

THE UMI ANNUAL COMMENTARY 2010-2011

# PRECEPTS FOR LIVING®

BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL UNIFORM LESSONS

"And if the root be holy,  
so are the branches"

(From Romans 11:16).

VINCENT BACOTE, PH.D., EDITOR  
KING JAMES VERSION/NEW LIVING TRANSLATION PARALLEL

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contributors.....	iii
Letter from the Editor.....	iv
<i>Uncovering the Benefits of Precepts</i> .....	v
<i>Creative Teaching</i> .....	vi
2010–2014 Scope and Sequence—Cycle Spread.....	x
<i>Come Let Us “Kiss the King”</i> .....	xi

## Fall Quarter 2010

### THE INESCAPABLE GOD

September 2010 Quarter At-A-Glance.....	1
Engaging the Theme: <i>The Inescapable God</i> .....	3
Christian Education in Action: <i>Religious Education: The Contributions of African American Women</i> .....	6
Perspective: <i>God’s Power Is Awesome</i> (a poem).....	9
Black History: <i>Cornel West, Ph.D.</i> .....	11

### LESSONS

#### Unit 1: God Reveals

#### SEPTEMBER

5 God’s Revelation to Moses Exodus 3:1–6, 13–15.....	13
12 God’s Law as a Covenantal Agreement Exodus 20:1–11.....	24
19 God versus “gods” Exodus 32:1–10.....	35
26 God Promises an Awesome Thing Exodus 34:1, 4–10.....	46

#### Unit 2: God Sustains

#### OCTOBER

3 God’s Majesty and Human Dignity Psalm 8.....	57
10 God’s Law Sustains Psalm 19:7–14.....	68
17 God Provides Refuge Psalm 46:1–7.....	79
24 God’s Rule Over the Nations Psalm 47.....	89
31 God’s Presence Comforts and Assures Psalm 63.....	98

#### Unit 3: God Protects

#### NOVEMBER

7 God Is Awesome Psalm 66:1–12.....	107
14 God Is Forever Psalm 90:1–12.....	118
21 God Delivers and Protects Psalm 91:1–6, 9–16.....	127

28 God Is All-Knowing Psalm 139:1–6, 13–16, 23–24.....	136
Sources.....	145

## Winter Quarter 2010–2011

### ASSURING HOPE

December 2010 Quarter At-A-Glance.....	148
Engaging the Theme: <i>Hope: The Assurance of Hope (A Closer Look Within Matthew’s and Mark’s Gospels)</i> .....	150
Christian Education in Action: <i>Looking for Hope in All the Right Places</i> .....	152
Perspective: <i>Assuring Hope</i> .....	155
Black History: <i>Stephen Biko</i> .....	157

### LESSONS

#### Unit 1: Comfort for God’s People

#### DECEMBER

5 The Highway for God Isaiah 40:1–5, 25–26, 29–31.....	159
12 I Am Your God Isaiah 41:8–10, 17–20.....	169
19 The Mission of the Servant Isaiah 9:7; 11:1–8.....	178
26 I Will Be with You Isaiah 43:1–7, 11–12.....	188

#### Unit 2: A Future for God’s People

#### JANUARY

2 I Am Your Redeemer Isaiah 44:21–26.....	197
9 Turn to Me and Be Saved Isaiah 45:18–24a.....	206
16 Reassurance for God’s People Isaiah 48:14–19, 21–22.....	216
23 The Servant’s Mission in the World Isaiah 49:1–6.....	226
30 Healed by His Bruises Isaiah 53:4–6, 10–12.....	236

#### Unit 3: Jesus, the Promised Servant-Leader

#### FEBRUARY

6 Jesus Is the Messiah Mark 8:27–9:1.....	247
13 This Is My Beloved Mark 9:2–13.....	259
20 Jesus Came to Serve Mark 10:35–45.....	269
27 Coming of the Son of Man Mark 13:14–27.....	279
Sources.....	287

