

**KNOWING  
GOD**

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The Beginning & The End

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**D O N G E R R I T Y**

# KNOWING GOD

## The Beginning & The End

By Don E. Gerrity

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*Know God. Know Love.*

*Know Truth.*

Many Scriptural interpretations rely greatly on the readers knowledge of who God is and what God's character actually is. The Bible tells us the very character of God and that it is never going to change. God's character and His ways are eternal and perfect. My hope is that through this book you come to a deeper understanding about God and who He is, Jesus Christ and who He is, and how God has wanted to redeem you from your sins from the very foundation of the World.

Once you know that the God of the Bible gives us proof that He is the real one and only God of the universe it will give you a confidence in every word of the Bible as the absolute truth. And once you learn the attributes of God through the Bible it will show you just how deep the unconditional love of God actually is toward humankind.

*"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."*

*( 1 John 4:7-8 KJV)*

## *Acknowledgements*

I dedicate this book to my family, friends and associates who either know the Lord, or need to know the Lord from the truth of the Bible. Many church organizations and denominations today are not teaching the true Gospel from the Bible but instead are teaching condemnation to believers and that good works and rituals are required for God to accept us as a son or daughter in Salvation. The Apostle Paul fought this very thing in his day. In these Last Days, just as the Bible foretold would happen before Christ returns, we are in a fight for the true Gospel message of Salvation *that does not require works, nor rituals*. This book is a great start to knowing the true God as found in the Bible and the one way to Heaven; Jesus Christ. As you study the Word of God more, your knowledge of God only deepens.

*“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself “ (Ephesians 1:9 KJV)*

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# Chapter 1

## Does God Exist? Is The Bible His Word?

*“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man...”*

*(Romans 1:20 KJV)*

Can we prove with evidence that God does exist? Notice that in this verse of Scripture it states that we can *see evidence* of God in creation. With all the extreme complexities in the universe there is still a harmony that can only be explained by believing that a designer created them.

If we look at nature we can know that God does exist. Just because we cannot physically see God does not in any way mean that He does not exist. Look at such laws of nature as gravity, or even the wind. We can see, and feel, *the effects* of them even though we do not know where they originate from. Can you see the wind, or just the *effects* of the wind? We see trees and grass moving *because of* the wind but we do not actually *see the wind* do we? So if you cannot see the wind, do you think the wind does not exist? Or do you *believe and have faith* that the wind does exist because you see and feel the effects of the wind? Though we cannot physically see the wind, or gravity even, we know that they exist. In the same way, although we may not physically see God as a being, we can know that He exists by the effect He has in the physical world.

## HOW CAN GOD MAKE HIS EXISTENCE KNOWN TO US PERSONALLY?

Suppose that God did create these physical laws of nature. If God created them how much harder would it be to show who He is to each of us on *a personal level*? God would have to be infinite if He created every living being (after all, God started everything out of nothing. God even created time itself). It would be extremely difficult for us to understand God, let alone relate to Him. We can see that He exists through what he created but He seems impersonal and *'far off'* because we do not know how to relate to Him. What if God talked to you audibly? How would you know for certain that it was God and not some advanced technology? What if He came as a man with extraordinary powers that were used for miracles in order to relate to us? Who would believe that He was God? (We must ask this even of Christ Himself if we are to serve Him. We must know for sure that He is the true Son of God otherwise we would be serving under a false pretense.)

Just imagine if modern day man built a time machine and went back in time 4000 years. What would the people of that time think about one of us dressed in a pure white and silver space suit having the ability to fly (with the use of a jet pack)? They could very well have thought that we were gods. If this is true, could not a man having a more advanced technology appear to perform miracles to us? This is an important question to think about.

Another very important question to ask is, if God does exist which, if any, of the world's religions and sacred books were inspired from the true God of the universe? Which were man made theories? How can our mortal minds know God and which world religion is the one that truly serves him? The fact is, by ourselves we cannot. If God exists, God Himself would have to find a way to relate to us

personally. He would have to do this in such a manner that it would leave no doubt in our minds that it is God trying to relate to us. So how is God doing this?

## DISCERNING THE TRUTH OF WORLD SACRED WRITINGS

For many this is a tough question to answer but we must ask this of every religion; '*How do I know that it is the truth **from the real God?*** Many religions claim that their sacred writings are from the real true God. It is the answer to this question that sets Biblical Christianity apart from all other religions. *Bible Prophecy FULFILLED* is what sets the Bible apart from all other sacred writings. And not just some Bible Prophecies fulfilled with a large average percentage but instead with 100% accuracy.

### I. THE BIBLE IS COMPRISED OF PROPHECIES FULFILLED WITH GREAT ACCURACY.

In fact, one out of every three Scripture verses in the Bible is related to Bible Prophecy and Bible Prophecy fulfilled. Many other sacred writings contain prophecies but only the Bible has such an accurate record of Prophecy fulfilled, and with great detail. It seems that God wants us to take this into account when deciding on what sacred writings are inspired from Him. This is the one proof that I found which was a large deciding factor in determining that the Bible is the inspired word from God Himself. It is the most significant proof that the Bible is the word of God and it is also the simplest. It is the easiest for us to understand and helps us know that what the Bible says is true. It is the **fulfillment** of Bible Prophecy. Many sacred writings contain prophecy but **prophecy fulfilled** in great detail and accuracy is missing from all other sacred writings except the Bible.

In Isaiah, it reads,

*“Remember the former things of old: **for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”***

*(Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV)*

*“I have even **from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee:** lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them. ”*

*(Isaiah 48:5 KJV)*

The God of the Bible tells us clearly that not only is He the true God, but that He has **proof** that no other can claim! He says this to us so that we will know that He is the true God. God does not want us following after false gods in idol worship. God reaches out toward us and reveals Himself as the true God with absolute proof and that proof is prophecy fulfilled. Can any other sacred writings actually prove so? Of course, this all is contingent on the statement being correct and that the said proof exists in the Bible. And it does very much exist. All prophecies, except those to still be fulfilled, have a 100% accuracy rate thus far.

God wants us to know about Bible prophecy fulfilled and also Bible prophecy for the times in which we live. Many Bible believing Christians do not realize the importance of Bible Prophecy but the fact that it comprises one third of the Bible should send a strong signal to all of us. It is both a proof that the Bible is the inspired word of the one true God and also a light shining on the times in which we live.

How can we know that the prophecies of the future from the Bible are true and will occur? If we look at the prophecies from the past that have already been fulfilled we can see just how accurate God's prophecies are. If we look at the Old

Testament it is clear that the Jewish people (God's Chosen People) looked toward the Messiah's first coming and his death on the cross. This is because of the prophecies about the Messiah's first coming found in the Old Testament. We now look back at Christ's first coming and death on the cross because of the precision with which the Old Testament prophecies were actually fulfilled.

## **Prophecies Fulfilled: The First Coming Of The Messiah**

The list of the Old Testament (the Torah) prophecies fulfilled regarding the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ is an overwhelming proof that the Bible is the true word of the true God. Here are just some of the amazing prophecies fulfilled in Jesus' life and death:

***He would be born of a virgin.***

*Old Testament: Isaiah 7:14,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 1:18-23*

***He would come from the tribe of Judah, one of the 12 tribes descended from Jacob.***

*Old Testament: Genesis 49:10,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Luke 3:23-24*

***He would be born in Bethlehem.***

*Old Testament: Micah 5:2,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 2:1*

***He would be preceded by a messenger.***

*Old Testament: Isaiah 40:3,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 3:1-2*

***He would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt.***

*Old Testament: Zechariah 9:9,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Luke 19:35-37*

***He would be betrayed by a friend.***

*Old Testament: Psalm 41:9,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 26:47-50*

***He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver.***

*Old Testament: Zechariah 11:12,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 26:15*

***He would be beaten and spit upon.***

*Old Testament: Isaiah 50:6,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 26:67*

***He would be wounded and whipped by his enemies.***

*Old Testament: Isaiah 53:5,*

*New testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:26*

***His hands and feet would be pierced.***

*Old Testament: Psalm 22:16,*

*New testament fulfillment: Luke 23:33*

***He would be crucified with thieves.***

*Old Testament: Isaiah 53:12,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:38*

***Men would cast lots for his clothing.***

*Old Testament: Psalm 34:20,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:35*

***He would not answer, or speak, to His accusers.***

*Old Testament: Isaiah 53:7,*

*New Testament fulfillment: Matthew 27:12-14*

***He would live again after dying.***

*Old Testament: Job 19:25,*

*New Testament fulfillment: John 2:19, Matthew 12:39, 16:3*

Mind you, this is only just a very small sample! In fact, there are 250+ Prophecies that Christ fulfilled from Old Testament Prophecies. That this is true is NOT BY CHANCE!

Consider that in statistical probability,

- 1 person fulfilling 8 prophecies is **1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000**
- 1 person fulfilling 48 prophecies: **1 chance in 10 to the 157th power**

Now, consider the statistical probably of Jesus having fulfilled all these listed Old Testament prophecies above about the Messiah that would come. The statistical odds are astronomical and too great to dismiss the truth of God's prophecies concerning the first coming of Christ. Some skeptics say that Christ simply read the Old Testament prophecies and then did what they said. But how could anyone predict where He would be born and under what circumstance He was born? How could anyone predict that exactly two thieves would be crucified with Him, or that men would cast lots for his clothing? And why would any man actually want to die such a horrible excruciating death on a cross?

## **Bible Prophecy Fulfilled: Rebuilding of the First Temple Prophecy Fulfilled**

During the First Temple Period of Jerusalem there was a Prophet named Isaiah. Isaiah prophesied doom for a sinful Judah and for all the nations of the

world that oppose God. He warned Israel to turn back to God as there had been a falling away.

Isaiah states, *“That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.” (Isaiah 44:28 KJV)*

A look at the history of Jerusalem shows that the First Temple was not built by anyone by the name of Cyrus.

*“According to Hebrew scripture, King David reigned until 970 BCE. He was succeeded by his son Solomon, who built the Holy Temple on Mount Moriah. Solomon’s Temple (later known as the First Temple), went on to play a pivotal role in Jewish history as the repository of the Ark of the Covenant.”*

*(Source: Wikipedia.org,  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#Temple\\_periods](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#Temple_periods) July/2014)*

We know that at the time of Isaiah writing this the temple in Jerusalem was already in place. So this is Isaiah writing what God told him to write and is a Bible Prophecy of a future event.

*“For over 450 years, until the Babylonian conquest in 587 BCE, Jerusalem was the political capital of firstly the united Kingdom of Israel and then the Kingdom of Judah and the Temple was the religious center of the Israelites. This period is known in history as the First Temple Period. Upon Solomon’s death (c. 930 BCE), the ten northern tribes split off to form the Kingdom of Israel. Under the leadership of the House of David and Solomon, Jerusalem remained the capital of the Kingdom of Judah. The Tower of David as seen from the Hinnom Valley when the Assyrians conquered the Kingdom of Israel in 722 BCE, Jerusalem was strengthened by a great influx of refugees from the northern kingdom. The First Temple period ended around 586 BCE, as the Babylonians conquered Judah and*

*Jerusalem, and laid waste to Solomon's Temple."*

*(Source Wikipedia.org, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#Temple\\_periods](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#Temple_periods)  
July/2014)*

It is historical fact that when the Babylonian's took control of Jerusalem they laid waste to Solomon's Temple. It was destroyed. Looking a little further into the history of this line of events we can see the fulfillment of the prophecy Isaiah had given. In 538 BCE, after fifty years of Babylonian captivity, the Persian King Cyrus the Great, invited the Jews to return to Judah to rebuild the Temple. (Source Wikipedia.org, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#Temple\\_periods](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem#Temple_periods) July/2014)

We see this prophecy was fulfilled just as written over 100 years after Isaiah wrote the words given to him by God. And 150 years before Cyrus was even born! Hugh Ross from the website Reasons.org in an article titled *"Fulfilled Prophecy: Evidence for the Reliability of the Bible"*, calculated the statistical probability of chance of this being fulfilled and it equates to 1 in 10 to the power of 15. That is a chance of 1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000 for this one Bible Prophecy alone! In the same article Hugh Ross states that *"Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2,000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors."* This is God's footprint and proof to humankind that the Bible is the one true inspired writing of God.

Such specific accuracy proves without a shadow of a doubt that the Bible is the word of the true God. God uses prophecy fulfilled to let us discern the truth from the fallacy. To let us know without doubting that the Bible is the one true word of the one true God. And there are also many many other Bible Prophecies concerning the time period in which we live that are of great importance.

## **II. THE UNITY OF THE BIBLE IS CONSISTENT FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION**

To this statement some might say, of course it is, it was written by a person. However, the truth is the Bible was not written by a single person. In fact, the Bible consists of 66 books, written by approximately 40 different men (most that did not know each other) at different times periods in history, education and social backgrounds spanning thousands of years. Yet, it is consistent and unified from Genesis to Revelation and reads as one book, with each book of the Bible in complete agreement with the other books. So much so, that Scriptures relating to Prophecy can be interpreted by using other Scriptures from a completely different time period, written by a different person, to help us understand the Prophecy.

The Bible is the best selling book and most widely distributed ever created. This is no coincidence. It is the inspired word of the one true God of the Universe and all who study it and learn the truths contained in it are blessed beyond measure. Contrary to what some may tell you, it is more about our relationship to God then it is about religion. It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the entire world and the truth about everything pertaining to life, death and our relationship to God Almighty. It explains in great detail what Heaven actually is.

## **III. PROOF THREE: HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE**

The books of the Bible are not just stories told by these writers. They are also historically accurate. The Bible is comprised of historical facts. There is much evidence from archaeology that confirm the Biblical accounts as historical facts. Even the school system (where God is not valid and prayer is prohibited) recognizes Biblical accounts as historical truth! The historical accuracy of the Bible has been vindicated many times over as have no other religious writings.

Archaeology in our modern times continues to prove that what the Bible says happened, actually did happen exactly as the Bible depicts events.

#### **IV. PROOF FOUR: EYE WITNESS ACCOUNTS**

The Bible was written by people who actually witnessed the events it tells us about. And given that so many were martyred and killed, yet never changed their belief and story of the account of events, it makes us wonder why they would die for something they knew was untrue?

I mean, look at the Apostle Paul. Before his conversion to belief in Christ as the Son of God, he sought after and killed Christians. Yet, after his road to Damascus incident, from there onward he became the complete opposite. He was completely convinced of the truth because it was PROVEN to him.

Right after Jesus' Crucifixion and death, the Apostles were terrified, dismayed and thoroughly distraught and disappointed. However, after Christ appeared to them they went on preaching the good news and ultimately changed the world for Christ with passion and belief unto death! That is quite a change of direction don't you think? What made them so convinced that they were willing to give up their lives for Christ's message of Salvation to the World? It was because they witnessed Jesus live, die, resurrect and then ascend! That's why!

## Chapter 2

### Does God Love You As An Individual?

#### THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

*“ Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying,*

*What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.*

*I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” (Luke 15:1-7 KJV)*

#### THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

*“Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” (Luke 15: 8-10 KJV)*

## HOW IMPORTANT ARE YOU, AS AN INDIVIDUAL TO GOD?

How loved and precious are you to God? Even while a sinner? Just look at what God did; sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price for your sins in His blood on the cross. That is how much!! Jesus paid the ultimate price for you! All that pain and suffering is how much God loves you, *as an individual*. If you were the only person on Earth Jesus would still have come and died for you. You are that precious. That important. That LOVED!

## THE WORLD

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17 KJV)*

In John 3 when it speaks of ‘the world’ what or who is that referring to? Let’s look at this from the original Greek. The English word ‘*World*’ in the original Greek is the word ‘*kosmos*’. The definition for the word has different meanings, ‘*the world, universe; worldly affairs; the inhabitants of the world; adornment.*’

In John 3:16-17 above, the meaning is by context. One use is talking about the *kosmos- the universe*. The other two are talking about ‘*the inhabitants of the world*’. So go ahead right now and replace the word ‘*world*’ with *your name* in the following verses. I have placed ‘*YOUR NAME HERE*’ instead of instances where ‘the world’ means ‘inhabitants of the world’. It is Scriptural and sound.

