

HOMework

JESUS CHRIST “GOD AMONG US”

Day 1: We find ourselves in a world that has something seriously wrong with it. Daily we read about wars, murders, poverty, racial conflict, exploitation. Daily we see in others and in ourselves loneliness, depression, anxiety, boredom, suspicion, mistrust, quarreling, and hatred. Yet God did not create the world to be this way, nor does He want it to be this way. He promised:

“In the days to come the peoples will stream to the temple of the Lord, nations without number will come to it; and they will say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths...” He will wield authority over many peoples and arbitrate for mighty nations; they will hammer their swords into plowshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. That day – it is the Lord who speaks – I will finally gather in the lame, and bring together those that have been led astray.”
(Mic. 4:1-6)

Day 2: Many men offer to us plans for making the world a better place. Better education, more technical skills, new political programs, sociological wisdom, drugs, are all offered as solutions. Man-made religions (Buddhism, Bahai, New Age, Zen, yoga, and many others) are presented to us as the hope of the world. Some even tell us that a Christian moral code without Christ is the solution. But all these are human thoughts, man-made plans. The Lord says:

“Yes, the heavens are as high above the earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.” (Is. 55:9)

Day 3: We need more than human ideas and human power. We need the wisdom and power of God. We are facing a power that is greater than human power. Behind the world’s evils is an evil intelligence, a kingdom of evil spirits, something greater than we are. Each of us has sensed what Paul tells us:

“For it is not against human enemies that we have to struggle, but against the Sovereignities and the Powers who originate the darkness in this world, the spiritual army of evil in the heavens.” (Eph. 6:12)

Day 4: God's answer to the world's need is Jesus Christ. Jesus was sent into the world to save us, to free us from the power of Satan and of the world, so that we might live a new life now and forevermore.

"Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now whatever you ask of God, He will grant you." Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even if he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord." She said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the son of God, the one who was to come into this world." (Jn. 11:21-27)

Day 5: Our freedom costs something. Jesus had to die so that we might live. But God loved us enough to send His son, who willingly died for us. As Paul says:

"It is not easy to die, even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners." (Rom. 5:6-8)

Day 6: Jesus died and rose from the dead so that we might have new life. If he had not died, if He had not undergone these sufferings He did, we could not have been freed from sin and from the power of Satan. The prophet Isaiah spoke of Christ:

"Ours were the sufferings He bore, ours the sorrows He carried. He was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins. On Him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through His wounds we are healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way, and the Lord burdened Him with the sins of all of us." (Is. 53:4-6)

Day 7: When Jesus rose from the dead, He had defeated the power of Satan. Now he can free you from the power of darkness and the hold of Satan's kingdom. He can give you a whole new life. If you are willing to leave the old.

"He has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in Him we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins" (Col. 1:13-14)

STUDY:

Mark 1:1-20; Revelation 3:14-22; and Mark 9:42-50