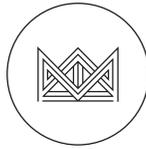




HIGH
KING
OF
HEAVEN

STUDY GUIDE

EDITED BY JOHN MACARTHUR



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MOODY
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From the Word to Life

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1. The opening words of the gospel of John mirror Genesis 1. Why does John choose to do that?
2. Why is it characteristic of God to speak to His people?
3. Many believers have a misconception of God. They believe that behind gracious Jesus, the friend of sinners, there is a more sinister being who is less compassionate. Why is this concept mistaken?
4. Christ the eternal Word is the one through whom all things were made. How is this a benefit to the heart of the believer? How is this truth assaulted by the world?

5. What are the “eternal titles” given to Jesus by John that are examined in this chapter?

6. If there was no eternal Son, no eternal Father, what would Christians be lacking as a result?

7. What rich truths are manifest by a correct understanding of eternal sonship?

1. What are the key OT texts that inform our understanding of the Son of God?
2. How does the OT concept of "Son of God" affect our understanding of it in the NT?
3. What might be some practical implications? (Worship, evangelism, everyday life)
4. What are the key OT texts that inform our understanding of the Son of Man?

5. How does the OT concept of “Son of Man” affect our understanding of it in the NT?

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“ Give yourself to every word of the text and understand that in the names of Christ, in the corners of the narrative, in all of the details, there is a glory and a richness that we can spend eternity delighting in...”

- PAUL TWISS

1. What are the key biblical texts in the Old Testament that describe Jesus' relationship to His Father as that of a servant?
2. What was Jesus taught by the Father? How long was He taught?
3. According to the chapter, why is Jesus given authority? Why is He given dominion?
4. What are some lessons we can learn about taming the tongue that are given in this chapter?

5. Why is it important to understand the obedience of the Son discussed in the chapter?
Where did it ultimately lead Him? Where will it ultimately lead you?

6. How is the obedience of Jesus' earthly life, as a man, under the law, essential to your salvation?

7. How does a lack of saturation and obedience to God's Word impact a pastor?

“For thirty years, Jesus is taught morning by morning so He may be able to teach for three years. Think about it. We reverse it. For thirty years, He was molded, instructed, and trained, so that for three years He could say, ‘I only speak the words the Father has given me.’”

- MARK JONES

1. What conversations have you had with other Christian believers and with unbelievers concerning the Virgin Birth of Jesus? In what way do these conversations mirror the contemporary discussion concerning the Virgin Birth?
2. Define "Virgin Birth," "Virgin Conception," "Perpetual Virginity," and "Immaculate Conception." Which of these has biblical support? What was the miracle involved in the Virgin Birth of Jesus?
3. What evidence in Matthew supports the fact of the Virgin Birth of Jesus?
4. What evidence in Luke supports the fact of the Virgin Birth of Jesus?

1. What dangers are found in ministry when your study is done merely to help others? Who should your first audience be when studying God's Word and why?
2. How does Jesus reveal the crowd's true need by using the illustration of bread in John 6:22-27?
3. How does one obtain the living bread of life?
4. Are there people who believe they have obtained the bread of life and haven't? How can you tell if you truly have the bread of life or are deceived?

5. What is at the aim of the bread of life?

6. According to the chapter, what is the entirety of the Christian life?

7. What are the similarities between the Samaritan woman and the crowd's interaction with Jesus?
What is the significance of these similarities?

“ We must know, believe, remember, and rehearse these truths first for ourselves, because without the bread of life, we cannot survive. ”

- LIGON DUNCAN

1. Who was the false shepherd in John 10? How is this portion of Scripture more personal and detailed concerning the purpose of the cross than other texts?
2. What are the different illustrations about Jesus given in this chapter (John 10)? What is the significance of each of them?
3. What is the main feature of the shepherd's "voice"?
4. What is the significance of Jesus being the door of the sheep fold?

5. List and discuss the exclusive claims of Jesus in the gospel of John presented in this chapter. What is their significance?