*“For God so loved **YOUR NAME HERE** that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn **YOUR NAME HERE**, but that **YOUR NAME HERE** through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17 KJV)*

Christianity is not RELIGION. Jesus is all about the grace of God. Jesus does not want you to do all kinds of 'religious things' in self righteous works to be accepted and loved by God. Jesus wants to save you from all your sins and have a REAL intimate relationship with you, as an individual. **How awesome is our God !?!**

## Chapter 3

### *What Is God Really Like?*

*“ For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.” (Jer 24:6-7 KJV)*

God gives us a heart to know Him. That is simply that God wants you to know Him intimately. And when you learn about God and His ways, you will return to Him with your whole heart. Why? Because God is good! And He loves you more than any other being or person can or does.

### **GOD NEVER CHANGES. HIS WORD NEVER CHANGES**

*“For I am the Lord, I change not;...” (Malachi 3:6 KJV)*

*“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8 KJV)*

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (James 1:17 KJV)*

*“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” (Psalms 12:6-7 KJV)*

*"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. "*  
*(Mark 13:31)*

And since God and His word in the Bible never changes we are assured that we can know Him. And when we know God more intimately we can then understand why He has done what He has done in the true stories of the Bible. The lives of past men and women of God are in the Bible to teach us and let us know about God and His ways. This is the very definition of eternal life:

*"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**"* (John 17:3 KJV)

## **GOD IS PERFECTLY HOLY AND PERFECTLY JUST AND PERFECT IN MERCY**

The Bible tells us that God is a perfectly Holy being. This is the attribute that separates God from all created things. It is His perfect moral purity. God is not a man that he shall lie (Numbers 23:19). God is a truly perfect moral being. It is against God's character of Holiness that all actions and morals of people are to be judged.

Speaking of the Angels that surround God's throne we see that they *"...rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."* (Revelation 4:8) The apostle Peter puts it this way, *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."* (1 Peter 1:15-16) When Moses approached the burning bush God spoke and said to Moses, *"...Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. "* (Exodus 3:5)

God must abide by His perfect character and that means all His complete character traits perfectly. Because God is so Holy, He is also perfectly JUST in all that He does. (Deuteronomy 32:4) The Bible says that to sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4) and that sin is greatly offensive to God. When we sin, God must punish the sinner. And the punishment is eternal separation from God. That is how Holy God is! Sin just once and you must be judged against the whole law of God (10 Commandments) and the perfect Holiness of God Almighty. It is truly a scary thought indeed because according to the Bible, *"...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)*. That means EVERYONE OF US, *even the Christian*. The Apostle John said clearly when writing to believers, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* (1 John 1:8)

Since God never changes He is Righteous, Holy and perfectly just in the punishing of our sinful deeds. Of ourselves, we cannot do anything to make up for our sins. Doing good deeds will not erase the sinful deeds and we all stand judged. The truth is that positionally, we are SLAVES IN SIN, and are sinful and rebellious against God, even when we are trying to do good. The Apostle Paul puts it this way:

*"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."* (Romans 7:19-25)

Paul is saying that the good he should do, he does not do. And the evil he should not do, he finds himself doing, even though in his mind he believes in God, and the salvation brought by believing in Christ Jesus. There is a constant war within each of us between doing what is right and what is wrong – even for Christians. This is the captivity of sin, a literal spiritual prison we find ourselves in.

## GOD IS OUR FATHER

God wants us to be close to Him and have a close *intimate relationship* with Him as *our Father*. He wants us to know His ways and how much He loves us and wants to have a close personal relationship with each of us. God wants to adopt us into His family as sons and daughters. In the book of Galatians it reads,

*“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons.** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**” (Galatians 4:4-7)*

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:12)*

## GOD IS EVERLASTING, OMNISCIENT, OMNIPOTENT AND NEVER CHANGES

Unlike humans, God is eternal. God had no beginning and has no end. He is the great “I AM”. He was not created and He always has existed.

*"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..."*

*(Deuteronomy 33:27)*

*"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."*

*(Psalms 90:2)*

## **GOD IS OMNISCIENT, GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED AND EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN**

As the great "I AM" he exists outside of time because after all He created time itself. He even knows our every thought.

*"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"*

*(Isaiah 46:10 KJV)*

*And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?*

*(Matthew 9:4 KJV)*

*Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.*

*(Psalms 44:21 KJV)*

## **GOD IS OMNIPOTENT, GOD CAN DO ANYTHING**

*"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for*

*the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."  
(Revelation 19:6 KJV)*

*"For with God nothing shall be impossible. "  
(Luke 1:37 KJV)*

*"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible;  
but with God all things are possible."  
(Matthew 19:26 KJV)*

*"And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away  
this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."  
(Mark 14:36 KJV)*

## GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE

This is not to be confused with being everything as some religious movements teach. To be clear He is present everywhere.

*"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy  
presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in  
hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell  
in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and  
thy right hand shall hold me. "  
(Psalms 139:7-10 KJV)*

*"Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide  
himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill  
heaven and earth? saith the Lord. "  
(Jeremiah 23:23-24 KJV)*

*“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

*“*

*(Proverbs 15:3 KJV)*

*“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. “*

*(Joshua 1:9 KJV)*

## **GOD IS SOVEREIGN**

As the one and only true God He is supreme over everything that exists. God created everything that exists out of nothing.

*“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrews 11:3 KJV).*

With full sovereignty, God will accomplish all and everything that He purposes.

*“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” (Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV)*

## **GOD IS A TRINITY, PERFECTLY FAITHFUL AND TRUST WORTHY**

God is three persons in one. The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

*“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. “ (1 John 5:7) (Note that `the Word` is capitalized and is Jesus Christ. John 1:1-3, John 1:14 )*

God is not a man that he should lie. God is completely faithful to His nature, words and promises.

*“Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;”  
(Deuteronomy 7:9 KJV)*

## GOD IS PERFECTLY LOVING

*“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. “ (1 John 4 :7)*

*“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. “ (1 John 4:8 KJV) .*

*“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” (1 John 4:16 KJV)*

## GOD IS OUR RESCUER

This goes along in full agreement that God is love. He loves you intimately and cares for you. God is always with you and near you. He is our helper in times of trouble!

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. “*

*(Hebrews 13:5 KJV)*

*“The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. “*

*(Psalm 18:2 KJV)*

*“And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee. “*

*(Exodus 15:26 KJV)*

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. “*

*(Psalm 46:1 KJV)*

*“And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you. “*

*(Isaiah 46:4 KJV)*

The very first thing to do in times of any trouble in your life is to call out to God and acknowledge that He loves you and promises to be your deliverer in times of trouble. Agree with God and let Him know this. Thank Him for His presence in this time of great trouble and need.

*“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. “*

*(Proverbs 3:6 KJV)*

In all your ways, (the good, the bad and the ugly things that affect your life) know that God is with you! Acknowledge Him and that God exists and loves you. He will direct your life and your path. Believe this ; If God allows something in your life then He has a purpose for it even though we may not know what it is right now. And remember this promise:

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. “ (Romans 8:28 KJV)*

I can tell you there has been countless times this Scripture has helped me to acknowledge and see that God is with me in times of trouble. There are times in our lives when we feel things are going so wrong and bad that a deep despair puts us to the ground. But when you get to the very heart of why this happens it is because of FEAR. Fear of what will come next. Fear of the future. Fear of death itself! And all that stems from a fear that God does not love you. BUT HE DOES! God is our Father!

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. “ (Romans 8:15 KJV)*

*“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. “ (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV)*

*“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. “ (Deuteronomy 31:6 KJV)*

## THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The only kind of fear that is good is the fear of the Lord. And that is not a fear because He wants to hit you on the head for every wrong you have done in your life either. Just the opposite is true according to the Bible. The fear of the Lord is a respectful reverence you should have for God almighty. Respectful reverence because He loves you and He sent Jesus to die for you so that your wrongdoing and sinful ways would be punished upon Christ in order that you would not be punished for your sins.

*“And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.” (Job 28:28 KJV)*

In Psalm 25 is a good description of someone that has the fear of the Lord where it says

*“O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.” (Psalm 25:1-14 KJV)*

Asking God to teach you His ways is a key to knowing God. Knowing His ways is wisdom beyond anything else in this life and the life to come after death. It is an eternal pursuit and God wants you to know Him personally and intimately as well as His ways which never change.

## GOD IS OUR REDEEMER

Even though humankind sins against Him, God loves us to the uttermost. He loves us so much that He sent His only Son (the second part of the Trinity of God Almighty) to become a human in the flesh as Jesus The Christ to taken upon Himself the punishment for our sins. To redeem us from the prison of sin into the prison of righteousness and eternal life. A free gift from God to be received, without any effort of our own in self righteous deeds or acts.

*"He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and awesome is His name. " (Psalms 111:9 KJV)*

*"For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth." (Isaiah 54:5 KJV)*

*"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people..." (Luke 1:68 KJV)*

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 3:23-24 KJV)*

*"You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men." (1 Corinthians 7:23 KJV)*

We were bought at a very great price. Jesus received the punishment we deserved as sinners. Many stop there but there is more to it then just this awesome gift of love toward the whole human race. We were not only forgiven by this great act of love. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it reads,

*“For he hath MADE him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be MADE the righteousness of God in him. ” (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)*

An exchange was made when Jesus on the cross cried out, “It is finished!” (John 19:30) Christ redeemed us from our punishment from our sins and then we became the very Righteousness of God in Christ. This is the divine exchange that freed us from the prison of sin to the prison of righteousness. What a gift God has provided us with.

## Chapter 4

# Why Does God Tell Moses That God's Name Is "I AM THAT I AM"?

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who HATH BLESSED US with ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST: According as he hath chosen us in him **BEFORE the foundation of the world**, that we should BE HOLY and WITHOUT BLAME before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of HIS WILL, To the praise of the glory of HIS GRACE, wherein he HATH MADE US ACCEPTED in the beloved."* (Ephesians 1:3-6 KJV)

God created time and space so He exists outside of time and space as well. What name did God tell Moses to say to Pharaoh as to what God sent him?

### "I AM THAT I AM"

Our God lives in the forever present. By that I mean that God sees our past, present and future all at the same time. Hard for us to comprehend because we are IN TIME. God knew before he created you and me, who would accept Christ and who would reject Christ. The Bible says there is the '*wicked*' and '*the righteous*'. To us living in time, we all start out in the '*wicked*' group from the age of accountability. And "*whosoever*" accepts Christ, God predestined to conform to His image and become the Righteousness of God, IN CHRIST. To God, believers

are already in Heaven with Him because God exists in all times. He is the great “*I AM*”. The ONE and ONLY.

Hard for us to grasp right? So when you fail, when you fall into sin, when you stumble, remember that NOTHING you do takes God by surprise. BEFORE you were even created and born in this world, even before the foundation of the Earth, God foreknew the sins you would commit in your life, and yet He sent Jesus to die for those sins way back then! God had it all worked out before you were even born.

*“And we know that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to **his purpose.**” (Romans 8:28 KJV)*

## AND WHAT IS “HIS PURPOSE”?

*“Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.***

*They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.*

*For the bread of God is he [Jesus] which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.*

*And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**”*

*(John 6:28-35 KJV, brackets entered to show it is speaking of Jesus Himself)*

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having PREDESTINATED US unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath MADE US ACCEPTED in the beloved.***

*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of HIS OWN WILL: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.***

*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE, Which is the earnest of OUR INHERITANCE until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**” (Ephesians 1:3-14 KJV)*

Are we perfect in this life? NO. Not even after our Salvation. We still have this corrupted sinful body, the flesh. But our Spirit, the real you and me, has been recreated NEW and it is Holy, Righteous and Redeemed now and forever. From the moment of Salvation a person is SEALED forever by the Holy Spirit. And one day, maybe very soon at the Rapture, we will receive our new uncorrupted and immortal bodies and we will be as Christ is.

## Chapter 5

### *Why Did God Create Humankind?*

I am convinced that there is not a single person in all of history that has not asked the question, "Why Do I Exist?" And I would go further to say that the other question is that every person has asked is, *What is the point of living a life and then we die? Is everything about us lost at death? Do we just cease to exist?* Further to this, out of all the life of the planet Earth, why does humankind seem so different than the rest of nature? Humankind seems to have some traits not found in any other creature.

Knowing the answers to such questions is very important in knowing God. If God created us then there must be a reason and a purpose. If God created us different than all other life on this planet, He must have had a very specific reason. But something seems to be very wrong with the world around us. Most of us can just sense that *something is just not right here*. Why do we have feelings such as guilt over our actions when other creatures we share the planet with do not seem to have such? Why does humankind continually strive for knowledge? And why do we all feel this sense that there is more to our lives than just living and eventually facing death? If God created us, then why do we have to die at all? If God created us with such a distinct difference from all other life on the planet why is there so much evil in the world on an ever increasing basis? No other religious writings in all of history seem to answer such questions as clearly as the Bible does.

## THE REASON AND PURPOSE FOR HUMANKIND

The Bible makes it very clear that God created the heavens and the Earth and every living thing that exists. It also makes it clear that we are a race of beings that God made separate from all other types of life that exists.

God wants us to understand this point and so the very first Scriptures in the entire Bible speak very simply and directly to us. Verses 1 to 20 of Genesis tell us how God created the universe, the Earth, the stars and the waters on the Earth. Then starting in verse 20 it reads,

*“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:20-25 KJV)*

The book of Genesis then goes on and states,

*“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in*

*the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.  
(Genesis 1:26-27 KJV)*

We can see here that after God created all the creatures of the Earth He then created humankind. So He shows us that we were created separately and that we are a very different race of beings that He is creating. We see from just these two verses of Scripture that God is making this point very clear to us. Humankind was set apart from the beginning by God Himself. First God shows us why we are different from all other life on this planet when He says, *“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”*. So God made humans in His own image. We have many of the same traits that God has. In fact, throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation it is plain to see that we are described as the children of God and that God is our Father.

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”  
(Romans 8:15-16 KJV)*

*“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. ” (John 6:27 KJV)*

*“To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ” (Romans 1:7 KJV)*

These are only a few of literally hundreds of Scriptures that make it very clear that God is *‘Our Father’*. Jesus also made this point very clear during His ministry to us.

*“Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*

*(Matthew 7: 9-11 KJV)*

For God to call us His children and for us to call God our Father we must be able to relate to Him on God's level, at least to some extent. We have the ability to both communicate with God and to also be like Him. That said, remember that God did not create us equal to Himself. The Bible does not say ‘Let us make man equal’, it says “Let us make man in our own image”. So God is clearly far superior to humans. But He created us with the ability to be *like Him*. And according to the Scriptures God wants us to become more and more like Him through our life here on Earth and also in the Eternity to come after death.

*“Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ” (1 John 3:2 KJV)*

This Scripture indicates that we do not yet know “what we shall be”. This implies that part of God's plan for humankind is that we grow in knowledge and that His goal for us is in the future. That we grow and seek knowledge about God and learn more about God in the same way we learn about our parents from infancy and throughout our lives. It is an ever increasing knowledge to learn about our parents as we reach each stage of life. And one day at the Rapture, we will receive eternal bodies and be like Christ.

How much more is this true about learning the knowledge of God and who He really is? This is why we all strive for more knowledge and why we look at the stars of the universe and marvel at God's creation. God wants us to know Him. Not

just know that He exists, but to really know Him intimately, in an ongoing relationship with Him. So the question remains, why did God create us in His image?

If you look at all creation each species of animal has their own way of communicating with each other. Look at Dolphins (an amazing creature to check out by the way), and the way that they communicate. It is a very intricate and complex language. Humans cannot understand them. In fact, neither can fish or turtles or sharks. Why? Because God made every creature after its own species as we see in Genesis where it reads,

*“And God made the beast of the earth **after his kind**, and cattle **after their kind**, and **every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind**: and God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:25 KJV)*

You see here that God tells us that He made every creature after *its own kind*. I am reminded about my preschool days when I would pull a string on this big red toy with animals all around it. This is a cow, it goes *mooooo*. This is a dog, it goes *woof woof*. This is a cat, it goes *meow meow*. I am sure you can relate. God did not make all creatures with the ability to speak with one another. Sure a dog can learn about its owner and how to get a treat and even to protect those protecting it. But all your dog can do is go “woof woof” and jump on you when it has to go outside. There is a relationship between you and your dog but your dog can not really know you the way you may think the dog does. A dog has no concept of God nor can a dog effectively communicate with God or know God’s ways. But the Bible makes it clear that humans can.

