

# The Fivefold Plan of God

Fourth Edition

A Seeker's  
Handbook



John Kodyil

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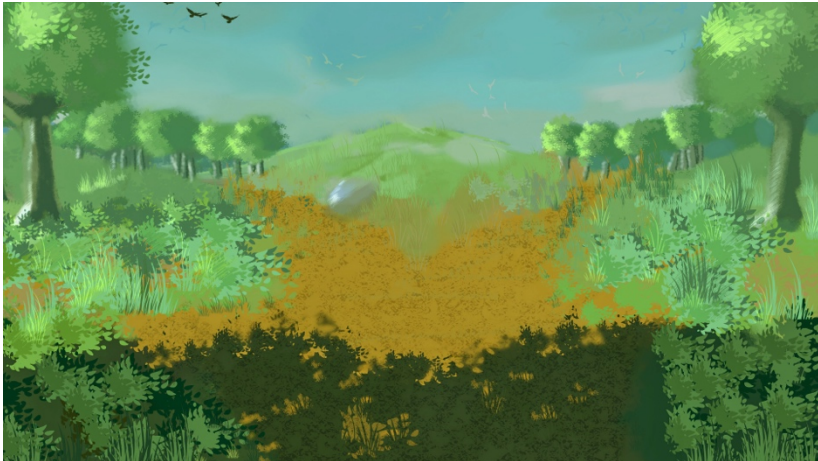
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# THE FIVEFOLD PLAN OF GOD



**NOT FOR SALE OR COMMERCIAL USE  
FOR CHURCH USE - PRIVATE STUDY ONLY**

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# Foreword

In all these years of being acquainted with Pastor John Kodyil, knowing his family and occasionally visiting him at his residence, I've constantly encountered a gentle soul within him, surrounded by his musical instruments, microphones, a computer and a Bible; incessantly being a mouthpiece, spreading God's word despite his - albeit temporary - consequential bodily ailments.

My association with Pastor Kodyil is thanks to the synagogue I'm a member of. The Kadavumbagam Synagogue of Ernakulam, Kochi, India; the oldest active synagogue in all of the Commonwealth countries, being 822 years old. Pastor Kodyil's significant, regular contributions to our historic synagogue as Tzedakah (tithes) stand testimony to how important he considers the Jewish people and our relationship with God to be; this divine attribute of his - acknowledging the importance of Judaism as being the root and foundation of Christianity and Christ Himself - is elegantly reflected in his current work, "The Fivefold Plan of God" (one would do well to remember that the Torah of the Jews also consists of five books.)

"The Fivefold Plan of God" is essentially a handbook, an instruction-manual to leading the ideal Christian life. From Genesis to Revelation, Pastor Kodyil touches upon the most paramount points and capsulizes them, with spiritual, philosophical, linguistic and historic ideas and facts. The result of decades of Bible study and careful scrutinization of God's word. A meticulously prepared bag of Godly ideas and rules condensed, churned out and extracted from countless notes written through a lifetime of trials; physical, spiritual and social.

Apart from the rich Judeo-Christian teachings contained in this manual, it also speaks of Pastor Kodyil's unparalleled and awe-inspiring personal journey to Christ. An adventurous account spanning three continents and two faiths that is sure to make any reader of any religious or spiritual orientation to pause and introspect. I invite you to read "The Fivefold Plan of God" and share this valuable gem of literature to your near and dear.

**Shalom.**

**Thapan Dubayehudi**

Novelist, professor of Hebrew, French and German.

October 2022  
Vienna, Austria

## Preface and Introduction – Fourth Edition

Man is suffering. To deny that, we have to deny our own existence. We all want to know the reason why we are here on earth. There are a thousand reasons given and ten thousand explanations for this, each providing an equally elusive answer. We need to taste and see God. In this handbook, I explain how God's plan, the "Gospel", is designed to transcend reality as we define it and give meaning to our lives.

I am unapologetic because I have to "walk the talk" every single day. I've explained at the end of this manual that after my search for the true God in many religions, the one who I was looking for had reached out to me. My search ended with a person known as Jesus, who is the Christ. The time for His return is very very near,

After a heart attack in 2018 (actually, over 40 in a row), the doctors had to give up trying to resuscitate me. Though everyone thought I was dead, God had other plans for me. Obviously I recovered, however, a debilitating stroke left the right side of my body weak and uncoordinated, so I had to resort to my left hand and my electronic devices to put all this together. Still, I believe in a healing God that restores.

One thing that pastors share with doctors and the police is that they see humanity at its worst. Unlike the other two professions, in my calling as a pastor, I see God's plan for each person I'm called to serve; the good that God alone has in store for us.

I did not set out to be an author and this is not a "book" in that sense. The Biblical ideas in what is essentially a handbook neither originated from me nor are unique to me. I wish the included material could be better organized because they started out as my notes, then I shortened it lot to simplify, even from the previous editions.

Though many deceptions that seemed like fringe theories before, and though they are converging now as prophesied in the Bible, in this handbook I've only focused on and simplified the Biblical plan that God has for us from before our creation to the restoration of all things; what I see as an epoch of a saga that started even before time as we know it began. Still, if some concepts seem alien, though I've included as much scriptures as space permits, please get in touch with me.

Always remember that God who has called us is faithful, and He will bring to completion the good work that He has started in us. Strengthen others as you gain understanding of the plan that God has for you through Christ Jesus.

I wish to thank all my brothers and sisters who helped me accomplish this work for my Father God's Kingdom. This is dedicated to my wife Anupama, to my children Samuel, Daniel, and Joel, and to my extended family.

With love in Jesus Christ, who is returning soon.

**John S. Kodyil.**

May 2024

# How to use this Handbook

## A Handbook Illustrating God's Plan

When the disciples asked our Lord Jesus Christ to teach them to pray, this is what He said. He pivoted that prayer around the Kingdom of God.

**Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This handbook is not meant to replace your Bible reading. You should read your Bible and be part of a Church, the body of Jesus Christ. When I met Jesus Christ in 1997, He gave an insatiable hunger for the Word of God; The Holy Bible. Be filled with the Holy Spirit, the author of the Bible. He will help us clear up all our doubts.

**1 Samuel 30:6 NKJV** Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But **David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.**

As David strengthened himself in the Lord Hid God, the Word of God will guide you to find strength in the Lord your God.

## Explanation of text

1. Title of the Book.
2. The section you are on.
3. The topic.
4. My notes.
5. Bible verses with reference.
6. Points and sub-points.
7. The last topic on this page.
8. Page number.

The Fivefold Plan of God **1** The Creation (1 of 5) **2**

The Creation (1 of 5) **2**

Spirit Soul and Body **3**

- + If I ask who you are, you will tell me your name.
- + If I ask you what you are, you will tell me your profession
- + If I ask you where you live, you will tell me your address

Biblically you are a spirit, you live in your body, and you have a soul **4**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Genesis 2:7 (KJV)** 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.

- + Can a body exist by itself? Yes. **6**
- + Can a spirit exist by itself? Yes.
- + Can a soul exist by itself? No.

1. The soul came into being when the spirit came in contact with the body.
2. The soul is tied to the spirit.
3. The normal state of the soul is in conjunction with the body and the spirit.
4. The moment you get born into the earth, your soul is forever bound to the spirit, either dead or born again.
  - + When you are born again, your spirit responds to the Word of God
  - + Your soul agrees and is convicted, and you give yourself to Jesus by first repenting.
  - + Your body responds by being obedient to your soul.

One day, we all will shed this body. At that time, our spirit and our soul will be bound together, awaiting our resurrected body.

**Philippians 3:21 (NKJV)** who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Then comes judgment.

**Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Spirit Soul and Body **7** Page 8 of 138 **8**

## The Creation (1 of 5)

### Spirit Soul and Body

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## God's Book - The Holy Bible

The Word of God - the Holy Bible - is a supernatural book that still speaks to us. It was written by many different people, who wrote with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

**2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

In the Bible, we find the answers to life's greatest questions:

- † "Where did I come from?"
- † "Why am I here?"
- † "Where will I go?"

Even though the Bible is made up of 66 smaller books, it has only one central theme: God's loving plan to rescue mankind Himself through Jesus Christ.

1. It reveals God's heart and mind.
2. It unveils Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.
3. It tells us about ourselves.
4. It teaches us how to live in the world.

The Bible is divided into the Old Testament and The New Testament.

- † The Old Testament tells us about God's work with His people before the birth of Jesus.
- † The New Testament is the new covenant God made through Jesus the Messiah, and our rights and privileges as born-again children of God. Plus, it ends with all that our Heavenly Father has planned.

Before Jesus the Messiah, God's Kingdom on earth was mediated through Moses, and then Joshua, and then through the judges and eventually the kings of Israel. Now Jesus alone is the one Mediator between God and men.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

The word "Christ" comes from the Greek *chrīstós* (χριστός), meaning "anointed one". The Messiah (מָשִׁיחַ) is the future redeemer of the Jews. So "Christ" is Greek and "Messiah" is Hebrew. It is not Jesus' last name, but a title.

Jesus came to reconcile us to God and He will come again to finally deliver the Kingdom to God our Father in Heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NKJV Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, [19] that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 NKJV Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. [25] For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. [26] The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

After our being reconciled our Father in Heaven, He has filled us with His Holy Spirit, without whom it is not possible to build or even be part of the Kingdom of God.

Acts 19:2,6 NKJV he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." [6] And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Before Jesus, the Holy Spirit was given to Priests, Prophets, Kings and Judges in the Old Testament or the Old Covenant. However, in the New Testament or in the covenant we have with Jesus Christ, the New Covenant.

Acts 2:16-18 NKJV But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: [17] 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. [18] And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

He came as the Lamb of God when He first came, but He is returning as the Liob of Judah.

Revelation 5:5-6 NKJV But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." [6] And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Now that some basic principles are understood, let us look into what is meant by God's Kingdom.

# What is the Kingdom of God?

**Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God's Kingdom program involves five major parts or developments:

1. **Creation:** Genesis 1 – 2 *(Section 1)*
  - † The Kingdom is present with creation as God the King of creation tasks His image-bearer, man, to rule and subdue His creation.
2. **Fall:** Genesis 3:14 *(Section 2)*
  - † The fall marks man's failure to rule God's creation; both God's image-bearers (humans) and the creation come under the devastating effects of the fall.
3. **Promise:** Genesis 3:15 – Malachi *(Section 3)*
  - † The promise plan guarantees the seed of the woman will eventually succeed over the power behind the serpent (Satan); the fall will be reversed and man will effectively rule over creation.
4. **Redemption:** Gospels – Epistles *(Section 4)*
  - † Jesus the King brings redemption through His atonement, and His death is the basis for the Kingdom and reconciliation of all things.
5. **Restoration:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ. *(Section 5)*
  - † With the restoration of all things, God's Kingdom plan is fulfilled as Jesus successfully reigns over the earth; this Kingdom merges into the perfect Kingdom of the Father.

We need to understand what a Kingdom is in order to have a proper understanding of God's plan for His Kingdom. Jesus reconciled us to God, our Father in Heaven, and He gave us His Holy Spirit to personally overcome and to set up His Kingdom.

From Genesis through Revelation the Kingdom of God involves a beautiful and wonderful restoration of all things. It involves God's reign over every aspect of creation. It includes people, animals, and all creatures in the universe. It involves food, music, celebration, laughing, and rejoicing.

Above all, it brings a thriving relationship with God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of God's Kingdom program. The Kingdom is life and life abundantly.

Awaiting the Kingdom of God also makes everything we do and every trial we face worth it. "Through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). And, "If we endure, we will also reign with Him" (2 Tim 2:12). A tangible Kingdom awaits all who devote their lives to King Jesus. No matter how bad things get, a



wonderful Kingdom awaits.

The word for kingdom is “Malkuth” in Hebrew and “Basileia” in Greek. There are other terms relevant to the kingdom concept. But like any term, the meaning of “Kingdom” and similar terms is not found primarily in the etymology or origin of the word but in its usage. Usage determines meaning.

Malkuth and Basileia often are translated as “royalty,” “royal power,” “reign,” and “kingdom.” The concept of “kingdom” includes at least three essential elements:

1. Ruler: A kingdom involves a ruler with rightful and adequate authority and power.
2. Realm: A kingdom involves a realm of subjects to be ruled.
3. Rulership: A kingdom involves the exercise of ruling.

All three elements are needed for a kingdom, including active ruling.

Essential to the word kingdom is the actual exercise of authority in a realm over which one has the sovereign right to rule. If the exercise of authority is not in view, the concept of kingdom is not present. Thus, there can be no kingdom in the truest sense without the ruler, the realm, and the reigning function.

We can trace the Kingdom theme from Genesis through Revelation. This theme provides a unifying structure that bound all the Bible together into a unit, and by which all the history recorded there could be understood and related.

