

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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THE APOCALYPSE OF MAN STUDY GUIDE



THE APOCALYPSE OF MAN

SCRIPTURE READING

I Thessalonians 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

II Corinthians 4:16

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

THEME

Knowing who we are enables us to see ourselves as God sees us. The revelation of who we are enhances our ability to please God and to live as He intended for us to live. Knowing who we are is the first step to living a victorious Christian life. We were not only created **by** God, but we were also created **for** God; therefore, we must yield ourselves totally and completely to the Lord.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Man is made up of three components: spirit, soul, and body. (I Thessalonians 5:23)
 1. *Pneuma* is the Greek word for “spirit.” It is defined as a current of air, or breath, or a breeze; by analogy or figuratively, it means spirit--the rational soul, vital principle, mental disposition. It can refer to God, man, or Satan, since they are all spirit beings. *Pneuma* is the vital principle by which the human body is brought to life.

2. *Psuche* is the Greek word for “soul.” It is defined as a breath; by implication, it may mean spirit. It refers to a sentient being, which means having sensations and faculties (sense perception). Although *psuche* and *pneuma* have certain similarities, they are distinct in function, yet work inseparably.
 3. *Soma* is the Greek word for “body.” It relates to the total physical body.
 4. Understanding who we are is contingent upon understanding our function in these three areas.
- B. Although the Scriptures define man as a three-part being, he is also referred to as a two-part being. (II Corinthians 4:16)
1. Man as a two-part being refers to the inward and outward man.
 2. We must recognize the inward and outward man and combine them with spirit, soul, and body; otherwise, we will not get the complete picture of the make-up of man.
- C. We will separate man into these various categories for the purpose of clarification.
1. This separation is for clarification; it is not for division.
 2. This separation is for understanding; it is not for argument.
 3. Although man is a three-part being, he is also a two-part being, but he functions as one.
- D. God (*elohiym*) made man in His image. (Genesis 1:26)
1. The Hebrew word *elohiym* signifies the plurality of God. There are three distinct manifestations of God: the Father, the Word (the Son), and the Holy Spirit. Though three, They function as one. (I John 5:7)
 2. Since man is made in the image of God, and God is a three-part being, we must recognize man as a three-part being also.
 3. Man needs to learn to see himself as God sees him.

4. In order for man to understand his make-up, he must understand some things about God, in Whose image he is created.
 - a. God is not a monkey; He is God and He changes not. Neither are we descendants of monkeys; we are made in God's image. We were created, not evolved.
 - b. God operates with authority and power; He created man to do the same.

- E. Man has basically lived as a soul-body, putting little or no emphasis upon the spirit. It is imperative that this concept change.

- F. The key to successful living is knowing who we are.
 1. Too many Christians are living in defeat because they do not realize who they are.
 2. We have the authority and power to live victorious lives, but without knowledge of this authority and power we will never enjoy the benefit of victorious living.

- G. We are spirit-beings who live in physical bodies. Our assignment is to represent God in the earth.

II. THE SPIRIT OF MAN

- A. Man is a spiritual being who dwells in a physical body. (II Corinthians 5:1-6; James 2:26)
 1. The body is the "home" where the spirit resides.
 2. The spirit gives life to the body.

- B. The spirit of man knows rather than thinks. (I Corinthians 2:11)
 1. There is a difference between knowing and thinking.
 2. Thoughts can be changed, but "knowing" is not subject to persuasion.

- C. Man's spirit gives him God-awareness. (Proverbs 20:27; Psalm 18:28)

- D. Man's spirit is his means of communicating with God.
- E. God is spirit; therefore, only the spirit-man can communicate with God. (John 4:24)
- F. True worship of God is accomplished as the spirit-man worships God Who is Spirit. (John 4:24)
- G. The Word of God encourages and commands us to be led by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16)
 - 1. A man who is not led by his spirit cannot be led by God's Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16)
 - 2. God leads man internally, not externally.
 - 3. The Spirit of God indwells the spirit of man; consequently, God speaks to the spirit man, who is responsible for controlling the physical man.
 - 4. Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons. (Romans 8:14)
- H. Man's spirit is the intangible part of a person that many people call intuition, or a hunch, or conscience. Some call it a "gut-feeling."
 - 1. The spirit of man gives him the ability to know right from wrong. God works with the conscience or spirit of man when dealing with the heart of an individual.
 - 2. The spirit of man also gives one the ability to know things without natural information.
 - 3. The spirit of man grants unto him the ability to receive information from the spirit world and utilize that information in the natural world.
- I. Man's spirit is recreated at new birth. (II Corinthians 5:17)
 - 1. Adam died spiritually in Eden.
 - a. Spiritual death is separation from God.
 - b. Man is an eternal being; therefore, man does not cease to exist.

