

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE™

Living for God's Glory

NRB WINNER
BEST TELEVISION
TEACHING PROGRAM



study guide

LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

BELOVED,

The ball's in our court—either our nation lives for God's Glory, or that Glory will depart for the same reason it did in Israel!

We've lost our fear of God in this country, having forgotten Him and distorted His Word. We no longer know Him as He really is, according to His Word. We've exchanged His glory for things that don't profit, truth for lies. We've become a nation that fears and worships man.

The Creator-Redeemer does not share the glory that belongs only to Him. And when God's glory departs, when His sovereign hand of protection is removed, a nation is open to war and anarchy. The very seam of civilized society rips apart when truth, right, and good leave together! God's chosen nation itself was thrust into captivity; first the Assyrians captured and removed Israel (the people of the Northern kingdom), then the Babylonians did the same to Judah (the people of the Southern Kingdom). Judah was held captive in a foreign nation for 70 years!

What can we do to stop the epitaph "Ichabod" (literally "no glory") from being written on our personal and national headstones? Much! We can return to God's glory and live in it! God commanded us to glorify Him in our bodies, which belong to Him because He purchased them with the blood of His Son. The world needs to see the difference Jesus Christ makes in those who believe this Gospel.

The way we live reflects what we believe. If you truly believe, you'll seek to live a life pleasing to God by walking in His Spirit. This is how we win the battle over the flesh and radiate the image of Christ, the glory of God, to the world. When that happens, people, institutions, and whole nations are saved. They return to God's glory by turning to Christ.

It's not an easy life. The life Jesus lived and the path He took were tough—a life of suffering and a path of persecution. But with His victorious example and God's Spirit we can win each battle and ultimately the war.

Are you ready? Are you prepared to live a life that glorifies God alone—a life that can influence and even save our great nation? May the Lord empower you this moment to say "Yes!" with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Living For God's Glory is designed to help you keep this commitment! May the Lord richly bless you through this study of His Word.



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
with Kay Arthur™

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE™

Study Guide

This Bible study material was designed for use with the TV and Radio teaching program, Precepts for Life™ with renowned Bible study teacher Kay Arthur, a production of Precept Ministries International. This inductive 30-minute daily Bible study program airs on many satellite, cable, and broadcast stations, and on the internet at www.preceptsforlife.com.

As with all Inductive Bible studies, the best way to use the material is to complete the assignments in each lesson before listening or watching the PFL program for that day. These programs are also available on DVD and CD at www.preceptsforlife.com or by phone (1.800.763.1990 for television viewers or 1.800.734.7707 for radio listeners). For more information about the Precept Inductive Bible Study Method and Precept Ministries International, visit www.preceptsforlife.com.

These materials are also useful for Bible study apart from the Precepts for Life™ programs. We hope you'll find them valuable for studying God's Word and that your walk will be strengthened by the life-changing Truth you'll encounter each day.

Living for God's Glory STUDY GUIDE

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PROGRAM 1

TODAY'S TEXT

**1 Samuel 1:11; 2:2-3, 6-7,
22-25, 27-30**

CROSS-REFERENCES

Isaiah 59:14-15

Jeremiah 2:11

John 8:32

2 Corinthians 3:18

1 Thessalonians 2:19

1 Peter 4:17

Guarding the Glory of God

1. Read Isaiah 59:14-15. What are the conditions in Israel? Explain how truth relates to righteousness and justice, and how these two relationships impact the spiritual and moral condition of a nation.
2. Carefully observe Jeremiah 2:11.
 - a. What does "their glory" mean? Is it the peoples' personal reputations and honors or something else?
 - b. Describe exchanging the glory of God. What do people replace it with?
 - c. What does God's glory have to do with success and failure?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 3:18 what happens to us when we gaze at the glory of the Lord? What should we be doing with this glory in the places God calls us to?
4. What is God's holiness connected with in 1 Samuel 2:2? (Note "indeed.") What should this mean to us according to 2:3?
5. List all you learn about Eli and his sons from today's text.

PROGRAM 2

TODAY'S TEXT

**1 Samuel 2:31-34; 2:3-4, 6;
4:1-15**

CROSS-REFERENCES

Leviticus 26:12

John 14:6

Hebrews 10

Jude 1:3

What Do You Trust In?

1. Read 1 Samuel 2:31-34 and mark **sign** by placing a red octagon (like a stop sign) over it.
 - a. How does the context help us determine the meaning of the phrase "the distress of My dwelling"?
 - b. What judgments will God bring on Eli and his household?
 - c. How will the judgment on his sons be a sign? What will be so unusual about it that Eli will recognize it when it happens?
 - d. Will God impute Eli's sin to all Israel? What does He promise to do?
2. Now carefully observe 1 Samuel 4:1-5. Mark **Shiloh** and find it on a map.
 - a. Why did the Philistines defeat Israel?
 - b. Why did Israel think the ark would help them in the next battle?
 - c. How did they respond after messengers retrieved the ark from Shiloh and brought it into their camp?
3. Hebrews 9:23 says the Tabernacle and its furniture were "copies of the things in the heavens." From Hebrews 10 . . .
 - a. What did the ark represent? How about the mercy seat?
 - b. What did the veil separating the holy place from the holy of holies represent?