The Bible does not leave the Kingdom of God in the abstract. If God rules, He rules somewhere, even if somewhere is everywhere. It is best to define the Kingdom of God as “the rule of God over His creation.”

While most Kingdom passages focus on God’s mediatorial Kingdom on the earth (Dan 2:44; Matt 6:10; Acts 1:6), God’s universal Kingdom is always in operation.

**1 Timothy 5:24-25 NKJV** Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. [25] Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

For a time humans may resist God’s mediatorial Kingdom plans, yet we will never escape God’s universal judgment.

**Hebrews 9:27-28 Voice** Just as mortals are appointed to die once and then to experience a judgment, [28] so the Anointed One, our Liberating King, was offered once in death to bear the sins of many and will appear a second time, not to deal again with sin, but to rescue those who eagerly await His return.

**Matthew 6:13 NKJV** And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Earth's Spiritual Journey

So much has happened in the last 100 years spiritually compared to the centuries that went before that it is not easy to broadly summarize any of it. Though there are a multitude of angles that I could take, I stick with the Christian paradigm; the truth that I know to be universal, that sets you and me free, as you'll see for yourself.

The Bible's storyline shows how the Kingdom which God created became the Kingdom fallen, which then eventually becomes the Kingdom restored. Before I continue, I want you to see how the scriptures from the Holy Bible point towards this storyline being centred and anchored in Jesus the Messiah.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

**Colossians 1:13–22 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,

<sup>14</sup> who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

<sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

<sup>16</sup> for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.

<sup>17</sup> He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

<sup>18</sup> Christ is also the head of the church,

which is his body.  
He is the beginning,  
supreme over all who rise from the dead.  
So he is first in everything.

<sup>19</sup> For God in all his fullness  
was pleased to live in Christ,

<sup>20</sup> and through him God reconciled  
everything to himself.  
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth  
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

<sup>21</sup> This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. <sup>22</sup> Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

## From the Past to the Present

I once asked why the Earth is the only liveable planet in the Solar System or in the known universe for that matter. The Bible explains what happened and why this is so. I explain more about the rest of creation and other creatures in our weekly Bible Study. In this chapter and generally in this handbook, I talk only about the spiritual story of our planet. We need a good comprehension of this concept to clearly understand God's plan for us.

The beginning of the 20th century saw a new yet old cosmological paradigm put in place that could theoretically provide a convincing and deceptive new pretext for a new wave of satanic incursion in the guise of life from other planets.

We do have to stop and consider the question of the dimensional veil, the barrier, that God put in place after the fall, which we know once was broken before the flood and is the reason God had to judge the earth with a flood (I explain more later).

**Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)** But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear.

Could fallen angels once again reveal themselves to humanity this time as alien saviors and serve as governors of Satan's earthly kingdom perhaps? Can demonic spirits even now sometimes manifest themselves and the physical realm inhabiting people moving objects even attacking individuals? Yes, but is it also true that this ability for the demonic realm to interface with the physical is still somehow limited?

This would seem to be the case and the Bible does seem to confirm that this barrier will remain in place right up until shortly before Jesus returns when it will be removed and the spirit of Antichrist will have a period of unprecedented access to the earth and to humanity one last time before he meets his own end.

According to the Bible, every single person on the earth, after Adam, is born into the middle of a war. This war is one that cannot typically be seen with the naked eye. Its existence is not broadcasted on the evening news. Its reality is not even realized by the vast majority of the population. Yet this war has raged on since the very beginning.

The battle lost in this war had a devastating effect when that ancient serpent, also known as the devil and Satan, entered the garden and tempted the first man and woman to disobey God. Through this sin, death entered the world. This fallen mankind began to multiply and cover the face of the earth, not without hope, but with a promise of a Savior through the seed of the woman.

**Genesis 3:15 NKJV** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

The first full assault on humanity to eradicate the seed of the woman from the Earth came soon after. Nothing even our greatest science fiction movies can even come close to depicting this invasion. Though you could describe it as an alien invasion, because these invaders were not human, you would be wrong to think that they were inter-stellar or inter-planetary. No, they did not come from some distant galaxy, from some far-off star system, rather they descended from a different "dimension".

**Genesis 6:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

**Jude 1:6 (NKJV)** And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

These sons of God or Watcher Angels conspired to abandon their assigned posts that God had given them. So they fell from their first estates that God had set for them, and they came down to the earth, where they began a sort of colonization campaign.

**Psalms 115:16 NKJV** The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

The earth belonged to the children of men therefore a hybrid offspring that contains human DNA was needed to take possession of this planet. So the sons of God had to marry earthly human women and thus fathered the "Nephilim". This hybrid

abomination offspring began to ravage the land and feed upon men. They corrupted the genetics of not just humanity, but of animals and plants as well. Like I said, I'll explain using scriptures in the following chapters.

Using the knowledge given by God to perform their original tasks in the heavens, they proceeded to teach mankind all sorts of forbidden things, in order to marry and "civilize" them, to equip them in the building of cities, vast kingdoms, where these fallen angelic beings could rule as gods.

The knowledge bestowed by these beings was presented as being the keys to humanity's path to enlightenment; the technological know-how that would eventually allow us to take our seats alongside them, as gods, but of course this was all a lie. This forbidden knowledge brought nothing but destruction, perversion, wickedness and death.

God, the Creator, finally became so grieved by the immensity of the wickedness on the earth, and the corruption of His creation, that He decided to wipe it all out, and begin again. Sparing one single family and the animals which God brought to ride out the waters with them, God wiped out every living thing on the earth - people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the ark.

## After the Flood

When the waters receded, the world had been cleansed from the evil that had almost wiped out humanity from the face of the earth. The great empires of the fallen ones and their father's had been erased. Their monuments and citadel's shattered by earthquakes and buried by oceans. The angels who had conspired together against God were buried deep in the bowels of the earth, held there in the deepest darkness until the time of the final judgement of all things. The body-less spirits of the Nephilim, were cursed to roam the earth, tortured by hunger, thirst and lusts that they could never satisfy, forever longing to have bodies to inhabit once again.

The direct rule over the whole earth by those Angels were over. However, no sooner than the earth began to be filled once again with trees and plants and animals, and people began to spread out and fill it once again, did the enemy of mankind begin working, seeking to rebuild what God had destroyed; his beloved empire, whose sole purpose was the enslavement and destruction of mankind.

It would be different this time around. No longer did the Fallen one have the ability to take wives and build cities and palaces, where such self-declared deities could sit and rule directly over their subjects. No longer could they walk amongst men and be revered for their brilliance and stature.

No, instead the satanic kingdoms that would be built after the flood had to be done through the worship of now invisible deities, forced to orchestrate their rule through various systems of interdimensional communication, since God had now bound them

behind a spiritual veil. Once again a spectrum of forbidden knowledge was disseminated amongst these newly reborn civilizations in order to facilitate the connection between these civilizations and their demonic benefactors.

Thus, in the courts of all the human kings and leaders of these kingdoms, worked a host of occult priesthods, sorcerers, mediums, astrologers, and practitioners of divination. The subjects of these pagan kingdoms would formally acknowledge their loyalty to their false fallen invisible gods by sacrificing to idols, building them temples, having orgies and uninhibited drunken revelry.

The rebellion against God resumed in earnest after the flood, from the first failed attempt by Nimrod to build a tower into the heavens and storm the throne of God, through all the following kingdoms which were founded after the scattering from Babel.

After God destroyed the tower at Babel and confused the languages of mankind, paganism and occultism were gradually spread and developed throughout the world yet again, until once more the true God of heaven and earth chose to intervene, this time by setting apart a man, a people, a kingdom, to bear His name to the rest of the world.

## The Chosen

From Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, down through Moses, Aaron, and Joshua, judges like Samson and Gideon, Kings like David and Solomon, prophets like Elijah, Samuel, Daniel, and Joel, on through the centuries, and amidst the rise and fall of many demonic empires, the God of all creation revealed himself, and began to reveal his plan to redeem humanity from their curse of sin, and death, and demonic oppression.

## The Promised Savior

**Galatians 4:4-5 NKJV** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Finally, from the humble town of Nazareth, Jesus stepped forward and revealed himself as the promised Messiah, the son of God, the Word made flesh, God Himself, and the one whose own sacrifice would once and for all destroy the curse, and make it possible for men and women to be reborn through the Spirit of God, who would actually come and live within us as the new Temple of God.

For many centuries that followed, the truth of God began to advance upon the various territories of these demonic kingdoms, freeing people from the bondage they had been held in for generations. For the first time since the great flood, large numbers of people began to truly understand who they had actually been in servitude to in these pagan kingdoms. Throughout stretches of Europe, Africa, and Asia, the truth of Jesus

kept spreading. People kept getting set free.

From that point on, the great spiritual war began to take on a rather new twist.

## Persecution

The first tactic Satan brought against us was brute persecution. He used his puppet Emperors of the Roman Empire to imprison kill and torture the first Christians, but somehow this only wound up revealing the power of the Gospel, and the hope in eternity that it truly brought. So faith in Jesus only spread. The once unshakable Roman Empire began to crumble under its own human weight.

## Fifth Column Attack

Next Satan tried a different approach, which many ways proved more effective than the first. Instead of trying to crush the spread of faith in Jesus with the powers of empire, he would usurp it. From the time of Constantine onward, the enemy began a blasphemous campaign of rebranding many of his old demonic kingdoms, and demonic occult priesthods, as now being Christianized. This way he could seduce the Christians with wealth, power, and earthly pleasures, and corrupt the Church of Christ from within.

Pagan temples were repurposed as Christian churches. Pagan rites and rituals were reinvented as Christian ceremonies, slowly emerging as one of the most effective weapons against the Kingdom of God.

Satan was able to prevent scores to people from actually reading the Bible for themselves, and turned them instead back to the same bondage and darkness that the demonic systems had enforced before, only now it was being done in the name of Jesus.

Still by the sheer grace of God, the truth endured. Even though the reading of God's Word, the Holy Bible, was prohibited, the gospel spread, and genuine faith in the Creator and Saviour of mankind continued to grow.

Satan continued to work furiously to regain control of the world of men by way of Catholic imperialism and eventually European colonialism, which because of the advent of unprecedented naval power, began to conquer more and more of the world that was accessible by ocean. At the same time, however, the spread of imperialism all too often still brought with it the truth of the gospel, which opened the hearts and minds of the people to the true nature and identities of the pagan and shamanic religions they had traditionally held.

The more Satan worked to tighten his grip on the world through Imperial and economic means, the more he continued to find his kingdom being forced to operate in the shadows. The occult knowledge and pagan rituals that went all the way back to Babylon, had been preserved down through the centuries by various strains of secret societies, esoteric mystery schools, and underground Brotherhood's. For the most

part, this is where it remained.

As much as the devil had increased his control over humanity through governments militaries in financial means, the truth of God had increased as well, to the degree that most populations would still never openly embrace Lucifer as the one true God, even if he did control vast empires of wealth and power through his network of lesser demonic emissaries.

Witchcraft and Luciferian (satanic) beliefs were not yet something that humanity as a whole would accept, and this was an objective that Satan had to achieve, if he was to successfully restore his absolute rule over the world, and declare himself to be God.

In order to get the entire world back to where Satan wanted it, he had to implement another plan, another strategy, so massive in scope that most people, even the majority of those even believe he exists in the first place, have difficulty in believing that such a thing could be pulled off.

In the ancient times when God first saved humanity from utter destruction at the hands of the Fallen watchers, and then again from the tyrannies of the demonic kingdoms, people still understood the basic nature of the realm that God had created for them.

The earth was filled with plants and animals, and mankind had been given dominion over it. The heavens above were filled with the luminaries, who served the creatures below by marking the days and months and years, and allowed for navigation over vast stretches of earth as well. Those pagan kingdoms that rejected God worshiped various fallen angels as their gods, but for the most part, they still understood where those "gods" had come from.

They still knew that they had come from the stars, from the sky, from the firmament. When the truth of God had been fully revealed through the person of Jesus, the ancient cosmology had been given its full context. The distinction between the creator and the creation was made clear, and the futility of the rebellion by those first fallen angels was made plain to see.

## New Deceptive Cover

In order for Satan to convince the world that he was the supreme being and worthy of humanity's worship, he would have to rewrite the entire script, and completely repackage himself, his kingdom, and his message, and present it in a new way.

Like the recycling of an old Shakespearean play into a modern cinema, in order to reintroduce and rebrand the old characters, you first have to rebrand the setting in the stage itself. The horse carriage will have to be a motor car, the 15<sup>th</sup> century buildings and landscape will have to be modernized.

Satan needed a whole new backstory, a whole new angle, through which he could gradually insert himself, and his rebellious agenda against God, into the hearts and minds of humanity.