- c. Sin separates man from God, but it does not literally kill the spirit.
 - 2. The spirit is in a man who does not know Jesus, but sin separates him from the eternal life which is found only in Jesus. Consequently, one who is not born-again is dead to Jesus and separated from God. He is led by the spirit of the world rather than the Spirit of God.
- J. “The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.” (Proverbs 20:27)
 - 1. The definition of “candle” is a lamp or a light.
 - 2. The definition of “belly” is the womb, or the hidden area where thoughts are conceived.
 - 3. An unregenerate spirit is in darkness. (Matthew 6:23)
 - 4. The candle of man is lit when one is born again. (John 1:1-9)
 - a. Jesus lights our candle. (Psalm 18:28)
 - b. God’s Word gives light. (Psalm 119:130)
 - c. God has called us from darkness into His marvelous light. (I Peter 2:9)
- K. Man’s spirit is referred to by Peter as “the hidden man of the heart.” (I Peter 3:4)
 - 1. The spirit-man has power to do things which the physical man cannot do.
 - 2. We must learn who we are and realize the internal power that we possess.
- L. Paul refers to man’s spirit as the inward man. (Ephesians 3:16)
 - 1. The inward man is the eternal man which is not seen with the natural eye.
 - 2. When the spirit-man vacates the physical body, the body dies. (James 2:26)

- M. Man must constantly commune with his spirit.
1. Direction for man should come from the inside rather than the outside. “The steps of a man are established by the Lord.” (Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 16:9)
 2. Godly counsel and instruction come from the spirit.
 - a. Counsel, which is in the heart, must be drawn out. Meditation is the instrument which draws out the “deep water.” (Proverbs 20:5)
 - b. Believers have the mind of Christ. (I Corinthians 2:16)
 - c. We must listen to the Holy Spirit Who informs our spirit about Jesus and His will and purpose.
 3. We need to commune with our spirit so that we can please God. (Romans 8:4-9)
 - a. We must follow the spirit and not give in to the dictates of the flesh.
 - b. To be carnally minded is death.
 - c. We cannot please God while walking carnally.
 - d. We will never please God through our reason or abilities; we please Him by being led by the Spirit.
- N. The spirit-man can be matured or developed.
1. Feeding is necessary for spiritual growth.
 2. The spirit-man must be fed the Word of God daily.
 3. We must study the Word and meditate upon it. This practice will assist in the development of the spirit-man.
 4. Revelation of the Word of God often comes as a result of meditation; therefore, it is vital that we meditate upon the Word of God.
 5. We develop the spirit-man by the same principles that we develop the physical man—food and repetitive exercise.

6. Exercise is extremely important; therefore, we must act upon the Word of God.
7. We act upon the Word of God by practicing what it says.
 - a. The phrase “Be ye doers of the Word” requires action. (James 1:22)
 - b. Knowing the Word is not enough; we must act upon what we know.
 - c. Practicing the Word is spiritual exercise.
8. We must give God’s Word first place in our lives. We must believe in it and act upon it.
 - a. The spirit-walk is manifested when one believes the Word and walks according to the Word.
 - b. As we learn to walk in the spirit, we will become stronger, and we will have more confidence in the spirit than we will in the flesh.
9. Age is not the maturing factor for the spirit-man; the maturing factor includes both hearing the Word and doing the Word.
10. A developed spirit-man is the key to keeping the soul and body in proper alignment with God’s Word.

III. THE SOUL OF MAN

- A. *Psuche* is the Greek word which is translated as “soul” in the New Testament. The soul is comprised of the mind, will, and emotions of man.
- B. Psychic, psychiatry, psychology, etc., are derivatives of the Greek word *psuche*.
- C. What psychology calls the “subconscious mind” is really the soul of man.
- D. The soul is the seat of man’s personality.

