it is said father. it is true that the son and Holy ghost is from him. When it is said Son, It is that the Father and Holy ghost is Known because of him.when it is said Holy ghost it is clear that Father and .....in him Father is the together but not the begotten The son is by other but not the together . The Holy ghost comes out the Father and taken from the son and is having equal status in character and equal dernity as father, There is no need of further explanation regarding the one god in Trinity.

The word Trinity is not seen in the Holy bible.But there are several occasions which indicates Trinity.some are given below

Genesis 7:26 god said ..... make man in our image after our likeness

St. Mathew 28;19 " go you there fore ,and teach the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy ghost .

St.Mathew 3 : 16-17 And Jesus when he was baptised went up straightway out of the water. and so the heavens were opened went to him. and he saw the Holy spirit of god, descending like a dove,and lighting upon him And to a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved son in whom I will pleased.

### **Exercise**

1 What is the faith of the church about god ?

2 Describe the details in the 'Premaon' of the " Pentecoste 'to comprehend the teaching regarding Triminty .

3 The word Triminty is not seen in the Holy Bible .But there are indications in this regard explain them with referene to the occasions in the Holy Bible.

## **Lesson 18**

### **ONE AND ONLY HOLY GOD**

Many people find it difficult to form a clear idea about holiness and saintliness and Holy one and saint. Some people even hold the view that it is improper to consider humans as saints or holy ones because god alone is holy. Some others even think that saintliness is nobler than holiness and saint is more elevated than a Holy man.

#### Holiness

It is after many centuries that the idea 'holiness' got its present meaning. The idea holiness was prevalent among the Canaanites and the Babylonians even before the formation of Israel as a nation and the worship of the one true God. The gentiles used the term to denote external cleanliness. But it assumed a spiritual meaning with the Israelites.

The semantic people (e.g. Babylonians, Assyrians etc.) when they said God is Holy, it meant that he does not have any human weaknesses and that he does not suffer from illness etc. When this quality is attributed to human beings, animals and places, it means that it is set apart for divine worship. Ethereal values are not associated with this holiness.

#### The Hebrew concept

The law (Mosaic law) was given the Hebrews when they reached Canaan after their liberation from Egyptian slavery. They got the conviction that the God was Holy and righteous. So their understanding of holiness had ethereal/moral considerations.

The Mosaic Law CLEARLY indicates ethereal purity and moral righteousness. Leviticus chapter 17-26 describe the laws regarding such holiness. When the Hebrew ascribe holiness to people and places it means that such people and places are dedicated to God.

#### Prophetic holiness:-

During the prophetic period the concept of holiness acquired (special) layers of meaning. The prophets were not at all interested in cult and rituals. For them purity of heart was important. They emphasized purity of heart/ purity of life above everything else. They insisted that man should be as holy as God himself. Just as God is absolutely perfect in attributes, his saints also should be morally perfect. The prophets made it clear that those who commit injustice and violence are ungodly unholy. They taught that God's saints should be morally perfect. Prophet Isaiah said that those with impure lips are not Holy (6.5). From the period of the prophets, holiness means purity of heart. External purity does not make a person a Holy one.

#### In the New Testament

The holiness of Jesus:- Even before the birth of Christ, the Holy spirit prophesied that he would be Holy (St. Luke 1:35). The unclean spirits recognize his holiness. (St. Mark 1:24) The man with unclean spirits cried out, "what have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? I know who you are, the Holy one of God." Several references speak about the holiness of Jesus. The following are some of the passages which reveal the holiness of Jesus: - St. Luke 4:34, Acts 3: 14, 4:27-30, Hebrews 7:26, I John 2:20, Rev. 3:7.

#### Christians and Holiness

The New Testament strongly teaches that Christians, the followers of Christ, also should be Holy as Jesus Christ is Holy.

1. The holiness of John the Baptist (St. Mark 6:20)

Herod feared John knowing that he was a righteous and holy man.