Yet it was through a familiar tactic that this new angle was achieved. The old trick of bestowing upon humanity forbidden knowledge, which plays upon our pride and arrogance, was now used again in a masterful and cunningly deceitful way.

This occult knowledge or gnosis was rebranded as science.

Much of the groundwork for this rewrite had already been laid in ancient Greece, even before Jesus had been born, by way of the so called Greek philosophers. These were in fact men who took many of the concepts and teachings that came from the occult mystery schools, from spirit mediums and pagan ritual contact with the demonic realms, and then proceeded to preach them, adding their own speculations and human-centered conclusions.

This effectively sanitized these concepts from their demonic origins and the eyes of many later generations, as though they were simply the profound thoughts and musings of mere men.

During the Renaissance in Europe, many of these ideas began to once again take hold, as they were increasingly considered to be harmonious with the teaching of the Bible, and slowly began to exert a greater and greater influence upon theologians and scholars throughout the largely Christianized Europe, particularly after certain works ascribed to the Egyptian Magus (singular of Magi, a magician or a wise man, often a member of a priestly caste) known as Hermes Trismegistus, were translated into Latin and then circulated among intellectuals with a predilection for such material.

The Kabbalah, which is literally "parallel/corresponding," or "received tradition", which emerged from earlier forms of Jewish mysticism, too began to receive more attention from thinkers and monks and people with the necessary literary education.

Kabbalists believe their source of information was transmitted by the angel Raziel to Adam after he was evicted from Eden. What you need to understand about Kabbalah is that although it propounds the unity of God, it promotes dualism, the belief that there is a supernatural counterpart to God. Why I take time to mention this is that more and more so called scientists are discovering that what they find out from science has been foretold in Kabbalah.

Back to our timeline, and to what was happening during the Renaissance in Europe. The Kabbalah, together with writings on alchemy that came from Muslim mystics, these streams of occult knowledge and teaching began to permeate.

How little do most students today realize that the bulk of those individuals revered today as having been the pioneers and visionaries of materialistic science, were in fact greatly influenced by concepts that were introduced by occult manuscripts, and the core tenets of mysticism.

Leonardo da Vinci, Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon, Robert Fludd, Nicholas Copernicus - these are names we all learn about in school, but yet we learn about them as men who simply derived their discoveries and scientific achievements by way of pure

observation and logical deduction. An investigation into how they arrived at their various discoveries, and the various occult materials which they were all coincidentally reading, reveals that these discoveries were nothing more than very ancient teachings on the nature of the cosmos and nature, simply being repackaged and reintroduced with a quasi-Christian veneer.

The Copernican cosmology of a vast universe, a planetary solar system, even a big bang to start it all off, could be found in the kabbalistic texts long before Copernicus.

The concepts of molecules and chemical reactions, even elemental transmutation by a way of atomic fusion and fission, were first presented in the more imprecise occult practices of alchemy.

The idea that nature and the cosmos was governed by invisible forces and laws, which could be discovered and calculated, and then reapplied through various technological means, is actually an underlying precept of Hermeticism, the teachings of Hermes Trismegistus.

Isaac Newton placed great faith in the concept of an unadulterated, pure, ancient doctrine, which he studied vigorously to aid his understanding of the physical world. Many of Newton's manuscripts detail his thorough study of the Corpus Hermeticum, writings said to have been transmitted from ancient times, in which the secrets and techniques of influencing the stars and the forces of nature were revealed, i.e. As Above, So Below.

So with a good measure of help by the well-financed so called Brotherhoods, such as the Rosicrucians and Freemasons, The Royal Society was established as the first official organization dedicated to the advancement of scientific understanding, and the rest as they say is history.

What had begun as a half-hearted attempt to combine the knowledge gained from these various divine revelations, with the knowledge gained from nature, was quickly transformed into an unapologetic natural philosophy. The universe suddenly got very very big, and God became very very removed, to the point where then the cosmos itself was easily considered capable of having formed without God's assistance whatsoever.

Models of the Copernican heavens were expanded and refined. Darwin stepped in to explain how life could have emerged from the primordial ooze, long after the Earth had slowly formed over billions of years from the slow gathering of cosmic dust in the vacuum of space.

The universities and lecture halls largely built and maintained by these same wealthy blue blooded fraternities, quickly and not surprisingly, became hostile territory to anyone who dared question the new burgeoning scientific consensus the universe was now presented as a vast evolving almost infinite space, with our little blue planet floating somewhere in the middle.

This then opens the possibility that while man might be the pinnacle of life on this planet, he might not be alone in the universe either.

So finally now the stage has been set for the same old characters in the old drama, the fallen ones who invaded the pre-flood world, to start to re-emerge with a new set of costumes, to make the deception of humanity complete again.

## The Final Countdown

As I re-edit this in May of 2024, there has already been official admissions by various governments about the existence of unidentified flying objects (UFO), or unidentified anomalous phenomenon (UAP).

The advent of Artificial Intelligence makes spiritual discernment absolutely necessary. Additionally

- † Is it the end of this age? Some say that the new age has already started.
- † Have the seals in the book of Revelation of Jesus been opened?

This is only the beginning. You will see that this war to deceive will rage on till Jesus Christ returns, and our Lord Jesus has won the victory. You will understand that His Church is His Lampstand through which He is revealed and the darkness dispelled.



# The Biblical Creation

I do not believe that the Earth is flat like a Chapatti or a Pancake and I do not subscribe to the Flat Earth Society's view. However, I would rather believe the Bible and its authentic account of creation than any man-made belief system or agency. There is also the fact that there is more than meets the eye, meaning the Biblical creation is controversial only because it describes things we still do not comprehend completely. In other words, I choose the simplicity that is in Christ instead of being deceived by the Devil's craftiness as the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 11:3.

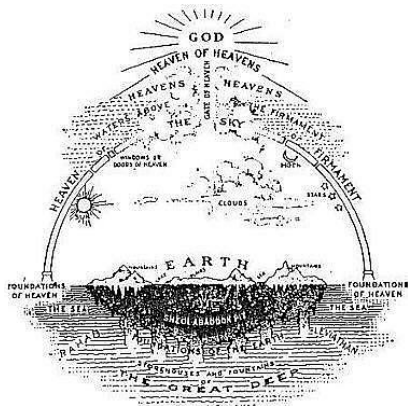
Genesis 1:1-3 (NKJV) 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Genesis 1 reveals the glories of God's creation. In six days God created a spectacular universe full of wonder and mystery—the sun and planets, animals, birds, fish, vegetation, land, and sea. Six times God pronounced His creation “good” (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). Then in Genesis 1:31 He said it was “very good”. This includes the earth and all its physical aspects.

There are religions and philosophies based on the belief that the physical world is an illusion (Hinduism), or that the physical world is really just perception but not reality (Idealism). The philosopher Plato (427–347 B.C.) elevated spiritual matters over the physical. Two thousand years of church history show that the fog of Platonism has often clouded Christians. Many think God's ultimate purposes involve escape from the “carnal” physical world to a glorious spiritual existence in the sky.

A strong contrast is made between earth and heaven, so much that the ultimate goal is to escape earthly existence. But anti-material views are wrong. Physical things are not bad. In fact, the material and immaterial aspects of God's creation are in harmony with each other.

The new world needed a ruler. Yes, God was King and could directly rule over this new Kingdom himself, but this was not His plan. So He created man. “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our



THE ANCIENT HEBREW CONCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSE

TO ILLUSTRATE THE ACCOUNT OF CREATION AND THE FLOOD

image, according to Our likeness” (Gen 1:26a).

As “image” and “likeness” of God, man is created as king and son. He is placed into relationship with God. Man is now positioned and equipped to rule and subdue the earth on God’s behalf. Man has a task to complete.

First, he is to “multiply” and “fill the earth.” God’s plan for mankind involves more than just Adam and Eve. It involves their offspring. Adam and Eve were made to produce other image bearers who too would share their God-given responsibilities.

Second, God instructs man to “rule” and “subdue” the creation. The Hebrew term for “rule,” which is used twice in Genesis 1:26–28, is *rādāh* and means “have dominion,” “rule,” or “dominate.”.

This is evident in man’s naming of the animals, which was a demonstration of dominion (Gen 2:19–20). Thus, there is a royal and kingly aspect to the language of Genesis 1:26–28. The very first of the divine injunctions laid upon him, man was regal in character.

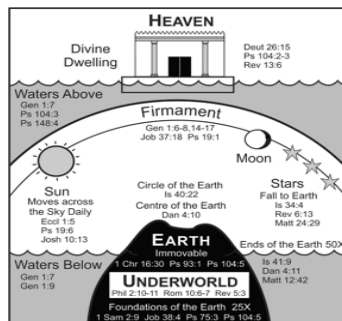
God placed man in a physical environment suitable for beings with physical bodies. There was a real place called “Eden.” God also made sensual delights for Adam, including food: “Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food” (Gen 2:9). Adam was also given physical work to do. He was to “cultivate” and “keep” the Garden of Eden God entrusted to Him (Gen 2:15).

Then God made a real flesh and blood mate for Adam—a woman, Eve, who would be Adam’s equal, yet also different from Adam (Gen 2:18–25). From this point onward, man’s service to God would also include his treatment of other human beings.

Authority to rule over creation was a command given Adam and Eve, both meant to take possession, to fill the earth with other image bearers indicated this.

The couple can eat from any tree in the garden, but they were to avoid eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. To eat from it meant death. This was an opportunity for these volitional beings to willingly express obedience to their Creator with their hearts. Avoiding the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” was to be an expression of worship.

John 1:1-5 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.



# The Triangle Gospel

What follows is a simple illustration of the events that took place in the past, events that are going on now, and what our future holds. Triangles were easy to draw and are not in any way a reflection of anything religious or occultic. Samuel, my eldest son, drew them on my physical notebook in 2010. I drew it again with MS Word and added scriptures later.

## Scene 1 - God



In the beginning there was God. In the Old Testament, four words are translated as the English word “God”. Those words are El, Elah, Elo’ah, and Elohim.

**Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)** In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 2:4 (NKJV)** This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD (*YEHOVAH*) God (*Elohim*) made the earth and the heavens,

He is the one we call our Heavenly Father.

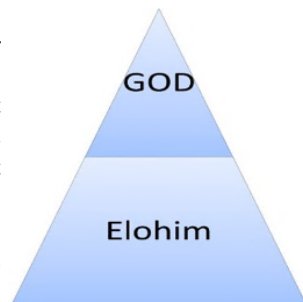
## Scene 2 – God. Elohim.

**Psalm 82:1 (NKJV)** God (*elohiym*) stands in the congregation of the mighty (el); He judges among the gods (elohiym).

God has two families, a family in heaven and on earth; the upper and lower families. The Jews understood this and is also confirmed in the New testament.

**Ephesians 3:14-16 (NKJV)** <sup>[14]</sup> For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>[15]</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, <sup>[16]</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

Various Bible translations render this as “the council of Elohim,” “the great assembly,” “heaven’s court,”



“the divine council,” and “the assembly of El.” The heavenly council is also rendered in English translations as His own congregation, the congregation of the mighty, the assembly of God, the assembly of the angels, the hosts of heaven, the heavenly host, the company of God, or watchers.

## Scene 3 - God. Elohim. Satan.

### Angels

**1 Timothy 5:21 (NKJV)** I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

Part of this Elohim class of beings is a sentient class of creatures known as angels. The Fallen Angelic incursion continues to have a disastrous effect on human beings.



There are three angels whose names are made known in the Scriptures:

1. Michael, the archangel. Most angels in the Bible are portrayed as messengers, but Michael is described in all three books as contending, fighting, or standing against evil spirits and principalities.
2. Gabriel. This angel seems to be a special messenger of the Lord. He is mentioned three times in Scripture:
3. Lucifer (Satan). This is a fallen angel, who was created a perfect and powerful angel.

The Bible also describes different classes of Angels.

### Archangel

The word "arch" simply means chief, and it suggests that there is a class of beings higher than ordinary angels.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NKJV)** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

### Seraphim

This word means fiery ones in Hebrew. Their form appears to have been human, with the addition of wings.

**Isaiah 6:2 (NKJV)** <sup>[2]</sup> Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

This word is used elsewhere only of the "fiery serpents" sent by God as his instruments to inflict on the people the righteous penalty of sin.

**Numbers 21:6 (NKJV)** So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

*It is to be noted that "sarpa" (सर्प) in Sanskrit means creeping, crawling; snake. It also denotes certain semi-divine beings (dwelling on earth, in the air, heaven, and the lower regions). Are the words connected or related?*

## Cherubim

"Cherubim" is the plural of "cherub," from the Hebrew word for "draw near."

The Cherubim look like men except that each one has four faces and four wings and feet like a calf. Two of their wings join tip to tip, and the other two cover their bodies. Their faces are like those of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle.