1. Temperament affects the attitude and actions of an individual; however, extreme moods, split personalities, and abnormal behavior are not the result of temperament. They are the result of spiritual influences.
 2. Bad dispositions are the result of submitting to bad influence.
 3. A person's mood reflects the personality of the spirit that is influencing him.
 4. Christians, as well as sinners, are susceptible to satanic influence. For this reason, it is extremely important that we stay submitted to the Word of God.
 5. Spiritual power is manifested through the soulish realm, and it is demonstrated in the physical realm.
 6. Man's personality is manifested in the body; consequently, brain damage would affect the actions of an individual. Therefore, not all unusual actions are the direct influence of evil spirits.
- E. The soul of man gives him self-awareness; the spirit of man gives him God-awareness.
- F. The unsaved soul relies on sense knowledge; the spirit relies on revelation knowledge received from the Holy Spirit.
1. The unsaved soul of man says a thing must be reasonable in order to be acceptable.
 2. The spirit-man does not rely upon reason; he relies totally upon the Word of God and the Spirit of God.
- G. The unsaved soul depends on feelings; the spirit perceives.
- H. The unsaved soul must be transformed by renewing the mind with the Word of God. (Romans 12:2)
1. Transformation of the soul is progressive rather than instant.
 - a. The word "transformed" comes from the Greek word *metamorphoo*, from which we get the word metamorphosis, which suggests a slow, progressive change.

- b. Although the process of transformation is not immediate, the initiation of transformation is certainly a definite act of our will.
2. The transformation of the soul does not refer to the new birth; it refers to deliverance from the control of reason and the senses.
3. The spirit-man is instantly born again, but the soul of man is progressively transformed.
4. From the beginning of our lives, each of us is programmed with information from the natural world around us; consequently, we need to reprogram our minds with the Word of God.
5. Too few people experience the true transformation of the soul because they are not interested in renewing their minds. They confess Jesus as their Savior, but their souls are not in agreement with the Word of God.
 - a. The unrenewed mind is contrary to God; consequently, it should be changed. (Romans 8:6-8)
 - b. The carnal mind is selfish; it is insensitive to the Spirit of God, relying totally upon reason and sense knowledge.
 - c. The renewed mind is conformed to think like the "Word" and to follow the leading of the Spirit, which often defies reason and sense knowledge.
6. Transformation of the soul is three-fold; it involves the mind, will, and emotions.
 - a. Transform means to change or convert.
 - b. Transformation of the mind is essential; otherwise, we cannot think as Jesus thinks.
 - c. Transformation of the will is vital so that our will can be conformed to His will.
 - d. Transformation of the emotions must take place before we can feel as He feels.

7. A transformed soul does not function independently of Jesus.
- I. Man's soul must be renewed and brought into harmony with his spirit.
 1. The soul is renovated, not recreated.
 2. The soul must be programmed to obey the Spirit of God and the Word of God.
 3. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus took control of His soul. (Matthew 26:36-45)
 - a. Jesus' soul was reluctant to do God's will.
 - b. Jesus was not apprehended until He had brought His soul into harmony with His spirit.
 - J. The soul acts as a liaison between the spirit and the body.
 1. The spiritual world sends messages to the soul.
 2. The natural world also sends messages to the soul through the body.
 3. The soul decides what action to take through an act of its will.
 - K. The will of the soul is manifested by the actions of the physical man. (Luke 12:16-20; Psalm 42:1-5)
 - L. The soul of man is like a complex computer.
 1. The soul stores vast amounts of data and recalls the data when it is needed.
 2. The soul makes decisions based upon the data programmed into it.
 - a. Sense-knowledge data brings forth sense-knowledge decisions.
 - b. If the mind has been programmed with the Word of God, it will bring forth faith decisions.

- (1) The unrenewed mind is contrary to God; therefore, reason takes preeminence over God's Word in decision-making. (Romans 8:6-8)
 - (2) The renewed mind is conformed to God; therefore, God is consulted in all decisions. (Romans 12:2; II Corinthians 10:5)
 - c. The unrenewed mind operates by sense knowledge.
 - d. The renewed mind follows the leading of the spirit.
 - e. Sense-knowledge programming will not produce Bible faith; only God's Word is capable of producing Bible faith. (Romans 10:17)
 - (1) Programmed data is knowledge.
 - (2) Recalled data is the basis for faith.
- M. Man's soul was not designed to control his life independent from God.
 - 1. The soul should assist the spirit, but it should never tell the spirit what to do.
 - 2. The spirit of man is to control the total man. (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16)
 - 3. The soul of man in control (operating without spiritual illumination) of man may malfunction under extreme circumstances.
 - a. A nervous breakdown may occur when man tries to run his life by his soul. When the born-again spirit is in control, it is impossible to have a nervous breakdown.
 - b. The so-called "losing the mind" comes as a result of one trying to run his life from the natural realm. (One does not lose his mind; he loses control of his mind.)
 - c. The soul is limited to its programming.
 - (1) The soul only recalls the data which has been placed into it.