PROGRAM 3

TODAY'S TEXT

1 Samuel 4:12-22

CROSS-REFERENCES

Exodus 40:32-38

Isaiah 5:20

John 1:14

Ichabod: The Name Below All Names

1. Review 1 Samuel 4:12-18, marking the phrase *Thus he judged Israel forty years* by drawing a green clock around *years* or *forty*.
 - a. What was Eli's profession? Who succeeded him after he and his two children died?
 - b. How did he respond when he heard that the Philistines took the ark of God?
 - c. What insights into how Eli lived are given in the description of how he died?
2. Now read 1 Samuel 4:19-22 and mark the word *glory* with a purple cloud shaded yellow.
 - a. Who did Eli's daughter-in law lose in Israel's most recent fight with the Philistines?
 - b. What happened to her when she heard this news and the news that the Philistines had captured and moved the ark?
 - c. What did she name her child and why? What glory had been removed from Israel?
3. Next to 1 Samuel 4:22, write the phrase "Glory: Exodus 40, verse 34-38." Then turn to Exodus 40 and read verses 32-38 marking the phrase *the glory of the Lord* as you marked glory above (see 2.).
 - a. Put a funnel (tornado shape) over cloud in verse 35.
 - b. How did Israel know when it was time to move on and when it was time to stay put?
 - c. How can we apply this truth to our lives? What should we be following?

PROGRAM 4

TODAY'S TEXT

1 Samuel 4:21-22

CROSS-REFERENCES

2 Samuel 7:12-16

Exodus 13:21

1 Kings 6:1, 11-13; 8:1, 6, 9-11; 9:1-8

1 Chronicles 28:3

Jeremiah 2:11-13

Ezekiel 10:4, 18-19; 11:22-23

2 Corinthians 3:18

Colossians 3:5

Glory or No Glory?

1. Carefully observe 2 Corinthians 3:18. Continue to mark *glory* throughout this lesson and study.
 - a. Note the term of contrast "But." While the context actually reaches back to verse 1, what does Paul contrast "unveiled face" with? What does this mean to you as a New Covenant believer?
 - b. Where can we actually "see" the glory of God unveiled? What is God's glory? How does each of His attributes display it?
 - c. What does "from glory to glory" mean? Is transformation a one-shot event?
 - d. What "image" transformation occurs in us? (Cf. Romans 8:29)
2. Why couldn't David build a permanent tabernacle for the glory of the Lord (1 Chronicles 28:3)? Who did build God's temple and when (1 Kings 6:1)?
3. What had God promised David (2 Samuel 7:12-16) and on what condition (1 Kings 6:11-12)? What did this have to do with God's glory? (6:13)

PROGRAM 5

TODAY'S TEXT

Ezekiel 11:22-25; 12:1-3

CROSS-REFERENCES

Jeremiah 2:11

**Matthew 3:2-3, 17;
23:39**

Luke 2:28-32

John 1:1-2, 14

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 3:18

When the Glory Departs!

1. Read Ezekiel 11:22-25. Throughout this lesson mark ***the glory of [God or the Lord]*** with a purple cloud shaded yellow . Where did God's glory move **from** and **to**? What does this indicate?
2. What had the people done according to Ezekiel's contemporary, Jeremiah? (See Jeremiah 2:11.) Can a person or nation succeed in **anything** without the Lord? (Note exactly what the text says.)
3. Read Ezekiel 12:1-3.
 - a. What did God tell Ezekiel to do?
 - b. Did the people still have opportunity to repent? (See end of v.3.)
 - c. Did God's glory return after the temple was rebuilt in the days of Ezra?
 - d. Roughly how long was God silent after His last Old Testament prophet spoke? Who eventually came and what was his message?



Did you know...

you can watch or listen to *Precepts For Life*™ whenever you wish? You can even download the programs to build your Bible study library or share with a friend.

Visit www.PreceptsForLife.com to study online—on your time.