**Ezekiel 1:10 (Sept.)** And the likeness of their faces was the face of a man, and the face of a lion on the right of the four; and the face of a calf on the left of the four; and the face of an eagle to the four.

When Moses was up in the mountain talking to God, what did the Israelites form a Golden image of? A Calf. Cherubim were placed in the Garden of Eden to guard the Tree of Life, after the fall of Adam and Eve (Gen.3:24).

**Genesis 3:24 (NKJV)** So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Satan was the "anointed cherub". It appears that he was the head of the cherubim. Speaking of his fall, the Bible has this to say:

**Ezekiel 28:13-15 (NKJV)** <sup>[13]</sup> You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. <sup>[14]</sup> "You *were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. <sup>[15]</sup> You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.



**Isaiah 14:12-14 (NKJV)** <sup>[12]</sup> "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! <sup>[13]</sup> For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; <sup>[14]</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

1. Though he is commonly called Lucifer, the exact word in Hebrew is Heylel - Heylel Ben Shachar.
2. This word Heylel appears nowhere else in the Bible.
  - a. Root: from hālal (in the sense of brightness)
  - b. to be clear (origin of sound, but usually of color).
  - c. to shine; hence to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish.
  - d. to rave; causative to celebrate.
  - e. also to stultify: - (make) boast (self), celebrate, commend, (deal, make), fool (-ish, -ly), glory, give [light], be (make, feign self) mad (against), give in marriage, [sing, be worthy of] praise, rage, renowned, shine.
3. Shachar means 'morning'. Ben Shachar means 'son of the morning'.
4. Whatever his name is, he is the one ultimately responsible for all sin and rebellion in the Universe. We know that he took down a third of the Elohim class of beings with him into damnation.

**Revelation 12:4 (NKJV)** His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

Satan's demand to Jesus was that he be worshipped as God. This was shown even in the OT where the fallen Elohim took up the place of false gods of various nations: Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the demon God of Moab and Milcom, the god of the Ammonites.

**1 Kings 11:33 (NKJV)** because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess (elohiym) of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god (elohiym) of the Moabites, and Milcom the god (elohiym) of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.

Demons [shedim] (Deut 32:17)

**Deuteronomy 32:17** (NKJV) They sacrificed to demons (shed), not to God (Elo'ah), To gods (elohiyim) they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.

Disembodied human dead are also called Elohim (1 Sam 28:13)

**1 Samuel 28:13** (NKJV) And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit (elohiyim) ascending out of the earth."

If you google this, you will go mad. 10,000s upon 10,000 differing answers will make you lose the simplicity in Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV) But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

I want to make it very clear that when we speak of the upper family of divine beings, we are certainly not talking about a pantheon of Gods or a multitude of equal gods. There is no such teaching anywhere in the Word of God. However, there is very clear biblical evidence that there is an upper family that God has created, over which He is supreme. Furthermore, it can be seen from scriptures that some of these beings, whether good or evil, are called Elohim.

Our heavenly Father created a court-like assembly of divine beings, also known as Elohim, through which He directed the original affairs of His Kingdom work. According to both the Old and New Testaments, He continues to administer His Kingdom relationships through this divine structure.

**Daniel 4:13** (NKJV) "I saw in the visions of my head *while* on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven.

**Daniel 4:17** (NKJV) 'This decision *is* by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

Regardless of the particular words and phrases chosen by the interpreters, the implication is the same. Elohim, our Heavenly Father, surrounds Himself with a court or a council that is made up of the Elohim. They are His created and divine beings - His upper family.

**1 Timothy 5:21** (NKJV) I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

**Luke 12:8 (NKJV)** "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

**Revelation 3:5 (NKJV)** He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

These scriptures reveal that in the Gospels, Epistles and in the book of Revelation of Jesus Christ, this council is mentioned.

When Genesis opens with the declaration, "In the beginning Elohim created...,"

**Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)** In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.

We have to ask: Is this a declaration that only one God created everything, or was it a pantheon of Gods that did the creating?

**Genesis 2:4 (NKJV)** This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD (*YEHOVAH*) God (*Elohim*) made the earth and the heavens,

As we have learned, the Hebrew word Elohim is applied to something other than the true and living God. There is, however, one name that is unique to the God of the Bible. Our Heavenly Father reveals Himself in the Old Covenant as Yehowah/Jehovah/Yahweh, the first mention of this name, here stated as the only creator.

The Bible doesn't even come close to teaching that there exists an assemblage of equal and sovereign "gods." Please be very clear about this.

In Hebrew Scriptures, this name is recorded as YHWH. Hebrew, both modern and ancient, does not use vowels in its written form. Traditionally, the appropriate vowel sounds of words were passed down orally. As a result, when ancient Hebrew is studied, scholars and linguists often do not know with absolute confidence how certain Hebrew words were pronounced.

This is the reason that the pronunciation of YHWH, also known as the tetragrammaton, is still not universally agreed upon. Some prefer "Yahweh" (YAH-way); others prefer "Yehowah" or "Yahuweh"; still others argue for "Jehovah."

**Isaiah 42:8 (KJV)** *I am* the LORD (*Yēhovah*): that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

## Scene 4 - God. Elohim. Humans. Satan.



Into this cosmic mess after judgment, God creates man in His own image. (This study follows "The Gap Theory"; but is not attesting it to be correct or that it is the only theory on the fall of Lucifer)

**Psalm 8:5 (NKJV)** For You have made him a little lower than the angels (elohiyim), And You have crowned him with glory and honour.

The unfallen man walked in the dominion and authority that God had. This includes the authority of the fallen Elohim.

**Genesis 3:5 (NKJV)** For God (elohiyim) knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God (KJV- ye shall be as gods) (elohiyim), knowing good and evil."

Satan said that Eve could actually take a position among the Elohim, knowing what they knew. Remember the whole family in heaven and the family on earth from Ephesians 3:14-16.

**Ephesians 3:14-16 (NKJV)** <sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

The woman was deceived, the man disobeyed.

**1 Timothy 2:14 (NKJV)** And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

**Romans 5:19 (NKJV)** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## Scene 5 - God. Elohim. Satan. Fallen Man.

The Earth belongs to man, but Adam handed his authority over to Satan, who using Adam's God given authority and dominion became the God of this age.



**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV)** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

He also became "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" (Eph.2:2).

**Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV)** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the

spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

## Scene 6 - Jesus. Elohim. Satan. Fallen Man.

**Galatians 4:4-6 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

**John 1:18 (NKJV)** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.



**Colossians 1:20 (NKJV)** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

## Scene 7 - Jesus. Saved Man. Satan. Fallen Man.

**Ephesians 2:6-7 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.



**Romans 8:10-11 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**Colossians 3:1 (NKJV)** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

## Scene 8 – The Fallen Man Saved by Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.



**Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Our job is to get the unsaved out of the clutches of god of this age, to seek and save the lost, by witnessing to the fact that Jesus Christ is alive, that He alone saves.



## Scene 9 - Everything Renewed.

**Revelation 21:1 (NKJV)** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

**Isaiah 65:17 (NKJV)** "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

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# The Fall & The Subsequent Judgments (2 of 5)

## The Fall of Mankind

### The Relevant Past

In a science fiction movie called *Looper* where people travel in time, a man travels back in time to save his younger self from a gang of thugs from the future, only to realize that he was too late. His younger self was already captured by this gang and so the older man attempts to run and hide from them. Knowing this, the gang starts chopping off fingers from the younger self. This mutilation works its way to the future self who suddenly and rather painfully finds his limbs disappearing one by one.

Whether we like it or not, the past affects the present. What the Lord Jesus has given us is the ability to choose the future He has given to us, instead of a future that is not only a consequence of our actions, but also destined for destruction because of sin.

This choice starts with you as a person, then overflows to your family, and then to your community, and by community, you can extend it to the world at large.

**Genesis 2:15-17 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

**Genesis 3:4-6 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

The fall of man was a horrible failure. The Kingdom program and man's role in it took a dramatic turn for the worse. Adam and Eve sinned and declared their independence from God by acting autonomously and eating of the forbidden tree. This was no small indiscretion. While eating fruit from a tree does not seem like much, the context of this act meant everything. It was a statement of autonomy and a declaration of independence from the Creator. Adam and Eve doubted God's truthfulness and goodness, and focused instead on their own desires.

The one who instigated this rebellious event was Satan, the power and the person behind the serpent in the garden. While God was advancing His Kingdom program,

Satan was pursuing his "anti-kingdom program." He sought to foil God's Kingdom program by bringing down God's image-bearers.

**Revelation 20:2 NKJV** He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

From this point on, the great cosmic battle between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom will dominate history. In declaring his independence from God man experienced suffering and death. Spiritual separation from God appeared immediately and physical death would follow.

The ground was cursed. Consequently, man's mission to rule and subdue the earth on God's behalf was a failure, at least for now. God created man in His image with all the gifts, capacities, and talents to rule His wonderful creation, but man decided to serve himself and plunge the world into disaster.

Man still possessed the image of God and the mandate to rule and subdue the earth remained (Psalm 8), but the task now was doomed. Instead of the creation working for man, it would now work against him. God told Adam:

Genesis 3:17–18 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

The cursed ground would now frustrate man in the very realm where he was tasked to rule. Sin is a spiritual issue, but its results are not only spiritual. It affects the creation as a whole.

Sin, evil, and death in all their forms - is fundamentally anti-creational. Understanding the impact of sin on creation gives insight to the often-asked question, "Why do evil and suffering happen if God exists?" The answer is found in man's failure to obey God and fulfil the Kingdom mandate of Genesis 1:26-28.

**Genesis 1:26-28 (NKJV)** <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

A successful reign of man would mean a world that functions as it should with beauty,



order, and righteousness. No moral or natural evil would exist. Every incident of moral evil and nature running amok can be traced back to man's failure to successfully rule the creation.

The unintended consequences of the fall would go far beyond anything Adam could envision, but such are the costs of disobeying God. Also, since God made man mediate His rule on earth, God is not obligated to immediately fix whatever evil or calamity that befalls man. Mankind is reaping the results of Adam's sin. Thus, the blame for all moral and natural evil lies with man, not God. With Genesis 3:15, God will implement a plan to fix the fallen world, but the blame for a world gone wrong belongs exclusively to man.

**Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

God is relational. Man by nature is a relational being. God created man for three relationships; God, other humans, and the creation. All three relationships suffered because of man's sin.

First, man became spiritually separated from God and under God's death sentence. Eventually, man would also physically die. Second, tension and turmoil now existed between human beings; this translated to relational tension between the woman and her husband. The woman, who should be in submission to her husband, will now attempt to usurp his authority, but her husband "will rule over" her.

With the fall, man's work will be much harder. He will find frustration in the very area he is called to master - the creation. Thus, all three relationships man was placed into are severely damaged by the fall-with God, human beings, and creation. Fortunately, though, hope sprouted at this time of man's darkest hour.

Man could not save and repair himself. His only hope was for divine intervention. Fortunately, God offered hope. In Genesis 3:15, God declared a coming seed of the woman would one day deliver a fatal blow to the power behind the deceiving serpent - Satan.

God declares "enmity" between two rival camps - Satan and his people and the people of God represented by the woman. The concept of "seed" has both a many and a single element to it. Not only will there be "enmity" between the serpent (Satan) and the woman, this battle will continue through their descendants ("between your seed and her seed").

This has been an ongoing war throughout human history. Yet this battle will come to a climax when an individual from the seed of the woman, a "He," brings victory. This "He" will bruise the head of the serpent, who is Satan. While Satan will inflict harm on this coming deliverer ("you shall bruise him on the heel"), the victorious seed of the woman will deliver a mortal wound to Satan. The victory will ultimately come to the

righteous seed from the woman, yet not without cost.

**Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)** Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "*And to your Seed,*" who is Christ.

## The Effects of The Fall of Man

**Ecclesiastes 7:29 (NKJV)** Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

This verse describes the condition of man, before and after Adam fell through disobedience to God. Man's condition has clearly changed since Creation, particularly in his relationship with God.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (v.23). All are born in sin because of Adam's fall (the first sin) in the Garden of Eden. "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" (Rom. 5:12).

The world we live in today is not the very good world that God created (Genesis 1:31). Adam's disobedience toward God brought about several significant changes that affect not only each and every one of us but also creation.

### 1. Loss of Righteousness

Righteousness simply put is right standing with God. It is produced by the Holy Spirit

**Romans 14:17 (NKJV)** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

### 2. Separation from God

**Isaiah 59:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear.

Adam was not a sinner when he was created, but he fell from a state of innocence and from the fellowship he once enjoyed with God.

### 3. Cursed Environment

The punishment of Genesis 3:17-18 reveals that man's sin caused the curse against the ground, resulting in the troublesome thorns and thistles and a change in the way the natural world works.

