



Bible Customs and Manners

Study Pack 01

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A Sequence of Biblical Events

Creation	Babylon Deports Jews of Judah.
Man Sins	Babylon Falls to Persia.
Cain and Abel	Cyrus Orders Jewish Temple Rebuilt.
Civilization begins	The Jews Return to Jerusalem.
The Flood	Persia Falls to Alexander the Great.
Tower of Babel	Hellenization of Israel Begins.
Times of the Patriarchs	Alexander Dies; Kingdom Divides.
Jacob Goes to Egypt.	Ptolemy (Egypt) Controls Israel.
The Exodus	Antiochus (Syria) Controls Israel.
Law of Moses Delivered.	Antiochus Epiphanes Desecrates Temple.
Israel Refuses to Enter Promised Land.	Maccabean Revolt
Wilderness Wanderings	Israel is Autonomous Under the Maccabees.
Conquest of Canaan	Rome Gains Control of Israel.
Settlement of Canaan	Reign of Herod the Great
Time of the Judges	Israel is Semi-Autonomous Under Herod.
Events of Ruth	Jesus Christ is Born.
Israel Becomes a monarchy.	Herod the Great Dies.
Times of the Prophets	The Events of the Life of Christ
North/South Kingdoms Split.	The Events of Acts
Golden Calves Raised in N. Kingdom.	Saul Saved.
Fall of N. Kingdom (Israel)	Paul's Ministry
Assyria Deports Jews of Israel.	Further Church History
Fall of S. Kingdom (Judah)	

STUDY PACK 01

The What, Why, and How of Manners & Customs

1. The study of customs and manners can be defined as studying the ways of life of a group of people (a people-group) at some specific place and time.
2. A ‘custom’ is ‘an established practice that is frequently used by _____’.
3. A ‘manner’ is ‘how you conduct _____ in relation to the duties of life’.
4. Together, customs and manners make up the ways of life of a people-group.
5. What is an acceptable societal practice (customs) and what is an acceptable personal conduct (manners) can be different from one _____ to the next and from one _____ to the next.
6. Abraham would not have kept the fine points of the Law because the Law had not been given. There was no Tabernacle or Temple.
7. King Solomon would not have operated as Judge Gideon would have.
8. As you study the Scriptures, try to keep the timeline of events in view and think about _____ would apply _____.
9. In order to understand a people-group, you need to understand their customs and manners—their ways of life.
10. There can and will be _____ if you do not understand the way a society and an individual operates within a certain time and place.
11. The Scriptures are a record of God’s interactions with real people at a specific location and a specific time in history. Those people had customs and manners unique to their time and place in history.
12. By developing our understanding of their social and personal ways of life, we can _____
_____ the societal and personal context of the Scriptures.

Developing a deeper understanding of Biblical Customs and Manners allows us to move from simply reading the Bible to actively understanding and enjoying the depths and relevance of the Bible.

Isaiah 42:1–3 –

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; Mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him:

He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. ² He shall not cry, nor lift up, Nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. ³ A bruised reed shall he not break, And the smoking flax shall he not quench: He shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

13. In Isaiah's day, light was provided by oil lamps. A wick, made of _____, would be placed in the bowl and lit.
14. When the oil was gone, the _____ itself would start to burn.
15. The lamp owner then faced a choice: he could crush the flax to extinguish the fire and _____ the whole wick, or he could cut off the burning section, replenish the oil, and _____ the wick _____.
16. What is Isaiah saying? That the Messiah won't give up on anyone, no matter how far gone they are or how ready anyone else is to give up on the person.
17. Usually, when the English Bible refers to a 'candle', it's not referring to a wax candle. It's referring to that olive _____; the flax wick serves the same function as a candle.
18. The higher it is, the more light it can provide. In the early days of Israel's history, this meant hanging the lamp from the ceiling or placing it on a shelf/outcropping in your house.
19. A candlestick is just what it sounds like: a long, narrow stick with a flat base on each end. You'd set the candlestick up somewhere in the room and then the candle/lamp would be placed on top of the stand.
20. If a family was too poor to buy a candlestick, then they would take a bushel, turn it _____ - _____, and then place the lamp on top of this makeshift table.

Matthew 5:14–16

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

21. Jesus wasn't being random when He talked about putting a light under a bushel. He was referring to the _____ of His day.
22. You can read these verses and readily understand them. But a little context adds depth to the illustration and helps you remember them.
23. This teaching becomes even deeper when you realize how important _____ was to the ancient culture.

24. Most people would not sleep in _____, but they would literally sleep with the lamps burning.
25. Lighting an oil lamp in the dark would be difficult. You couldn't see the wick and didn't have a readily available means of making fire.
26. If you didn't have a lamp, then you were truly, truly destitute. To wish that someone's lamp be put out or that they would dwell in darkness was to pronounce a terrible _____ upon that individual.

Job 18:5–6 (Bildad is speaking)

⁵ Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, And the spark of his fire shall not shine. ⁶ The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, And his candle shall be put out with him.

27. We'll be working to build our understanding of Bible customs and manners so that we better _____ the context of the Scriptures.
28. When you better understand the Scriptures, then you can better explain the Scriptures to others.
29. You cannot take knowledge out of your own head and _____ it into the mind of someone else. That's not the way that teaching works. What you can do is build _____ within others.
30. This means that you provide facts (information) to others and then show them how those facts _____.
31. Your job is to help others ' _____ the _____ '.
32. There are some things that were acceptable back in that day and age are _____ in ours.
33. Let's not get sidetracked into bickering about the morality of the ancient ways, but rather learn them. Let us develop our understanding of the context of the Bible; then use that context to further develop our _____ of the Scriptures.

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