This sets us apart from all other creatures on the planet. Humans also are made after our own kind. If God created us in His image it is so we can know Him intimately and have intimate communication with Him.

## PHYSICAL HUMANKIND

*“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. “*  
*(Genesis 2:7 KJV)*

God gave humankind life. We are essentially formed from the 'dust of the Earth', that is the elements on this planet. This is certainly true.

By mass, human cells consist of 65–90% water (H<sub>2</sub>O), and a significant portion is composed of carbon-containing organic molecules. Oxygen therefore contributes a majority of a human body's mass, followed by carbon. 99% of the mass of the human body is made up of the six elements oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus. (Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composition\\_of\\_the\\_human\\_body](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Composition_of_the_human_body))

Most other creatures also are made of elements on this Earth and that is why we can live on this planet. But here God is singling out this fact about humankind as to make the point that we are also made physically from the dust of the Earth. Many people believe that humans have a soul as a separate being from the body that is eternal. But it is important to mention that humankind did not receive such a soul from God when He created us. The Scriptures do not indicate this is true. It says in Genesis that God *“..breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* So we became a living soul, or a living being, when God gave us the breath of life. It is an important distinction to make. I say this is important because I hear it said all the time, even by Christians, that we all have an eternal `soul'. But a soul is not something that is eternal or indestructible. Adam and Eve were not perfect beings with immortality before sinning. Ezekiel 18: reads, *“...the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”* We can see from this that a soul can die. If Adam and Eve were given an immortal soul at creation, they would never die. If

one is immortal he cannot die by the very definition of immortality. Also look at 1 Corinthians 15:53 where it reads, *“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

*“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die**”. (Genesis 2:15-17 KJV)*

This along with so many other Bible Scriptures makes it clear that humans are created MORTAL and not eternal. Eternal life is a spiritual life with Christ and having an immortal body. The kind of body we will receive at the Rapture. Adam and Eve were physical and would remain alive as long as they did not sin. Yet so many Bible teachers today tell people that Adam and Eve were created eternal and that humans were made eternal until they sinned and only then was it possible for humans to die. While this is true partly, it is a simple misunderstanding of the truth.

What the Bible is teaching is that when Adam and Eve were created they originally did not **know** sin; they did not experience committing a sin. They were not given an eternal soul as something separate from the body. God breathed life into them and they became living beings. And God was with them and communicated with them in the Garden. We can see that God was in communication with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:8. The verse seems to indicate that Adam knew God was coming to communicate as if God always came to them and communicated with them. As long as they were without sin in their lives, their life would continue because God was with them. But if they disobeyed God by sinning against Him, they would surely die. This is confirmed in Romans 6:23 where it reads, *“For the wages of sin is death...”* God is completely Holy and He

cannot tolerate sin. Sinning is such a serious offence against God that the punishment is death. Even the Angels could sin right? Afterall, Satan is the chief fallen angel.

## DISOBEDIENCE IN THE GARDEN

*“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17 KJV)*

When the word `knowledge' is used in this scripture it does not mean that Adam and Eve did not know about evil before they ate the forbidden fruit (before they sinned). The word knowledge is used above in the same way that the Bible uses the words `to know' in the scripture that states,

*“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. ” (Genesis 4:1 KJV)*

It is quite clear that the word `know' in these scriptures literally means *to experience intimately*. Adam knew his wife before they had sexual relations. But to know his wife was something more; it was an intimate experience. The word knowledge in Genesis 2:16-17 means that they had not experienced nor committed evil themselves until they disobeyed God. Adam knew that he had freedom of choice. Adam could have obeyed or disobeyed God. Satan, the devil, came to deceive Adam and Eve depicted as a snake as we see in Genesis 3,

*“And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”*

Here we see that Satan is telling Eve that God is a liar and that by eating the fruit she would become like gods, which by implication are immortal. The fact that Eve could choose means that the capacity to sin was in her already, otherwise she would not sin. This is what the Bible calls the sinful *flesh*. Freedom of choice is very important to God. He did not want to create robots to love Him. He wants a true relationship with humankind.

*“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Genesis 3:6 KJV)*

You see Eve and Adam both had the very same image of God that we all have but they also had the capacity to sin. We have a sense of morality and can be tempted to sin. In fact, the senses of taste, touch, smell, and sound; these traits allows us to perceive the world around us. These are the flesh senses that the Devil uses to tempt us to sin against God. The Human nature of senses and temptation overcame them and they sinned against God by giving into the deception that Satan provided them with; namely *“to make one wise “*(as God).

God created humans to commune with Him and to have an everlasting personal relationship with humankind. After all, this is the very reason for creating us in the image of God. Part of such an intimate relationship demands trust. God

wanted trust but when Eve, and then Adam, sinned (ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) the physical death experience we all know began. Adam and Eve's soul could die because they no longer had a sinless life with God. Sin had separated us from God and became a wall between humankind and God in having a personal relationship. God then kicked them out of the Garden,

*“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, **lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:** Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.”*  
(Genesis 3:22-23 KJV)

Remember that God said they may eat of any tree in the garden except one. Well here we see another tree in the garden called the *tree of life*. Apparently this tree gives the ability to live forever. God did not want Adam and Eve to become eternal in their sinful state because then they would be eternally separated from God and He loves us and wants communion with us. Out of His mercy and love He did not allow them a chance to eat of this tree because of their sin. Keep in mind that the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil and the Tree of Life are symbolic and a way for the writer to show us how sin entered the human experience. It was not that the tree itself or the fruit of the tree itself that gave Adam and Eve this knowledge. It is that God told them not to eat of that tree and by doing so they disobeyed God and sinned. Their own conscience let them *know by experience* that they had sinned and they now understood what evil was because they themselves committed an evil act of rebellion against God.

Here is another way of showing you that this is true; before they sinned Adam and Eve did not recognize that they were naked and openly communed with God not knowing about sin (Genesis 2:25) After they wilfully sinned, they hid themselves from God and covered their nakedness.(Genesis 3:10) Adam and Eve

hid from God because they knew they had sinned and done evil against God Almighty. So they knew they could sin before they did but it was only once they actually sinned that they knew the *knowledge* of good and evil. That is they committed the evil act and then they experienced sin by the act itself.

We are the descendants of Adam and Eve and therefore we all are mortal and separated from God. In Romans we see that "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" (Romans 5:12)

Because the relationship with God had changed so did the ability for them to resist evil and thus had no way of controlling the fleshly sinful mind. This flesh in all of us carries with it the consequences of suffering and death. With each generation since Adam and Eve the human evils (such as war, selfishness, and murder) have continually grown worse. We try to do good but we all have sinned against the God that created us. No person can match up to the holiness of God Almighty.

However, the Bible also talks about human beings as having a '*spirit*' within us. This is part of the image of God that was given to us at creation from God himself that gives us the ability to communicate with God and have an intimate relationship with God. Adam and Eve both had this spirit before they sinned but once they sinned, it was lost. The spirit within us is the spirit of God Himself. When God's spirit lives within us, we have a very intimate relationship with God. But God could not abide where sin is. God is perfectly just and sin must be judged. The punishment for sin is severe. The punishment for sin is an eternal death. (Romans 6:23 )

We lost that intimate relationship with God. That said, God is love and full of mercy and He used this situation the devil began and has given us a way to regain this intimate relationship through Jesus the Christ's act of atonement on the cross. (For those that do not know, 'Christ' means *the anointed one*, it is NOT Jesus' last

name) So God gave us the Old Testament and later the New Testament so that the world would know that He exists and wants to regain the intimate relationship which is called everlasting life. The Bible is the very word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power unto salvation.

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16 KJV)*

## WHY DID GOD CREATE HUMANKIND?

So we can see that God created us and that He created us in His own image and that He did so in order that we could be in an intimate relationship with Him. In Revelation 4, John was shown a vision of heaven where he writes,

*“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4: 10-11 KJV)*

Here we see that God created all things; the universe, the Earth and all things in and on the Earth for *His own pleasure*. God is a creative being and it pleases Him to create all that is good. Notice that the Bible does not say that we were created to merely entertain God. God did not create us out of a sense of being lonely nor for his entertaining pleasure. He created us in the image of God so that we could know Him.

*“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him **with glory and honour.**” (Psalm 8:5 KJV)*

*“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. “ (John 15:14-15 KJV)*

There is only one God.( Deuteronomy 4:35) He created humans in His own image, *“...a little lower than the angels...”* and crowned us *“... with glory and honour.”*

That does not sound like we were created just to entertain God. And Jesus Christ (God in human form) said Himself that we are His friends. Since we know that God is love and is perfectly good and Holy, He cannot lie. It gave God pleasure to create us and to have fellowship with Him forever. It pleased God to create us because He loves us. (Deuteronomy 7:9, Romans 8:38-39, Psalm 23, John 3:16-17, Ephesians 2:4, 1 John 4:7, and so many many more Scriptures !)

Humankind was created by God so we could enjoy fellowship with Him forever, through the saving act of atonement by Jesus Christ. Both in this life and throughout eternity. To fellowship with God and to become more and more like Jesus as the Holy Spirit changes us from within.

## **REGAIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BY REMOVING THE PENALTY FOR YOUR SIN**

We are all sinners and no one can match up to the Holiness of our God. The penalty for sin is death and we shall all die (except those alive and remaining at the Rapture). After death comes the judgement as it speaks about Jesus Christ and His work of atonement on the cross in Hebrews,

*“...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” (Hebrews 9:26-28 KJV)*

Christ came and took on the punishment for our sin upon Himself (He is God in the Flesh) and all who believe on Him and ask Him for forgiveness will be saved. Once a person accepts Christ into His life and believes this He becomes a new creation. When a person receives the GIFT of Salvation through belief in the atonement for sins that Christ provided on the cross, they become an eternal being in the spirit. And one day will be given immortal bodies at the Rapture.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become NEW.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)*

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ” (Romans 8:1 KJV)*

*“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. ” (1 Peter 2:24 KJV)*

*“Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” (John 6:28-29 KJV)*

*” Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as*

*the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:6-11 KJV)*

*“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30 KJV)*

*“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. ...Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. ” (Revelation 22:17, 20 KJV)*

## Chapter 6

### *Why Does God Allow Evil In The World?*

That is a loaded question that we all wonder about. We know that God is all knowing and knows the past, present and future. We also know the God created the angel Lucifer who was once the closest angel to God and was called '*the shining one*'. (Ezekiel 28:12-13 , 14-15) We also know that Lucifer became full of pride and wanted to be God himself at some point and was able to convince one third of all the angels to join him in rebellion. (Revelation 12:3-6)

Both Lucifer and these fallen angels became known as demons and Lucifer became known as Satan (which means *adversary* – he is the adversary of all humankind). We know all this from God's word, the Bible. There is the question that if God knew beforehand that Lucifer would do this and become evil, why did God create him in the first place? Why did God allow Adam and Eve to be tempted by Satan since God foreknew that they would?

The questions continue on this topic. Again, it may be very difficult to answer because we are not God and God knows what He is doing way beyond our understanding. There is a reason but there are some things God does not tell us in detail. That said, He has told us enough to know that He is perfectly just and right in all that He does. It is God's character which is never changing.

Let's say that God decided to remove all evil, **starting tomorrow**. Would that be a good thing? Yes you say? Are you sure? What about the free choice to receive the GIFT of Salvation through Christ and be saved and have your sins forgiven?

Would you rather that God created you as a robot, without free choice? If all evil disappeared tomorrow so would almost everyone on the planet lose freedom of choice. God wants an intimate relationship with you and I. He did not want to create robots for a relationship. God gave us free choice from day number one. Remember to be humble and know your place because it is we humans who turned away from God and sinned against Him. He provided our every need from day one and we turned against Him. So what does God do? He immediately takes actions and has provided a Savior, Jesus Christ, to free us from our fleshly sinful mind and our sin penalty in the Holy Court Of God. Yes, God has allowed evil to continue ***but His grace far surpasses it in every way.*** He seeks a REAL relationship with you as a person, not a robot programmed to act a certain way. God gives you and I FREE CHOICE.

No denying it, evil exists all around us on planet Earth. But remember that God wants everyone (ALL!) to be forgiven their sins and become the sons and daughters of God. He is patient far beyond our understanding! To God, He sees things outside of time and space. So every moment is as if it just happened all at once. And He is not surprised by anything going on down here on Earth. He is in full control, believe that!

*“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 NKJV)*

That is why Christ has thus far delayed His second coming over 2000 years. He longs to redeem us all! He is long suffering so that the most can be saved and He already knows those throughout history that will receive His great gift of salvation.

Christ is the Groom and wants for His Bride to come home. Just reading the first book of the Bible Genesis makes it clear that humans are the beings who have done evil from the very beginning. No evil comes from God *but from us*. God did not create robots and we were created with a free will. We chose wrongly in the Garden Of Eden. The consequences are all around us. Now God gives us another choice, choose Salvation through Christ's atonement on the cross, or be separated from God for all eternity in hell. And Hell was not created for humankind. The Bible says it was created for the Devil and his fallen angels (Matthew 25:41). But if you do not accept God's pardon for your sin debt against God, then your sin will remain. You have chosen wrongly and think that you can do this without God. Your pride in your self righteousness sides you with Satan because that same pride is what caused him to fall. Satan is going to end up in the Lake of Fire. You don't want to go there because of pride do you? Anyone ending up in the lake of fire will be there because they *chose to reject such a great and grace filled gift provided by Christ with His own blood to save you!*

Even yet while we were sinners and enemies of God, He still made provision and sent His only Son to die on the cross and pay the punishment for the sins of the whole world. (John 3:16) A person may give their life for a loved one but would you die for your enemy? While we were God's *enemies*, He showed us such a great love. God even gave us the *righteousness of God, in Christ* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

So even though there is evil and God is allowing it, He has a plan and for those that accept the free gift of eternal life through Christ's atoning work on the cross. This is an amazing grace filled plan. We do not know the entire plan but what the Bible tells us about heaven on Earth to come is enough for us to believe in God and trust Him while we continue our walk in this evil world until He takes us home at the Rapture.

## Chapter 7

### *Is Satan Real? Who Is Satan?*

There are many names describing the devil in the Bible. Some of the names are Satan, the devil, the adversary, the ruler of this present world, son of the morning, Abaddon (means the destroyer), the accuser, angel of light, the anointed Cherub, the beast, the dragon, the son of perdition, the tempter, the king of Tyre, the Antichrist, the god of this age, deceiver, the father of lies, Beelzebub, the prince of the power of the air and many more.

But who exactly is Satan? Is he a human? Is he equal in power to God? Is he like God? Despite the stories of the Devil being a person wearing red with a tail and holding a pitch fork his physical appearance is quite the opposite. He is not a fable character nor is he human. He is a ***Cherub angel***, one of the top ranking of all the angels created by God.

Angels are not humans who have died. That is we do not become angels when we die. Angels are a completely separate creation of God. Cherub angels are the most high ranking of the angels and they surround God's Holy throne room. In Ezekiel 28:14, Lucifer is described as "*...the anointed cherub who covers; ...*". We also find in this passage that he was guardian of the very throne of God where it states, "*...I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*"

No other created being was given the intelligence that God gave Lucifer. The very name of this Cherub angel is 'Lucifer' which means the *shining one* or *the morning star*. (Isaiah 14:12 ) Throughout the Bible the word '*star*' often refers to angels. This is likely because angels have a brightness to them. The Bible tells us that Lucifer was a very beautiful angel , wise as well, (Ezekiel 28:12). In fact, he was a well respected angel as one of the top angels in the entire angelic creation. But

all of that was going to change and in his own beauty he allowed the sin of pride to overcome him.

*“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I **will be like the most High.**” (Isaiah 14:12-14 KJV)*

Lucifer wanted to be as God, with ultimate power. He devised a plan so that he could overthrow God's throne. You need to realize that would be impossible as God is all powerful and all knowing. Yet, Lucifer became so blind in his pride he thought his plan would accomplish this.

## REBELLION IN HEAVEN

With all his intelligence and power of influence over other angels Lucifer rebelled and starting to divide the angelic host through deception. He began to deceive other angels. The Bible says that he was able to deceive and gain a following of 1/3 of the angelic order (Revelation 12:3-9) and that is likely millions of angels (Hebrews 12:22). God then judged Lucifer and those angels that followed him and threw them out of the third heaven (where God's throne resides) and down to the Earthly realm as we see in Revelation 12,

*“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the*

*whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” ( Revelation 12:7-9 KJV)*

The angelic host of angels that remained true to God fought the rebel angels and kicked them out of Heaven. Here we see the Arch Angel Michael headed the engagement. The Arch Angel Michael is also likely the one that will sound the trumpet at the Rapture of believers in Christ . Michael is a very powerful angel and he heads an army of God's angels even today.