**Romans 8:19-22 (NKJV)** <sup>19</sup> For the earnest expectation of the

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creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; <sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

#### 4. Spiritual and Physical Death

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

The fulfillment of God's promise that Adam would die reveals the punishment Adam received for disobeying God's command. There is a "toil" prescribed to the fallen humanity vs the blessing of the Lord

**Genesis 3:19 (NKJV)** In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return."

Adam disobeyed and physical death came not only to him, but also to his descendants.

**Romans 5:12 (NKJV)** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

#### 5. Clothing

**Genesis 3:7 (NKJV)** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

**Genesis 3:21 (NKJV)** Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

The first shedding of blood was when God makes garments of skin after Adam and Eve sinned. God was showing that there will be no covering, no remission, without shed blood. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their "eyes were opened" and they became aware of their nakedness, trying to cover it up by sewing fig leaves together. Nevertheless, this was ineffective, and ultimately God Himself clothed Adam and Eve because they could now no longer walk before Him in innocence.

Before Adam found himself naked, he was clothed with God. In other words, the Spirit of God, in whose image he was created, was His clothing. When creation looked at Adam, all it saw was God, there was no difference.

Now we are called to be clothed with Christ.

**Galatians 3:27 (NKJV)** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Romans 13:14 (NKJV)** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfil its* lusts.

## Summary of The Fall of Mankind

- 1) God gave the first human couple freedom of will and commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen. 2:16-20; cf. 3:8).
- 2) A test was given amid an abundance of trees good for food. It was simple and direct - a test of the will of humanity to submit, as grateful subordinate creatures, to their all-wise, all-providing, caring Creator (Gen. 2:16,17).
- 3) Satan, already a fallen angelic being, tempted Eve to disobey God (Gen. 3:1-5). Satan used the body of a snake to speak with her.
- 4) Eve was lured by Satan through
  - a) her lingering near the forbidden place.
  - b) her talking with the tempter.
  - c) his quotation of half-truths, and misquotation of God's Word (Gen. 3:1-6).
  - d) his deceiving her into not being content with God's blessings.

These ingredients of temptation are still available to Satan today.
- 5) Adam fell with Eve. The Bible explains this as the fall of the human race, naming Adam as the head of the race. Neither Genesis 3:6 nor any other verse in the entire Bible excuses Adam because he fell after Eve's fall (1 Tim. 2:14).
- 6) The sin of Adam and Eve brought down the future human race with them. Mankind fell in Adam (Rom. 5:12-19). This is the uniform testimony of
  - a) The Genesis account.            Genesis 3:16-4:9
  - b) The Old Testament.            Psalm 14:1-3
  - c) The New Testament.            1 Corinthians 15:22
  - d) All human experience through ages of unremedied violence, misery, and suffering.
- 7) With the entrance of sin into the human race came its companion, suffering and disease (Gen.3:15-4:8), Death, the will to do evil, and inability to stop sinning, all came as a result of the Fall. The corruption of the earth - its vegetation with thorns and thistles, and the carnivorous nature of wild beasts - resulted from the Fall. The grief and suffering in the world were typified at once, by the first children of Adam and Eve, when Cain murdered Abel. Murder has continued unabated to the present day.

Keeping this in mind, we are going to start by studying four major events from Genesis

to see how they affect us today, how the world we live in today is still under the influence of these acts of God.

1. The Fall of Man
2. The Flood of Noah
3. The Tower of Babel
4. The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

If you want to know more about this, please go to the playlist for the Orientation Programme on our YouTube channel.

[<https://tinyurl.com/443fhk8z>]



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## The Flood at Noah's Time

**Matthew 24:37-39 (NKJV)** <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

"But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." You have heard this from the Lord Himself. So it is good to study this.

**Genesis 6:7 (NKJV)** So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

**Genesis 7:11-12 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. <sup>12</sup> And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

## Sons of God

**Genesis 6:2 (NKJV)** that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

The "sons of God" portrayed here refer to fallen Angels, who had joined sides with Lucifer, who led a revolution against God some time in eternity past.

Remember that the serpent is now aware that he is going to get trouble from the seed of the woman. In order to spoil the human lineage through which the Messiah would ultimately come, they sought to corrupt that lineage by marrying the "daughters of men.". This produced a mongrel race; all who were the result of such a union were tainted.

In his Epistle, Jude mentions these particular "Angels. " He said that they "kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation"; he then said what their sin was: "going after strange flesh." Concerning this, Jude also said that God "has reserved them in everlasting chains unto darkness unto the Judgment of the great day".

**Jude 1:6-7 (KJV)** And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and

Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

A basic understanding of this passage supplies some interesting detail to be sure. But when looking at the original Greek, we gain a much keener appreciation for what was being stated.

For starters, we see the phrase, "their first estate". The word first comes from the Greek word *arche*, meaning "a high rank", such as "to be first in position of political power". Then the word estate comes from the Greek word *peri*, which can mean a "locality". From this combination of terms, we conclude that the angels did not keep their highest-ranking location. That is, Heaven comprised the highest-ranking location an angel could enjoy. Heaven stands as "elevated" in status as any place can possibly be. And yet, the angels gave this up.

The word habitation comes from the Greek word *oiketerion* and means "a residence", such as a family household. This may be saying that certain angels left their heavenly family and their heavenly home (their residence with God and the other angelic beings). It seems likely that these angels had taken part in the earlier rebellion - that they were part of the satanic revolt that Revelation tells us resulted in 'one-third of the angelic host' being cast down to earth.

If we consider 2 Corinthians 5:2, we see that Paul uses the Greek word *oiketerion* to speak about being "clothed upon with our house which is from heaven". In context, it becomes evident the "house" comprises a metaphor for a body.

**2 Corinthians 5:2 (NKJV)** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

It is possible that the fallen angels not only forsook God and Heaven when they rebelled with Satan, but also forsook their heavenly spiritual bodies for a type of physical body they could use to operate within our physical dimension.

We can understand just how serious the angels' actions were given the nature of God's judgment upon them. This passage compares what they did to the reproachable actions of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (and the surrounding cities), which resulted in God locking up these angels "in chains" (a supernatural restraint of some sort) until the moment known as the great "White Throne Judgment" when these angels along with unrepentant humans will suffer the "vengeance of eternal fire"

It was taught for many years that the "Sons of God" referred to the children of Seth with many theological sounding arguments, but scripture has to validate and interpret scripture, and if so, scripture always points to the "Sons of God" as being angels.

**Job 1:6 (NKJV)** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among

them.

**Job 2:1 (NKJV)** Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

**Job 38:4-7 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup> Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup> To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, <sup>7</sup> When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

## Giants - נָפִיל

When we look at the Genesis 6 account, we discover these sons of God saw the daughters of men and took them for wives. Something very peculiar took place when they mated. Shortly after the match made in hell transpired, Genesis 6:4 states,

**Genesis 6:4 (NKJV)** There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

The Hebrew word translated as giants is *nāpīl* or *nēphiyīl*. Most translations refer to them as giants; their plural name is Nephilim. The Nephilim are a hybrid race of part human, part angelic origin. They are the mixture of terrestrial flesh and celestial flesh.

Just in case it isn't obvious, in this passage Moses just told us that those Greek mythological figures, the Titans, Olympians, the sons of Pandu in Indian religion, the Pandavas, and the Dasha-avatar had a Biblical basis. These demigods were not just plucked out of thin air - real history stands behind these myths.

They are the reason God had to destroy the earth by a flood. They are the reason the children of Israel were instructed to kill every man, woman and child in their land of inheritance; they had been defiled and corrupted at a DNA level.

These offspring of the union between the sons of God and the daughters of men take us back to the seed war mentioned in Genesis 3, while the Nephilim need not be the seed of Satan, for that might depict another class of beings altogether, nevertheless, Satan will use these beings in the future, just as he did in the days of Noah, to attempt to derail the plan of God and corrupt the seed of man.

## Destruction of Nephilim Through the Flood

**Genesis 6:5-6 (NKJV)** <sup>[5]</sup> Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of



his heart *was* only evil continually. <sup>[6]</sup> And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Prior to the ark's voyage, God began His first wave of judgment against the rebel angels who left their first estate. Jude tells us they were "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness" (verse 6). They are now confined to eternal destruction; they await their final sentence (Revelation 20: 10; Matthew 25:41).

**Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)** Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

## The Flood was 100% Effective

The flood was 100 percent effective. It destroyed all flesh from the face of the earth, except that which was aboard the ark. Now the purposes of God could be restored upon the earth.

**Genesis 7:23 (NKJV)** So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who *were* with him in the ark remained *alive*.

These became disembodied spirits confined to the earth and under the earth by the judgment of God. As I said before, the body-less spirits of the giants, the Nephilim, were cursed to roam the earth, tortured by hunger, thirst and lusts that they could never satisfy, forever longing to have bodies to inhabit once again.

## And also afterward...

This sounds like a movie with a happy ending, one that leaves you feeling good inside. Then, just at the last moment, that which you thought was dead... isn't. So it is with the Nephilim. Remember the haunting phrase from Genesis 6:4, "And also afterward"?

**Genesis 6:4 (NKJV)** There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

A resurgence of ungodliness occurred after the flood, for the Nephilim were on the earth after the flood, just like before.

**Numbers 13:33 (NKJV)** There we saw the giants (*nēphiyim*) (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

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Some of the more famous Nephilim are Goliath (whom David killed) and Og, the king of Bashan (1 Samuel 17:4-6; Deuteronomy 3:11).

## The Rainbow Covenant

**Genesis 9:12-13 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> And God said: "This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: <sup>13</sup> I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

**Genesis 2:5-6 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground; <sup>6</sup> but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

The word covenant means "to cut", referring to the cutting of the sacrifices. What you need to understand is that God does not work outside of His covenants.

The Lord said, "I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth".

A rainbow is a meteorological phenomenon that is caused by reflection, refraction and dispersion of light in water droplets resulting in a spectrum of light appearing in the sky. It takes the form of a multi-coloured circular arc.

**Job 26:8 (NKJV)** He binds up the water in His thick clouds, Yet the clouds are not broken under it.

While there were clouds before the flood, there seems to have been no rain. Since water can be bound up in thick clouds, there will be no droplets suspended in the air outside of the cloud or falling to the earth for, and consequently no rainbow is formed.

Here is the point that you need to understand, and it is not about whether there was rain before the flood or not, but that there was a drastic change in the atmosphere after the flood.

There are some who say that the atmosphere had become less dense, but what is certain is that the land mass changed forever. In other words, the earth as we know it started then.

## Fire Next Time

In verse 15, God says "the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh". It is interesting to note that this is not the first time that waters covered the earth.

**Genesis 1:2 (NKJV)** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

More on that later, but understand that there is a judgment coming, but it is not by water.

**2 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)** But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**2 Peter 3:12-13 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

## Conclusion

In Luke 17:26-30, Jesus preached that the last days would be like the days of Noah and Lot.

**Luke 17:26–30 (NKJV)** <sup>26</sup> And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; <sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Of all of God's unexpected judgments Jesus could have chosen, He selected Noah and Lot as His examples. We know that Noah's days were unique in no small part because of the presence of the Nephilim.

**2 Peter 2:4–7 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; <sup>5</sup> and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup> and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; <sup>7</sup> and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

The above passage ties it all together, but there is more. Jesus said "As in the days

of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man." Through the scientific development of Transhumanism, we appear to be on the cusp of seeing the human genome successfully modified to "improve" humanity. The consequences could be disastrous.

If in the process of improving your DNA, you cease to be classified as human, then does the blood of Jesus speak to you? Could this be what the mark of the beast does?

**Revelation 13:16-17 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

**Revelation 20:4 (NKJV)** And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years

We know that Satan attempted to corrupt the human genome in Genesis 6, and that Jesus said that it will be like that when he comes, but there is also another angle that I wonder about.

In a way, the OT is natural and the NT Spiritual. You had to commit adultery in the OT to be guilty, in the NT, you just have to think it. The events were a shadow of things to come, and have a symbolic value, but the substance is Christ

**Colossians 2:17 (NKJV)** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

I wonder if that principle when applied means that Satan no longer needs to corrupt the human genome, but only corrupt the human heart.

**2 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)** Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

**James 4:4 (NKJV)** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

## The City and the Tower in Shinar

**Genesis 11:1–9 (NLT)** At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. <sup>2</sup> As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylonia and settled there.

<sup>3</sup> They began saying to each other, “Let’s make bricks and harden them with fire.” (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) <sup>4</sup> Then they said, “Come, let’s build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world.”

<sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> “Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! <sup>7</sup> Come, let’s go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won’t be able to understand each other.”