6. How does Jesus testify to His own excellent character? What reasons does He give?

7. What is significant about Jesus' own teaching on the cross to the extent of the atonement? How should this shape what you believe?

“No preacher will ever preach any better than when he proclaims the exclusive claims of this Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.”

- STEVEN J. LAWSON

1. Why are Jesus' statements in John 14:6 so offensive to the world?
2. Why and how are people confused about the person of Jesus today?
3. How have Catholics misunderstood the person of Jesus?
4. How do theological inclusivists misconstrue Jesus' exclusive statements?

5. What are the seven “I am” statements of Jesus in the book of John? Discuss the significance of them.

6. How has Satan offered different ways to God? Discuss these different paths and why they are insufficient.

7. Why is it vital to affirm Christ as the source of absolute truth in this post-modern generation?

“For many, Jesus is just one great teacher among many. That may be politically correct in our generation. However, it is not biblical—and it is not even logically consistent.”

- MIGUEL NUÑEZ

1. How does the truth of preaching Christ affect believers?
2. How is Christ the answer to the great questions about God, the world, the church, and the plot to humanity's story?
3. What are some ways people incorrectly refer to God? How do these differ from what Paul says about the image of God?
4. What are the five ways this chapter compares Jesus to creation? What is significant about these comparisons?

5. What language does Paul use to describe Christ's concern for the church? Why is this substantial?

6. According to the chapter, how is Christ a peacemaker?

7. What does it mean to be hostile in mind? How is this observed in the world, what difficulties does it present, and how is it overcome?

“Believe and preach the truth about Christ. Lean on Christ until the day breaks and all the shadows flee away.”

- MARK DEVER

1. Many Bible teachers and theologians consider the incarnation to be “the miracle of all miracles.” What is it about the incarnation that gives it a peculiar glory?
2. What does it mean for Jesus to have been existing in “the form of God”?
3. Where does the term kenosis come from? Does the concept of kenosis mean that Jesus emptied Himself of something? If so, of what did He empty Himself? If not, why not? And in what other ways should we understand the kenosis?
4. Some teachers think that the kenosis meant that Jesus divested Himself of at least some of His divine attributes or prerogatives. Why is that a dangerous error? What passages of Scripture argue to the contrary?

1. Why is the interconnectedness of theology so vital to understand for proper ministry?
2. What doctrines are interconnected by the judicial nature in Scripture? How do these impact a proper understanding of the atonement?
3. Which doctrines explain how Christ reconciles believers by taking away their negative actions and providing them with positive ones?
4. Which of God's perfections are essential to a proper understanding of the necessity of the atonement?

5. How is the Trinity essential to a proper understanding of the atonement?

6. How is someone's theology insufficient if they do not understand the doctrines mentioned in this chapter?

7. Why must pastors think theologically, and how can they help their congregations think similarly?

“The pastor must be a theologian. Only then will he behold the atonement in all its dogmatic glory.”

- MATTHEW BARRETT

1. Why is the resurrection an essential doctrine of the Christian faith?
2. What were some of the errors in the culture surrounding the Corinthian church? Provide some examples of stumbling stones they encountered for their understanding of the resurrection.
3. What are the four propositions of the gospel presented in the article?
4. What is Paul building upon in the Old Testament when he discusses the substitutionary death of the Messiah?

5. Why are the burial details a crucial part of the gospel message? What is at stake if this is overlooked?

6. How does the Old Testament predict the resurrection of the Messiah?

7. What are the dangers of denying the resurrection? List and discuss the dangers provided in the chapter.

8. How does a believer walk in light of the resurrection?

“The superstructure of our faith has the resurrection of Christ at its center.”

- TOM PENNINGTON

1. What power does the truth of the ascension have in the life of a believer? What hinders a believer from experiencing this power?
2. What is the significance that Jesus was raised to the right hand of the Father? How should this help believers overcome temptation and trials?
3. What are the two reasons (provided in the chapter) God seated Jesus at His right hand? Provide some of the biblical examples given.
4. What does Jesus' headship over the church mean for believers? How should it change the way you live your life?