**Spring Quarter 2011**

**Summer Quarter 2011**

**WE WORSHIP GOD**

March 2011 Quarter At-A-Glance ..... 291  
 Engaging the Theme: *Come, Let Us Worship and Adore Him!*..... 293  
 Christian Education in Action: *Why Do We Attend Church?*..... 294  
 Perspective: *We Worship You, O Lord!*..... 297  
 Black History: *Richard Smallwood*..... 300

**LESSONS**

**Unit 1: A Guide for Worship Leaders**

**MARCH**

6 Instructions About Worship  
 1 Timothy 2:1–6; 3:14–16..... 302  
 13 Qualifications of Worship Leaders  
 1 Timothy 3:1–13 ..... 312  
 20 Prepare for Leadership  
 1 Timothy 4:6–16 ..... 323  
 27 Worship Inspires Service  
 1 Timothy 5:1–8, 17–22 ..... 333

**Unit 2: Ancient Words of Praise**

**APRIL**

3 Remembering Jesus Christ  
 2 Timothy 2:8–15 ..... 344  
 10 Praise Builds Us Up  
 Jude 17–25 ..... 354  
 17 Hosanna!  
 Mark 11:1–11 ..... 363  
 24 Christ Is Risen!  
 Matthew 28:1–17 ..... 372

**Unit 3: John’s Vision of Worship**

**MAY**

1 The Christ Hymn  
 Philippians 2:1–11 ..... 383  
 8 Heavenly Worship  
 Revelation 4:1–2, 6b–11 ..... 395  
 15 Thankful Worship  
 Revelation 7:9–17 ..... 406  
 22 All Things New  
 Revelation 21:1–8 ..... 417  
 29 Tree of Life  
 Revelation 22:1–9 ..... 427  
 Sources..... 436

**GOD INSTRUCTS THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

June 2011 Quarter At-A-Glance ..... 440  
 Engaging the Theme: *Foundations of Jewish Belief*..... 442  
 Christian Education in Action: *TLC: Therapeutic Lifestyle for Christians*..... 445  
 Perspective: *Redemption*..... 448  
 Black History: *Mary Burnett Talbert*..... 451

**LESSONS**

**Unit 1: God’s People Learn from Prosperity**

**JUNE**

5 God’s Promises Fulfilled  
 Joshua 1:1b–6; 11:16–19, 21–23 ..... 453  
 12 God Has Expectations  
 Joshua 1:7–16 ..... 464  
 19 God Protects  
 Joshua 2:3–9, 15–16, 22–24..... 474  
 26 God Is Victorious  
 Joshua 6:2–3, 4b, 12–20b ..... 485

**Unit 2: Listening for God in Changing Times**

**JULY**

3 God Reacts to Disobedience  
 Joshua 7:1, 10–12, 22–26 ..... 495  
 10 Listen to God’s Judges  
 Judges 2:11–19..... 504  
 17 Use God’s Strength  
 Judges 3:15–25, 29–30..... 515  
 24 Let God Rule  
 Judges 7:2–4, 13–15; 8:22–25..... 524  
 31 Return to Obedience  
 Judges 10:10–18..... 535

**Unit 3: A Case Study in Community**

**AUGUST**

7 Walk in God’s Path  
 Judges 13:1–8, 24–25..... 543  
 14 Choosing a Community  
 Ruth 1:8–18 ..... 552  
 21 Empowering the Needy  
 Ruth 2:8–18 ..... 563  
 28 Respecting Community Standards  
 Ruth 4:1–10 ..... 573  
 Sources..... 582

Glossary..... 586

## UNIT 2 • GOD SUSTAINS

Each of the five lessons in this unit focuses on psalms that sing of God's majesty, sovereignty, and steadfast love.

### Lesson 5: October 3, 2010

#### God's Majesty and Human Dignity

##### Psalm 8

God is sovereign and sustains humankind and creation. He has given us dominion (stewardship) over the works of His hand.