<sup>8</sup> In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

### Nimrod

There is a passage in the Bible we need to look at before we study this portion

**Genesis 10:6-14 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> The sons of Ham *were* Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan. <sup>7</sup> The sons of Cush *were* Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah *were* Sheba and Dedan. <sup>8</sup> Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. <sup>9</sup> He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.” <sup>10</sup> And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. <sup>11</sup> From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, <sup>12</sup> and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that *is* the principal city). <sup>13</sup> Mizraim begot Ludim, Ananim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim, <sup>14</sup> Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).

Nimrod was a grandson of Ham through Cush, and his name means "rebel".

He began to be a mighty one - He *Chalaled* (Hebrew-polluted his body) to become a *gibbor*, a mighty one. While it means a valiant man, in this context, a giant is a better rendering of this idiom peculiar to the Hebrew language in context.

The word "hunter" does not refer to the hunting of animals, but rather to the hunting of men.

He was a mighty tyrant in the sight of God, the first dictator, the founder of the Babylonian empire. Nimrod is considered to be the leader of those who built the Tower of Babel. History informs us that Nimrod and his wife devised a new religion built around "the mother and child".

Nimrod established the first kingdom and the first universal false religion opposing God after the flood of Noah. This was done "before the Lord," that is, openly: in the presence of God with all defiance.

In Genesis 10:11, we read that Nimrod "went to Assyria and built Nineveh." This is very important to our future, because speaking of the "Anti-Christ", the Lord reveals through Micah the following

**Micah 5:5-6 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> And this *One* shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, And when he treads in our palaces, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princely men. <sup>6</sup> They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver *us* from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land And when he treads within our borders.

Antichrist, among other things, is called "The Assyrian," for he will come from the territory Assyria ruled over in ancient times.

## Mystery Babylon

After the flood, God had commanded men to replenish the earth.

**Genesis 9:1 (NLT)** Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth.

**Genesis 9:7 (NLT)** Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth."

In disobedience they decided to settle down on the plain of Shinar where Babylon was located. This was a deliberate rebellion against God's Word.

They decided to unite and build both a city and a tower. Their purposes were to

1. Maintain unity in opposition to God, and
2. Make a name for themselves.

The name "Babel" comes from a Hebrew word which means "gate of God". This entire operation is a forecast of the final opposition of man (and Satan) against Christ,

centred in the Babylon of Rev. 17-18.

**Revelation 17:5 (NKJV)** And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

**Revelation 17:8 (NKJV)** The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

**Revelation 17:11 (NKJV)** And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

**Revelation 1:8 (NKJV)** "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Is this the return of Nimrod, a world 'ruler'? Even if it is not, by now you should have no doubt in your mind what the events in the plains of Shinar foretell. This is the reason that God, when He came down to see Babel, took action to counteract the rebellion of Nimrod.

"Babylon" in the Bible symbolizes rebellion against God and confusion in religion. Babylon is based on two principles - distrust of God and the consequent disobedience. Nations can be that way and so can individuals.

- † When God's people in Old Testament Jerusalem distrusted God and disobeyed (2 Chronicles 36:11-20), thus taking part in Babylonian philosophy, they became literal captives in literal Babylon.
- † In the end-times entire churches, nations and organizations will distrust God (not trust His word or promises, or believe it's important), and will form an alliance to supplant God.

## Let Us Build Ourselves

Let us look at what man did in the plains of Shinar.

**Genesis 11:3-4 (NKJV)** <sup>3</sup> Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. <sup>4</sup> And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

1. They said to one another

**Isaiah 30:1 (NKJV)** "Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;

**Micah 2:1 (NKJV)** Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand.

2. They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. In the Word, stone signifies truth, and therefore brick, because it is made by man, signifies falsity or the flesh; for brick is stone artificially made.

**Exodus 20:25 (NKJV)** And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.

**Psalms 118:22 (NKJV)** The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

**1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV)** you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

3. A tower whose top is in the heavens
  - † The Tower of Babel was man's endeavor to ascend to heaven by his own will and powers, his striving to equal God. Babel was man's attempt at godhood.
  - † God was not concerned about its height, for it was not taller than Burj Khalifa in Dubai, which is 828 m or 2717 ft in height. Also, if it was height the builders of the Tower of Babel were after, it is strange that they found a plain in the land of Shinar to build it.

**Genesis 28:10-12 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup> Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder *was* set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

- † In both passages the Hebrew for
  - † top is "ro'sh" which means head, top, summit, upper part, etc.
  - † Heaven(s) is "shamayim" which means visible heavens, sky and Heaven, the abode of God.



- † In the KJV the words "reached unto" or in the NKJV "is" is italicized. Either top reached unto Heaven or top is Heaven. This is because there are no original words to represent them. This was only an assumption by the translators.
- † What it says is "ro'sh shamayim" top heaven, or head heaven. So, it could just as easily be "likened unto heaven." A tower whose top is likened unto Heavens.

Now let us look at God's reaction.

**Genesis 11:5-8 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." <sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

"What they begin" is the Hebrew word *Chalal*. This means to profane, defile, pollute, desecrate, begin, as in Nimrod, but it also means to bore through, pierce, bore.

So it means to bore or pry open like a wedge in the sense of this being an act of polluting. There is no other way to look at this. They are actually trying to bore into or pry an opening into heaven!

The Heaven and earth represent eternal and temporal dimensions. They are separated from each other as a result of the fall or sin. But the actual physical separation is one of time - temporal verses eternal.

Therefore, it stands to reason that the travel they are trying to accomplish here is inter-dimensional.

The language here would confirm this. To pry or wedge is to open a portal into the eternal realm.

- † "Nothing will be restrained from them." The Hebrew word "Batsar" means secrets, mysteries or inaccessible things will no longer be restrained.

**Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)** 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things (*batsar*), which you do not know.'

**Job 42:2 (NKJV)** "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld (*batsar*) from You.

This can only mean a breach in the space/time continuum or a portal of some sort. They had succeeded in opening a portal to the living room of God.

## Scattered Them Abroad

The confusion of the language and the scattering was to save mankind from uniting against God till Jesus comes. This was really an act of mercy as well as judgment, for had they persisted in their plan, a more terrible judgment would have followed.

This was not to force mankind to be “good”, for God values free will. At that time, man was a slave to sin, so he could not choose to be free. After Jesus rose again, mankind had the freedom to choose.

The description of God's action here explains the origin of the languages of mankind. However, when we come to Revelation 17, we can see that somehow people have managed to unite against God with one mind.

**Revelation 17:13-14 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. <sup>14</sup> These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful."

## The Return of Nimrod?

The building of this City and Tower was about 560 years after the flood of Noah. Even with such a long period of time, people were still living to a ripe old age of about 600 years. The Babel event would have been only one generation from the remembrance of the pre-flood era, given their lifespan. They would have heard about the “technology” of the fallen, the secret revelations of the fallen angels, the hidden knowledge, or the occult as we call it today.

The city and the tower represent the attempt to use this pre-flood knowledge to settle themselves, and not be scattered by God again.

Nimrod established the first kingdom and the first universal false religion opposing God after the flood of Noah. We saw indications from Scripture (Micah 5) earlier that the final world ruler is tied to the land of Nimrod. If so, how can he entice? He must have something to offer for those who seek spiritual power.

**Revelation 2:24-25 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. <sup>25</sup> But hold fast what you have till I come.

So watch out for those who wish to teach you the secrets of Satan, or tell you that you can grab things from heaven.

**Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV)** The secret *things belong* to the LORD our God, but those *things which are* revealed *belong* to us and to our

children forever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

The reason men seek this doctrine, to know the depths of Satan, is to have earthly power.

**Psalm 75:6-7 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> For exaltation *comes* neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. <sup>7</sup> But God *is* the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

We do not need to search out matters of Satan because the Holy Spirit reveals it to us.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." <sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

So to conclude, let us go back to what we read from the Gospel of Matthew.

**Matthew 4:1-4 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." <sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*' "

It is God who gives man bread to eat. He is the source of every blessing, Creator of everything.

Imagine that God is the great baker in heaven, then the sin of the builders on this city and tower is that they attempted to take over the bakery to secure bread for themselves without the baker.

When we say Jesus is Lord, it means He is the owner. He decides what we need to do, not us. Do we still choose our own paths with the body He has given us? If so, are we not attempting to supplant God as its owner, our owner?

**1 Corinthians 8:6 (NAS)** yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

**1 Corinthians 8:6 (NKJV)** yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*.

Remember, we exist for Him, the Father, and we exist through Him, the son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Sodom & Gomorrah

**Genesis 19:24-25 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

The first mention of Sodom and Gomorrah is in Genesis 18. Its judgment and destruction are chronicled in the next chapter. It is mentioned throughout the Bible, both in the new and the old Testament. We are going to look at a few of those scriptures to see how this is relevant to us today.

**Genesis 18:20-21 (NKJV)** <sup>20</sup> And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, <sup>21</sup> I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

What is this sin that is very grave?

**Genesis 19:4-5 (NKJV)** <sup>4</sup> Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them *carnally*."

From this passage, we understand that homosexuality was prevalent there. This is confirmed in the New Testament as well.

**Jude 1:7 (NKJV)** as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

God's attitude toward homosexuality is portrayed in the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. I haven't been able to locate a single verse in the Bible that decries sex as sinful, dirty, or wrong. It's only the *misuse* of sex (when it is experienced outside a loving, intimate commitment between a husband and wife) that gets God angry. There is a reason for this.

Initially, I thought here was a bunch of homosexual perverts whose actions angered God, and He judged them, but because of Lot's begging, I thought the judgment was not complete. This, I reasoned, is the reason for homosexuality being prevalent today.

**Genesis 19:18-22 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup> Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my

lords! <sup>19</sup> Indeed now, your servant has found favour in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> See now, this city *is* near *enough* to flee to, and it *is* a little one; please let me escape there (*is* it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." <sup>21</sup> And he said to him, "See, I have favoured you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

## Ezekiel the prophet & Sodom's sin

I thought to myself "I wish the judgment would have been complete", but then I read what the Lord revealed through Ezekiel the prophet.

**Ezekiel 16:49-50 (NKJV)** <sup>49</sup> Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. <sup>50</sup> And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw *fit*.

Here social injustice rather than sexual perversion is highlighted. Judah was called the "sister" of Sodom since both Israel and Judah had followed the same course as Sodom in pride and perversion.

Three things are mentioned here as iniquity

1. Pride

**Proverbs 16:5 (NKJV)** Everyone proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD; *Though they join* forces, none will go unpunished.

2. Fullness of food - speaking of a just man, the Lord says

**Ezekiel 18:7 (NKJV)** If he has not oppressed anyone, *But* has restored to the debtor his pledge; Has robbed no one by violence, *But* has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing;

**Isaiah 58:5-8 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? *Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD? <sup>6</sup> *"Is* this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> *Is it* not to

share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

3. Abundance of idleness - First mention is in Joshua 11:23. Here and elsewhere, it is mentioned as a blessing.

**Joshua 11:23 (NKJV)** “So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.”

**Judges 18:27 (NKJV)** So they took *the things* Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire.

So from this we know that they had a rather comfortable life without any obvious threats from anywhere. They thought highly of themselves, had plenty of food to throw away, and had no lack. They had plenty of free time for seeking their pleasure, perhaps like on the social media today.

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (NKJV)** <sup>17</sup> then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' <sup>18</sup> And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

They failed to remember the Lord, that He was their God, and that it was He who gave them the ability to make their money.

I realized then that what Sodom and Gomorrah had was not a localized problem.

† They were not infected with homosexuality by a mosquito bite or some virus.

† They were not genetically predestined by God to be sexual perverts, if so, God would not have judged them.

## Flesh

The expression "the flesh" often carries a special doctrinal meaning in the New Testament. In this usage it does not refer to the body, but to the old nature of the believer, with its tendency to sin even after the miracle of the new birth.

While believers should be spiritual, some are fleshly or carnal,

**1 Corinthians 3:1 (NKJV)** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

These individuals are said to walk according to the flesh,

**2 Corinthians 10:2 (NKJV)** But I beg *you* that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

They serve the law of sin,

**Romans 7:25 (NKJV)** 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.

Walking in the flesh is contrasted with walking in the Spirit.

**Romans 8:4-5 (NKJV)** <sup>[4]</sup> that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>[5]</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Christians are admonished to make no provision for the flesh and its filthiness.

**Romans 13:14 (NKJV)** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfil its* lusts.

**2 Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV)** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

A dreadful list of the works of the flesh appears in Galatians 5:19-21.

**Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV)** <sup>[19]</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>[20]</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>[21]</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

They that are "in the flesh" cannot please God; their minds are at enmity with Him

**Romans 8:7-8 (NKJV)** <sup>[7]</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>[8]</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

The flesh is contrary to the Spirit. No good thing dwells in the flesh.

**Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

**Romans 7:18 (NKJV)** 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.

The notion that spiritual Christians may eradicate the old nature by a superior form of holiness is in error.

**1 John 1:8-10 (NKJV)** <sup>[8]</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>[9]</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>[10]</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

The teaching of Scripture is that in a believer, the flesh is controlled by the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

How can you walk in the Spirit if you do not hear from God?

**Romans 8:14 (NKJV)** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

If you want to be led by the Spirit of God, then seek God and live

**Amos 5:4-6 (NKJV)** <sup>[4]</sup> For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek Me and live; <sup>[5]</sup> But do not seek Bethel, Nor enter Gilgal, Nor pass over to Beersheba; For Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, And Bethel shall come to nothing. <sup>[6]</sup> Seek the LORD and live, Lest He break out like fire *in* the house of Joseph, And devour *it*, With no one to quench *it* in Bethel--

This is the only way out of idleness and the consequent fall led by the flesh into the sin that brought judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

Think about how you have wronged God and man, anything you need to be forgiven. Think as far back as possible. Make a list.

**1 John 1:9 (NKJV)** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We are going to burn our bridges and start afresh.

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So, what is the moral of this story?

Like Sodom and Gomorrah, we are blessed with plenty of pursuits that bring pleasure to our life on earth. While there is absolutely nothing wrong with living a good life, what God hates is a life lived forsaking God.

**Psalms 14:2 (NKJV)** The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

**Ezra 8:22 (NKJV)** For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God *is* upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath *are* against all those who forsake Him."

**Luke 16:13 (NKJV)** No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

**1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)** For the love of money is a root of all *kinds* of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

There is nothing more desired among men than riches and leisure, and yet these gave birth to the sins that brought destruction upon Sodom and Gomorrah. Their useless idle life made them a prey to Satan's temptations, and they defaced the image of God, and became satanic rather than divine.

**Proverbs 10:4 (NKJV)** He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

**2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NKJV)** For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

Idleness is one of the greatest curses that can fall upon man, for vice and crime follow in its path. It enfeebles the mind, perverts the understanding, and debases the soul. Satan lies in ambush, ready to destroy those who are idle.

## The Promise (3 of 5)

### The Covenant God

A covenant is a contract or agreement between two parties. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *berith* is always thus translated. *Berith* is derived from a root which means "to cut," and hence a covenant is a "cutting," with reference to the cutting or dividing of animals into two parts, and the contracting parties passing between them, in making a covenant (Gen 15; Jer 34:18, 19).

The corresponding word in the New Testament Greek is *diatheke*, which is, however, rendered "testament" generally in the Authorized Version. It ought to be rendered, just as the word *berith* of the Old Testament, "covenant."

The word is used with reference to God's revelation of himself in the way of promise or of favour to men. Here is the first mention of the word *Berith*.

**Genesis 6:18 (NKJV)** But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark--you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

This is the covenant God made with Noah.

**Genesis 9:12 (NKJV)** And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

Then God makes a covenant with Abraham

**Genesis 15:18 (NKJV)** On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates-

Then God makes a covenant with Moses and with Israel.

**Exodus 34:27 (NKJV)** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

There are more covenants, but we are just covering a few to get the foundation for what I need to teach you next.

**Leviticus 26:42 (NKJV)** then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.

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Let us study the covenant God made with Moses and Israel now.

**Deuteronomy 5:2 (NKJV)** The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

Mount Horeb, is the mountain at which the book of Deuteronomy in the Hebrew Bible states that the Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God.

It was also the place that they made and worshipped the Golden calf.

**Psalm 106:19 (NKJV)** They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image.

As far as the overarching narrative in the Hebrew bible is concerned, Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb are the same mountain; they each identify the location where God formed his covenant with Israel after their escape from Egypt.

**Exodus 34:27-28 (NKJV)** <sup>27</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." <sup>28</sup> So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

**Exodus 31:18 (NKJV)** And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

The Lord told them over and over not to break this covenant, or to make any other covenant with other Gods.

**Exodus 19:5 (NKJV)** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

**Exodus 34:12-15 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. <sup>13</sup> But you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their *wooden* images <sup>14</sup> (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), <sup>15</sup> lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and *one of them* invites you and you eat of his sacrifice,

**Leviticus 26:15-16 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, *but* break My covenant, <sup>16</sup> I also will do this to you:

I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

**Deuteronomy 17:2-5 (NKJV)** <sup>2</sup> "If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing His covenant, <sup>3</sup> who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, <sup>4</sup> and it is told you, and you hear *of it*, then you shall inquire diligently. And if *it is* indeed true *and* certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, <sup>5</sup> then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.

So as you can see, our Heavenly Father was serious about His covenant. This particular covenant was like a marriage covenant to God. Unfortunately, it was not a happy marriage as the old testament reveals and as was acted out in the life of Hosea. God often had to put away his unfaithful wife, in fact God divorced her. This effectively ended the covenant He made with her. Then the Lord spoke through Jeremiah through a prophecy,

**Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NKJV)** <sup>31</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- <sup>32</sup> not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

This is the only time a new covenant is mentioned in the Old Testament. Let us look at this passage in the new testament.

**Hebrews 8:8-13 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- <sup>9</sup> not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of

Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. <sup>10</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>11</sup> None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. <sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." <sup>13</sup> In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

## God as revealed in the Old Testament

Jehovah-Elohiym	The Eternal Creator (Genesis 2:4-25)
Adonai-Jehovah	The Lord our Sovereign; Master Jehovah (Genesis 15:2,8)
Jehovah-Jireh	The Lord will see or provide (Genesis 22:8-14)
Jehovah-Nissi	The Lord our banner (Exodus 17:15)
Jehovah-Rapha	The Lord our healer (Exodus 15:26)
Jehovah-Shalom	The Lord our peace (Judges 6:24)
Jehovah-Tsidkenu	The Lord our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16)
Jehovah-Mekaddishkem	The Lord our sanctifier (Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 20:8; Leviticus 21:8; Leviticus 22:9,16,32; Ezekiel 20:12)
Jehovah-Sabaoth	The Lord of hosts (1 Samuel 1:3; 284 times in the Bible)
Jehovah-Shammah	The Lord is present (Ezekiel 48:35)
Jehovah-Elyown	The Lord Most High (Psalm 7:17; Psalm 47:2; Psalm 97:9)
Jehovah-Rohi	The Lord my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)
Jehovah-Hoseenu	The Lord our Maker (Psalm 95:6)
Jehovah-Eloheenu	The Lord our God (Psalm 99:5,8,9)
Jehovah-Eloheka	The Lord thy God (Exodus 20:2,5,7)
Jehovah-Elohay	The Lord my God (Zech. 14:5)

## The Tabernacle

The Exodus tabernacle was "the dwelling place" of God for almost five centuries, 1450-960 B.C. It was built a few years after the exodus from Egypt and was the central place of worship until it was replaced by Solomon's temple.

**Exodus 26:1 (NKJV)** "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle *with* ten curtains *of* fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet *thread*; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them.

**1 Kings 6:1 (NKJV)** And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which *is* the second month, that he began to build the house of

the LORD.

It was the portable, scared-tent-dwelling-place of God, where the holy God

1. Manifested His special glorious presence with the children of Israel, while at the same time maintaining barriers and separating Himself from sinful defilements.
2. Provided a sacrificial ritual for individual and national cleansing from sin.
3. Taught His people theological lessons and truths concerning sin, forgiveness, and His will.
4. Prefigured the person and work of the Messiah to come, namely, concerning Christ and His atoning death on the cross for sinners.

The tabernacle's unique design and exact dimensions, as well as the choice of materials to be used, were completely dictated and specified by God to Moses, while he met with God for the forty days and nights on Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:18- 31:18).

The Mosaic tent-dwelling-place of God represented visually, to the children of Israel, the unseen, heavenly tabernacle, wherein God truly manifested His glorious, divine presence and remained totally apart from sin, and wherein He later received the blood of Christ as the everlasting sacrifice of sin. Therein Christ, as the eternal High Priest, sits at the right hand of the Father and always lives to make intercession for believers.

**Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

**Hebrews 9:11 (NKJV)** But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

**Hebrews 9:24-26 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup> not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- <sup>26</sup> He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Although Jesus was not from the tribe of Levi like Aaron, instead the Christ is from the tribe of Judah, He was independently appointed by God as our High Priest. He was a priest like Melchizedek to whom Abraham gave tithes (Heb. 7:11-17; cf. Gen. 14:18-20) and our true eternal High Priest.

## Messianic Psalms

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39). In the King James Version, this verse reads like a command, “Search the Scriptures”; in the New King James Version and other versions it reads like a statement of fact, “You search the Scriptures.” Both the translations are valid. We may perceive it as both a command and a statement of fact. We are to search the Old Testament books; for in them Christ is revealed unto us in type and prophecy. He is the theme of the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi.

Christ is the centre and principal subject of this messianic psalm, and it is so interpreted by the Lord Jesus Himself. Matthew tells us that, on one occasion, He entered the temple and drove out the religious commercializers. Jesus said to them, “It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it 'a den of thieves'” (Matt. 21:13). After cleansing the temple of merchants, He brought in the lame and blind, healed them and blessed them. Now when the children saw the miracles, their voices rang out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” (Matt 21:15). Hosanna means “Save now” (Ps. 118:25). In other words, the children in the temple were calling upon the Messiah to deliver them now. The chief priests and scribes looked on in religious silence and contempt, ignorant of the fact that this was the fulfilment of verse Psalm 8:2. They said to Jesus, “Do You hear what these are saying?” (Matt. 21:16). They were shocked because children proclaimed Him to be the proclaimed Messiah. Then Jesus quoted verse Psalm 8:2: “Yes, Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of the babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?” (Matt. 21:12-16). God used the children in the temple to exalt the Messiah and fulfil the messianic prophecy.

The Messiah Exalted	Psalm 8:1-9
The Messiah Rejected	Psalm 118:22-29
The Messiah Forsaken	Psalm 69: 1-21
The Messiah Crucified	Psalm 22:1-31
The Messiah Resurrected	Psalm 16:1
The Messiah as High Priest	Psalm 110:1-7
The Messiah as King of Kings	Psalm 2:1-12

## Coming Soon

**Jesus Christ/Messiah** proclaimed and explained the Kingdom of God - God's rule over all things. In the Old Testament, God established his Kingdom politically under David. When the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, the prophets continued to speak of the reestablishment of the Kingdom of God under the coming Messiah.

**Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

When Jesus came to earth, he preached that the Kingdom of God had arrived.

**Matthew 4:17 (NKJV)** From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)** "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

**Luke 11:20 (NKJV)** But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

With Jesus' coming, God's redemptive rule has freed men and women from Satan's power. When Jesus cast out demons, he demonstrated the reality of the Kingdom. And through his parables, Jesus described what the Kingdom was like (Matthew 25).

Jesus' own account of the Kingdom, from an earthly perspective, turns worldly values and priorities upside down. In God's Kingdom, the poor are rich, those who mourn will be comforted, the meek are powerful, and seekers, mercy-givers, peacemakers, and those who are persecuted are the ones who will inherit the Kingdom.

Matthew 5:3–12 (NKJV)

- <sup>3</sup> "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed *are* those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed *are* the meek,



For they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed *are* the merciful,

For they shall obtain mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed *are* the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed *are* the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Jesus' ministry on earth ushered in the Kingdom; the coming of the Spirit brought it into a new phase; and someday, when the dead in Christ are raised and Jesus comes again to establish his earthly Kingdom, it will be fully realized in all of its splendour, justice and perfection.

**Acts 2:1–11 (NLT)** On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. <sup>4</sup> And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

<sup>5</sup> At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

<sup>7</sup> They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, <sup>8</sup> and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! <sup>9</sup> Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province

of Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!”

**Revelation 22:1-5 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup> In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. <sup>4</sup> They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

The goal is for this planet to be brought into perfect conformity with God's will. When the ultimate Mediator, Jesus the Messiah, successfully reigns over the earth, the mediatorial Kingdom will be brought into conformity with God's Universal Kingdom. And God's will on earth will be done as it is in heaven.

**1 Corinthians 15:24 (NKJV)** Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the Kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

**1 Corinthians 15:28 (NKJV)** Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

**Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)** Your Kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.

Eventually, all will be restored, God's plan fulfilled. Part of that includes “a new heaven and a new earth”.