## THERE IS A SNAKE IN THE GARDEN

*“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, **and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5 KJV)***

It is interesting that once God sentenced the Devil and his angels, and threw them out of Heaven, we see Satan (which means adversary) in the Garden of Eden. He is trying to deceive the newly created beings called “humans” (Adam and Eve) into sinning against God. I say it is interesting because if you think about it maybe this is why Lucifer rebelled with pride to overthrow God and His Throne? This is just an opinion of mine but maybe it is also why Lucifer was successful enough to have one out of every three angels to go along with his point of view. I mean, here is Lucifer, the top dog of angels and closest to God's throne and the most intelligent being created and God is about to create the human race.

Ultimately, God's goal is to have this human race, being billions of souls, to be like the Son of God, Jesus Christ. And that the ultimate outcome will be these humans being above even the angels in power and rank, in the end.

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:21 KJV)*

Whatever the reason, these angels rebelled and were kicked out of the Third Heaven. What do I mean by the Third Heaven? The Bible describes differently more than one type of heaven(s). In fact, it describes three:

### **I. One is the Earth's immediate atmosphere, the First Heaven**

(Lamentations 4:19). We can see this clearly in Deuteronomy where we read,

*“And then the LORD's wrath be kindled against you, and he **shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit;** and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you. ”  
(Deuteronomy 11:17 KJV)*

### **II. Another is what we call space, the Universe and Second Heaven**

(Deuteronomy 17:3). In the New Testament Book of Matthew, speaking of a future event soon coming upon the Earth, he writes,

*“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, **and the stars shall fall from heaven,** and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ” (Matthew 24:29 KJV)*

**III. The Third Heaven is where God resides. It is called the “heaven of heavens”** in Deuteronomy 10:14. It is also called the very same in 1 Kings 8:27 where it reads,

*"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" ( 1 Kings 8:27 KJV)*

## THE PLACE SATAN AND THE FALLEN ANGELS ARE HEADED

Satan and his fallen angelic army is already sentenced to the lake of fire and a place called 'Hell' for the evil acts and corruption of the universe. However, the appointed time for the sentence to be carried out has not yet come. Fallen angels (also known as demons) know they are already sentenced. I say this because there is New Testament proof of this, right from a demon's own words. Jesus is about to cast out a demon from a person and the demon speaks through the person, "... saying, *What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us **before the time?***" (Matthew 8:29 KJV) *Before what time? Before their sentence!*

From the time of the fall of humankind in the Garden of Eden, Satan tried to stop the bloodline of Christ so that the Messiah would not be able to save us from our sins. First through tempting man to murder (Cain) and even going as far as genetically corrupting all humankind. God of course prevailed and Christ came just as the Bible prophecies stated. Remember, Satan does not have the same level of power as God. *God created Satan after all.* The devil is an angel that rebelled out of the sin of pride. Satan is a *created being* and as such can only be at one place at a time and is not all knowing as God is.

God on the other hand is everywhere at all times and knows everything, including the future. And when Christ called out on the cross "***It is finished!***" – Satan was *immediately defeated*. The Saviour of the world has come. However, Satan's sentence has not yet been carried out and for a time he is the ruler of this world to an extent, otherwise we would have utopia already and we obviously do

not. But Christ will return and take over this rule with full effect. God is ultimately in full control.

Since the time of the cross Satan is doing everything possible to prevent humans from accepting Christ. Satan can read the Bible too you know! He knows what is coming and is trying everything to thwart God's ultimate plan for humankind – to be like His Son, Jesus Christ, ruling and reigning with God forever and ever. He knows that he is soon going to be chained up and placed in a prison called *'the bottomless pit'* when Christ returns to Earth in the end times in which we are now living.

*“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, **and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”** (Revelation 20:1-3 KJV)*

Satan will in these last days control a worldwide government ruler and dictator which is to come, known as the Antichrist. At some point, Satan will take over this person and Satan will imitate all the prophecies about the return of Jesus Christ. He will demand that the world worship him as God and he will deceive many in the Tribulation period, when God's Wrath will be poured out upon the Earth on those left behind at the Rapture event. Ultimately, at the White Throne Judgement (Revelation 20:11) Satan and his fallen angels, as well as all the unbelieving and unrepentant sinners (called the wicked), will be cast into the Lake Of Fire and Hell.

Hell, in fact, was created for Satan and his angels – not for man. (Matthew 25:41) It is God's plan that all of humankind be redeemed through Christ. Those

that reject such a great gift of forgiveness, and the righteousness of God through Christ, will stand at this judgement and will be judged as Satan and his angels because they chose to side with Satan and not God. Believing in pride that they are making themselves righteous through their good works and rituals, instead of accepting God's pardon of our sins through Christ's atonement as a GIFT to be received.

Where there is no acceptance of Christ's act of atonement for our sins, their sin remains and they will be judged by their sinful works and deeds during their life. Their sins were not forgiven and they have chosen the wrong side and the 'wicked' will share in the punishment of Satan and the fallen angels. All because of PRIDE in self righteousness.

## THE LAKE OF FIRE IS COMPLETELY AVOIDABLE FOR YOU!

Do not reject such a great gift from God! He wants you with Him for all eternity in Heaven on Earth. And I am not saying this to scare anyone into believing either. Christians going around saying '*turn or burn*' are not helping people come to the truth of Christ's salvation. Paul wrote to Timothy, "*...Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*" (2 Timothy 1: 2 KJV) Paul then goes on to say,

*"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light*

*through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.” (2 Timothy 1:8-11 KJV)*

The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Earthly Kingdom Of God is what was preached. That is the HOPE of the world. Saying *'turn or burn'* without sharing the true Gospel first makes God look like an angry God who is waiting to pounce you on the head with a hammer all the time. God forbid! God is just the opposite, giving His own Son as a Ransom for our sins so that we could be forgiven. God did not give us a spirit of fear but of faith. (2 Timothy 1:7) The Devil uses fear and condemnation to deceive the whole world! As a Christian, do you want to be doing the devil's work thinking you are doing God's work? NO WAY! But you should know that this can happen if you are not careful nor attentive to the true word of God.

## IT HAPPENED TO PETER!

*“But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. ” (Mark 8:33 KJV)*

Is it true that the unrepentant will end up in hell? Yes, it is Biblical. But the knowledge of how much God truly loves us is what makes a person believe... not just fear from hell fire. Did Jesus talk about the reality of hell? Yes, many times. But He was preaching the gospel first. Yes, we all want to avoid Hell and everlasting torment. But just saying that to scare people into believing will never work. It is the love of God that saves! God is REAL! The facts of the Bible being the real word of God are being shown to you in this e-book. And since this is so, then what the Bible says is true reality, and God has given you his own Son in blood so you can

be forgiven and made the very Righteousness of God, in Christ. What greater love is there then this?!

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in him should not perish**, but have everlasting life. **For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**” (John 3:16-17 KJV)*

## GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU ALL THINGS AND LOVES YOU

*“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:7-14 KJV)*

## JESUS IS THE NARROW GATE!

*“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

*Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***” (John 14:1-6 KJV)

*“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. ”* (John 3:36 KJV)

## Chapter 8

### *Noah, The Ark, & The Flood*

*"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:1-8 KJV)*

There seems to be much confusion regarding the story of Noah and the destruction of the world by God in his time. There are all kinds of crazy ways people think about this Biblical account. Some even have Noah's ark as a baby room decoration which if you think about it may be funny to think about. The good part of the story is that Noah and his family were saved from the flood showing God's grace. However the flip side of that is that God destroyed the world and millions of people too. Not exactly a nice little toddler's story for wall paper in a baby room is it?

But even before the latest Hollywood movies hit the screens, there were lots of untruthful ideas in the story told among people, and in our schools. Why is this so when the Bible is very clear? The reason is simple. Now in the last days generation in which we live, humankind has turned from God more and more until we now have a generation of people who have lost touch with the truth of the Bible. As parents turn away so does the children and over a few generations the entire world has really backslid from God's truth. So much so that today a vast majority of Christians and believers rely on only what their pastor or priest tell them what is truth - without reading the Bible and learning the truth themselves. This is a dangerous path that even many in the *Christian religious community* is on.

Without believers reading the Bible themselves there is no checks and balances in what is being taught in the pulpits. This has led to much confusion

and distrust in organized religions and now many people are leaving organized Christian denominations completely. And just as bad many are turning to others who are also teaching very unbiblical ideals – especially regarding the Gospel of the Bible.

Jesus taught plainly, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32) But if the truth is what you heard from a Pastor or Priest and they have not understood or they have taken the passage out of it's context, they could be leading you astray! And if you get your information from a Hollywood movie about a Bible event, even more so you could be led astray! No, we do not need truth from man. What we need is God's truth from the Bible, God's word.

Now do not misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying that all organized religion is bad. Or that all church leaders of such organizations are bad. What I am saying is that leaders sometimes need a 'nudge' here and there and some 'checks and balances' in place, to keep in line with Scriptures when they teach. Also, the congregations (you and me!) need to be able to discern the Biblical truth from what they are saying. And that comes from doing your own study of the Bible. We are living in the Last Days before Christ's return and this is so important in the times in which we live as the world all around us is rejecting God in an increasing manner.

We have so many tools today to learn about the Bible and God and His plan for us ; yet hardly anyone is using the highly available and free tools. This needs to change and believers of Christ need to do so more now than ever before as we are living in the days when Christ will return - *the end times*. We of all generations need to study the Bible and have a desire to know God! The Bride of Christ, all Christians and believers in Christ's act of atonement at the cross, need to know and understand the true Gospel Of Jesus Christ, and in doing so, be filled with the Holy Spirit who will teach us all truth (John 16:13).

Let's do a quick study of the story of Noah from the BIBLE - not from Hollywood, or child stories. Let's learn the real reason why God destroyed the Earth with a flood and why it was done out of mercy for all of humankind. If you have never actually read the Biblical account of Genesis 6, nor compared other Scriptures about Noah's flood, then this should be a real eye opener for you.

## THE FALL IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

As with everything written in the Bible, you must take into account the context of Scripture. Anyone can take a one line verse from the Bible, and tell others a meaning that is totally untrue because the whole passage context was not taken into account. So, let's start our study hundreds of years before the flood. In fact, let's go right back to just after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. You can read about this story fully yourself but here I am just giving a general overview for the points to make regarding Noah and the flood.

After Adam and Eve sinned, humankind fell and there was a divide between God and humankind - called sin. Out of His eternal love and mercy, God immediately started a plan to redeem all of humankind. Because the garden contained the Tree Of Life that gives life everlasting, God kicked Adam and Eve out of the Garden. Was it because He was angered? Do you really think God did not know this was going to happen? The Bible says it was because, otherwise, they would remain in the state of sin forever. After the fall of humankind, the results of sin began in the world. Now you must remember that Satan, the enemy of God and humankind, tempted and deceived Adam and Eve into sinning. And so God went to Satan and this is what He told him:

*"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

*" (Genesis 3:15 KJV)*

God told Satan straight out that enmity (Original Greek word 'eybah' meaning strong hostility) will exist between Satan and the woman. It also says between "thy seed and her seed"- that is two opposing seed lines. The "her seed" is obviously the offspring of Eve; that is Cain and Abel, later Seth, and well all of the blood line right up and until Christ Jesus. Jesus Christ's death and Resurrection is imperative to the salvation and redemption of humankind and to a right relationship with God. Old Testament saints looked toward the cross event, in faith, for salvation and we look back at the cross event today, in faith, for salvation from our sins and to retain the Righteousness God demands. Now Satan has been told there will be a hatred of the woman's seed. You must remember that Satan is a fallen Angel and he is NOT omnipotent as God is. That is, Satan cannot tell the future as God knows it. And so, Satan started his own plan to destroy the blood line to the Messiah and by doing so he thought that he could stop the salvation of humankind. Adam and Eve had Cain and Abel as we see in Genesis 4:

*"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule*

*over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that **Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.**" (Genesis 4:1-8 KJV)*

Before Christ had come and died on that cross the Old Testament believers after the Exodus were to slay an animal without blemish and sacrifice with blood to God for the remission of their sins. This was what happen at the first passover in Egypt. We know it was a foreshadowing of the final sacrifice for humankind in God's plan of redemption, Jesus Christ shedding His blood for the remission of our sins. We see in the above passage, long before the Exodus, that Abel sacrificed an animal to God but Cain sacrificed "the fruit of the ground unto the Lord". And we see here that God gave respect to Abel's offering but not to Cains.

The Bible says that *"...the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: **for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.**" (Leviticus 17:11 KJV)*

Now remember, there is no doubt that Satan was watching these two brothers to see if he can figure out who God will use for the bloodline to Christ - our Savior, so he can stop the bloodline. Also, Satan had no idea how long it would be until the Messiah was born. It could have been very soon! And the Bible says that "Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." But God is not so easily fooled. Satan may have convinced Cain to kill Abel but God planned for another, yet unborn son to be the seed of the woman - for the blood line to Jesus Christ. (Seth)

Not to get off topic of the story of Noah's Ark, but the above information is something to understand before understanding why there was a flood. Satan's goal from the very beginning of humankind was **to stop the bloodline to the Messiah** and that is paramount to everything he has done in the past. Stop the bloodline to the Messiah to come. Once Jesus came and redeemed us on the

cross, Satan was defeated in his goal. Since that time, Satan has changed his plan to preventing the truth of Christ's salvation from reaching the hearts of humankind by deception and half truths. This is something Satan is doing especially to us here in the end times because he knows his time is short and that Jesus is coming again soon. And that means he will be bound for 1000 years in a prison created for fallen angels called The Bottomless Pit (Revelation 20:3) at the Second Coming of Christ. Now between the incident of Cain killing his brother, Satan came up with another stage in his plan to stop the seed and blood line to Christ. A more bold and devastating plan. We see this plan coming to fruition starting in Genesis 6.

## SATAN'S PLOT, NOAH'S ARK & THE GREAT FLOOD

*“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, **That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.** And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (Genesis 6:1-8 KJV)*

We see here that through Seth's and Cain's bloodlines, the world really started to populate. God protects the bloodline to Christ and now with so many on

the Earth Satan needs to find a way to stop the bloodline to Christ. So he sends some of the fallen angels, in this Scripture called the “sons of God”. This phrase 'sons of God' means they were created directly by God and not through procreation processes. That is why Adam was called a son of God but his offspring were not. His offspring were born from procreation, born of an Earthly mother and father. Angels are also called sons of God because they were created directly and not by procreation as humans are. So the “sons of God” in this Scripture is in fact Fallen Angels who rebelled against God and are with Satan. The Bible tells us that as many as 1/3 of all angels rebelled and sided with Satan.

*“That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.” (Genesis 6 KJV)*

These Fallen Angels that rebelled with Satan against God started mating with the human women. This is an abomination to the Lord who clearly created all living things to procreate only with *their own kind*. Cats are not to mate with dogs and humans are not to mate with angels. This is God's properly created order of things.

Some ask how could fallen angels do this physically; how is that possible? The Bible gives an answer for that as well when it states *“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 13:2)* So angels do have the ability to take the form of a man. It is also interesting to note that contrary to many people's belief, all angels mentioned in the Bible have been mentioned as being male and not female.

That all said, it may not have been an actual sexual act that made this possible. It could be speaking of a *genetic manipulation*. If we today can manipulate genes as we do, could not have God's angels? It is very plausible that angels do have and use technology. Even Jesus said when leaving us at the

ascension that He is going to prepare a PLACE for us and that He would return to take us where He is. A place which is described in Revelation as having width, height and length, a place in our universe somewhere. Since this place called 'The New Jerusalem' is being prepared it is likely that technology is being used by angels to accomplish this. We do not know exactly how angels and human women had offspring but the Bible said that it happened and so, it did!