2. The prophets are considered Holy

The New Testament testifies that the prophets are Holy."..... until the time for establishing all that God spoke by the mouth of his Holy prophets from the old." (Acts 3:21)

3. The holiness of the Church:-

“Christ gave himself up to her that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the Church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”(Eph 5:26-27)

4. The holiness of the believers:-

The believers are said to be Holy when their thoughts, desires and deeds are in accordance with will of God. The life and of the believers must be appropriate, must be holt like that of saints.

I Peter 1:15-16 – “but as he who is called Holy, be Holy yourself in all your conduct; since it is written. You shall be Holy for I am Holy.” So the scripture says believers should lead a saintly life.

The purpose of divine calling: - The calling of Abraham

It was with a definite purpose that God choose Israel as his own people. God reveled it through his election of Abraham, the tribal leader.

“Now the lord said to Abraham, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show to you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.....shall bless them. (Genesis 12:1-3) God called Abraham to be blessing in him and the cause of blessing to others. The earth that is cursed through the sins of the sons of Adam must be blessed. God had his salvific purpose in his calling of Abraham. He knew how to execute his plan of redemption of mankind.

Try to be partners in His Holiness.

God calls man to be partners in His Holiness. When man was created he was innocent, pure and righteous. Man was in communion with God. A God who is Holy, innocent and righteous cannot create a man who is impure/unholy, full of malice and unjust. Through the instigation of Satan, man got alienated from God; he became subjected to cruse and death. Only when he is freed from cruse, can he become Holy and can approach God who is Holy. God calls man with this and this call extends to all humanity. “As I am Holy, you should also be Holy” (Lev.11:44-45).it is to partake in His Holiness that God calls man. “I am the lord your God. As I am Holy, you should sanctify yourselves and be Holy. Do not defile yourselves. I am the lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt”.

And the lord to Mosses “Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, you shall be Holy for I the lord your God is Holy” (Lev. 19:2).

“Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be Holy; for I am the lord your God. Keep my statutes and do the; I am the lord who sanctify you” (Lev. 21:7).

The calling includes the following seven points.

1. God is Holy.
2. God is the lords who sanctify you.
3. The people should be Holy.
4. The people should not defile themselves.

5. The people should consecrate themselves.
6. The people should observe all his statutes and ordinances and do them.
7. The people should try themselves to be Holy.

The man who satisfies all these points will become Holy. He will be transformed to the holiness of God and he becomes Holy.

The man who submits himself to divine calling, observing the statutes and ordinances of God, dedicating himself to God through continuous purification process will be sanctified by God and he cannot be called unholy. He has received holiness from God. God executes this purification through Lord Jesus Christ.

This idea is evident in the prayer offered by Jesus in chapter 17 of St. John's Gospel. "Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one" (St. John 17:11). ....that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me and I in thee, that they also may be in his, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them that they may be one, even as we are one. I in them and thou in me that they may become perfectly one... (St. John 17:21- 23).

This prayer of Jesus is a realization of God's calling into holiness. It is through Christ that the curse of the defiled / unholy man is removed and he is led to holiness or perfection. With the sanctification of Jesus this process is completed.

Jesus prays to father in the following manner:-

"Father, sanctify them in the truth; thy word is the truth. As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for this sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in the truth. I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word" (St. John 17:17- 20).

God's promise to Abraham that all the families of the earth shall be blessed by him and by his son; this is fulfilled through Jesus, the son of Abraham.

The Lamb of God who bears the sins of the world offered his body as a sacrifice in Calvary for the absolution of sins. He did this so that "we share his holiness" (Hebrews 2:10), St. John, the disciple writes, "The blood of Jesus, his son, cleanses us from all the sins" (1 John 1:7).

Thus those who are absolved of all their sins and sanctified are holy.