PROGRAM 6

TODAY'S TEXT

Jeremiah 2:6-13

CROSS-REFERENCES

Judges 17:6

Psalm 106:1, 13-21

Ezekiel 11:22-23

The Nation that Forgets God and Fears Man

1. Carefully observe Jeremiah 2:6-13, continuing to mark glory.
 - a. What question did Israel not ask? Why didn't they? What attitude does this reflect, and what one popular word summarizes this attitude among young people today?
 - b. How did the people respond to God after He brought them into "the fruitful land"? Were they grateful? What did they do to the land?
 - c. Do you believe God is neutral toward the abortions America has performed? Do you think He'd say "Whatever! . . . Who cares?" What two ways can people defile themselves and their land according to Ezekiel 22:4?
 - d. What did God say about the priests who handled His Law and the rulers? Who did they prophesy by if not the Lord?
 - e. Note "therefore" in verse 9. What will God do, consequently?
2. What do we ultimately choose between according to verses 11-13?
 - a. Put the numbers 1 and 2 before the two sins given in verse 13.
 - b. What do *living* waters contrast with?
 - c. Why does anyone make ("hew") a "broken" cistern? Can we make anything else once we've left the Fountain of Living Waters?

PROGRAM 7

TODAY'S TEXT

**Exodus 4:10, 13; 20:1-18;
24:3; 32:1-14**

CROSS-REFERENCES

Psalm 106:19-21

Isaiah 45:5; 59:14

Jeremiah 2:11

Romans 1:18, 21-28

Exchanging the Glory of the Incorrputible God!

1. Read Psalm 106:19-20, continuing to mark glory as before.
 - a. What did the children of Israel do that was so offensive to God?
 - b. What had He commanded them? (Exodus 20:3-5)
2. Carefully observe Exodus 32:1-8.
 - a. Where has Moses been and what has he been doing?
 - b. Why did the people become impatient?
 - c. What do they ask Aaron to do? Did he resist "the will of the people" (the majority) on principle?
 - d. What does Aaron fashion and what does he call it?
 - e. What's ironic about this? (Hint: where had the people of God gotten their jewelry? From what kind of people?)
 - f. Did Aaron stop with the production of the god? What else did he build? How does this add to the insult to God?
 - g. What's the point of the very last phrase of Psalm 106:20?
 - h. In spite of all this, who does Aaron dedicate his feast to in verse 5? What is this called when we combine (mix) God with idolatry? Does God share His glory with any created person or thing? (Isaiah 42:8)
 - i. What did the people do at their feast according to verse 6?
 - j. What was God's assessment of all this in one word (vv. 7,8)? What word describes how long it took for the people to rebel? What does God tell Moses to do? Was this an urgent matter or could Moses take his time?

PROGRAM 8

TODAY'S TEXT

Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1, 4-5, 7, 20-21

CROSS-REFERENCES

Psalm 8:1, 3-9; 90:10

Luke 1:37

John 1:18; 8:44; 14:8-9; 17:4

Romans 3:23; 5:12

2 Corinthians 5:9

1 John 4:8

Full Potential in the Lord!

1. What did the following say their life missions were? (Remember to mark *glory* and *glorify* everywhere you come to them.)
 - a. Jesus (John 17:4)?
 - b. Paul (2 Corinthians 5:9)?
2. How would you compare your life mission to date to theirs? Are you satisfied with it? What would you like it to be?
3. Read Genesis 1:26-27.
 - a. If we lived up to the image of God, what would people see in us?
 - b. Is this a *physical* image, as if God were a physical object? (John 1:18, cf. Acts 17:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Colossians 3:10)
 - c. What happened to that image? (Romans 5:12; what can be inferred from “renewed” in Colossians 3:10? From “Ichabod”?)
4. What happened to man when he sinned according to Romans 3:23? Contrast Hebrews 1:3b-4 with 2:5-9: how did Jesus *recapture* the glory of man’s original lordship over creation for us?

PROGRAM 9

TODAY'S TEXT

Exodus 4:10, 13; 20:1-18; 24:3; 32:1-14

CROSS-REFERENCES

Genesis 1:26-27

John 1:1-3, 14, 18; 3:16; 14:9

Romans 3:23; 5:12

1 Corinthians 3:16

2 Corinthians 3:18

Ephesians 3:16-21

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Hebrews 2:5-9, 14

The Inside Fix!

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, marking glory as before.
 - a. Why did Paul say he should *always* thank God for these imperfect saints? List a few things about them he’s grateful for:
 - b. For what purpose did God choose these people? (cf. Romans 8:30)
 - c. When did He choose them? (cf. Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9)
 - d. What do they “gain” from this (v.14, cf. John 17:22; 2 Corinthians 3:18) and how does it relate to man’s fall in Adam (Romans 3:23)?
 - e. What are the two essential components of salvation? What does “sanctification” mean?
2. Carefully observe John 1:1-3, 14, continuing to mark *glory*. List every feature of “The Word” John gives in verses 1-4.

