



OBSERVATION, INTERPRETATION, APPLICATION

The Gates of Hades Are Not Winning

by David Arthur,
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Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). And He declared that on this truth He would build His “church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (v. 18).

Understanding this is part of being a Christian.

If your concept of being a Christian is walking an aisle or saying a prayer and being 80 percent satisfied with life, then your “Christianity” is quite far from Jesus’ version. If it is “accepting Christ” and quietly waiting for Him to return, this is also off the mark.

Jesus commanded, “Do business . . . until I come back” (Luke 19:13). We are to be active citizens of Christ’s Kingdom in every area of life.

The bottom line is that we serve a conquering King of the Kingdom described in Daniel 2, a giant stone that “will crush and put an end to all these [worldly] kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever” (Daniel 2:44c).

Yet, today, too many Christians are soft.

Too many of us live like citizens of these doomed kingdoms, not the eternal one.

Why?

There are many reasons, but one thing we at Precept have observed: *When believers take the step of learning to study God’s Word for themselves inductively, “softness” goes out the door. It is replaced by vibrancy, resilience, confidence, humility, and self-sacrifice.*

Knowing how to study the Word of God transforms you.

And when you are transformed, you can “stand in the battle” (Ezekiel 13:5).

When you are transformed, you can see past your background and walk as a child of the King, as a dear Jewish sister did when she accepted Christ. When you are transformed as a citizen of an eternal Kingdom, you can walk away from your training as a Muslim terrorist, as brother “S” did when he began to study the Sermon on the Mount. When you see the eternal Kingdom in the pages of Scripture, you can say, as our Iraqi brothers and sisters do, “We all have to be ready to die in this country.” When you are transformed, you can count all things loss for the surpassing greatness of Christ!

Precept is working in America and around the globe to establish people in God’s Word. People are turning to us in unprecedented numbers for inductive Bible study. We would love to have you join us in standing with our brothers and sisters around the world and to teach you to study the Bible inductively or to learn how to disciple others.

For more information, contact Precept Ministries International at www.precept.org or 800-763-8280.



At Precept, we use a straightforward investigative approach to open the Bible and build the context for each statement it contains. That’s where we find God’s precepts—or principles—for life. Inductive study is the tool our students use to collect those precepts to build a God-glorifying, Bible-centered worldview with clear applications to live the abundant, victorious life in Christ.



“Studying Through Precepts Changed My Life”

Hello, my name is Miranda Draves, and I live in Brunswick. I am 16 and have been doing Precept studies since I was 12. When I was 13, I went to Moldova in Eastern Europe and taught English using the Precept studies. I have returned twice since then and am planning on going back again this year. It is really neat to see teens wanting to study the Bible and that they will sit down for many hours to study, while your typical American teen won’t sit down for more than an hour to do anything but a video game.

Studying Precept has changed my life. It has made me desire to follow God more. I enjoy inductive Bible study so much that I had to tell my friends about it. I am in a Book of Hebrews Bible study, and there are seven of us under the age of 18, along with many people who are over 18. I hope to take one of my friends in the class to Moldova with me this year where we will study and teach “Covenant and Marriage Without Regrets.” It is so great at 16 to know that God has a will and purpose in my life and to know that He is always there and wants me to learn about Him.

In Christ
Miranda

January Classes Announced

Following are three more classes to start in January, 2010

Hebrews Part II

Ladies’ Study Wednesday Night. 6:30 to 8:30. at Cornerstone Baptist Church. Topsham. No child care available.

Homeschool and Ladies’ Study:

Thursday morning, 9:30 to 11:30, at a local home in Topsham. No child care available Begins January 6th, 2010 until May 20, 2010
Cost of course: \$45. No need to have Hebrews Part I. Come join us, and we will get you up to speed.

The Gospel of Matthew, Part II.

Where: New Life Church, Biddeford
When: Starts in January: Date TBA: Time: 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
FMI: Susan McCarron 207-967-4296 or Suny@gwi.net
No need to have attended Part I A thorough review is planned.

A Ladies Study of Revelation, Part II

(An Overview of the Book of the Revelation).
Where: A residence in Appleton, Maine
When: January 7 to April 29, 2010, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
FMI: Contact: Amy Bartlett at 207-785-2423 or riaabartlett@yahoo.com
No childcare available.