#### The One and Only Holy God and Holy men

Except the only true God, no one is holy. The whole mankind has sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But this lost glory is regained through Jesus Christ. When we have become one in Christ, our sins are washed away (cleansed by his blood) and become partners of his holiness, it is God's holiness that we receive. That is, we might receive the holiness of the only Holy one through his grace. Thus we also become holy ones.

"The one and only holy Father"

At the end of the celebration of the holy Eucharist when the holy mysteries are celebrated the priest recites like this -

“These holy mysteries are given to the holy ones “. As reply to this the believers with one accord confess and say that, “Except the one and only holy father and the one and only son and the one and only holy spirit, there is no more who is holy”.

Some may have some doubt when they suddenly hear this declaration of faith. After making the confession- that except God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit, there is none who is holy. Some think that it is wrong to address ‘holy mother of God’, ‘holy bishop’ etc...

Such doubts arise when does carefully listen to the confession of faith in holy Eucharist. One should pay careful attention to the following prayers offered by the priest-

“The one and only holy Father who created this world in His compassion are with us. The living Holy Spirit that brings perfection to what is and what is to be is with us. Let the holy name of the Lord be glorified forever from the very beginning”.

If only we have attained holiness, the Holy Father, the holy son and the Holy Spirit will dwell with us. We are holy ones for the son of God has sanctified us with his blood.

St. Paul writes, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”(2 Cori. 5: 17 - 18)

He who have crucified the old man (Adam) with all his worldly passions and desires, have become shareholders in the holiness of the holiness of Jesus Christ. Those who receive holiness from the one and only Holy one, also become holy ones. When a twig is thrown into blazing fire, likewise, we whose sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus by the grace of God will be transformed and become holy ones. Thus those who receive holiness from the only holy one become holy men.

## **LESSON 19**

### **ANGELS**

#### **Introduction**

Angels are heavenly beings They have no worldly ladies or relations. Once created they have no death. They uniform man the will of God and safeguard them who love god according to the orders. they are named Angel, messenger messenger of God, They are named angel ,messenger different name as seen in the Holy Bible.

#### **creation..**

Holy Bible says that god has created the angels (Psl 148:2:5) cols 1;16 In hese passages without saying density it is made dear that are also areated by god as other creations

Services of the angels

#### **A Actions to the faithful**

In relation to the human beings many things are said about angles in the Holy Bible some are given below.

#### **1. guidance in the right path ( Gem 24: 7, 40)**

When Abraham wants to ferid out a wife for his son Israc he engageshis servant he says as follows god will sent his angel before you to fried out a wife for my son (Gen 24:7) It is happend and that is recordad in Gen 24: 40

## **2 Safeguarding ( Psal : 34 :7) of the Lord**

An army of angels has surrounded his faithful men and his safe guards them.

## **3 Release (Danial 6:22)**

My god sent his angel and closed the mouth of the .....so that they may not injure me the lions so that they may not injure me

## **4 Appear ( Acts 27: 23,24)**

For There stood by me this night the Angel of God saying Fear not paul. then must be brought before Ceasar to god

hath given the all them that said with thee

## **B Acts towards the unfaithful**

### **1 Rain ( Gaints 19:1,13)**

The two angels reched sadom at evening time As the sodom has reached the presence of the Lord and this place is going to be destroyed The Lord has sent us to destroy this place.

### **2 To curse ( judges 5:23)**

The angel of the Lord orderd to curse the city of of meros and curses severely its inhabitants.

### **3 Judges sudden death Acts 12 : 23**

As he did not glorify god the angel of the Lord punished him forthwith . He died woman eating his body.

### **4 Follow the enemy and destroy**

They (Enemies) will like dust before the wind Angel of the lord will follow them. this way will be darkness and it will make slipping. The Angel of the Lord will make them flu.