PROGRAM 10

TODAY'S TEXT

Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:10, 14; 4:15

CROSS-REFERENCES

Genesis 1:27; 2:17; 3:1-6

Jeremiah 2:13

Zechariah 4:6

Matthew 3:16-17; 4:4

Luke 9:35; 23:46

John 1:14; 7:37-39; 8:32;

14:9; 17:4

Acts 1:8

Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Corinthians 5:8, 21

Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23, 25

Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:2;

3:18-19

2 Thessalonians 2:13

1 John 5:19

Walk by the Spirit!

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-3, remembering to mark *glory* throughout the lesson.
 - a. How and when did God speak in the past?
 - b. What's new and exciting about His speaking "in these last days"?
 - c. How is Jesus different from the prophets who spoke to the fathers "long ago" according to verses 2-3? How do these differences explain His remark to Phillip in John 14:9?
2. Review Hebrews 2:14. What did Jesus' sharing our flesh and blood have to do with why He came?
3. Read Hebrews 2:10. What's the Father's purpose for His "many sons" and how did He intend to accomplish it?
4. Review Hebrews 2:14. Once Jesus accomplished His Father's purpose, how much power over death did Satan have left? What does this mean to you and how can you apply this hope to your life and testimony?

Did you know...

that you can walk more closely with God by studying with others? People are meeting in small group studies and church Sunday school classes in all 50 states—and there's probably one near you. Want to join them?

Find a group near you—TV viewers call 1.800.763.1990, radio listeners call 1.888.734.7707, or visit www.PreceptsForLife.com.



PROGRAM 11

TODAY'S TEXT

**John 2:4; 13:33-35;
14:8; 16:32; 17:1-5;
20:31**

CROSS-REFERENCES

Psalm 90:10; 106:20

Jeremiah 2:11

Romans 8:29

1 Corinthians 5:7; 11:24

2 Corinthians 5:8

Revelation 4:11

I Finished the Work You Gave Me to Do!

1. Carefully observe Revelation 4:11.
 - a. Why does *anything* exist? Why do you exist?
 - b. Explain the “for” separating the two parts of the verse.
2. Now read John 13:33-35.
 - a. What’s “new” about the love Jesus commands His disciples? (Hint: compare the “as” in 13:34 with the “as” in Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:39. Which love glorifies God more?)
 - b. Who does this love benefit and how? (v. 35)
3. Now read John 17:1-5.
 - a. What did Jesus ask His Father to do? Is this an end in itself or a means to something else? (Note the “that” which follows.)
 - b. What does the “even as” that opens verse 2 mean?
 - c. How does Jesus define “eternal life” in verse 3? Is it merely existing forever or something much more?
 - d. How did Jesus summarize His life in verses 4 and 5?
 - e. How far back does Jesus’ glory with the Father go according to verse 5? What does this mean to you?

PROGRAM 12

TODAY'S TEXT

**John 6:63; 15:18; 17:4-6,
9-17, 20-24**

CROSS-REFERENCES

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Luke 2:52

Romans 3:28

2 Corinthians 3:18

Galatians 1:16

Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:1-5, 8-10

Hebrews 4:12

Ordinary or Special?

1. Let's review John 17, Jesus' prayer for His Apostles and the fruit of their labors. Remember to mark **glory** and **glorify** as before (purple cloud shaded yellow). Also mark every reference to the **devil** and any **evil spirits** with a red pitchfork.
 - a. How early does the subject of *glory* show up in Jesus' prayer? Why do you think? Does this tell you something about its significance in this prayer?
 - b. How is Jesus' glory both historical and eternal according to verse 5?
 - c. Why doesn't Jesus pray for everyone here (v. 9)? Does He do so later (vv. 21, 23)? What does He pray for His disciples and what does He pray for the world?
 - d. Does unity or diversity glorify God better?
 - e. How strong a unity does Jesus want according to v. 11? Why?
 - f. Will Jesus take His followers out of the world to protect them? (v. 15). What will He do? Which of the two options glorifies God best?
 - g. Again, what is God's purpose for unity (21) and perfect unity (23)? How powerful is unity? What does it do better than anything else?

PROGRAM 13

Transparent Glory

TODAY'S TEXT

**Isaiah 42:5-8; 44:24, 26-28;
45:1-5**

CROSS-REFERENCES

Isaiah 35:3

1 Kings 13:2

1 Chronicles 22:7-9

2 Chronicles 36:22-23

John 5:41-44

Romans 8:28

1. Carefully read Isaiah 42:5-8, remembering to mark *glory*.
 - a. Why is verse 5 important to consider before we're tempted to worship any man?
 - b. Who is God addressing in verses 6-7? Can we apply these prophecies to ourselves? What does God call those we might be tempted to worship?
 - c. How does verse 8 help us interpret the phrase "their glory" in Jeremiah 2:11 and Psalm 106:20?
 - d. What two things does God not give to others or their images?
 - e. What does He say about images in Psalm 135:15-17? (Cf. Exodus 32:4)
 - f. Did Jesus seek His own glory (John 8:49)? Who did *He* honor? Who will He honor in the remote future (1 Corinthians 15:28)?
 - g. What does Jesus say *generally* about self-promotion in John 8:54? What is it ultimately? Who alone glorifies (promotes)?