### Lesson 6: October 10, 2010

#### God's Law Sustains

##### Psalm 19:7–14

The psalmist praises God and His Law. When we pay attention to God's Laws, they alert us to danger, and when we obey them, they provide us with rewards.

### Lesson 7: October 17, 2010

#### God Provides Refuge

##### Psalm 46:1–7

The psalmist declares that God is ever-present in times of trouble, providing strength, refuge, and peace.

### Lesson 8: October 24, 2010

#### God's Rule Over the Nations

##### Psalm 47

God is the Sovereign King; all are invited to praise Him and acknowledge His kingship.

### Lesson 9: October 31, 2010

#### God's Presence Comforts and Assures

##### Psalm 63

The psalmist, David, expresses dependence on God and a deep yearning for God's presence.

## UNIT 3 • GOD PROTECTS

These four lessons focus on psalms that extol the attributes of God, who is good, everlasting, secure, and omnipresent.

### Lesson 10: November 7, 2010

#### God Is Awesome

##### Psalm 66:1–12

The psalmist offers a hymn of praise to God and notes God's great deed of turning the sea into dry land as a reminder that God is dependable to help us when we are in need.

### Lesson 11: November 14, 2010

#### God Is Forever

##### Psalm 90:1–12

The psalmist acknowledges God's greatness and human frailty, recognizing the need for wisdom in light of life's brevity and God's wrath.

### Lesson 12: November 21, 2010

#### God Delivers and Protects

##### Psalm 91:1–6, 9–16

God is a shelter and a refuge in the midst of our fears. We are to love and trust Him and place our faith in His ability to protect us.

### Lesson 13: November 28, 2010

#### God Is All-Knowing

##### Psalm 139:1–6, 13–16, 23–24

The psalmist, David, praises the all-knowing, all-seeing, ever-present God, who knows everything about him and us, including the number of hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). David recognizes and appreciates that even though God knows everything about us—including our failures—He still accepts and loves us. He is our Creator, who is worthy to be praised.

# Quarter At-A-Glance

## December 2010

# Assuring Hope

The study this quarter focuses on the promises of hope found in the words of the prophet Isaiah and the hope found in Christ, the Suffering Servant. The first two units look at texts from Isaiah to study the prophet's message as told to Israel. We look at Isaiah's message of comfort and hope in the context of Israel's destruction and subsequent captivity in Babylon. The final unit looks at the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy as it unfolds through Christ. The texts for Unit III come from Mark's gospel.

### UNIT 1 • COMFORT FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

"Comfort for God's People" draws on selected texts from Isaiah 40–44 with the exception of the Christmas week lesson. The Christmas lesson focuses on Isaiah's words concerning Jesus' birth (Isaiah 9:1–7 and 11:1–9).

#### Lesson 1: December 5, 2010

##### The Highway for God

Isaiah 40:1–5, 25–26, 29–31

God commands Isaiah to speak words of comfort to the people of Jerusalem. He tells them that obstacles will be removed to give them hope. Isaiah encourages Israel to wait on the Lord and to be patient; God will strengthen them and fulfill His promises.

#### Lesson 2: December 12, 2010

##### I Am Your God

Isaiah 41:8–10, 17–20

God chose Israel so they would serve Him. He established His presence with them and desired to have a relationship to help them prosper, achieve victory, and know that He is God.

#### Lesson 3: December 19, 2010

##### The Mission of the Servant

Isaiah 9:7; 11:1–8

God promised to raise a ruler from the lineage of David and that this kingdom would never end. Jesus, the Messiah, is the fulfillment of this promise.

#### Lesson 4: December 26, 2010

##### I Will Be with You

Isaiah 43:1–7, 11–12

God professes His love for Israel and His commitment to them. He called, redeemed, protected, and saved them.

### UNIT 2 • A FUTURE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

These five lessons present a study of selected texts from Isaiah 45–53. They proclaim God's message of the coming salvation for Israel.