## **C In Relation to the life of Jesus**

### **1 Let known the pleasant News- (The Happy News of Birth)**

(St. Math. 1: 20,21) (St.11 :20,21) St.Luke 1:26-38) (St.Luke 2:8-13)

### **2 serves Jesus (st. Mathew 4:11)**

Then satan (Akai Karuse) left him and Angele came near him served him

### **3 Bear witness to the Resurrection of Jesus**

( 1 Tanies 3:16 Jesus revealed himself in body gratified in spirit and appeared to the Angels

### **4 proclaims Resurrection (st.Mathew 28: 6-7)**

Angel said to the woman Fear not, I know that you are searching for the crucified Jesus He is not here as had told he has resurrected

## **The fallen Angels**

6th those of St. judes epistle refers to a set of Angels who were ousted from the kingdom of god having struggled against god. Profihet Israil 14:12-25 The prophet Israil refers to an Angele by the predonation of self struggled against god and was ousted But the same in about the king Babil according to chapter 14 fourth Verse. Job 4:16, St. Mathew 25 : 41 Peter 2:4 Reve 12:9 These portion indicate reference to the fallen angels The groups of Angels

Very little references are seen in the Holy Bible about the different groups of the Angels.

gosp5:14 rats for that he said No, I have come now as the Lord of the army of God This indicate there are different groups of Angels 1. Kings 22:19 Zech 2:3,3:1, In there verse also We can see indications of several groups in the angels. Dhani 8:16, 10:13 In these verses we see the names gabrial & Michail In the book of Tobit we can see that Tobit and Thobias are herlped by Angel Raphal

Mor Diamesious who wrote the Holy Khurbono in his vision he says vividly about the different groups of Angels According to the tradition of Aionories The Angels are arranged there grades each grade has 3 sub divisions.

### **grade I**

There are three groups in this grade

1 Seraphym (Sropae)

2 Cheruls ( Crobae

3 Thronics ( Mauthbu)

grade II Three groups

1 lords (Moraosaa

II Strength ( Hailavosa

III power (Suthonai

Group III Three groups

1 Rules (Archovosa or Reesanjhvosa

2 arch angel ( reesh Angel

3 Messengess (Angels.

thus there are 9 groups in 3 grades

In the Holy Eucharist these names Angels Angels, Archangels ,Sothonu,Rusinvosa , Mauthuba, crotau, sropac etc can be seen in the premcons

The group Sropas are considered to bear fire prophet Israh saw them (6:6) church are Angels glorifying god, and they are also Angels who are watching see Israich 37:16. Hezackid 1310 chapters.Gaimes 3:24

St.Paul also says about the groups of angels Ephes 1:21-22)

Rulers(Archavosac)

Powers (suthonac)

Strenth ( Hailea

Lordship ( Moravosac)

Mar Ignatious Nooroma said Angels in two groups worshipping god,in his vision.According to the Anthiochain Tradition.....two groups in the worship in lod n this

Exerscise

1 give in one or two sentences the coditions of the Angels ?

2Describe how the action of Angels towards the faithful ?

3 howis the action in case of the unfaithful ?

4 when all did Angels be with jesers in his life

5 Which n the grups of Angels.

7 The hy mus of worship in two groups is on what baries?

## **Lesson 20**

### **The Holy Church**

In church means the congregation of the redeemer faithful with the Lord Jesus Christ as the head church is divided into two the old Testament church and the New Testament church in the shadow where as the New Testament church in the real.

#### **New Testament Church**

Jesus Christ son of God incarnated as man and released the humanity from the slavery of Satan. He gave them the Commandments of the New Testament - Love and eternal life by his holy and blood. Moreover the good news of salvation was given by his disciples. Thus Jesus Christ established and the Apostles finished and nurtured the faithful congregation and it is the New Testament church.

#### **The old Testament church**

The old Testament church constitute all the faithful people from the time of Adam until Jesus Christ. Even then the beginning of old Testament church considers its clear beginning from the call of Abraham the father of the faithful. God declared by this call that he would make the children of great nation. One old Testament church began to grow through 12 clans through 12 sons of Jacob son of Isaac, son of Abraham. So it is issued that the old Testament church is the people of Israel just before Jesus Christ.

