

# **OVERVIEW**

## **INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**



**SUMMARY:** The objective of the Christian Array lesson series is (1) to make a large volume of information available to members for ready reference to support personal belief and evangelism on a permanent online endowed basis and (2) to provide a framework for church members around the world to contribute to, edit, and expand the resource. It is **formatted for Bible Class lesson series** use which is started with the Wings of Eagles Personal Evangelism videos.

These topical lessons, beginning with the Wings of Eagles videos are generally arranged for use as Bible Class series. The ultimate objective is not to have members memorize any lesson, but rather become acquainted with and/or understand the lessons and know where they are – on a permanent free website. Literally a teacher would be able to ask the class to get out their cell phones and follow the lessons online.

Our congregational Bible classes are frequently in a format whereby the teacher spends a lot of time during the week preparing for a lesson which is presented once verbally. The teacher learns a lot due the study and the class is exposed to information they have likely heard before and are refreshed only to forget most of it again. If the teacher presents online written lessons, they are permanent, written, and can be improved as time passes.

An ideal Bible Class series would have 13 lessons of equal measure, but this series does not. It has some topics which are appropriate to discuss in one or more sessions, and there are some where several can be reviewed in a week. How you approach the lessons will depend upon both the teacher and the class being taught.

### **CHURCH “WIKIPEDIA” LESSONS:**

We like to refer to this as our church Wikipedia lessons as there are about 120 lessons presently posted which is a good start. There are numerous Biblical references in these lessons, but you may know additional and/or better references or note typographical errors. Additionally there are more topical lessons which should be in this series. If you will prepare a lesson, we will format it to be similar to the others and include it in the series. We do not include verse-by-verse lessons or sermons in the series. The lessons are not and never will be perfect, and if they were perfect to one person’s point of view they would likely not be perfect to another.

### **BASIS OF LESSONS:**

The lessons attempt to follow the motto “speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent” or the more modern motto “Just the Bible”. We attempt to take a “strict constructionist” approach to reading the scriptures, but it is not as simple as that. There are in fact some things in the Bible which are figurative, so it is not as simple as taking every word literally. An early example of this is that in the first chapter of Genesis the word “day” is used several times. In some cases the interpretation is literally figurative such as in Genesis 1:5 “God called the light day” which would show that figurative language at that time. The creations periods are also called “days”, and you must interpret whether

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that “day” is figurative or literal. Whatever you choose is an interpretation, if it matters at all. If at any time a verse is not interpreted correctly or at least reasonably, please let us know at [infor@occg.institute](mailto:infor@occg.institute) so we can correct it. We are not trying to do all this to be wrong.

### **LESSON SECTION TOPICS:**

The lessons are divided into 10 topical groups and include a total of about 120 individual lessons (with more to come). Some lessons can be presented as there is the data if you ever need it without actually going over them. Others warrant serious discussion time. It is our belief that if your members are conversant with a resource of this type, they will be better able to support your congregation in personal evangelism.

The sections are:

1. **WINGS OF EAGLES VIDEO LESSONS** Centered around the Wings of Eagles personal evangelism videos as a tool to refresh class members on the overall topic of religion and to use in personal evangelism encounters. In a Bible class series, it is anticipated that the information in the Overview Section and the Wings of Eagles Section would probably be done within the same quarter.
2. **IF GOD?** Lessons teaching the scientific logic of a God existing rather than us coming to being via a Big Bang followed by atheistic evolution coming to the conclusion that **there is a God**.
3. **WHICH GOD?:** Lessons comparing the various religions of pretenders to be God coming to the conclusion that **Jehovah is God**.
4. **WHICH GROUP:** Lessons discussing the various denominational type groups believing in the God of the Judeo-Christian heritage followed by several data sheets on better known groups coming to the conclusion that the **Churches of Christ** closely follow the scriptures.
5. **THE CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Lessons discussing the Churches of Christ.
6. **THE BIBLE AND HISTORIES:** Lessons discussing the history of the Bible, histories in the Bible, and some alleged mistakes in the Bible.
7. **DEITY:** Lessons discussing what a God is, various deities, and related subjects.
8. **THE END:** Lessons on happenings around the second coming.
9. **TOPICAL STUDIES 1:** Discussion lessons on church related topics.
10. **TOPICAL STUDIES 2:** Discussion lessons on church related topics.

