

The meaning of life

- Do you wonder what your life is all about?
- Is there a purpose or meaning to it?



You need answers to these questions.

We will explore the Bible message and show that it is relevant to us in the 21st century. We will look in part 1 at what the Bible tells us about the meaning of life, then in part 2 we will look at the Bible message to us personally.



The Bible has a vital relevant message for everyone in the 21st century

Part 1 - What is the meaning of life?

We will explore what the Bible tells us about the meaning of life in three sections:

- Where did we come from?
- What is life all about?
- Where are we going?

Where did we come from?

We were put here by a power greater than ourselves



The Bible tells of the power, greater than ourselves, that created our world and keeps it going:

... the LORD ... who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited.

Isaiah 45 v 18

Our Creator does not change

The natural laws which govern our world do not change. The same constant laws apply outside our earth. This indicates that the same power is in control throughout the universe.

I the LORD do not change. Malachi 3 v 6



Our Creator's words are true



Because our Creator does not change, His message does not change either. When we are thinking of the vital issues of life and death, we need a message that is totally reliable so that we can put our trust in it:

You are God, and Your words are true.

2 Samuel 7 v 28

Our Creator asks for respect

Because His message is true, the God of the Bible asks us to respect and obey what He says. He pleaded with the Jews:

Oh, that you had heeded My commandments!

Isaiah 48 v 18

Our Creator approves of those who respect His requests

The Psalmist makes it clear that God will bless those who obey him:

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. Psalm 119 v 1 and 2

What is life all about?

The Bible shows that our Creator is concerned about us

Our Creator's care for us is seen all through the Bible.

He assures us that the natural cycles which support our lives will continue:

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.

Genesis 8 v 22



God wants us to reflect His care



The apostle John told us that we should show God's love to others:

And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

1 John 4 v 21

God cares about our future

God has a plan to offer us life after death. The plan involves the work of God's Son, Jesus Christ:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *John 3 v 16*

Having a caring Creator gives us confidence for the future



We have seen that our Creator cares about us and has arranged a plan to enable us to have life after death. This must give us a real hope for the future, despite our present problems.

Jesus Christ promised that those who believe in him will be given endless life:

For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day. *John 6 v 40*

Problems can make us think about our long term future

Problems can make our lives very difficult. Sometimes, however, they can make us think about our long term future. When a tower fell and killed eighteen men, Jesus said:

...do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. *Luke 13 v 4 and 5*



Jesus was telling them (and us) to stop and think about the end of our lives. Suffering can be a warning that interrupts our normal routines. It can make us stop and think about the fact that our lives will end one day.

Only those who respect God have any hope for the future

The book of Proverbs warns us not to rely on our own ideas:

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. *Proverbs 16 v 25*

Where are we going?

God's plan is for a worldwide peaceful kingdom

Throughout the Bible, many verses talk of a future world order different from today's. Here is just one example:

Give the king Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the king's Son. He will judge Your people with righteousness, And Your poor with justice...

In His days the righteous shall flourish, And abundance of peace...

There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, On the top of the mountains...

Psalm 72 v 1, 2, 7 and 16



God's plan involves people being raised from the grave



The Bible assures us that some people will be raised from the grave and given endless life when Christ returns to the earth:

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4 v 16

God plans to fill the earth with those who respect Him

We can be involved in this peaceful worldwide kingdom on earth:

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection ... they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Revelation 20 v 6

We can help in solving our world's problems.

God's plan through the Jews

We now want to look at how all nations can be blessed through Abraham's descendants.

We find the answer in the New Testament in the letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Galatia, an area of modern Turkey.

He explains who the descendant was who would bring blessings on all nations:



Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ.

Galatians 3 v 16

This means that it is through Jesus Christ that all nations can be involved in the promises made to Abraham.

Jesus and the apostle Paul confirm the Jewish connection with God's plan:

Jesus said: *salvation is of the Jews*

John 4 v 22

Paul wrote: *for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain*

Acts 28 v 20



- God's plan with the Jews has extended to all people of all nations through Jesus Christ
- This plan is in both the Old and New Testaments

Our involvement in God's plan

In Galatians chapter 3, Paul also explains how we can be involved in God's plan:

[God] ... preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

Galatians 3 v 8 and 9

It is those who believe and have faith in what God has told us who will be involved in His plan. When we understand and have faith in God's plan, Paul explains what we should do to demonstrate our belief:



A young man about to be baptised

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3 v 27 to 29

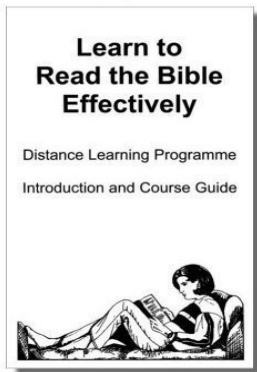
So by being baptized, people from all nations can be involved in the promises that God made to Abraham and his descendants the Jews.



All of us can become involved in the wonderful promises God made to Abraham by:

- learning what God has promised and what He wants us to do
- believing that God will do what He has promised
- being baptized

If you would like to know more about the Bible message:



www.biblecourse.f9.co.uk

For more information about suffering and evidence that you can trust the Bible message:

Look at the "Why does God allow suffering?" and "What is the evidence the Bible is special?" sections.

Frequently asked questions...

Who are the Christadelphians? A group of people who believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and base their beliefs on what it teaches.

Why are they doing this? Our faith and belief in God makes us want to share His message of truth. We believe that the Bible is God's message to us. We also believe that what He teaches is right and helpful in directing our lives. We feel compelled to tell everyone about the wonderful plan that God has for our earth. We want people to make their own informed decision.