PROGRAM 14

Suffering: the Pathway to Glory

TODAY'S TEXT

2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:1-10, 16

CROSS-REFERENCES

Isaiah 53:5

Luke 22:44

John 1:11; 17:1, 5

Romans 1:18-20; 8:16-17

1 Corinthians 6:19

Philippians 4:4

1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Hebrews 1:3; 2:9-10;
4:14-16; 5:7-10**

James 1:2

1. Review 2 Corinthians 3:18.
 - a. Who is Paul addressing in this chapter?
 - b. Does "the same image" Jesus had as perfect man include suffering?
 - c. How were Hebrew converts to Christ being treated according to Hebrews 10:32-34 and 13:3?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1, 2, 16.
 - a. What phrase does Paul repeat?
 - b. Why should we courageously plow *forward* (two reasons)?
 - c. What have we "renounced" according to Romans 1:18-20?
3. Review 2 Corinthians 4:2-10.
 - a. Should we commend ourselves even to the consciences of those who reject our Gospel?
 - b. Why do people reject Christ? (Remember to mark Satan with a red pitchfork.)
 - c. How does verse 5 relate to the subject of whose glory we should be seeking? What are the two *critical* components to "personal testimonies" – concerning who's Lord and who's servant?
 - d. According to verse 6, where do we find the knowledge of the glory of God?
 - e. Do "earthen vessels" tell us anything about how transparent we should be to let God's glory shine through us to men and let men's praise return through us to God? Should we delay, dampen, or block any of this motion in either direction?
 - f. How does our suffering contribute to this transparency (vv. 8-10)?

PROGRAM 15

TODAY'S TEXT

2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:17-18

CROSS-REFERENCES

Acts 6:15; 7:58; 12:21-23

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20;
15:8, 9**

Ephesians 5:24-27

1 Thessalonians 2:18-20

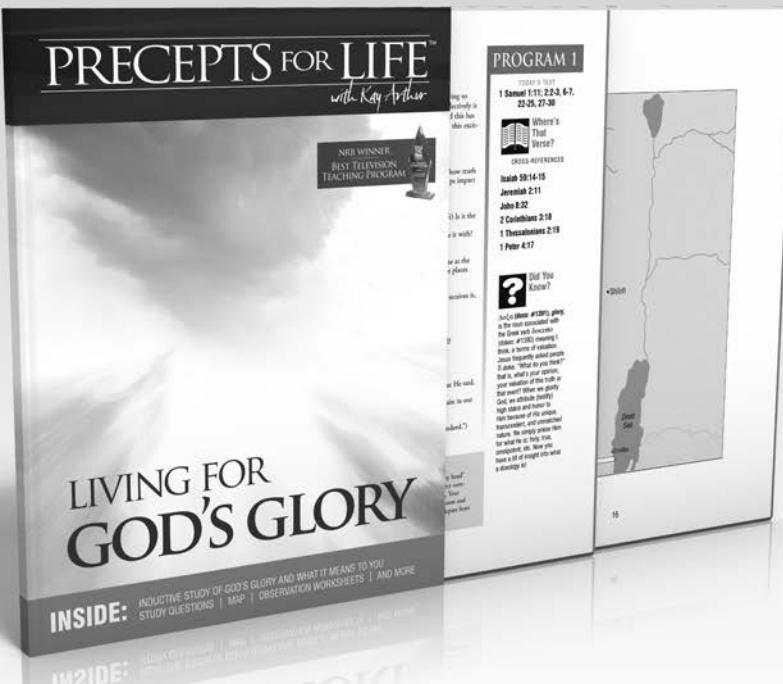
2 Timothy 4:7

1 Peter 1:6-8

Jude 24-25

Standing in the Presence of the Lord of Glory

1. Review 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 2 Corinthians 4:7-10.
 - a. Now, who do you belong to?
 - b. What does "treasure in earthen vessels" imply about what we're to be?
 - c. What are we "always carrying about" according to 2 Corinthians 4:10? (Mark **death** and **dying** with a black tombstone from here forward.)
 - d. For whose sake are we "constantly being delivered over to death"? What does this mean and how can you apply it?
 - e. What does Paul mean when he says "death works in us . . . [but] life in you"? (v. 12) How can our death minister life to others?
 - f. What happens, consequently, when Jesus returns according to verse 14?
2. Now continue reading, 2 Corinthians 4:15-18.
 - a. Explain the "for" that begins verse 15. What "all things" does Paul have in mind in the context? How do they serve the glory of God?
 - b. Why don't we "lose heart" if our outer man is decaying (v. 16)?
 - c. What's Paul's perspective on suffering and glory in verse 17? How does he *weigh* the two?
 - d. What should our full-time vision be?