#### **The difference between the old new Testament churches**

The old old Testament Church and New Testament church have Cardinal differences

1. old Testament church is pertaining to body where as New Testament church is spiritual
2. old Testament church was only to one nation say Israel where as the New Testament church is to whole humanity to all nations of the earth
3. The Old Testament church was under the commandments and the discipline there of The New Testament church is adjoined to Jesus Christ and filled with the grace of Holy Spirit

The similarities of church

Church has many similar in the Holy Bible same are given below

#### **1 The Bride of Christ**

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husband as in to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it (Eph 22:25)

#### **2 Church in the body of Christ.**

For we are the members of the body of his flesh and of his bones (5:30) And he is the head of the church (Col 1:18) Now we are the body of Christ and members in particular (1 Cor 12:27)

#### **3 Church in the Temple of God**

Know you not that you are the temple of God and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? (1 Cor 3:16)

ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5)

### **The Existance of the church**

The church established by Jesus Christ overcoming all obstructions will exist on earth till the second coming of Jesus Christ and I also say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (St. Mathew 16: 18) For the word himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord (1 Thesal- 4:16,17)

### **The characteristic nature of the church**

The characteristic nature of the church is defined in the third part of the Creed we believe in the church which is Catholic, apostolic, only one and holy from these four things are very clear

#### **1 The Church is Catholic**

The word Catholic means it is universal

#### **1 The church is Apostolic**

Christ has built his church on the rock which is the immutable faith of St. Peter, the head of the Apostles. The Lord planted the Apostles and fathers who succeeded them nurtured their church, the entire commandments of the Lord is not fully recorded in the Gospels. St. John (21:25) The resurrected Lord taught them again many things and should examples (Acts 1:2-3). This also is not recorded in the Bible. This was given to the successors by verbal teaching that is extant in the church even to days. It is this that is called tradition. This church is called Apostolic church because it has an antiquity from the age of the Apostles and it was led and guided by the Apostles till these days

#### **3 Holy Church is Only one**

God is only one and Jesus Christ also is only one and the Holy Ghost is also only one. The God which is the union of Father, Son, Holy Spirit is again only one. St. Peter's Confession of the Faith immutable is also for the other disciples as well. Because the question asked was to the entire group of the disciples. It was not directed to St. Peter alone. Christ asked to his disciples when he reached the Lord Kaisaria of Philip what do people say who is the Son of Man? Again he asked what do you say about me? The question was asked in common to all. Simon Peter answered for himself as well as on behalf of others,

"Thou art the Son anointed of the living God" The .....disciples did not object to the answer. Jesus accepted this reply. Then he gave the laws regarding the church (St. Mathew 16:13-20) Thus to any Apostolic church in the world the same Creed is used. Thereaway the difference of local language. Hence there can be changes according to different places and different languages. But the faith in God and the faith in Jesus Christ is not changed, church is the body of Christ and all faithful persons are members of the Church and hence they are all part of the body of Christ. Therefore church is only 'One'

#### **4 The Church is Holy**

It is the Lord God who started and established the church. God is holy and the church he established is also holy. Christ the head of the church which is the body of Christ, Christ is holy so his body also should be holy. This is the temple of God and that Holy Spirit abode. As you say St. Paul the Apostle again the place where the spirit of God dwells is holy and so the church is also Holy

#### **Duties of the church**

Proclamation of the gospel worshipping God spreading of the true faith to the world, celebration of the Holy Sacraments which are ways of achieving grace from God, by we alms on help the poor we call these duties Evangelical liturgical Doctrinal and pastoral Exercise

1, What is New Testament church ?

2 what is old testament church?

3 what are the characteristics nature of the church - Explain

4 what are the Duties of the church..