- (2) Lack of data or wrong data sometimes causes one to panic and do unusual things, such as commit suicide.
 - (3) God will not allow us to suffer a temptation beyond our strength. He makes a way of escape, but one cannot take advantage of the escape route unless he knows about it. (I Corinthians 10:13)
- N. The soul of man controls his health and prosperity. (III John:2)
- 1. The soul recalls the data programmed into it.
 - a. Medical and scientific data give us a soulish report based upon reasoning.
 - b. The Word of God gives us an accurate report based upon the truth and integrity of God.
 - c. It is extremely important that we keep our soul fed with the Word of God.
 - 2. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. (Proverbs 23:7)
 - a. “Thinks” means as he estimates himself to be.
 - b. We see ourselves as we do because of our programming.
 - c. Programming ourselves with the Word of God will allow us to think like God thinks and see as God sees.
 - 3. The soul must be subordinate to and in harmony with the spirit.
- O. The brain is not the soul, nor is it the mind of man.
- 1. The brain is a physical organ; therefore, it is a part of the body, which is temporary.
 - 2. The mind, which is a component of the soul, is eternal.
 - 3. The brain is the central control system of the entire body.
 - 4. Different parts of the brain affect different parts and functions of the body.

5. The mind communicates with the brain. The mind is not an organ.
 6. The mind does more than one thing: it thinks; it imagines; it compiles; and it correlates information.
 7. The mind is to the spirit-man what the brain is to the body, a central control center.
- P. The soul of man must be controlled.
1. The Word of God saves the soul. (James 1:21)
 2. Man is to **save** his soul by losing it in Christ. (Mark 8:34-37)
 3. The Word says that in our patience we are to possess our souls. (Luke 21:19)
 - a. “Possess” means to get, or to acquire.
 - b. “Patience” means cheerful endurance.
 - c. We (the spirit) must possess our souls; our souls are not to possess us.
 4. Hope in God is an anchor to the soul. (Hebrews 6:19)
 - a. The anchor prevents a ship from drifting with the current; the Word of God keeps one from following every wind of doctrine.
 - b. In the storms of life, we will be shipwrecked if we are not in the Word and have the Word in us.
 5. We are to purify our souls by obeying the Word of God. (I Peter 1:22)
 6. Jesus is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. (I Peter 2:25)
 - a. Jesus guards, cares for, and feeds our souls with His Word.
 - b. Jesus is the overseer or superintendent of our souls.

- c. According to Psalm 97:10, the souls of the saints are preserved by the Lord.
7. The soul of man is susceptible to spiritual influences; therefore, we must be certain that we are yielding to the right spirit. (James 4:7)
 - a. We must always submit ourselves to God; we submit ourselves to God by following His Word and obeying His Spirit.
 - b. We must always resist the devil; we resist the devil by submitting to God.
 8. When God created Adam, man's total being was in harmony. Our total being also can be in harmony when we conduct our lives according to the Word of God.
- Q. He that wins souls is wise; consequently, we must go beyond the realm of the natural when ministering to people; we must minister supernatural. (Proverbs 11:30)
- R. The soul of man is eternal; therefore, the effect we have upon men's souls will last forever. (Luke 16:19-31)

IV. THE HEART OF MAN

- A. *Kardia* is the Greek word which has been translated as "heart." It means the center or core. It is also defined as the middle of man.
- B. The heart is made up of soul and spirit.
- C. The soul and the spirit, which make up the heart, can only be divided by the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
- D. Separating the soul from the spirit would be like separating the brain from the body. (You can, but you can't.)
- E. The word "heart" can be used interchangeably with spirit and soul.
- F. The spirit is called the hidden man of the heart. (1 Peter 3:4)
- G. In Ephesians 6:6 (KJV), *psuche* is translated as heart.

- H. The Old Testament tabernacle reveals the three-part being of man, including the heart.
- I. The two-part man is also clearly seen in the Old Testament tabernacle, which reveals the body and heart.
- J. Jesus mentioned the heart (*kardia*) of man many times.
 - 1. Blessed are the pure in heart. (Matthew 5:8)
 - 2. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. (Matthew 12:34)
 - 3. The Word is sown in the heart. (Matthew 13:19)
 - 4. Let not your heart be troubled. (John 14:1)
 - a. The peace of God keeps the heart at peace.
 - b. The peace of God keeps the mind trouble-free.
 - 5. Jesus' reference was to the center of man rather than the physical organ of man.
- K. Jesus made his appeal to the heart of man, which consists of both spirit and soul.
 - 1. Jesus does not want a divided house.
 - 2. Jesus wants a united house; the outward man, which is the body, must be in harmony with the inward man, which is made up of soul and spirit.
 - 3. Circumcision of the heart is mandatory for the harmony of soul and spirit. (Romans 2:29)
- L. People look at the body of a man; God looks at the heart of man.
- M. The heart (*kardia*) is eternal because it is made up of spirit and soul.
- N. The heart, which consists of both the spirit and soul, can leave man's body.
- O. The issues of life come forth from the heart of man. Issue means "exit, or boundary, or source." (Proverbs 4:23)