There's more!

If you want to dig even deeper into the teaching with Precepts For Life™, check out the exciting Study Companion. It's loaded with maps, discussion questions and insights that will elevate your personal study. You can even use it to lead a small group study.

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Joe Wright Prayer Text

Below is the "Prayer of Repentance" that SHOOK the nation when Joe Wright prayed it before the Kansas State House on January 23, 1996.

It was subsequently featured by Paul Harvey on his national radio program and continues to resonate with many around the country.

"Heavenly Father,

We come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and seek Your directions and guidance.

We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good", but that's exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that:

We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it moral pluralism;

We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism;

We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle;

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery;

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation;

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare;

We have killed our unborn and called it choice;

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable;

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem;

We have abused power and called it political savvy;

We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition;

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression;

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by You, to govern this great state.

Grant them Your wisdom to rule and may their decisions direct us to the center of Your will.

I ask it in the name of your son, the Living Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen."

Pastor Joe Wright—Senior Pastor at Central Christian Of Wichita, Kansas, 1987-2006
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“One Nation Under God”

NRB E-Magazine, 2008 – Vol. 1, Issue 5

ONE NATION UNDER GOD?

By Bill Skelton

In less than two months America will elect a new President and Vice President. It's a sobering thought to me as I reflect on just how far we have come in regard to our unwillingness to involve God in the governance of our nation.

It has been said that “if we forget that we are ‘one nation under God’, we will cease to be a nation.” On June 26, 2002, our nation was rocked as the 9th District Court of Appeals ruled the Pledge of Allegiance as unconstitutional! The whole pledge was not judged as such, mind you, but just two words: “under God”!

Polls showed, overwhelmingly, that Americans believed “under God” should remain in the Pledge. Surprisingly, not only was the church shocked, but Congress and the White House were as well! Congress moved into gear, with the Senate voting 99-0 and the House voting 401-5 to affirm that our Pledge must continue to contain those two words. **George Bush reminded us all that Presidents before him had echoed those sentiments.** Abraham Lincoln referred to America as “this nation under God” in his Gettysburg Address, Dwight Eisenhower added “one nation under God” to the Pledge in 1954, and in 1980 Ronald Reagan understood the significance to those words when he said, *“If we forget that we are one nation under God, we will be a nation gone under!”* **Until recently, those words have been understood to be part of the fabric of our country.**

Perhaps the reason those words are under such attack is because of the uncanny parallel between the nation of Israel’s relationship with God, as chronicled in God’s Word, and the United States’ relationship with God since its founding. Indeed, both nations have: enjoyed a firm foundation built upon reliance to Jehovah; seen their positions changed, even though their foundations remained firm; seen a change in standards; ultimately seen their conditions changed. Scripture tells us that, eventually, Israel will return to her first love. **However, God’s Word does not tell us what will happen to America.** It is clear that we are at a crossroads in our history, but Scripture does give us a roadmap that will lead us back to reliance on the same Jehovah God upon which our founders relied.

Israel’s foundation was laid when God delivered them from Egypt and told them in Leviticus 26:12: *“I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.”* God’s role and relationship with Israel was clear: to be one nation under God. Now let’s look at America’s founding. After reviewing more than 15,000 items written by the 55 men who crafted the Constitution, Professors Donald Lutz and Charles Hynaman saw that *“the Bible contributed 34% of all quotations used by our founding fathers”*. It was also discovered that when the founding fathers referred to other sources, those other sources were quotes from God’s Word 60% of the time. It is clear that the chief source of guidance for our founders was the Bible. **It is clear that God’s Word was poured into the foundation of America.** We were built upon the principal that we are to be one nation under God. This does not restrict other beliefs within our nation, every American has the right to believe as he or she chooses, but our nation would crumble if God was removed from its foundation (Ps.11:3).

Though, currently, our foundation is firm, it is frightening to know that our position is rapidly changing. Instead of being satisfied and secure as “one nation under God,” we seem to want to go our own way and become “one nation OVER God”. Again, we can draw a comparison with Israel. Psalm 81:11 says: *“But My people would not heed My voice; and Israel would have none of Me.”* Israel, too, refused to submit to God’s leadership and chose to be **OVER** God instead of under His authority. This led to great sorrow for the nation of Israel. When they rejected God’s loving authority they found themselves subjected to the authority of the cruel rulers of surrounding nations. **Tragically, America has been on the same road to disaster for more than 50 years.** Using relativism, humanism, and tolerance we are systematically taking God out of our government. We seem to be determined to change our position from under His loving authority