One way or the other, angels genetically intermingled with human women and the offspring were called the '*Nephilim*', giants and people of great stature, size and height. Apparently, they were also bent on doing evil continually and propagating violence as it says "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

These were hybrid offspring of angels and humans and an abomination to God! In the creation, God ordered life so that one kind mates with it's own kind. (Example: Cat's mate with cat's, lions with lions, humans with humans.) This is such a trespass of this law of God that God later decides to judge these fallen angels before all the other fallen angels (to be judged in the future). The Apostle Peter acknowledged these fallen angels who mated with women in 2 Peter 2:4. Now between when this happened and the flood hundreds of years have passed and so they continued to populate the Earth until the only true humans left were Noah and his family. We know this because Genesis states clearly that "*.. Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations..*" (*Genesis 6:9*)

The meaning of the phrase '*perfect in his generations*' is clear. His generation bloodline remained clean from the corrupt angel seed line and Noah and his family were the only true humans left alive! But didn't God care about the hybrids that were born? Well yes he did. So much so Noah preached (2 Peter 2:5) to the people at that time in order that they may be saved but they failed to accept God's grace of salvation through faith. It says Noah was a "just" man. A righteous

man. But in the Bible when the words "just" and "righteous" are used in such context of a person, it does not mean he always did the right thing, or was a good person. Being justified by God for the forgiveness of sins through the sacrificial lamb of God is what made him just and righteous by faith. It is through faith that God would forgive his sins that made him a just man. This is what he preached to the people. The news of this guy building an ark most certainly would have spread throughout the communities - such a spectacle. As it had been 800 or 900 years from Adam and Eve in the garden until Noah's Flood, there would have been a massive population of these hybrids on the Earth at that time. God said to Noah,

*"But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee."  
(Genesis 6:18 KJV)*

Many archaeologists today speak of ancient technology. This is likely where such technology came from. Fallen angels would have been vastly superior in knowledge and technology. Here we can see now that the ark was a foreshadowing of Jesus' act of atonement. It is a picture of the New Covenant of our salvation. This also is a picture of the soon coming rapture or gathering of the church to protection in Heaven before the Tribulation Period of the book of Revelation begins on Earth. God will protect believers from the hour of His wrath just as he protected Noah and his family. Why? Because of faith in Christ's act of atonement, through which we are forgiven our sins. The righteous redeemed of our present day, in Christ, will be protected and taken to a place of safety just as Noah and his family were! They were the only people left that believed in the true God.

The rest of the story we all know; God sent Noah two of every kind of animal to enter the ark, then God shut the door of the ark. God Himself shut the door and

sealed them in to a place of safety and provision just as Christ paid the penalty for our sins and said "It is finished!". All the angel/human hybrids were wiped off the face of the Earth and God once again thwarted Satan's attempt to destroy the bloodline to the Messiah; Jesus Christ. However, Genesis 6 also mentions a second attempt from Satan to do the same thing as we see it says,

*"There were giants in the earth in those days; **and also after that**, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. "*

The "*also after that*" is after the flood. So why did God destroy the world in a flood? Was it because he is an angry mean God? NO! It is out of His mercy and love for humankind and His desire that they be redeemed to Him. To thwart the efforts of Satan to stop Jesus Christ from coming to save all humankind from our fleshly sinful mind and sin debt. To make sure that God would redeem the world and human kind. And to destroy the corrupted non human beings that He never planned to create.

That is the story of Noah right from your Bible. And it is important for us to know this truth today because Jesus, talking about His Second Coming, which is soon to take place in our current generation, said, "*But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*" (Matthew 24:37 KJV)

What does that mean? Well, we can see that we certainly have technology to manipulate genetics of humans in these Last Days. No other generation has had this capability. And we also see that there is a Trans-human movement already at work.

*For more information on the Trans-human movement do a search on YouTube and you will see how this is coming to pass. It could also mean that here in the Last Days fallen angels may again return to Earth and deceive the world, mixing genetics. This topic is vast and not in the scope of this book but you can learn more online.*

*For more information on the Nephilim check out <http://www.lamarzulli.net/> L. A. Marzulli is an author, lecturer and film maker. He has penned eight books including The Nephilim Trilogy which made the CBA best sellers list. He received an honorary doctorate for the series from his mentor Dr. I. D. E. Thomas, who was the Provost at Pacific International University.*

# Chapter 9

## The Blood Of Christ & The Passover

### (The Exodus)

*“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: **and when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:13 KJV)*

This scripture is from the time of the Exodus when Moses led the enslaved Hebrew people out of Egypt. God told Moses to tell the Hebrew people to sacrifice a Lamb or Goat, without blemish.

*“...the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it **on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses**, wherein they shall eat it.” (Exodus 12:6-7 KJV)*

What was the reason or purpose for this? God continues,

*“And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord’s Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on*

*you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12: 11-13  
NKJV)*

If you think about this for a moment, why did God have to see the blood of the door posts to pass over them? As God, He knew full well where all the Hebrews were located to pass over them, right? Again, this Scripture gives us the answer to this when it states, *“Now the blood shall be a sign for ‘you’.* Notice it was not a sign for God to know where the Hebrews were located! **It was a sign for YOU,** is what it says. By placing the blood on the doors as instructed they showed that they have faith and believe that God will save them. How? *By pure FAITH!* It was a declaration by those that believed in God to any of the Hebrews (and Egyptians) that did not believe in God at that time.

Remember, the Hebrews were enslaved to hard labour in Egypt for 400 years! That is a long time. Do you think that some of the millions of Hebrews in Egypt gave up on God’s promise to free them? It may well be that some of the Hebrews did not believe in God anymore. So the blood on the doors was a sign for all the Hebrews (YOU), those that by faith believe God is going to save them and keep them from the wrath and the judgement of God. Any Hebrew or Egyptian household with a first born that did not place the blood as told, surely had their first born die. Those Hebrews that did not believe may have repented after this happened and as such were saved and freed, the hard way. What hard way? They first seen the judgement of God and many who did not place the blood on the doors, may have turned to God as well after the event had already occurred.

If this is the case, which does seem reasonable, it may be a foreshadowing of our times in that God, through Christian's witnessing about salvation, are telling all of the unrepentant sinners to accept the GIFT of salvation by FAITH through the blood of Jesus Christ and be saved from the coming judgements of God. Yet many

will not believe and will go through the Great Tribulation period in the future where they will see for themselves the result of our sins. Many of who will then turn back to God for salvation.

The Bible does indicate that during the Tribulation period on Earth that a large number of people will turn to God and accept salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is like doubting Thomas who did not believe that Christ was risen until he could see and touch Him. And when he seen and touched the risen Lord, THEN he truly believed.

The Hebrews were told by God, through Moses, to place some blood of the sacrifice on the top of the door, and to each side of the door. If you have not figured that out yet, that makes a cross in blood. The animal sacrifice of a Lamb or Goat without blemish is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, (referred to many times in the Bible as the *Lamb of God*) the only innocent and sinless human being (without blemish) sacrificed in blood on the cross for our sins. The act of doing what was told and actually placing that blood on the outside of their doors was an act of belief and faith in God that they would be saved from the death judgement that was coming to all the first born of Egypt because of Pharaoh's refusal to let God's enslaved people go free. Was it the blood itself that saved them? To those *with faith in God* and whom had placed the blood, YES! But before the blood was placed, the people needed to have *faith in God and believe*. It is the FAITH that saved them. The blood on the doorways was a 'sign to them' as well as a foreshadowing of what Christ would accomplish on the cross thousands of years later.

Notice that God did not tell them to go do good deeds and thus be saved. God did not tell them to do good works and the death of the firstborn would be spared. No, it is God alone that would save them. They needed to have faith in God and believe. THAT is what saved them! And when you realize that the Lord

and God of the Old Testament was Jesus Christ incarnate, (John 5:46) (that is Christ prior to His human birth) this is even more significant!

In the same way, it is the belief and faith a Christian has in Jesus Christ on the cross taking the punishment for our sins, even though He was innocent and sinless, that covers us from the Wrath to come on all the unrepentant. Either the wrath at the Great Tribulation period in our near future, or saving us from the everlasting punishment of the wicked and unbelieving at the Great White Throne Judgement of unbelievers.

The Great White Throne Judgement is where all the unrepentant and what the Bible calls 'The Wicked', will be judged according to their works and will be cast into a place the Bible calls the Lake Of Fire which was prepared for Satan and the fallen angels in everlasting punishment (Revelation 20:11-15).

The point is, that *it was their faith in God alone that saved them* at the Exodus and it is by faith alone, without good works, that a person's sins are completely forgiven. When God looks at a repentant sinner, one who accepted God's free gift of forgiveness through Christ's Act of Atonement, He does not see their sins. Instead He sees the perfect righteousness of Christ. Did you know that when you became a believer in Christ that you became the righteousness of God in Christ? Some Christians are shocked and even upset when I tell them this but it is *very Scriptural*. Believers are the righteousness of God, in Christ! (whether they like it or feel it or not).

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be **MADE the righteousness of God in him.**" (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)*

*"...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I **will remember their sin no more.**"  
(Jeremiah 31:34 KJV)*

*“For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.** Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.” (Psalms 103:11-13 KJV)*

Jesus became the final, once and for all, true Passover for all humankind. The sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world for all who believe. (John 1:29) Do you need to have the door posts of your life brushed with the blood of Christ to forgive your sins and avoid being part of the soon coming wrath and judgement of God Almighty? We ALL do! But only those that have faith and believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in acceptance of His gift of Salvation from our sins shall be saved. It is not what we do that will save us. Only what Christ did for us on the cross as a free gift to be received can save us.

*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, **and believe the gospel.**” (Mark 1:15 KJV)*

## Chapter 10

### *The Ten Commandments Is The Absolute Truth*

In this day and age there are many who believe that they can believe whatever truth is for themselves and that their own personal truth, and the way they see the world, is truth for them. There is no good or bad truth. You have your truth and I have mine.

But living without any absolute truth; is that really the way to think and live? Living your life without absolute truth is like walking in a mine field in pitch blackness and not seeing the explosion in your life just ahead. I mean, let's get real a moment here. If a person believes he can fly and that is his truth they are heading for disaster! No matter how much a person believes that to be their truth, the absolute truth is gravity will win if you jump off a building or bridge right?

No, there is such a thing as *absolute truth* and God provides us with 10 truths, that is ten standards/law of truth regarding our lives and spirit within. Without these Godly absolute truths we would be walking in complete darkness spiritually speaking. We would be doing whatever we want and thinking it was all okay and everything is acceptable to God. So the Ten Commandments are the real truth right from God Himself.

But does that mean God just gave the 10 commandments to us so we could use them to live by and avoid trouble? Is obeying them a way to make up for our sins and to look good to God? Or is there more to this?

## JUDGING OURSELVES AGAINST GODLY STANDARDS - NOT HUMAN STANDARDS

Logically, God is good so His laws must be good for us as well. These laws must reflect the perfect Holiness of God. And they most certainly do. And a fair way of looking at how good or bad we are must not be by comparing ourselves with others. That is not a fair comparison. We must compare ourselves with God's perfect standard.

We humans have a big problem that God has already provided the solution for. That is the fact that we are all born into sin and have sinful flesh to deal with. And by knowing the LAW, we are exposed as sinners against God. We have a bent toward sinning. In fact we have a drive toward sinning. We are all SINNERS - EVERY ONE OF US!

## THE MISCONCEPTION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Bible makes it clear that we have all sinned against our Holy and perfect God. Many pulpits teach condemnation as a means to stay saved. You must not break one of the Ten Commandments or you will no longer be saved. Others teach that obeying the Ten Commandments is the way to salvation. Both would be *severely wrong* and have not read their Bibles in context.

The Biblical truth is that the Ten Commandments were not given to us by God so that we would obey them to make up for our sins. The truth is, the opposite of that. We were given the Ten Commandments so that we would recognize our sin as sin. Look at Romans:

*"Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! **But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so***

*that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin."*

*(Romans 7:12-14 NKJV)*

*"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**" (Romans 3:20 KJV)*

*"Moreover the law entered, **that the offence might abound.** But where sin abounded, **grace did much more abound:** " (Romans 5:20 KJV)*

*""The sting of death is sin, and **the strength of sin is the law.**" (1 Corinthians 15:56 KJV)*

Now do you see the misconception that most people have about the Ten Commandments? It does no good to try to match up to the Commandments in order to make up for our sins against God. If you break one ... you break them all (James 2:10) . We could never have kept them all.

No person , except Jesus Christ, has ever kept the 10 Commandments. God gave the Commandments so that we would see that we could never regain fellowship with God through our own works by self-effort. He wants us to know that this can only produce sin and death.

Only the blood atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross can save us and forgive us from our sins. That is what is meant by `God's Grace'. Salvation is not a work to do. Salvation is a *free gift to be received*.

**EVERYONE MUST CHOOSE. CHOOSE GOD!**

*"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: " (Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV)*

Christ took care of our sin problem at the cross. And all we have to do is believe and ask for forgiveness. Just as Adam made a conscious choice to sin we must also make a conscious choice to receive the free gift of eternal life. Christ will not force you to choose to accept His salvation.

In Mark 6:45-52 there is a verse that shows that we must use our free will and hand over control of our lives to Christ. Your right to have the freedom to choose is very important to God.

*"And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.*

*And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, AND WOULD HAVE PASSED THEM BY.*

*But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, AND CRIED OUT: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.*

*And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened." (Mark 6:45-52 KJV)*

In these verses Jesus told His disciples to go to the other side of the sea. Jesus then went to pray in seclusion. Once they were in the middle of the sea a strong headwind made it difficult for the disciples to row. Jesus saw that they were having great difficulty (probably shown to Him by God the Father while He was

praying) and began to walk on the top of the water towards them. (Boat? Who needs a boat?)

To their astonishment, the distressed disciples saw Jesus walking on top of the water and coming towards their boat. At first, they thought it was a ghost and they were frozen with fear. Just imagine if you thought you were seeing a ghost floating on the water and coming straight towards you! Only when Jesus came close enough so that they could see that it was Christ did their fear change to joyful amazement.

It is at this point, however, where something happens that seems in contradiction to what you might expect. One would expect that Jesus would immediately calm the storm and get in the boat and help the disciples but He does not!

In fact Mark 6:48 says that Jesus paid NO attention to them and was proceeding to *pass them by!* Only when they cried out to Him did he acknowledge them and save them from their predicament! If the disciples had not submitted the problem to the authority of Jesus it seems like He would have walked right passed them. But once they turned over their situation to Christ He took over with full authority and stopped the headwind!

In Mark 4:35-41 we see a similar occurrence. Jesus and His disciples were in a boat when a great storm began to rock the boat hardily. The boat began to fill with water and they were fearful for their lives! And what was Jesus doing? Saving them as one might expect? NO! In fact, He was sleeping!

The disciples woke Him up and said, "*...Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?*" (Mark 4:38 KJV) It is only when the disciples woke Him and asked for Him to save them that Jesus calmed the storm. Jesus knew what was going on. He may have been sleeping but no sleep can be deep enough to hide water pouring all over one's self in a boat swaying harshly from side to side. Many other

Scriptures prove this point. It seems that God is trying to get this point through our thick skulls!

We must first submit our life to the authority of Jesus Christ before He will intervene in our lives. Yes, the Holy Spirit works to bring a person to repentance unto salvation but God gives you and me FREE WILL and it is important to Him that you have that CHOICE.

God wants ALL to be saved but will all be saved? The Bible is clear the answer is no. Christ did everything required for Salvation except one... that a person believe He is the Son Of God who takes away the sin of the world through the atonement He provided on the cross.

He is always close by (Christ did walk out towards the boat didn't He?) but it is you and me who must give up our free will and ASK for help and forgiveness. God wants you to have FREEDOM OF CHOICE! This is vitally important in order to have a loving relationship with God; that we be able to choose to do something ourselves with, or without, God. Otherwise, it would be called slavery.

God will not interfere with the decisions you make until you ask Him to take over the situation for you. We are only human. We will mess up in life. No doubt about it - we still have that sinful flesh to fight with. But even when we do mess up, the Holy Spirit will make all things work for your good as a believer. However, we must give Jesus authority over our life by our free will and admit that we are a sinner and believe that Jesus was the Son of God who was crucified so that our sins would be forgiven. In John 6:28-29 Jesus makes this clear:

*"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, **that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**" (John 6:28-29 KJV)*

## WHO IS THE ONE GOD SENT?

It is Jesus Christ who died on the cross and took the punishment for our sins and our disobedience to God's Ten Laws (which no one can obey 100% in our own strength, or will power). The Ten Commandments are a mirror we can look into and see just how sinful we are against a Holy God and they convict us so that we will turn to God and accept Jesus' act of atonement on the cross and be forgiven.