- P. God's Word is to be kept in the middle of the heart. (Proverbs 4:21)
- Q. Remember, as one thinks in his heart, so he is. (Proverbs 23:7)
- R. Thinking takes place in the heart, specifically, the mind. (Proverbs 23:7)

V. THE BODY OF MAN

- A. The body is the house or tabernacle of man. (II Corinthians 5:1-6)
 - 1. A house is where we live, but it is not who we are. The occupant is more important than the house.
 - 2. The body is the dwelling place for the spirit and soul.
- B. The body is the seat of the five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and feeling.
- C. The body gives man environment-awareness; the soul gives him self-awareness; the spirit gives him God-awareness.
- D. The body is man's legal authority on earth, his passport and visa, so to speak.
- E. The body must always be kept under subjection to the spirit-man. (I Corinthians 9:27)
- F. The body should receive the least amount of attention and emphasis.
- G. The body is our means of carrying out God's will on earth.
- H. The body of man is the vehicle through which both God and Satan seek to manifest themselves.
 - 1. The gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit are God's manifestations through us.
 - 2. The works of the flesh are Satan's manifestations through us.
- I. The body of man puts certain limitations upon him.

1. All functions of the physical body are slower than the speed of light.
 2. The body is dominated by physical laws.
 3. The body is subject to the elements.
- J. The body is corruptible, not eternal.
- K. The body has not yet experienced redemption. (Romans 8:23)
- L. The bodies of believers will be resurrected as glorified, immortal bodies. (I Corinthians 15:51-56)
- M. According to Romans 8:23, the believer's body will be adopted into the family of God when it is resurrected.
- N. The bodies of sinners will be raised as indestructible bodies doomed for eternal punishment. (John 5:25-29)
- O. Bodies must not be unequally yoked together. (II Corinthians 6:14-18)
- P. The body of man is to glorify God. (I Corinthians 6:13-20)
1. We are bought with a price; we are God's property.
 2. We are representatives of Jesus; consequently, our lifestyles must bring honor and glory to God.
 3. If we disobey the Word, we are not glorifying God.
 4. Our bodies are God's property; therefore, we must use them to glorify Him.

VI. SUMMARY

- A. Man is a three-part being: spirit; soul; and body.
- B. Man is also a two-part being: inward man and outward man.
- C. Our purpose for separating or categorizing the "parts" of man is clarification rather than division.
- D. Man has basically lived his life as a soul-body creature, with little or no emphasis upon the spirit.

- E. The spirit gives man God-awareness. It is man's means of communicating with God.
- F. The spirit-man is recreated by receiving God's Spirit into the human spirit.
- G. The spirit-man must be developed.
- H. The spirit is eternal.
- I. The soul gives man self-awareness. It is man's means of communicating with himself.
- J. The soul is the seat of the mind, will, and emotions.
- K. The soul is not recreated; it must be renovated or renewed, which is a transformation process.
- L. Saving the soul, in reality, is renewing the mind.
- M. Man's spirit and soul must be in harmony in order to live a life of peace.
- N. The soul of man is like a complex computer. It can only recall the data that has been programmed into it.
- O. Man's soul was not designed to control his life independent of God.
- P. The soul of man controls his health and prosperity.
- Q. The soul of man is eternal.
- R. The heart of man is made up of spirit and soul.
- S. The forces of life come forth from the heart.
- T. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.
- U. The body of man is the house or residence of the soul and spirit.
- V. The body is the seat of the senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and feeling.
- W. The body of man gives him environment-awareness.

- X. The body is man's legal passport and visa in earth.
- Y. The body is the vehicle through which both God and Satan seek to manifest themselves.
- Z. The body must always be submissive to the spirit-man.
- AA. The body is not eternal, but it will be immortal at the resurrection of the saints and indestructible at the resurrection of the sinners.
- BB. When the body of the believer is resurrected, it will be adopted into the family of God.

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. God made man in His own image. It is up to man to learn exactly how God made him.
- B. If we will take the time to learn who we are, I am convinced that our lifestyles will change dramatically, for the better.
- C. First things first! We must know who we are before we can function as God designed us to function.
- D. Who are you? You are a spirit being, dwelling in a physical body, created for God's good pleasure and service.
- E. Who are you? You are a representative of Jesus to the world.