If each of these is addressed in a quarter, it would involve a 2 1/2 year program. If intermixed with other style lessons, the time frame would be longer.

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**SUMMARY:** An overview of the history of the world .

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

This often-quoted verse tells us that God loves us, His creations. He sent His Son to live a perfect life and die a cruel death of crucifixion for us. His life and death completed the plan of our salvation from our sins. Because of His death for us, our belief in Him will allow us to have eternal life in Heaven with Him.

God predestined in the plan of salvation before the foundations of the world that we should be adopted as His children through Jesus Christ according to the intention of God's will (Ephesians 1:4-5). God's plan for His beloved children has been revealed to us in several steps over the history of the world:

### Ussher's Dates

- |           |     |  |
|-----------|-----|--|
| Beginning | 1.  | God has existed forever rather than matter or energy.  |
| 4004+ BC  | 2.  | God created the heavens and the earth  |
| 4004+ BC  | 3.  | God created man and woman in the Garden of Eden  |
| 4004+ BC  | 4.  | The fall of man in the Garden of Eden.   |
| -         | 5.  | God dealt with all mankind during this initial period thru the Patriarchal Religious System (Dealt thru the head of the family)  |
| 2347 BC   | 6.  | The Flood  |
| 1912 BC   | 7.  | A special covenant with Abraham (therefore making the Jews a special race) to prepare for the coming of Christ. God continued to deal with the gentiles (non-Jews) through the Patriarchal System. |
| 1491 BC   | 8.  | The Exodus, giving of the "old law".   |
| 4 BC      | 9.  | Christ was born of a virgin to live a perfect life for us for 33 years. (Dionysius Exiguus in 532 A.D. estimated dates and missed slightly)  |
| 29 AD     | 10. | The crucifixion of Christ for our sins.  |
| 29 AD     | 11. | Establishment of Christ's kingdom (the church) on earth.   |
| 70 AD     | 12. | The tribulation or the destruction of Jerusalem.   |
| 100-150   | 13. | Cessation of the miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit.   |
| Today     | 14. | We are presently living our lives as our response to the word of God.  |
| Future    | 15. | The future coming of Christ followed by Judgment Day and our eternal reward.   |

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We are told of our reward in Heaven as being great (Matthew 5:12) for the obedient and of torment in Hell (Luke 16:23) for the disobedient. The story of Christ's crucifixion tells us of God's love for us. The story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) and of the Galatians (Galatians 5:4) tell us of the sureness of His Judgment. It behooves us to learn God's plan for us and to follow it.

Although we need only to know what the Jews knew on the day of Pentecost to become Christians and to start the spreading of the word, the first century Christians learned more as the Apostles wrote the letters to the churches.

Today most people you will meet already know the basic Gospel and have accepted at least some part of 2000 years of non-Biblical customs and traditional changes to the Gospel. To be able to address people who already believe in Jesus and are influenced by 2000 years of non-Biblical customs and traditions is a different situation.

Ultimately a lot of knowledge needs to be understood and retained today to participate in the spread and defense of the Gospel as a mature Christian today. Historically we have depended mostly on our memories to retain the greater percentage of the information. In today's expanded information and restricted time availability, our memories are not good enough for most of us.

This series is an attempt to retrievably collect pertinent information in a permanent form for your free access. It will be readily available on the internet or you can print it out and put it in a notebook. If you go to the website tab BOOKS, you can buy it already printed in a book form. By any of these methods, useful information can be found without your having to memorize everything. We hope that this series will be of assistance to you and we request your assistance in adding more information to the series.

We would appreciate your review, study, suggestions, updates and corrections on the material in this forum. Please send information, suggestions, comments, corrections, or additional lessons to [info@occg.institute](mailto:info@occg.institute). Help us make this series better.