5. Can someone reject the church and embrace Christ?

6. How is Christ's ascension tied to His authority over the earth and the church?

7. How can you remind yourself of the power and significance of the ascension when your life is difficult?

“This is the stress test of God's power toward believers. If it does not require more power than what it took for God to raise Jesus from the dead, you have a guarantee that God can handle it.”

- H. B. CHARLES

1. How would you describe Paul's main point in 2 Thessalonians 1:5–10?
2. Describe how important Paul views the second coming of Jesus in this passage?
3. How does Paul view those who persecute Christians?
4. How does suffering as Christians relate to the Kingdom of God? (v. 5)

5. How does Paul describe the destiny of believers in this passage?

6. How does Paul describe the destiny of unbelievers in this passage?

7. How should the great truth of Jesus being glorified among His saints in verse ten influence how you live today?

“Relief for Christians comes with the second coming of Jesus.”

- MICHAEL VLACH

1. Discuss the background of the letter to the Galatians and how that sets the stage for Paul's confrontational language.
2. Paul's rebuke for false teachers is harsh because it is serious. What are some ways you discern true teachers from false teachers?
3. How serious of a charge is it to be a false teacher? What happens to false teachers? How should you treat a false teacher?
4. Paul was astonished that the Galatians were so quickly deserting the truth. What are some ways they were doing that in the church of Galatia? How is it being done in the church today?

5. How does the offense of the cross delegitimize and expose false teachers? Provide some examples.

6. Why are people so easily drawn away from the truth to novelty? What are some fads in the church that have demonstrated this?

7. Which fleshly lusts cause preachers to veer away from the gospel or to modify it? List and discuss the three examples given in the chapter.

“The earthly cost of faithful ministry may seem high, but the glory of heaven makes it more than worthwhile.”

- PHIL JOHNSON

1. According to the chapter, what is the relationship between Jesus and the close of the canon?
2. How do you answer the question raised in the chapter, "Did Jesus ever authorize, or even anticipate, a series of writings that would be gathered into a collection known as the New Testament, to serve together with the Old Testament as the church's ultimate authority on matters of faith and practice?"
3. What significance does the great commission have in the formulation of the New Testament canon?
4. Why is it important to understand Jesus' promises regarding the Holy Spirit when discussing the matter of the New Testament canon?

5. When Jesus prayed that the church would be sanctified by the witnesses of the apostles, what did He mean?

6. According to the chapter, what does the term “canon” mean? How did we come to the conclusion of this definition, and why is it important?

7. Why are Jesus’ own assertions regarding the ministry of the apostles important to our understanding of the trustworthiness of God’s Word?

“Ultimately, the effort to distance the canon from Jesus Christ is none other than an effort to undermine its authority and establish a different one.”

- BRAD KLASSEN

1. Does it honor Christ to teach Him in texts that are not really about Him? What are the dangers of this?
2. How did Jesus read His Bible? How does that inform us about the depth and accuracy we should have in our own reading of Scripture?
3. How do we read messianic prophecy? What is the problem of seeing it only as an apologetic proof? Give an example of how messianic prophecy reveals theology about Christ.
4. How is Christ involved in the OT? What does that teach us about His centrality in the plotline of Scripture?

5. How do the details of the OT prepare and set up for the NT? How does this enhance our understanding of Christ's life and ministry?

6. Can you retrace the storyline of Scripture? How does this amplify Christ?

7. In light of all that is discussed, how does all of Scripture exalt Christ even if every verse is not necessarily about Him? How does that help us glorify Him more fully?

“ We preach Christ. In a world that proclaims so many other heroes and solutions, we declare the only One worthy and the only One who is able. ”

- ABNER CHOU

1. How does God's "Creation Mandate" in Genesis 1:26–27 relate to Jesus taking on human flesh in the Incarnation?
2. All by itself, does Genesis 3:15 represent a crystal-clear promise of a Messiah who will die to provide forgiveness for the sin of humanity? At the very least, what does this verse clearly affirm?
3. Although it may have seemed odd when you first read it, what are some key ways that the Mosaic Law sheds important light on our understanding of the promised Messiah?
4. Although there are different ways that the psalmists point to the promised Messiah, what are the most important aspects of the "portrait" of that Messiah presented by the psalmists that you have learned?