**Lesson 5: January 2, 2011**

**I Am Your Redeemer**

**Isaiah 44:21–26**

God created Israel and promised not to forsake His chosen people. He freed them and forgave them of their sins.

**Lesson 6: January 9, 2011**

**Turn to Me and Be Saved**

**Isaiah 45:18–24a**

God is distinguished from all other gods. He is the Creator, Savior, and Truth-speaker. He keeps His promises, and people proclaim that He is the source of all righteousness and strength.

**Lesson 7: January 16, 2011**

**Reassurance for God's People**

**Isaiah 48:14–19, 21–22**

God is a teacher and a guide. Peace and righteousness are promised to those who obey His words.

**Lesson 8: January 23, 2011**

**The Servant's Mission in the World**

**Isaiah 49:1–6**

God chose His Servant to redeem His people. The Lord honored the Servant and strengthened Him. God also said that the future Redeemer will do more than restore Israel; He will enlighten Gentiles and bring the salvation of God to the whole earth.

**Lesson 9: January 30, 2011**

**Healed by His Bruises**

**Isaiah 53:4–6, 10–12**

The Servant (Jesus Christ) will sacrifice Himself for the sake of Israel. His suffering will be exchanged for their salvation.

**UNIT 3 • JESUS, THE PROMISED  
SERVANT-LEADER**

These four lessons openly explain Jesus' teaching on the nature of messiahship.

**Lesson 10: February 6, 2011**

**Jesus Is the Messiah**

**Mark 8:27–9:1**

Jesus asks His disciples about what His reputation was publicly and who He was to them personally. After, He foretells of His death. Peter tries to correct Jesus, but Jesus rebukes Satan. Jesus then tells of the requirements expected of those who will follow Him.

**Lesson 11: February 13, 2011**

**This Is My Beloved**

**Mark 9:2–13**

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to the top of a mountain and is transfigured (changed to another form) before them. Moses and Elijah appear, and God's voice from heaven proclaims Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus warns the disciples not to tell others about their experience until His resurrection, but they are confused.

**Lesson 12: February 20, 2011**

**Jesus Came to Serve**

**Mark 10:35–45**

The Sons of Zebedee wanted seats of honor in the new kingdom (where Christ would reign forever and ever), but Jesus pointed out their ignorance. He teaches His disciples that service is the requirement for greatness.

**Lesson 13: February 27, 2011**

**Coming of the Son of Man**

**Mark 13:14–27**

On the Mount of Olives, Jesus tells His disciples the future. He warns them of how terrible the end will be and how He will return with great power.

# Quarter At-A-Glance

## March 2011

# We Worship God

This quarter's study offers a New Testament survey of worship in the early church. Hymns, prayers, apocalyptic visions, and letters of instruction reveal the spiritual culture and practice of the first Christians and provide contemporary believers with a biblical model of worship.

### UNIT 1 • A GUIDE FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

The four lessons in this unit are largely a consideration of the instructions given to Timothy regarding spiritual leadership in the church. (1 Timothy 3:16).

#### **Lesson 1: March 6, 2011** **Instructions About Worship** **1 Timothy 2:1–6; 3:14–16**

The first concern in this passage is for a quiet and peaceable life with dignity. The verses include everyone, even kings and officials.

#### **Lesson 2: March 13, 2011** **Qualifications of Worship Leaders** **1 Timothy 3:1–13**

In this passage, Paul gives a designation of the offices of bishop and deacon, as well as a list of qualifications that show the high degree of development and maturation of the early church.

#### **Lesson 3: March 20, 2011** **Prepare for Leadership**

##### **1 Timothy 4:6–16**

Paul makes clear the need for Timothy to set an example of correct Christian living.

#### **Lesson 4: March 27, 2011** **Worship Inspires Service**

##### **1 Timothy 5:1–8, 17–22**

Paul explains the relationship between and among the generations in the church family. His admonition for care of widows by their families echoes Exodus 20:12 (the fifth commandment). He affirms the elders and speaks of the double honor that may come from respect for their age and their effectiveness as leaders. Paul indicates that the elders and widows should live lives that are pure and godly.