“One Nation Under God” (cont.)

to making Man the ultimate authority! **As with Israel, God is the authority whether we acknowledge Him or not—we didn't vote Him into that position and we cannot vote Him out!**

As we become our own authority and our positions change, standards for living ultimately follow. Solomon expressed God's wisdom when he said in Proverbs 29:18: “*Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.*” When a nation uses God's Word as the standard then its people are blessed, but when God's Word is cast off so is all restraint. **The resulting standard is that there is no standard.** Father Morton Blackwell stated: “*Any nation that does not establish and maintain a fixed moral standard of right and wrong will not survive!*” Constitutional historian David Barton gives examples of the resulting chaotic schizophrenia. The courts have ruled that it is constitutional for chaplains to pray (*Marsh v. Chambers*, 1983), but unconstitutional for students to read those prayers in public schools (*State Board of Education v. Board of Education of Netcong*, 1970). It is constitutional to display the Ten Commandments on public property (*Anderson v. Salt Lake City Corp.*, 1973), but unconstitutional either to allow students to see them (*Stone v. Graham*, 1980), or to display them (*Harvey v. Cobb County*, 1993).

What happens when we consciously ignore God? He lets us have our own way, just like He did His people so long ago. Psalm 81:12 states: “*So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart to walk in their own counsel.*” In the first chapter of the New Testament book of Romans, it is written: “*God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness... who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but have pleasure in them that do them.*” **If a nation lets go of God, God will let go of that nation.** In 1962, biblical standards were replaced with relativism in our court systems. As a result, birth rates for unwed mothers tripled, violent crime skyrocketed, STDs in children ages 10-14 quadrupled, and SAT scores dropped 78 points. Sadly, things that were not even spoken of in polite company a very few years ago are now being trumpeted on prime time TV as “entertainment”. Our nation is traveling downhill at breakneck speeds with no brakes, no guardrails, and no hope! We have let go of God and, tragically, I believe God has let go of us.

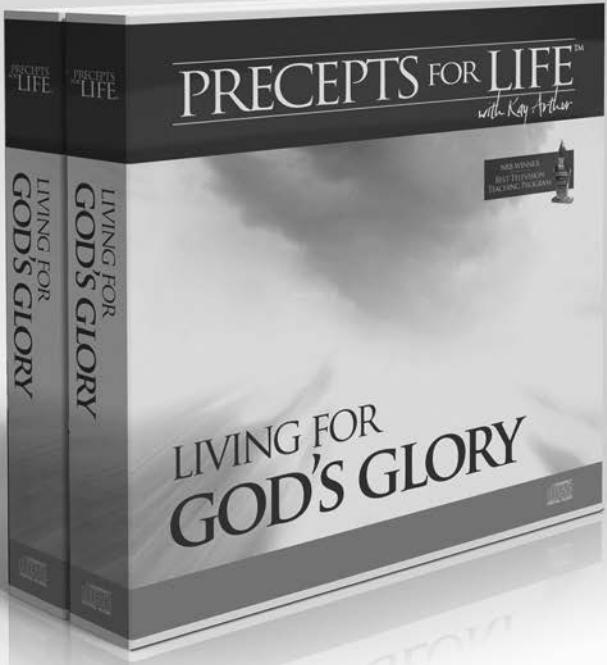
It's hopeless you say? While I agree there is little to no hope on this road to destruction, I would remind you that we serve the God of hope! **Our hope lies in the hope of Christ!** Psalm 81:13 says: “Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! I would soon subdue their enemies, and turn My hand against their adversaries.” Fellow broadcasters, our convictions must change. If we, as a nation, changed once, we can surely change again. We removed Him from our foundation, but we can put Him back again! If removing Him changed us for the worse, then returning to Him will change us for the better. The promise is simple. God says that if we return, listen, and follow Him that He will bless us.

I know I'm preaching to the choir by writing these things to Christian broadcasters. But friends, the true subject of the articles I have written and will continue to write is, I trust, a clarion call to all of us! We have the means and responsibility to serve as the “watchman on the wall!” We can and must remind our fellow citizens of our Godly foundation—of how we have changed our position on that foundation and abandoned the standards that keep us steady. **We have a responsibility to warn our nation and its leaders** that the condition or our foundation is shaky and in desperate need of repair. God tells us in Ezekiel that He will hold us responsible if we don't warn sinful man of his dire condition.

God desires to use NRB for His purposes and we must unite and speak with one voice. Only by the proclamation of truth, the prayers of God's people, and true repentance will we again become “one nation under God”.

Bill Skelton is President/CEO of Love Worth Finding and Chairman of the NRB Board.

