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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1649 ~ Jesus the Rock.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Throughout history, people have often wisely prepared for the future. We too, need to be concerned about our future, especially for the time after we die, because the Bible says we will spend the rest of our lives there. Good as the past might have been, we can't go on living in memories; we must live in the present time of 'now' and prepare for our eternal future.

Four and a half thousand years ago, Egyptian kings planned for their eternal futures by being buried in their pyramid tombs beside food provisions left for their afterlife. The Bible records that Jacob's son Joseph helped an Egyptian king prepare his country for a 7-year famine. From 7 years of plentiful harvest, food was stored in large amounts to be feed to the people during the 7-year famine that followed.

In this present time of world financial difficulties, many thousands of people in the United States have converted rooms in their homes to store non-perishable foodstuffs. Those alert to world food production levels believe the world will be unable to feed the increasing world population in the not too distant future.

In Proverbs, Chapter 6, wisdom invites lazy people to take a look at the ants. They gather food at the harvest time to store for eating when it's bitterly cold in winter. This preparing for the future is even more important for people, as we have a never-dying soul to prepare for the next life and if we don't prepare it in this life, our souls will suffer incredible loss in the next.

The Lord Jesus knew what was going to happen to Him in the near future but His disciples didn't. He prepared them to think that He would not always be with them. At first thought of losing Jesus' leadership, the disciples were grief stricken and denied that such a terrible tragedy could ever happen.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Peter declared that Jesus the Messiah was the rock on which the foundation of the coming church and establishment of His kingdom would stand. This passage of Scripture is in Matthew, Chapter 16 and Mark, Chapter 8.

Jesus told Peter that it was God Himself who had revealed Jesus' Messiahship to him. Faith is a gift from God. It is always God the Father who reveals to us who Christ is and draws us to Him. Not only did Peter but all the disciples too believed that Jesus was more than just a man; He was the Son of the living God in heaven.

Nothing can be more wrong than to suppose that Christ meant that the person of Peter was the rock on which Christ would build His church. The Lord Jesus declared Peter to be blessed, as the teaching of God made him different from his unbelieving Jewish countrymen. The name 'Peter' means 'stone'. All God's people are 'living stones' yet Jesus is the true rock and His church is built on Him. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 3: "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

A great misunderstanding has arisen over the years about Peter being given the keys of heaven. Peter was NOT given the literal keys of heaven as Jesus in Revelation, Chapter 1, said that He (that's Jesus) had the keys to the world of the dead and of death.

Peter was instead given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. He had the privilege of opening the door of faith to the Jews at Pentecost, the Samaritans in Acts, Chapter 8, and to the Gentiles or the non-Jews in Acts 10.

When Jesus said: “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven,” Jesus gave this group of disciples, and not only Peter, the authority to establish His church and be its leaders. They had the authority to determine true doctrine, punish false leaders and unrepentant sinners, and exercise complete authority in the church.

This didn't mean that everything the apostles did after this pronouncement was right or that they never sinned again. Peter had yet to deny his Lord when Jesus was arrested. It's completely untrue to say that Peter could forgive people's sins and declare them clear of any wrongdoing. No one can forgive sins but God only. Yet following this discussion, Jesus warned them not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah. Why did He do this?

All the Jewish people were expecting a victorious Messiah, who would come and be their king, free them from their bondage to the Romans and re-establish the kingdom of Israel. The Jews had forgotten the predictions in Isaiah, Chapter 53 that the Messiah would die for the transgressions of God's people. The Jews wanted an earthly kingdom whereas the Messiah of God was coming to establish a spiritual kingdom that would last for ever. Jesus hadn't come to give political liberation but rather, salvation from sin and the granting of eternal life with Him.

If the disciples began telling everyone that Jesus was Christ their Messiah, the people would have then made every effort to make Jesus their king. He would not have been given the chance to suffer and die on the cross for the whole world. His purpose in coming to earth was to die for the sins of all people and this would not have been fulfilled if Jesus was given an earthly kingship. Without His death, no one would be able to obtain salvation. So it was necessary to keep secret the fact that Jesus was the Messiah until after He had died and risen again. At the time Jesus asked the disciples to be quiet about this, they may not have understood it in this way.

Christ, by His victory over death, has destroyed Satan's stronghold so captives can be freed by Jesus. But not everyone wants to be set free, especially inside their hearts and wills. God's freedom from sin brings about various responsibilities. There are many people who have found alternative ways to engage the religious part of their personality. People have a thirst for something beyond themselves, yet don't always want to have to answer for their poor decisions and unacceptable behaviour. To get around this, other people find it more convenient to deny that God exists. They assume that thinking in this way puts an end to the whole matter of accountability to a heavenly Father.

In Psalm 1, it says: "Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord and they study it day and night... They succeed in everything they do... The righteous are guided and protected by the Lord, but the evil are on the way to their doom."

Do all religions lead to God? No. None except a relationship with Jesus. He's the only way. God the Creator set His seal on Jesus as the door through whom all people must come to Him. What other god has died for the sins of the world and pardoned repentant people for their sins and natural selfish inclinations? There is none whatsoever!

When Christian people point out the errors in false religions, often people won't believe. They deny that in every human heart God has placed a longing for wisdom and knowledge that seems hidden from them. This longing is intended to guide individuals towards God Himself. God is the secret and answer for which a person's soul is seeking. God has revealed His identity in Jesus Christ. In Colossians, Chapter 2, it says: "They will know God's secret, which is Christ Himself. He is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge."

One of the latest spiritual attempts to avoid God and the Lord Jesus Christ is called 'Pop Spirituality'. Pop is short for 'popular' and is largely a women's religion. It's promoted by at least one world-famous TV talk show host in the United States. This lady offers books and attractive formulas for spiritual fulfilment and church-free spirituality.

In the Garden of Eden, the serpent whispered to Eve that if she ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, she would be as God Himself. Satan has used the same trick over and over again to delude people and see them travel down the broad road that leads to destruction.

Popular forms of spirituality often use words, ideas and even quotes from the Bible to convince people of their authenticity. Many followers then assume that the concepts given are compatible with Biblical Christian faith. Yet in truth, these forms of spirituality have nothing to do with the actual beliefs of Jesus and His earliest disciples.

When promoters of pop spirituality may mention passages from the Bible, they don't treat Scripture as an authoritative source of what we should know about God. In many cases, the words of Jesus and the apostles are exploited and misapplied when used as illustrations of 'me-centred' spiritual themes.

When compared with the overall message of Scripture, the central claims of pop spirituality directly contradict the good news of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Back in 1855 an old man who had written nearly 800 hymns was lying on his deathbed. A friend started quoting Psalm 23, saying, “The Lord is my Shepherd.” But the old man gathered enough strength to respond with his dying words: “The Lord is my everything!”

Is the Lord Jesus everything to you? The best way you can prepare for your future is to ask Him to be your redeemer from sin. Turn away from your old life of bad habits and self interests, and trust Him to guide you each step of the way until your next life begins. With God, our best days are always ahead.

In Psalm Chapter 2, verse 12b, it says: “Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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