### UNIT 2 • ANCIENT WORDS OF PRAISE

This unit takes the learners through the final weeks of Lent and into the Easter season. Each week's lesson is selected from a different book of the New Testament, but all share the common theme of praising Jesus Christ.

#### **Lesson 5: April 3, 2011** **Remembering Jesus Christ** **2 Timothy 2:8–15**

At times under Roman rule, Christians were viewed as criminals. Therefore, in this passage, Paul reminds Timothy of Jesus' resurrection and Davidic descent in order to give him courage to endure in difficult times.

**Lesson 6: April 10, 2011**

**Praise Builds Us Up**

**Jude 17–25**

This lesson gives assurance for living out our faith daily in Jesus Christ and discloses how praise builds up the Body of Christ.

**Lesson 7: April 17, 2011**

**Hosanna!**

**Mark 11:1–11**

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration marked the beginning of His final days. In Jewish tradition, the Mount of Olives (v. 1) was associated with the coming of the Messiah. Jesus' riding on a colt fulfills the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. People placed garments and leafy branches on the ground (v. 8) much as they did during royal processions (2 Kings 9:13).

**Lesson 8: April 24, 2011**

**Christ Is Risen!**

**Matthew 28:1–17**

When the women went "to see" (v. 1) the tomb (Mark 16), they came to bring spices to anoint the body of Jesus. An angel told them that Jesus was alive.

**Lesson 9: May 1, 2011**

**The Christ Hymn**

**Philippians 2:1–11**

Philippi was a Roman colony. The proclamation by Philippian believers of Jesus as Lord would be viewed as a political challenge. Paul envisioned a community of believers who adopted Jesus as the model for personal relationships, and he presented Christ as a perfect example to emulate.

**UNIT 3 • JOHN'S VISION OF  
WORSHIP**

These four passages from Revelation contain some of the New Testament's most doxological (or praise) texts. They

are wonderful texts of worship and praise that inspire hope in God's new heaven and new earth.

**Lesson 10: May 8, 2011**

**Heavenly Worship**

**Revelation 4:1–2, 6b–11**

In this passage, the vision of the throne, the One seated on it, and the living creatures who sing "Holy, holy, holy" recalls the vision God gave to Isaiah (Isaiah 6) and Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:10).

**Lesson 11: May 15, 2011**

**Thankful Worship**

**Revelation 7:9–17**

John's vision included an unlimited international group gathered before the throne. Those in white robes generally symbolize the baptized, who are clothed in righteousness. The people in white robes carry palm branches, which are symbols of victory and thanksgiving.

**Lesson 12: May 22, 2011**

**All Things New**

**Revelation 21:1–8**

Dwelling in perfect peace and union with God is the reward of those who persevere in struggle and retain their faith against the odds. The ultimate fulfillment of God's promise in Christ is depicted in this vision of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

**Lesson 13: May 29, 2011**

**Tree of Life**

**Revelation 22:1–9**

The water of life and the tree of life are highly important in signifying the sacredness of existence. Through it all, God is the focal point of this worshipful setting.

# Quarter At-A-Glance

## June 2011

# God Instructs the People of God

The study focuses on our relationship with God as a community of faith. The Old Testament books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth form the backdrop for a study of what it means to live out the love of God in community.

## UNIT 1 • GOD'S PEOPLE LEARN FROM PROSPERITY

These lessons examine Israel's early life as they prepare to enter the Promised Land. Selected texts from the book of Joshua highlight God's blessing in response to obedience and God's anger in response to disobedience.

### Lesson 1: June 5, 2011

#### God's Promises Fulfilled

Joshua 1:1b-6; 11:16-19, 21-23

Following the death of Moses, Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land under Joshua's command.

### Lesson 2: June 12, 2011

#### God Has Expectations

Joshua 1:7-16

As Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, we learn that three tribes were suppose to fight alongside the others. However, after they helped their brothers subdue the land and defeat the inhabitants, they could return to live on the land east of the Jordan.