1. Trace the progressive revelation of the suffering of the Messiah in Genesis 3:15, Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, and Zechariah 12:10. What nuances do we learn about the suffering of the Messiah within each of these passages?
2. What do we learn about the purpose of the Messiah's suffering and death in Isaiah 53, and how does Jesus' remark in Mark 10:45 relate to Isaiah 53?
3. What do the passages Hebrews 9:22 and 10:1–4 teach us about the relationship between the OT sacrifices and the death of Jesus?
4. How does Jesus view the death of the Messiah differently from the two men he was speaking with on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13–27?

5. How does Isaiah 53:10–12 speak of the glory of the Messiah’s resurrection?

6. How does Hebrews 2:14–15 relate to Genesis 3:15?

7. What is the proper response to the death and resurrection of the Messiah according to Revelation 5:12?

“The death of Jesus the Messiah is not an event that begs an apology. The death of the Messiah is rather an event that ought to prompt us to worship God.”

- IOSIF J. ZHAKOVICH

1. Why is it that Mormonism, along with other “extra revelation” religions are insufficient?
2. Why is Jesus the final revelation from God?
3. Why is the revelation of Jesus supremely sufficient over all other revelation?
4. Why is it that so many “Christians” seek other forms of revelation and experiences with God outside the Bible?
How can we help them realize the sufficiency of the revelation of God in Christ?

1. The western world has been somewhat protected from experiencing the extreme prejudice and persecution believers in other cultures and time have faced. List some ways believers are "hated" around the world and even in the western culture.
2. Why is it that in spite of the good works, love, and charity of the believer, the culture hates them?
3. What is the significance of Jesus' use of the "if" clause, according to the chapter?
4. Why does God's choice of the elect draw persecution from the world?

5. How does the pagan culture's view of tolerance leave no room for the Christian gospel?

6. If the culture marches toward an increasing hatred of the message of the cross, how should Christians respond?

7. Why is persecution part of God's design for the Christian life?

“Jesus teaches us that even with the promise of persecution, the gospel must be proclaimed.”

- ALBERT MOHLER

1. How were the apostles persecuted by the world?
2. What was the cause of suffering for the apostles?
3. According to the chapter, what do we have in common with these early Christians? List some similarities.
4. Why is it that so many people who do not have very good theology are constantly in the streets, and those who have really good theology are constantly in the library and the pulpit?

5. Why does being filled with the Holy Spirit draw persecution?

6. What are some things that did not bring persecution upon the apostles according to the chapter?

7. How did the apostles respond to persecution? How are you persecuted, and how can you emulate their response?

“The devil and the world do not act nicely when their people become Christ followers.”

- PAUL WASHER

1. When the apostle John saw the heavenly throne room, what was it that he saw that he invited us to participate in?
2. What was the message John got from beholding the heavenly throne room?
3. What are some ways that you are discouraged on earth? What can reminding yourself of the heavenly throne room do to your discouragements?
4. According to the chapter, what does the Lamb's victory in heaven mean for you in your distress? Provide some examples from the chapter.

5. Why are sinners not allowed into the throne room of God?

6. We are called to preach the preexistent, the humiliated, and the exalted Christ. Christians need to hear about and feast on Him so their souls may overflow with Him. Are you doing that? How might you improve?

“Redemption is not primarily about us, and our frail attempts to better our lot. It is about God, and His plan and power.”

- CONRAD MBEWE

1. What was the purpose of the fourth gospel according to the chapter? Discuss the specific texts and why this is important to recognize for the theme of the book.
2. Why does the final disappointing feature of Peter in the gospel of John appear? How does it help us put our own ministry into perspective? What can we learn from this example?
3. When Peter lost confidence in his calling, why did he immediately go back to fishing? How is this similar to what the disciples had done previously?
4. What was Peter supposed to learn regarding the incident with the fish?