The purpose of the Ten Commandments is to show you how Holy God is and to show you how sinful we as humankind all are. When you realize that when you die you will face a Holy God. When the moment comes and you think about and realize the truth that even if your good deeds outweigh your bad sinful deeds; you sins must still be judged by a Holy God. What should you do at that moment of your life? Do not run away from God. Do not deceive yourselves. Accept God's truth and turn to Him for help. Ask God for mercy and forgiveness through Christ. That is one of the most important reasons the Law was given to us. To see ourselves as we truly are in God's view; sinners! So that we might believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and because of this have eternal life with God forever and ever.

# Chapter 11

## Who Is Jesus Christ?

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (John 1:1 KJV)*

When someone asks the question, *Who is Jesus Christ?* they usually only ask it because they may not understand why the Holy Bible is the word of the one true God. The God of the Bible gives proof that no other religious writings have that it is the true word of God and that is completely reliable; Bible prophecy. And also other reasons are given to us which have already been covered more in depth in a previous Chapter. The historical accuracy of the Bible is very real. In fact, historians reference the Bible because it is full of historical facts. Even the school system uses Biblical history in teaching. Archaeology has been continually unveiling truths that match the Biblical accounts, too numerous to recite here. You can do research on this topic online though and you will quickly see the truth of the historic accuracy of the Bible.

After coming to the realization that the Bible is the true word of the God of the universe it becomes very evident that the entire Bible, including both the Old Testament (Torah) and the New Testament (The Gospel of Jesus Christ) all point to a central being and person; Jesus *the Christ*. The long awaited and promised Messiah that the Old Testament Scriptures foretold about.

## WHAT WAS JESUS LAST NAME?

Just information for those of you who yet do not know but Jesus' last name is not 'CHRIST'. In modern times, we all have a last name and many times, a middle name, to help others identify who a person is. In Jesus day, this does not seem to be the case. Instead, throughout the New Testament we can see that people were known by their family name and sometimes by what they did as an occupation, or a certain 'pointer' to help people know who they were identifying. For example, the Apostle Peter's name before Christ renamed him Peter (the rock) was 'Simon'. Now there were many with the name Simon. Even one of Jesus' half brothers was named Simon. So the disciple Simon Peter is referred in the Scriptures as "Simon Bar Jonah", which literally means "Simon, Son of Jonah" (John 1:42) and later Jesus renamed him 'Peter, The Rock', identifying him clearly in Scriptures as one of the Apostles. And in Matthew 10, again we see reference to "Simon the Zealot". This was the writer making it clear he was writing about someone other than Simon Bar Jonah. This Simon was a known Zealot and not a disciple.

The reference of CHRIST identified with 'Jesus, Of Nazareth' is a term that refers to the long awaited Messiah from Old Testament prophecies. When we refer to Jesus Christ, we are really saying Jesus THE Christ, or "Jesus , the anointed one", or "Jesus, the Messiah". The CHRIST part of Jesus Christ is a title showing readers who He is; the prophesied Messiah, the Son of the living God in human form. He is the God-Man.

## JESUS' EARTHLY FAMILY

As most know the Christmas story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem I will not go into those details at this time. We have little information about Jesus when He

was a child being raised by his Earthy parents Joseph and Mary. We do know that Jesus had 4 half brothers - James, Joseph, Simon and Judas – not to be mistaken for the disciples of the same name; these were common names in that day (Matthew 13:55). They were the children of Joseph and Mary but half brothers to Jesus in reality because Mary was conceived not from Joseph but from the Holy Spirit of God (Matthew 1:20). Jesus also had sisters but the Scriptures do not seem to tell us what their names were (Matthew 13:56).

Right after Jesus' temptation by the devil in the wilderness, where He fasted for 40 days and nights (Matthew 4:1), Jesus went to the place where He was raised, the town of Nazareth. Jesus was born in Bethlehem fulfilling many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah's coming. But that was only because Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem due to the census that was happening at that time. Jesus actually was brought up in Nazareth with Mary, Joseph, His brothers and His sisters. Joseph was a carpenter and so Jesus was likely taught the trade as well in His early childhood years. This is why some refer to Jesus as *the carpenters son*.

In the book of Isaiah, in the Old Testament, is a prophecy that is about the coming of the Messiah, the Son Of God, who will save Israel and the whole world. When Jesus started His ministry, He made no small talk, nor did He keep anyone guessing about who He claimed to be. In fact, near the beginning of His ministry He stated, in a *extremely clear* and direct way, who He was. He claimed He was the prophesied Messiah to His own people, in the town He grew up in. He proclaimed it in the community Synagog, to those *in His town* that knew His family and also knew Him!

*“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood*

*up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

*Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down.  
And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.*

*And He began to say to them, “**Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**” (Luke 4: 16-21 NKJV)*

Unfortunately his own fellow neighbours and brethren, that he grew up alongside, did not believe he was the long awaited Messiah. They said among themselves, *“Is this not Joseph’s son?”* (Luke 4:22) They must have thought to themselves, we know this guy! He is part of our community. We grew up with him. He read the Torah right here in our synagog from his early days. He is the son of Joseph the carpenter. That is what they were thinking and saying out loud. In those days what Jesus said was blasphemy, making one’s self equal to God, and such a person was to be stoned to death. It caused quite the ruckus indeed! Jesus said to them plainly, *“Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.”*

From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus was very candid about who He was to the Jewish people; *to His own people*. Jesus then began His Earthy ministry and performed so many miracles of God that the Bible could not even contain them all. Jesus proclaimed He was the prophesied Son Of God who came

to be born of the Virgin Mary, live a completely sinless life (He was God in the flesh) and took upon the sins of the world upon the cross as He became the sin of the world. The one and final sacrifice for our sins. Jesus took upon Himself the punishment of the sins of every person that ever lived. And for anyone who accepts His pardon gift for our sin, His atonement for our sins, and believes He is the Son of God, that person is utterly saved from their sin debt against a Holy God and is heaven bound. Jesus said,

*“But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Matthew 9:13 KJV)*

*“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:17-18 KJV)*

## JESUS CHRIST IS THE GOD-MAN

What do I mean by that? We humans are a sinful lot are we not? We do not even realize just how sinful we are until we have a good look in the mirror of the Ten Commandments. Only then do we see just how sinful we really are as a race and as individuals. We may look better if we compare ourselves to other people who do more wicked things. But when we compare ourselves with a perfect and Holy God, we truly are a wicked bunch. And there is NOTHING we can do ourselves, in our self effort, to eradicate our sin or our sinful ways. God is a perfectly just being and has openly declared that we are all sinners and that God has appointed a day of wrath, a day of your death and a judgement for your sins.

The punishment for even one sin is so severe that it means an eternity separated from the love of God in a place of torment. Yet the Bible is clear that God loves us with an unconditional love; a *perfect love*. God is also perfect in mercy. So how can God keep these attributes perfectly? He must be true to His character because the Bible tells us that God *never changes*. On one hand God must carry out a punishment for sins committed, but on the other hand He does not want to do so because He loves you so much.

This is where God' attribute of being perfect in mercy comes into play. And that is why God sent Jesus to Earth in the flesh. God decided that He would live a sinless life as a human and then take the punishment for the sins of the whole world upon Himself. He did this on the cross. God had to become flesh, that is human, while remaining God at the same time. There was no other way to save humankind from their sin debt. Jesus is the God-man that accomplished this for us.

*“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*  
(Romans 5:10 KJV)

## JESUS IS THE ONLY MEDIATOR BETWEEN HUMANKIND AND GOD

Jesus Christ is the one and only mediator between God the Father and humankind (1 Timothy 2:5). He is the bridge between the sinful state of humankind (the wicked) and the righteous state required to be saved from God's wrath (the righteous). To gain a righteous state is not talking about living a perfectly sinless life. That is impossible for us in our fallen fleshly sinful nature. It is talking about our *position before God*. We only gain a righteous state before God

by believing on Jesus Christ and the atonement He provided as a means for all our sins to be forgiven.

## GOD IS NO LONGER MAD AT YOU!

God has already paid for all the sins of the world in Jesus Christ on that cross 2000 years ago. All you have to do is to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and call out to Him to forgive you of your sins and accept His free gift and pardon for your sins. At that very moment, you will become a member of the family of God. You will become a son or daughter in the family. Your sins (all of them, past/present/future) are completely forgiven by God because of what Jesus did for us.

*“But this man (Jesus), after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For **by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified**. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

*And **their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.**” (Hebrews 10:12-18 KJV)*

Once a person receives Christ and believes in the Gospel then that person's sin debts are wiped out! Why? Because Jesus already paid the penalty for those sins. In a court room, if a person is there because they owe a debt to a bank, and someone else pays the debt on behalf of the person owing, the debt is completely forgiven and the person becomes free from the penalty of the judge. This is what Jesus did for us. He is our advocate with the Father (the judge). And not only did

He pay our sin debt, He over paid it so there would be no way we could be judged again for the sins he already paid for!

If a person is forgiven their debt in a court room in this way, will that person then leave the court room and still work to repay the bank? NO! The bank was paid in full! The bank is no longer gunning for you and looking to collect. They already collected. They will not even call you again!

Once you are saved you are free from the prison of sin, no longer waiting for judgement to fall on you. Now you are what the Bible calls *righteous before God positionally*, without sins needing judgement. Now you can have a relationship with the Father with confidence in this! Will you still sin after your moment of Salvation? Yes, you will. But you need not fear eternal damnation in hell. Should you try your best not to sin? Well, yes but not in fear of hell. Your bank debt is paid and the advocate that paid your debt for you is not holding it over your head. He does not wish you to pay Him back. Out of love He worked hard (died on cross) to redeem you. Now, out of respect and gratitude live for God. You will sin. But have faith that nothing you will do in life has surprised God. He knows the end from the beginning! Knowing even before you were born that you were going to sin in your life was the very reason Jesus died on the cross.

Our goal as believers now is not making all our efforts about not sinning. **“Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.”** makes that clear. What we should be doing is living for Christ. We do that by “abiding” in Christ. And we abide in Christ when we abide in His word – the Bible and the Gospel.

The word of God is a lamp. It is where you learn about knowing God. The Holy Spirit resides within every believer (John 15:26) and will lead you into all truth. He will change you from the inside outwardly. This is the work of God. It is not self effort that leads us to all truth. He will renew your mind as the words of God change you inwardly. Then good works will follow almost effortlessly as Jesus

places desires in you to accomplish good works through you. This is called walking in the Spirit.

## Chapter 12

### *Are You A Good Person? Are You Sure?*

If you were to ask 20 random people this question you would likely get 20 answers with *"Yes, I think I am a pretty good person."* The question is compared to what or better yet *to whom?* So what about you? Do you consider yourself to be a good person? Do you believe you are a better person than others who do wicked things? And that God will not judge you because you do more good than bad?

Is it a fair assessment to compare our goodness to the relative badness of others as if we are guiltless? Do we each have our own level of what we feel is good or bad? Do each of us have our own truth or is there an absolute truth that we should be comparing ourselves with?

What would be the absolute truth though? It cannot be truth that we have created for ourselves because that would not be a fair assessment to base our goodness or badness with. There must be an absolute truth about goodness and badness. Good and evil. Being a good person and being an evil person.

As discussed in a previous chapter, God gave us this standard in the Ten Commandments. It is the absolute truth. As you have read in previous Chapters God is perfectly Holy and Just. And He gave us an absolute truth that we can use to test whether we are good or evil. This absolute truth is called the Law of Moses, what we call today, the Ten Commandments. We must use God's standard for this test. Not human standards. Comparing ourselves to other people is not a valid test. We must compare ourselves to God Himself because as the creator of all there is no other standard that would be fair to use.

## THE LIFE OR DEATH TEST

Let's take an honest test to find out if you and I are good people. And this test is ABSOLUTE. That means, it is not graded on a scale of percentages. God is PERFECTLY HOLY and a 99.9% is not a pass. In fact, if you fail on just one point, you have utterly failed the entire test. Just Be honest with yourself. Ok let's go...

### **1. Have you EVER lied before?**

Well.. be honest have you? Yes? Then what does that make you? It makes you a liar right? By telling a lie to another you have broken the ninth commandment of God.

### **2. Have you ever committed adultery?**

And remember that Christ said that those that even look at another with lust has committed adultery in their hearts, even though the physical act was never committed. (Matthew 5:27-28) So again, have you ever committed adultery in this light? Well, be honest. Yes? Then what does that make you? It makes you an adulterer right? By doing so you have broken the seventh commandment of God.

### **3. Have you ever stolen anything?**

Have you found money and kept it? Have you taken something that belongs to another and never returned it? Have you taken stationary item from work for personal use? If so, what does that make you? It makes you a thief right?

#### 4. Have you ever used the Lord's name in vain?

Did you ever hurt yourself and screamed out "God!" or "Jesus Christ!" ? Did you ever use God's name as a cuss word? If so, you have broken the third commandment of God.

#### 5. Have you ever looked at things that others have and wish you had them?

Do you see someone with a nice car and wish you had that? Did you ever see someone's house and thought I wish I had that? If so, you have broken the tenth commandment of God.

Okay, lets pause the test at this point. I have only asked you five questions. Don't you feel like it is pointless to go on? I mean if you fail on just one point you have already failed the test of being a good person based on God's standard of Holiness.

### NEWS FLASH! WE ALL FAIL THIS TEST!

I could go on and on with this self test but it is enough with just the 5 questions above to show you that you have broken at least ONE of the ten commandments of God. (Truthfully, most!) Now, here is a scriptural truth that will make this an even worse situation and it shows clearly that failing one point makes you a complete failure in being '*a good person*':

*"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not*

*kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.” (James 2:10-11 KJV)*

So if you have lied you are guilty of *breaking a law of God*. And because God is so Holy He MUST punish you for your sins. You are a person bound for the Wrath of a Holy God and headed for punishment for your sins.

Paul tells us in Romans that “...*ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*” (Romans 8:23 KJV) This is what the Ten Commandments are all about. They are a mirror showing us just how terribly sinful we all are. Without this absolute truth of the Law of God Almighty, we would not even recognize our sinful ways as being evil and bad.

*“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**” (Romans 3:20 KJV)*

This I am afraid is the state of **every** human being. Everyday is just more sins being added onto our record and one day we will find ourselves in the court room of God Almighty who is perfectly JUST and we will be sentenced. God is perfectly Holy and perfectly JUST. He MUST punish sin. And what is the penalty for sin? It is VERY severe! In fact it is called the Second death, an eternal separation from the love of God in a place the Bible calls the lake of fire. A placement of severe punishment.

*“For **the wages of sin is death;** but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. ” (Romans 6:23 KJV)*

The word 'death' in this passage of Scripture is not talking about a physical death only. It is talking of a spiritual death as well because if we look at the original

Greek the word for death here is *hánatos* which is derived from the word *thnéskō*, (to die) – physical or spiritual *death and* figuratively separation from the life (salvation) of God forever by dying without first experiencing *death to self* to receive His gift of salvation.

But wait! Isn't God perfectly loving as well? Does not the Bible say that God is perfect in His mercy and love? Well YES! But not in a wishy washy way like we humans may think. God must be true to His own Holiness. God NEVER changes and is perfectly Holy AND perfectly just. He loves us yet He must also judge sin and He is so Holy that just one sin and we are doomed to eternal death in a place called hell. (Romans 6:23)

That is, if you think that God will just give you a pass without punishment you are wrong. He must be perfectly just. You will NEVER hear God say, "*Oh you have less sins than this other person and you did mostly good deeds so you can enter heaven for all eternity and live forever.*" **NEVER.** Yes, God is full of love and mercy but He must punish our sin because He is also perfectly just. He will not and CANNOT go against His own perfect character.

When you realize how severe sin is and realize that you stand before God guilty, what do you think will happen when you die? Are you going to be standing at the judgement throne of the Lord God and just tell Him what a *good person* you are? Or are you headed for hell prepared for the devil and his angels?