### Lesson 3: June 19, 2011

#### God Protects

Joshua 2:3-9, 15-16, 22-24

The conquest of the Promised Land involved complete trust in carrying out God's plans. The news of God's victories preceded the arrival of the Israelite spies into Jericho. Rahab deceived the King of Jericho by covering for the Israelite spies.

### Lesson 4: June 26, 2011

#### God Is Victorious

Joshua 6:2-3, 4b, 12-20b

At God's command, Joshua and the children of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days. On the final day as Israel conquered the city, God miraculously caused the walls to collapse.

## UNIT 2 • LISTENING FOR GOD IN CHANGING TIMES

These five lessons study the book of Judges and give a glimpse of Israel's life after they enter the Promised Land. They examine the repeated cycle of disobedience, oppression, repentance, and renewed faithfulness.

### Lesson 5: July 3, 2011

#### God Reacts to Disobedience

Joshua 7:1, 10-12, 22-26

Sanctification is an important biblical concept. God sometimes gives very specific instructions in the Bible regarding how to accomplish a given task. When Achan disobeyed God's command and kept the "devoted things," which were the unclean things that were supposed

to be destroyed, his sin caused Israel to fail in battle.

**Lesson 6: July 10, 2011**  
**Listen to God's Judges**  
**Judges 2:11–19**

This passage is an introduction to the book of Judges, which explains Israel's recurring cycles of national apostasy.

**Lesson 7: July 17, 2011**  
**Use God's Strength**  
**Judges 3:15–25, 29–30**

Eglon, the King of Moab, oppressed Israel for 18 years with a burdensome tax of money or produce. God raised up Ehud, of the tribe of Benjamin, as the judge or military leader.

**Lesson 8: July 24, 2011**  
**Let God Rule**  
**Judges 7:2–4, 13–15; 8:22–25**

The children of Israel were being oppressed by the Midianites, a nomadic tribe traditionally related to Israel (Genesis 25:1–6). Gideon became the judge of Israel and was instructed to limit the size of his army.

**Lesson 9: July 31, 2011**  
**Return to Obedience**  
**Judges 10:10–18**

Despite God's repeated deliverance, Israel fell again into idolatry. They responded to oppression by confessing their sin against God.

**UNIT 3 • A CASE STUDY IN  
COMMUNITY**

These four lessons all relate to the story of Ruth and her eventual marriage to Boaz. This marriage continues the Davidic line. This is the line through which Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will come.

**Lesson 10: August 7, 2011**  
**Walk in God's Path**  
**Judges 13:1–8, 24–25**

After an angel informs Manoah's wife that she will give birth, Manoah prays for knowledge regarding how to raise their child. When Samson was born, the Spirit of the Lord became evident in his young life.

**Lesson 11: August 14, 2011**  
**Choosing a Community**  
**Ruth 1:8–18**

Confronted with famine and the death of her husband and two sons, Naomi felt that she had nothing to share with her daughters-in-law except adversity. Naomi realized that for Ruth, Orpah, and herself, becoming widows meant the loss of security and identity. She implored her daughters-in-law to return to their families in Moab while she returns to Judah. Ruth refused to go home, but made a passionate plea to remain with Naomi, her people, and her God.

**Lesson 12: August 21, 2011**  
**Empowering the Needy**  
**Ruth 2:8–18**

In the time of the judges, widows were vulnerable and subject to being ignored, taken advantage of, and often forced into poverty. Boaz followed God's Law by allowing Ruth to glean in His field (Leviticus 19:9–10 and Deuteronomy 24:19–22).

**Lesson 13: August 28, 2011**  
**Respecting Community Standards**  
**Ruth 4:1–10**

Boaz sought to redeem the land of Naomi's husband and son and to secure the hand of Ruth in marriage. Naomi's family line continued through her grandson Obed to King David (Ruth 4:22).