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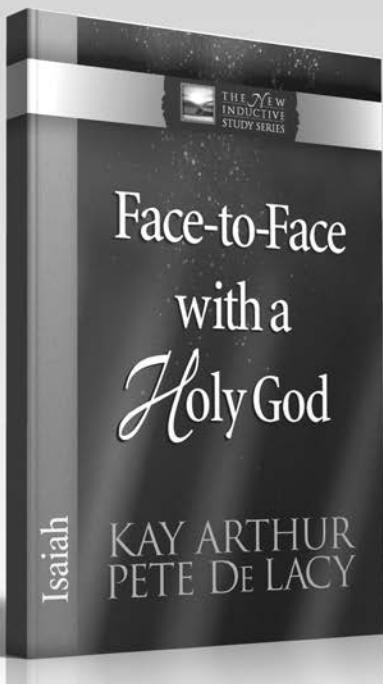


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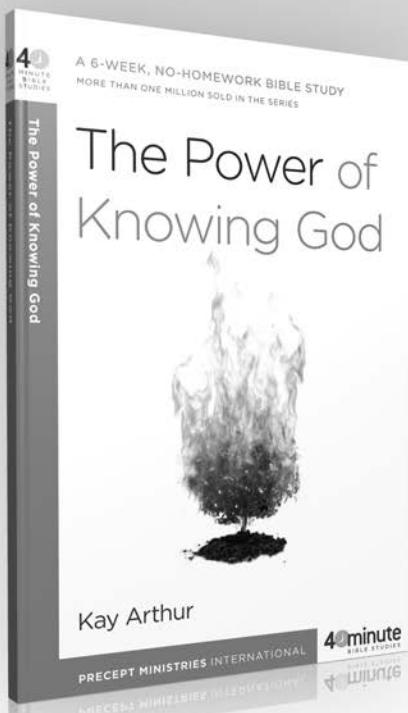
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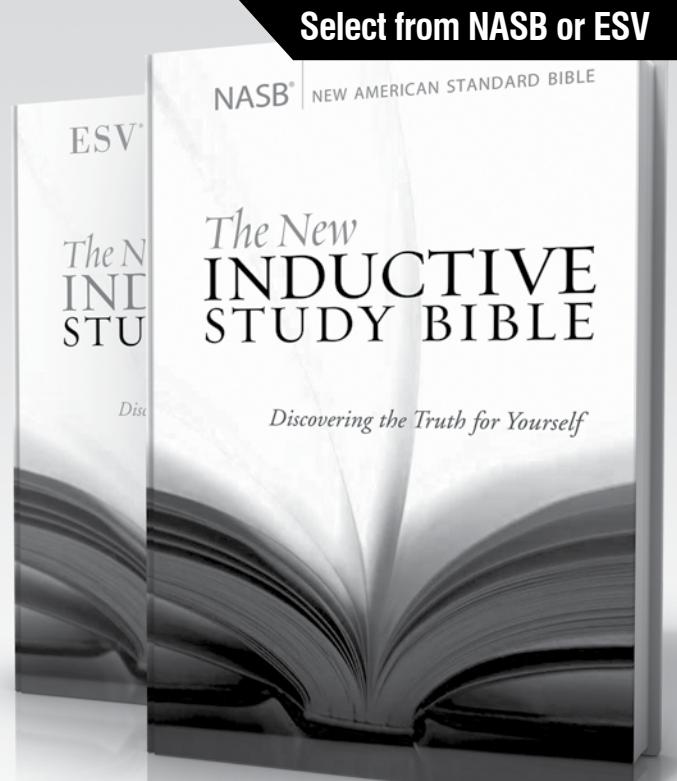
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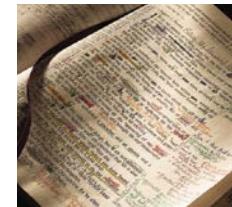
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Precept Ministries International was raised up by God for the sole purpose of establishing people in God's Word to produce reverence for Him. It serves as an arm of the church without respect to denomination. God has enabled Precept to reach across denominational lines without compromising the truths of His inerrant Word. We believe every word of the Bible was inspired and given to man as all that is necessary for him to become mature and thoroughly equipped for every good work of life. This ministry does not seek to impose its doctrines on others, but rather to direct people to the Master Himself, who leads and guides by His Spirit into all truth through a systematic study of His Word. The ministry produces a variety of Bible studies and holds conferences and intensive Training Workshops designed to establish attendees in the Word through Inductive Bible Study.



Jack Arthur and his wife, Kay, founded Precept Ministries in 1970. Kay and the ministry staff of writers produce **Precept Upon Precept** studies, **In & Out** studies, **Lord** series studies, the **New Inductive Study Series** studies, **40-Minute** studies, and **Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies for Kids**. From years of diligent study and teaching experience, Kay and the staff have developed these unique, inductive courses that are now used in nearly 185 countries and 70 languages.



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