## **KNOW THIS: EVERYONE HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD**

Each of us has an appointment with destiny. You can *decide* to meet with Him at this appointment *as a sinner* to be judged to eternal death or *as a son or daughter* to be accepted into God's house, a place called The New Jerusalem and Heaven, for life everlasting. The Apostle Paul makes this clear when he writes:

*“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where **to repent**: Because he hath **appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained (Jesus)**; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.” (Acts 17: 30-31 KJV, brackets by me)*

And do not believe that we are reincarnated at death to come back according to our deeds and that we keep coming back until we are sinless. Look around you, has that happened to anyone yet after 6000 years? Hebrews makes it very clear that *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,” (Hebrews 9:27)*

And there is no such thing as purgatory! That is a man made ideal and NOT Biblical. The Bible is very clear.... 1st death, 2nd judgement. — no second chances after death! A place called purgatory is not found anywhere in Scripture. It is a complete fable created by man – not by God.

At our appointed time of death we will give an account to God for our lives and what we did here on Earth!

*“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:11-12 KJV)*

Doesn't that worry you? If not, it should. God is perfectly loving, yes that is true. But God is also perfectly just and Holy. God has a Holy hatred for sin. (Isaiah 59:2) And what are we humans doing? **Sinning!** What are we all called? **Sinners!** *That is not a good at all for us is it?*

It is established that according to God's Word, all of us are sinners. Even when we think we are *good*. And we cannot make up for our sins with good deeds. If you think that good deeds can save you from the Wrath of God and

judgement of God for your sin, you are very wrong. The Bible says, *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* (Proverbs 14:12)

*“For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**”* (Romans 6:23 KJV)

Thus far I have discussed the first part of Romans 6:23 and that where we are headed is physical AND spiritual eternal death and separation from God in a place called hell. That is very bad news for anyone that does not continue in Romans 6:23 to the second part to see how we can escape this eternal punishment for our sins. And what is the solution to not ending up in this situation? *“...**BUT** the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23)

One very important word in that Scripture is the word *but*. As a sinner we are bound for an eternal death where the unbeliever and unsaved (called the wicked) will be resurrected at the last day; the second resurrection. Their name will not be found in the book of life because they never accepted Christ as Saviour from their sins. Such a person will then be cast into the lake of fire where they will perish. BUT there is a way for a person to escape such a judgement. God made a way for us to escape His own wrath and judgement. God is perfectly Holy and Just so the penalty for our sin must be paid... Death forever and separation from God. But He loves us so much that He sent His Only Begotten Son to suffer the penalty in our place so that we could be forgiven and saved from His own Holy Wrath and judgement.

*“For HE HATH MADE Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be MADE the righteousness of God **in Him.**”* (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**"*

*(John 3:16 KJV)*

We see here again that the wicked and unsaved will perish. So the unsaved will perish and be eternally separated from God. Without accepting the forgiveness provided through Christ's atonement for our sins, our sin would remain and the wages of sin is an eternal death.

*"Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You must be born again.**' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."  
Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"*

*Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.***

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world **through Him might be saved.***

*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

*And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practising evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

*But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” (John 3:5-21 NKJV)*

Being born again is called being baptized by the Holy Spirit. The work of salvation is already completed by Christ when he said on the cross, *“It is finished.”* He paid our penalty for our sins. But God will not force anyone to love Him or want to know Him. He did not create us as robots. He gives us a choice. Believe and be with Him forever in heaven or remain as you are a sinner unto the final judgement. Come to the judgement throne with your own self righteousness in pride, or come humble having asked Christ to save you. What more can God do? How much more can He demonstrate His love for us?

How patient is our God?! While we were His enemy and full of sin against God..it is then He became human (Jesus the Christ) and suffered and died for us and took upon Himself our deserved punishment for our sins. Jesus NEVER sinned and was perfectly just in the eyes of God the Father (2 Corinthians 5:21). So you see, God has met His own perfectness and Holiness. He is perfectly JUST because the punishment for our sins **was carried out** (on Jesus), yet His perfect love and mercy **was also carried out** by providing us a way to gain salvation from our sinful nature (by asking for forgiveness through Jesus’ act of atonement).

*"... But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: " (John 1:12 KJV)*

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. " (Revelation 3:20 KJV)*

Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and accept His free gift of Salvation and invite the Holy Spirit into your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to indwell in you and help you learn all truth. Avoid sinning as much as possible (you will still sin but keep trying). Understand that it is not turning from your sin that will save you. It is fully the work of Christ without your efforts or works. All your sins (past/ present /future) are forgiven 100% because Christ paid your penalty already. However, after Salvation we are to try our best to not sin and we should turn from our sinful ways and abide in Christ, walking in the spirit and not the flesh.

*"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: " (Deuteronomy 30:19 KJV)*

## **CHOOSE LIFE!**

Know the truth that you are a sinner. You have broken God's commandments. You stand judged at death. Thank God for allowing His Son, Jesus the Christ, to come down to Earth as a human through a virgin birth. That Jesus never sinned and yet He gave His life as a ransom for your life. Thank God that Jesus came and stands as your defender against God's own wrath against the sins you have committed.

Thank Jesus that He stands up for you and says to the Father; *"I have died and taken the punishment for this person's sins. The sin debt has been paid in full. Accept Him and see this person's sin no more. (Hebrews 10:17). Give to this person my own righteousness before God. (2 Corinthians 5:21).* Jesus, forgive me of my sins and in your mercy grant me eternal life.

If you truly repented of your sins (that is *changed your mind* about your sins and accepted Christ) and you asked Jesus to forgive you your sins and asked Him to come into your life as your personal Savior, then you have become what the Bible calls "born again". And the following scriptures apply to you personally:

*"For by grace are **ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. " (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)*

*"Now to him that worketh is the reward NOT reckoned of grace, but OF DEBT. But to him that worketh NOT, but BELIEVETH on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." (Romans 4:4-5 KJV)*

*"... But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: " (John 1:12 KJV)*

*"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. " (Romans 6:14 KJV)*

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. " (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)*

*"...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen " (Matthew 28:20 KJV)*

# Chapter 13

## *Is Salvation By Works or Faith?*

### ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN? ARE YOU SURE?

- Going to church does NOT make you a Christian.
- Doing good works and being good to others alone does NOT make you a Christian.
- Being a “good person” does NOT make you a Christian.
- Being born into a family of a certain denomination does NOT make you a Christian.
- Being baptized as a baby does NOT make you a Christian.
- Talking in tongues does NOT make you a Christian.
- Following sacraments does NOT make you a Christian.
- Asking a priest to absolve your sins does not make you a Christian.
- Doing penance does not make you a Christian.

There is NOTHING we can do to become a Christian except one; repent (change your mind about your sin) and *believe* the Gospel (that Jesus was the Son of God who came and took upon Himself the punishment we deserve for our sins).

God is a perfectly just being and He MUST punish the sins we commit. But God also loves us perfectly and is perfect in His mercy towards us. By sending Himself in the human person of Jesus Christ, living a completely sinless life and

taking the punishment that we deserve, God has paid the penalty for our sins. But have you accepted His forgiveness? Do you believe?

Salvation through Christ is a FREE gift to you and me. An undeserved and unmerited favour from God to you!

*“For by **GRACE** are ye saved **THOROUGH FAITH**; and that **NOT** of yourselves: it is the **GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS**, lest any man should **BOAST.**” (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

## NEVER BOAST OF YOUR GOODNESS OR GOOD WORKS

Will your good works save you? No.. *they never will.* That is why Jesus came to redeem us from Gods wrath against the rebellious and sinful human race. Do you need to confess your sins to a priest or pastor to be forgiven sins? No. In fact, the Bible is clear that you should ask for forgiveness of sins only to one being...

*“For there is **ONE God**, and **ONE mediator between God and men**, the man **Christ Jesus**; Who gave himself **a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2: 5-6 KJV)*

The Apostle Paul is clear on this point! His teachings make up two thirds of the New Testament and it is through Paul God reveals the plan of salvation of grace through faith – not works. Salvation is **NOT OF WORKS. PERIOD.**

*“Now to the one who works, his wage is **not reckoned on the basis of grace**, but as **what is due**. But to the one **who does not work**, but **believes in Him (Jesus) who justifies the ungodly**, his faith is **reckoned as righteousness.**” (Romans 4:4-5)*

## ANY ORGANIZATION OR CHURCH TEACHING WORKS FOR SALVATION IS TEACHING A FALSE GOSPEL

It is so clear. Yet this is MADE unclear by the teaching of many modern day religion church organizations and denominations. The thing is when one reads the Scriptures, (start in Romans and Galatians) it is *very clear* that what is currently being taught in many pulpits is NOT what the Bible teaches about the number one purpose for Jesus coming and suffering on that cross; our penalty of the sins we commit and the sinful flesh we struggle against – **PAID IN FULL**.

Jesus BECAME SIN on that cross and suffered physically and spiritually. The Bible is clear that our sins during our life were nailed on that cross with Him and we are 100% forgiven all our sins. It is not we who accomplish our salvation by works.. **it is 100% the work of Christ who redeemed us**. Salvation is 100% grace through faith and not of works. Period. Believing any other way is *a false Gospel*.

*“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: **for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**”*

*But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*

*For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.*

*For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.*

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

*I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is DEAD IN VAIN.” (Galatians 2:16-21 KJV)*

The real problem here is not with Church going Christians. Many who attend various denominational churches do not believe the faith plus works equals salvation equation. Why? Because they read the Bible and it is very clear how wrong it is. It is a false Gospel which I have come to realize myself. But the problem is that the large majority of church members are not reading the Bible to see for themselves if what is being preached is actually Biblical. More times than not, what is being taught about the Gospel is NOT TRUE to what the Bible teaches. Because most are not reading the Bible, there are no checks and balances happening with what is being taught.

In Galatians we can see how serious an issue this is. The Galatian church had some who infiltrated and told members that works were needed for salvation. They basically were saying that it is faith PLUS WORKS that saves a person. It amazed Paul how quickly the devil can deceive even believers. And what did Paul, the teacher of the true Gospel of Christ, have to say about this?

*“I marvel that **ye are so soon removed from him (Jesus) that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:** Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel of Christ.** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.**”  
(Galatians 2:6-8 KJV)*

You can see how serious this issue is. This is such an important issue because if you believe that works are a requirement for salvation, such teachers are giving you a false Gospel. It is not different than trying to save yourself through

your own efforts – which is basically following the Law which the Bible calls “the ministry of death” and the “ministry of condemnation”.

*“But if the **ministration of death, written and engraven in stones**, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; **which glory was to be done away**: How shall not the **ministration of the spirit** be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, **much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.**” (2 Corinthians 3:7-9 KJV)*

Do NOT continue in the Ministry of death, trying to keep the Ten Commandments for your salvation as if you could actually do so with your bent of sinful flesh. Impossible! Do not think you are a “good person” or that you are better than anyone else regarding your sin. Do not use a human standard to compare yourself with “other evil sinners” while you think you are good using human standards. Human standards regarding your sin are MEANINGLESS. God is perfectly HOLY and JUST.

It is against God’s own character of perfect Holiness that you should be comparing yourself with – and believe me WE ALL FAIL MISERABLY! We are all SINNERS. We have a sinful flesh we struggle against within us and it is impossible to never sin – even after you become a Christian! And of course to make things worse there are those who believe in a works based salvation and believe they are better than others when the fact is they are completely wretched within.

Such people are no different than the Pharisees of Jesus time on Earth and He described them with strong words such as “Vipers” and “hypocrites”. They wore fancy long robes and pointed their noses down at others as if they were 'good' while others were 'bad sinners'. They used condemnation to fill their pockets while coveting. They made themselves look good outwardly, yet their hearts were full of evil.

*“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, **but within they are full of extortion and excess.** Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed **appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.** Even so ye also **outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.***

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, **that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.** Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.*

***Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?***

*Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them **ye shall kill and crucify;** and **some of them shall ye scourge** in your synagogues, and **persecute them** from city to city:*

*That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.*

*Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, **thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee,** how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, **and ye would not!***

***Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.***

*For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, **till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.***” (Matthew 23:25-39 KJV)

Even today the people of the Jewish faith are still waiting for the Messiah to come. They did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In fact, they rejected Him, accused Him falsely and hung Him on a cross as was foretold in the Torah (Old Testament). In the last verse, verse 39, Jesus is giving a prophecy for the Jewish peoples living in our time, the Last Days when after the Rapture God will raise up 144,000 Jewish people to preach the Gospel. In the end they will weep seeing that Jesus really was the Messiah and that they persecuted and killed Him. They will be saying, *“Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”*

Do not be like that. Do not try to make yourself look 'good' outwardly and hide your sinful nature. Do not think you are any more good than anyone else. From God's view, the very best we can offer is *as filthy rags!*

*“But **we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**”* (Isaiah 64:6 KJV)

Instead the right thing to do is acknowledge that you have a sinful flesh we struggle against. That God knows your heart and your sinful deeds. And without pride, humble yourself before God and cry out to Him for mercy and Salvation through the blood atonement of Christ on the cross for the remission of all your sins (past/present/future sins). Do not do good works as a way to gain God's acceptance and forgiveness. It will not work at all! Understand that Salvation is NOT of works, nor by keeping the Law (Ten Commandments).

The Apostle Paul said, "*Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*" (Galatians 2:16 KJV)

Paul makes this very clear. The LAW SAVES NO ONE! Trying to fulfill the law yourself is impossible! The Law shows us how terribly guilty of sin we are before our Holy God. The Ten Commandments are like a mirror so we can see how terribly sinful we actually are.

*"For no one is put right in God's sight by doing what the Law requires; what the Law does is to make man know that he has sinned."* (Romans 3:20 KJV)

*"Law was introduced in order to INCREASE WRONGDOING; but where sin increased, God's grace increased much more."* (Romans 5:20 KJV)

*""The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law." (1 Corinthians 15:56 KJV)*

In Romans Paul says this,

*"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God.** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.***

*But now **the righteousness of God without the law is manifested,** being witnessed by the law and the prophets; **Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference: **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***

*Being justified freely by HIS grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in HIS blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time HIS righteousness: that HE might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

*Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. **Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.** (Romans 3:19-28 KJV)*

We must rely on the FINISHED work of Christ on the cross. Double jeopardy rule applies here folks. At the point of belief and salvation you are made a new creation in the spirit. You cannot be punished for that which Christ already took upon Himself as punish FOR YOU. In Romans 4 we see how true this is when Paul writes,

*“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (Romans 4:4-5 KJV)*

To be saved you must rely 100% on Salvation by faith in Christ's act of atonement, **apart from works**, to be saved. Otherwise, you may be lying to yourself, thinking you are saved when you are actually NOT! That is a scary position to be in and it is exactly where the devil wants you! Thinking you are saved by your works because you were taught so in church, yet headed for condemnation and judgement. This is NOT where you want to be friends! So many pastors and preachers and priests and TV Evangelists are teaching the **faith PLUS WORKS false Gospel**. This is called The Apostate Church and is rampant in

these end times. In fact, it is a prophecy fulfilled in our time that points to the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to FREE you from your prison of sin! Jesus came NOT TO CONDEMN but to SAVE YOU and FREE YOU!

*“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:15-18 KJV)*

Let your guilt turn you towards God in mercy. Ask for His forgiveness of your sins. Acknowledge that you cannot be “good” and “sinless” and that you are not better than any other regarding you sin and He will save you and free you and you will BE the very righteousness of God, IN CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:21). This is called living in the spirit with the Holy Spirit living within you, teaching you, guiding you and working through you. It is not following the law to save you, the ministry of death. No it is the ministry of liberty through Christ!

*“Now the Lord is that Spirit: **and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18 KJV)*

## IS YOUR CHURCH TEACHING A FALSE GOSPEL?

Bible Prophecy is clear that in the Last Days (the time in which we live) there will be a falling away from the true Gospel. False gospel religions will arise before Christ returns. I ask you this, Is it here? Yes, it is! I say this to all people in any formal denominational Christian religion... has your religion become a false gospel teacher? You can know by a some observations:

1. Does it teach faith PLUS works equals salvation?
2. Does it omit teaching Bible Prophecy which is two thirds of all Scripture? (If you did not know this, it is a big sign!)
3. Does it teach that the Ten Commandments and fulfilling them in your life is what saves you?
4. Is it legalistic, you must not do this, you must not do that, you must do this or that or lose your salvation.
5. Does it promote worship to idols? That is anything or any person that is not GOD HIMSELF?
6. Does it teach you must speak in tongues if you are truly saved?
7. Does it teach being laid out in the spirit with people contorting and scrambling about? (only place we see this in the Bible is with demon possession!)

**!! If any of these apply !!**

**I say to you, that organization is teaching a false gospel.**

READ YOUR BIBLE and make sure what is taught in the pulpit is what is taught in the Bible! THEN you will know the truth and never again be deceived by

any group or person. Let every man be a liar and GOD be TRUE. Will some, or many even, take offence to this? Yes. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ is offensive to many. But as Paul said,

*"...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.***

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them." (Romans 1:16-19 KJV)*

Know this; it is what the word of God teaches, used in proper context. If you do not believe this, then start reading the Bible and find out what I found out. Do not just rely on what a priest or pastor tells you, or even what I am telling you in this e-book, thinking "*he must know, he reads the Bible.*" ***NO! Start reading the Bible yourself.*** Know why you believe what you believe and adjust your belief to what the Bible actually says. Then you are on the right track and will not be easily deceived by all the false teachers.

# Chapter 14

## *Time For A Prison Break!*

Those called the unsaved, are in a state of spiritual unrighteousness, with many sins committed in the flesh – prisoners and slaves to sin. There is a boundary and they are stuck in the prison of sin because of their debt of sins against a Holy God which cannot be erased by their own effort, leaving them headed for the full wrath and Holy judgement of God. No one cannot escape this prison by their own effort, try as a person may by performing good deeds or religious rituals and activities.

The good news is that the opposite is also true. The saved person, who accepted Christ's atonement for sin on the cross, was translated from the spiritual prison of flesh and sin and unrighteousness to the new prison of a newly created person in the Spirit who is now created with righteousness where God abides. And those saved have a new boundary of being 100% forgiven and righteous...and the saved cannot not escape this wonderful prison by their own efforts either! Christ made sure of that on the cross! Jesus says clearly,

*"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." (John 6:37 NKJV)*

Those who turn to God, and accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. Those that believe Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, born without the sin curse passed down since the fall in the Garden of Eden. Those that believe that Jesus died on the cross and at that time accepted the punishment for the sins of the whole world and took upon Himself our sins. Instead of God punishing us for our

sins, He became a human (Jesus the Christ) and bore our deserved punishment so that His perfect justice would be served. Those that accept this eternal pardon of sin are now called now *'the saved'*, *'the redeemed of God'* and *'the righteous'*.

It is not working your way out of a sinful flesh nature – which is a hopeless endeavour. It is not a religious thing; it's a relational, positional issue between you and God Almighty. It is by faith, believing in the grace and mercy of God toward us and by believing and accepting this great gift of forgiveness; believing in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Saviour from what? From your sin debt!

*“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:18 KJV)*

As Christians, we did not make ourselves free from sin! It says we were **MADE FREE**. By whom? By Christ Jesus! The saved have become a servant slave to righteousness! And before accepting Christ as Lord and saviour Paul says, *“For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.”* There you can see the big flip in our relationship with God! It is a positional change. A prisoner transfer from the prison of unrighteousness, separated from God, to the prison of righteousness, with God. What a gift!

*“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?”*

*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall MAKE you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:31-36 KJV)*

The prison of righteousness is a prison of FREEDOM from our initial sinful nature in the flesh. The reality is that God loves you and I so much that He sent His own *begotten son* to take upon Himself, the punishment we deserve. Jesus, the second part of the trinity of God, who never sinned, became a perfect sacrifice so we could be 100% forgiven for all our sins.

*“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:15-17 KJV)*

That is what true salvation is all about. It is a loving and merciful gift from God, not anything we do or did. Salvation is not by any self righteous act we have done. It is not through our good works, nor our doing penance, nor any religious rituals. It is a GIFT. And as a gift, it must be received. Will you receive God’s gift of eternal life?

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us FROM ALL unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 KJV)*

## WE WERE GIVEN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

Jesus received the punishment we deserved as sinners and so we are now saved from our sin debt. We are completely forgiven in Christ. Many stop there but there is more to it than just this awesome gift of love toward the whole human race. We were not only forgiven by this great act of love. There is more to this gift from God! In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it reads,

*"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. " (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)*

An exchange was made when Jesus on the cross cried out, ***"It is finished!"*** (***John 19:30***) Christ redeemed us from our punishment from our sins and then we became the very *Righteousness of God, in Christ*. This is the divine exchange that freed us from the prison of the flesh and sin in an unrighteousness state of being and placed us within the prison of a newly created Spirit with a new righteous state. What a gift God has provided us with. Believers have and are a newly created Spiritual being, in Christ. We still have fleshly bodies until at the Rapture, when our corrupt fleshly bodies and minds catch up completely to our Spiritual change when will be just like Jesus is.

In the meantime, between being born again in Christ and the Rapture and resurrection of the body, there is a struggle within the believer in Christ as Paul explains,

*"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.***

*I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O*

*wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me **from this body of death?** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:14-25 NKJV)*

The Apostle John states,

*"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.**" (1 John 3:2 KJV)*

# Chapter 15

## Salvation: What A Blessed Hope!

*“...whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:15-17 KJV)*

Believing that the Bible is the word of God, the very next question you need an answer to is what is God really like? Starting with knowing about God and His perfect ways gives you a solid foundation upon which to build better understanding when reading the Word of God. Let us quickly look at some of God's characteristics from the Bible.

- **God is eternal.** He is not a created being. He has always existed. God never changes. He is the same today as He has always been. (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8 , James 1:17, Deuteronomy 33:27, Psalms 90:2)
- **God cannot do anything against His own perfect character.** God keeps His promises to us. (Psalms 12:6-7, Mark 13:31)
- **God is perfect in every way:**
  - + Perfect in love. (1 John 4:8, 1 John 4:16, 1 John 4 :7)
  - + Perfectly Holy and perfect in justice.(Revelation 4:8, 1 Peter 1:15-16)
  - + Perfect in mercy. (Hebrews 13:5, Romans 3:23-24, Psalms 111:9)

*NOTE: The list continues because He is truly perfect in every way. I have a more complete article on what the Bible has to say about God's characteristics and His ways that you can read here . For the purpose of this article we will focus on the above attributes of God.*

## **GOD IS LOVE. THEN, ALL IS GOOD RIGHT?**

Perfect love is the trait of God that we want to hear about the most right? If God loves us than what have we to fear? In fact, many pulpits focus on this aspect of God yet deny the other attributes of God. We must also remember that God is also perfectly JUST and Holy. And that is the problem that we humans need to address and face head on. If we compare our goodness to others who have done greater sins than we have, that is not a fair assessment of our true sinfulness. The Bible tells us that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23 KJV) and that "...we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;" (Isaiah 53:6 KJV). The very best thing we do in goodness is as filthy rags to God. You see, we all have a SIN NATURE in us. And God is so Holy that even just ONE sin is enough to cause Him to punish us with His perfect justice.

To make matters worse, the punishment for even ONE SIN is eternal death in a place of torment that was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). God is THAT HOLY! And when we compare ourselves to God, believe me when I say that we fail miserably. God gave us the Ten Commandments as His Absolute Truth to show us just how sinful we really are. No normally born human has kept the Ten Commandments perfectly.

Some say, I have not committed murder or adultery! However, Jesus said that if you have hate toward another in your heart you have committed murder. If you lust after the opposite sex you have committed adultery in your heart. And have you really loved God with ALL YOUR HEART AND MIND? Honestly, none of

us have. You see our heart, our inner being is where the problem is. We all were born with a SIN NATURE and a 'bent' toward sinning since the fall of Adam and Eve.

So we have all sinned. What does that make us? It makes us sinners! And what does the Bible say happens to sinners? They are headed for God's judgement and condemnation in hell. *"For the wages of sin is death;..." (Romans 6:23 KJV)*

A look at this verse in the Greek in which it was penned defines this death as 'with the implied idea of future misery in hell'. This is an eternal death. That is not good news right?! So, what about God's love you keep hearing about? Isn't God perfect in love and mercy? YES He is! But not in a wishy washy sense. What I mean is that God is not going to just tell you in the court room of God, "ok. You did more good deeds than bad, so I will allow you eternal life in heaven". NEVER. God CANNOT do anything against His perfect Holiness! To be given entrance to Heaven a person must be perfect and without any sin debt.

## HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS! THE WONDERFUL NEWS!

God is also perfect in love and mercy and so He must also abide by these character traits perfectly. You see God loves you and me more than any being in the universe. He does not want anyone to end up in Hell. No! He loves the sinner but hates the sin. He wants all to be in heaven with Him forever and ever.

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9 KJV)*

But this SIN is in the way because He must judge it. The penalty MUST be paid. So what is God to do in this predicament?

This is what Salvation is all about. The Bible tells us that God is a Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7). The Bible is clear that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22). God in His perfect love and mercy decides to commit to the single greatest act of love in the universe for all of time. God decides to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself so that our penalty for sins can be paid in full. To do this, He would have to become a man but also still be God. This God-man is Jesus Christ.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and was not born into the sin nature as we were. He is God after all. He could be tempted to sin but never sinned in His entire life in deed, nor in the mind. Why? Because He is God become flesh. God had to become flesh and live as one of us so His blood could be shed for us. It was the only way that we could be forgiven our sins because they had to be paid for.

When Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood God took upon Himself all the sins of the whole world (past/present/future) and paid for them so that we could be freed from our sin debt against the Holy God Almighty. So you see, yes God is love. Amazing love! But His love that saves us was not in a wishy washy way. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for our sins and in doing so kept all His perfect traits and characteristics intact. He loves us perfectly. He judged our sins in His perfect justice and Holiness. He was perfectly merciful toward us in paying the penalty for our sins. THAT is the true love of God from the Bible. THAT is the love of God that you hear so much about. It far surpasses any love we have for each other here on Earth.

## THE FREE GIFT OF THE GRACE OF GOD

*“For by GRACE are ye saved THROUGH FAITH; and that NOT of yourselves:  
it is the GIFT of God: NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast.”  
(Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)*

The Bible is clear that this act of love towards us is a FREE GIFT to be received. That is, it is not us working our way to heaven by performing good deeds and good works, being a good person nor by religious rituals. It is a Grace GIFT from God. An UNMERITED favor from God to humankind. Now God did not create us as robots. Instead He gave us a free will so that we could have a real relationship with Him. And so God offers the free gift of Salvation to all who believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, who atoned for our sins on the cross, died and rose again on the third day. Jesus on the cross cried out, “It is finished” and if we look at the Greek that the New Testament was written, it actually means “PAID IN FULL!” This is why the Gospel of Jesus Christ is called the good news!

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Only one thing which is not of your own self righteous efforts in any way; **BELIEVE the Gospel of Jesus Christ.** Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who paid your penalty for the sins you have committed. When a person believes this they are from that very moment saved eternally, even without saying a prayer (it is good to give Him thanks in belief, do not get me wrong!), The Holy Spirit of God indwells the person and they are SEALED and saved for all eternity!

*“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye BELIEVED, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of PROMISE, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-16 KJV)*

The Scripture below shows just how much God has saved such a person for all eternity. To be with God in Heaven we must be without sin debt. In belief, the person actually becomes the very righteousness of God, in Christ. An amazing truth to be so thankful for, yet many believers have not grasped how powerful our Salvation is!

*“For he hath made HIM [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be MADE the righteousness of God IN HIM.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV, [] brackets for clarification)*

Because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and has imputed the righteousness of God to us, in God's eyes He sees us through the filter of Christ! To Him we are Holy, righteous and redeemed for all eternity. To God, all your sins (past/present/future) have all been fully paid for and so there is now no condemnation for them that believe on Christ alone in faith and belief.

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1 KJV)*

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he*

*hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”  
(John 3:16-18 KJV)*

## IS JUST BELIEVING ENOUGH TO SAVE US? WHAT ABOUT REPENTANCE?

The New Testament was first penned in the Greek. The Greek word for the English word 'repent' is 'metanoia' and is defined as "...a change of mind". It is not defined as *'turn from sin'* as many pulpits teaching works based Salvation are telling their church members. That is the modern day dictionary definition but not the Biblical definition of 'repentance'. In fact, we see in the Word of God that God Himself repents more than any, yet God has no sin to repent of! To repent is to 'change your mind'.

You can see clearly now that the Biblical meaning of 'repent' is nothing like the dictionary definition (change one's life for the better; be penitent. ) True repentance is not a work that WE DO to gain God's acceptance and favor after Salvation. God reached out to us first and provided a way for us sinners to be forgiven completely, but it is NOT from our own efforts. God gives Salvation to us as a free gift to be received. The Bible tells us that BEFORE God created the Earth He established the one and only way for us to be forgiven our sins and that way is by faith in the act of atonement provided by Jesus The Christ on the cross.

Repentance is changing our mind and thinking about how to be saved. We are NOT saved by our works, which is what the every religion in the world teaches. Repentance and belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (which is Salvation by faith alone In the atonement for our sins through Christ crucified) is two sides of the same coin. That is if you repent about how to deal with your sins (change your mind about how to get forgiveness for your sins) and believe that this is

accomplished only through faith and belief in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, and the atonement for our sins on the cross, you HAVE ALREADY repented.

Repenting is the change in your mind from the world's way of dealing with sin and changing to God's way of dealing with sin which is believing on Christ for Salvation apart from works of any kind (Ephesians 2:8-9).

**Stopping the practice of a particular sin is a result of repenting and changing your mind. That is, it is not the repenting itself.**

## **THE MAIN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE ON HOW TO BE SAVED PROVE THIS!**

The book of John is all about how to be saved. Do you know that the word 'repent' nor 'repentance' does not even appear once! But the word 'believe' on Christ is seen all over the book many times!

The book of Galatians. This is the book fighting against the false Gospel based on works for Salvation right? Again, the word 'repent' is not found once in this book contending for the true Gospel! However the word 'faith' in Jesus Christ is found all through the book!

The book of Romans. Paul tells us again and again that Salvation is NOT OF WORKS IN ANY MANNER! And where the word 'repent' is found, it is not the same Greek word. It does not mean 'turning from your sin'.

The Christian religions need to stop using the dictionary definition of the word 'repent'!!! They are teaching a FALSE GOSPEL WHICH WILL NOT SAVE ANYONE.

## **BELIEVE THE GOSPEL AND BE SAVED**

Do you believe Jesus is the Christ (Christ is not Jesus' last name, it means 'the anointed one'), the only begotten Son of God who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, born without sin, lived a sinless life, atoned for and paid in full the sins of the whole world (past/present/future) on the cross, died and rose again on the third day? If so, the Holy Spirit now resides within you and you are SEALED and saved for all eternity. You are Heaven bound and your sins will not cause loss of your Salvation. They are fully PAID by Christ on the cross 2000 years ago.

# *The Names of God In The Old Testament*

BlueletterBible.org has a great resource on this topic. Here are the names of God in the Old Testament in summary:

- **EI Shaddai** (Lord God Almighty)
- **EI Elyon** (The Most High God)
- **Adonai** (Lord, Master)
- **Yahweh** (Lord, Jehovah)
- **Jehovah Nissi** (The Lord My Banner)
- **Jehovah-Raah** (The Lord My Shepherd)
- **Jehovah Rapha** (The Lord That Heals)
- **Jehovah Shammah** (The Lord Is There)
- **Jehovah Tsidkenu** (The Lord Our Righteousness)
- **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)
- **EI Olam** (The Everlasting God)
- **Elohim** (God)
- **Qanna** (Jealous)
- **Jehovah Jireh** (The Lord Will Provide)
- **Jehovah Shalom** (The Lord Is Peace)
- **Jehovah Sabaoth** (The Lord of Hosts)

I encourage readers of this e-book to visit this online resource and read into the specifics of each of the Names of God in the Bible.

"The Names of God in the Old Testament." Blue Letter Bible. Web. 11 Jul, 2016.

Website: [https://www.blueletterbible.org//study/misc/name\\_god.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org//study/misc/name_god.cfm)



## *About The Author*

### *Don Gerrity*

Don Gerrity is not a preacher. He is not a leader of a church organization. He uses his talents in writing to help share the Gospel to the lost and to help encourage other believers. Don does not lead in an organization, nor an organizational church, though he does frequent many of the top Facebook and Christian social media groups.

Don is owner of the [SeekKnockFind.org](http://SeekKnockFind.org) website, an online personal ministry. A growing FREE resource with Christian articles, YouTube video playlists and links to other Christian resources. The goal of the [SeekKnockFind.org](http://SeekKnockFind.org) website is to help new believers expand their knowledge of the truth in Salvation through Jesus Christ and to show non-believers why Christianity and the Holy Bible can be believed with full assurance that the Bible is the truth.

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