**Revelation 21:1 (NKJV)** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

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## The Redemption (4 of 5)

### Jesus the Christ

Jesus is the focal point and centre of God's mediatorial Kingdom plan. God tasks Jesus with bringing this rebellious planet back into perfect conformity with His will (1 Cor 15:24, 28). As the ultimate Man, Seed, Israelite, and David, Jesus is the One who reverses the curse, defeats Satan, purchases salvation, and restores all things. As the Last Adam, Jesus must rule from and over the earth, succeeding in the realm where the first Adam failed. As the ultimate David, Jesus the Messiah must rule the world over a united Israel and the nations from Jerusalem. As the ultimate Israelite, Jesus is the Servant of the Lord who restores the nation Israel and brings blessings to the Gentiles. The basis of Jesus' Kingdom is His sacrificial death (Heb 2:9; Rev 5:9). As the Servant of the Lord, Jesus identifies with Israel and is the true Israel.

Because there are two comings of Jesus the Messiah, the Kingdom relates to these two comings.

- † With Jesus' earthly ministry He presented the Kingdom to Israel and gave foretastes and demonstrations of the Kingdom with His miracles and exorcisms.
- † With His death, Jesus established the new Covenant.
- † With His resurrection and ascension Jesus sends forth the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower His saints to obey God.

In fulfilment of Psalm 110:1 Jesus is currently at the right hand of the Father where He shares the throne of deity and possesses all authority in heaven and earth.

At His second coming, Jesus will assume His Davidic-kingdom reign over the earth for a thousand years (see Ps 110:2; Matt 25:31; Rev 3:21; 20:4-6). Then Jesus will receive universal recognition and honour in the realm where He was first rejected. This is also a time when His saints will be vindicated. While Jesus will reign forever (Rev 11:15), His mediatorial Kingdom eventually merges into the Father's eternal Kingdom (1 Cor 15:24-28). Jesus will forever share the eternal Kingdom throne with the Father (Rev 22:3).

### The Cross

Through His Son's death on the Cross, the great Creator God was dealing with every person's sin, suffering and sorrow. Jesus was dying in the place of every individual in the world. Receiving personally what He has done on the Cross brings the answer to all our needs.

## 1. God Reveals His Power Through the Cross

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1Cor 1:18) See also Romans 1:16.

## 2. God Shows His Love on The Cross

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).

## 3. God Removed Our Sorrows on The Cross

"Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted" (Isa 53:4).

## 4. Jesus Took the Punishment for Our Sins on The Cross

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed... We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa 53: 5,6, 1 Peter 2:24).

## The Blood

"For the life of a creature is in the blood and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves ... it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Lev 17:11)

When we sin, we earn death. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23). Jesus paid this penalty for us by shedding His blood (dying for us by shedding His blood (dying for us - in our place).

Jesus gave His life (shed His blood) on the Cross for our atonement. This made it possible for us to be AT-ONE with God. Jesus' blood means we are no longer His enemy but His friend, his sons and daughters. By faith we accept what He did for us.

## What The Blood of Christ Has Brought Us

### 1. Purity of Heart

**1 John 1:7 (NKJV)** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

### 2. Eternal Life

**John 6:53–54 (NKJV)** <sup>53</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

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### 3. Approach to God

**Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV)** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

## Preach to all Creation.

**John 14:6 NKJV** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Om, Asato ma satgamaya  
Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya  
Mrityorma amritam gamaya  
Om shanti, shanti, shanti!

This is a Shanti mantra from the ancient Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad. Adding these commonly used Sanskrit verses in this book about the God's plan seems sacrilegious but not if we understand the meaning of this prayer made long ago to the creator God and consider what our Lord Jesus Christ said in John 14:6 to Thomas the Apostle, who eventually got martyred in India.

1. Asato ma satgamaya - Lead me from the unreal to the real truth.
  - † The word "sat" means truth, reality and pure existence. On the other hand "asat" just means the opposite – untruth, unreality and non-existence. The student here is seeking the ultimate truth in life
2. Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya - Lead me from darkness to light.
  - † The word "tamas" means darkness and "jyoti" means light. In all the ancient scriptures, the Vedas and the Upanishads etc., tamas refers to the darkness of ignorance and jyoti refers to the light of wisdom or true knowledge.
  - † We know that God uses words and that there are no coincidences. The masculine noun **דָּוָם** (Tôm) occurs throughout Semitic languages, always meaning 'twin'. This and the word Tamaso adds another dimension to me.
3. Mrityorma amritam gamaya - Lead me from death to immortality.
  - † The word "mrityu" means death and "amritam" means immortality.

**John 10:10 NKJV** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

4. Om is the most sacred syllable symbol and mantra of Brahman, which is the ultimate reality, consciousness or Atman (Self within). It is called the Shabda Brahman (Brahman -the creator- as sound) and believed to be the primordial sound (pranava) of the universe.

5. Shanti is a Sanskrit term meaning "peace." In both Hindu and Buddhist practices, shanti is often chanted three times to represent threefold peace in body, mind and spirit. Om Shanti Shanti Shanti is often used at the end of a practice as an invocation of inner peace.

**Isaiah 9:6** NKJV For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Romans 15:33** NKJV Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Jesus Christ is the God of peace and He instructed us in Matthew 28:18-20 to train everyone we meet in His way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you.

John 17:3 NKJV And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

## The Resurrection and Eternal Life

When Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem, He was aware that He was making a messianic entry, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 that the Messiah would someday come into Jerusalem on a donkey. He had sent for the donkey and approved of the messianic shouts of **Hosanna** ("Save now" - Ps. 118:25,26).

He had come to live and die as the Christ, the one sent by God; His Son, to purchase human redemption (Mark 10:45). Claims that "He was just another Rabbi;" or that "He never claimed to be the Messiah," appear wholly fallacious in light of His claims in the Gospels (e.g., John 8:56-59; 11:23-26).

After His death on the Cross, Jesus lay in the grave for three days (Matt 12:40). Then - God raised His Son from the dead!

**Romans 1:4** (NKJV) *and declared to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

The Bible says: All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, Rom.3:23 [and] Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish. Lu.13:5

It says, Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Isa.59:2

But it also says that Christ's blood was shed for many for the remission of sins, Mat.26:28 [and] you shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Mat.1:21 If we confess our sins [to him], he is faithful and just to forgive us our

sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1Jn.1:9

According to these scriptures, if one has not accepted Christ's forgiveness for his or her sins, that person is separated from God who will not hear their prayers. But through His shed blood, all can have remission and cleansing for sins Mat.26:28; Eph.1:7; 1Jn.1:7; Rev.1:5 if they humble themselves, Jas.4:10 confess their sins to Him, 1Jn.1:9 and receive Him as their saviour and Lord. Jn. 1:12

Jesus said, You must be born again, Jn.3:7 and Paul said, If anyone be in Christ, he or she is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2Cor.5:17

**This is the miracle of the new birth.  
Christ enters our lives,  
and we are made new because He comes to live in us.  
He is a person, not a philosophy  
A reality, not a religion.**

When I got married, I accepted my wife into my life. I did not get the "marriage religion;" I became one with another person, my wife. And when I was saved or reborn by receiving Christ into my life, I did not get the "Christian religion." I became one with another person, the Lord Jesus. My conversion was as definite as my marriage was. In both cases I received another person into my life.

When we understand what salvation means, then to say, "I do not know for sure if I am saved," is as unreasonable as to say, "I do not know for sure if I am married."

Some who do not understand salvation, when asked if they are saved, may reply: "I think so; I try to be, but I am not sure about it." That is like saying, "I think I am married; I try to be, but I am not sure about it."

John said, We know that we have passed from death unto life. 1Jn.3:14 There are many things which we may never know, but we can know that we have received Christ's life. We can know that we have been saved—that we are born again.

## You Shall Be Saved

Some may ask: "How can I know that I am saved? How can I be sure that my sins are forgiven?"

A Philippian jailer asked: What must I do to be saved? Paul and Silas said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.

Acts 16:30-31 NKJV And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [31] So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Jesus said, Those that believe [the gospel] and are baptized, shall be saved.

Mark 16:16 NKJV He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but

he who does not believe will be condemned.

Paul said, If you shall confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Romans 10:9 NKJV that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Peter said, Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 2:21 NKJV And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

Every one of these scriptures contains the promise, "shall be saved." When people do what these scriptures say, they can know that they have received Christ, that they have passed from death to life, that they are born again.

John 5:24 (NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 3:7 (NKJV) Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV) having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

1 John 5:4 (NKJV) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

The truth is that Jesus not only came to affect our eternal destinies so that we can live forever in heaven in blessing instead of the punishment and curse of hell, but Jesus also came to deliver us from this present evil world (Gal. 1:4). Jesus came to give you intimacy and a personal relationship with God the Father today.

Galatians 1:4 (NKJV) who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

Jesus came to bring you back into a close, personal relationship with Him. Jesus loves you. Jesus wants to know you personally. Jesus wants to give you a quality of life that is greater than anything you could obtain through any other source.

Jesus put it this way in John 10:10: "The thief [speaking of Satan] cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (brackets mine). God wants to give you eternal life.



God wants to give you abundant life, and I believe that you need that today—that you want that. Christ died not only to forgive your sins, but to bring you close to him. If you don't know the Lord, you need to know Him for that purpose.

If you've already been born again, you need to go beyond just getting your sins forgiven and enter into everlasting life with the Father.

## Facts about Eternal Life

1. The purpose of the Gospel is eternal life.

John 3:16 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.

2. Eternal life is knowing God.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

3. Knowing God is an intimate relationship.

1 Corinthians 6:16–17 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

4. Eternal life is available now.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

5. God wants a personal relationship with you.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

## Dedication

Lord Jesus, I admit I am a sinner. I need and want Your forgiveness. I accept Your death as the penalty for my sin, and recognize that Your mercy and grace is a gift You offer to me because of Your great love, not based on anything I have done. Cleanse me and make me Your child. By faith I receive You into my heart as the Son of God and as Savior and Lord of my life. From now on, help me live for You, with You in control. In Your precious name, Amen.

If you need help with the decision you have made to follow Jesus, please let me know.

## The Grafting

God made a covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah. This is very important because how then do you and I, who are not the biological line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob fit in?

**Romans 11:11–24 (NLT)** <sup>11</sup> Did God’s people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. <sup>12</sup> Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.

<sup>13</sup> I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, <sup>14</sup> for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. <sup>15</sup> For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead! <sup>16</sup> And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.

<sup>17</sup> But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree. <sup>18</sup> But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

<sup>19</sup> “Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.” <sup>20</sup> Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn’t believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don’t think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. <sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the original branches, he won’t spare you either.

<sup>22</sup> Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. <sup>23</sup> And if the people

of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. <sup>24</sup>You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong.

The Apostle Paul likens Israel to the natural branches of a cultivated olive tree. This symbolizes the first covenant. You and I, the Gentile believers, are likened to the branches of a wild olive tree.

The natural branches (Israel) were broken off, and the wild branches (Gentiles) were grafted in (verse 17). You and I, through this, have been made partakers of the promises and inherit the blessings of God's salvation. So, we are "grafted" into the "olive tree" and nourished by the "root", the promises to Abraham.

The tree thus signifies the collective people of God; the "wild branches" grafted in are Gentile believers; the "natural branches" that are cut off are the Jews in unbelief. Jewish believers remain in the tree but are joined with Gentiles and "made" into a "new body,".

**Ephesians 2:11–22 (NLT)** <sup>11</sup>Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup>In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup>But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup>He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup>Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

<sup>17</sup>He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup>Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

<sup>19</sup> So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. <sup>20</sup> Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. <sup>21</sup> We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

- † In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ
- † To create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace
- † In Christ Jesus you are members of the household of God.

We will end by going to a portion we read from Hebrews.

**Hebrews 8:13 (NKJV)** In that He says, "*A new covenant,*" He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

This will vanish away when both houses are reunited and gathered to Him. Once we orient ourselves to see the history of man through God's covenant of marriage with Israel,

- † About how their unfaithfulness caused a split; the house of Israel and the House of Judah,
- † About how God divorced the House of Israel, and not Judah, although Judah was not much better
- † About how God without breaking His own laws of divorce found a way to restore His marriage through a New Covenant.
- † How we who were Godless, are now adopted to God's family.
- † How He will gather both us along with them, a process we call rapture.

In other words, from God's point of view, He is gathering us and them to him. If you are alive at this time, then the process is called Harpazo, which can mean "to carry off by force", "to snatch out or away". This is commonly called the rapture, but as we shall see later, rapture is the process God uses to gather those who are living at the time of His gathering.

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# The New Covenant

## The Mediator

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 9:15 (NKJV) 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

A mediator is one who mediates, that is, one who acts as an intermediary to work with opposing sides in order to bring about a settlement. A mediator attempts to influence a disagreement between two parties with the goal of resolving a dispute. There is only one Mediator between mankind and God, and that is Jesus Christ. In this article, we'll see why God has a dispute with us, why Jesus is our mediator, and why we are doomed if we try to represent ourselves alone before God.

God has a dispute with us because of sin. Sin is described in the Bible as transgression of the law of God (1 John 3:4) and rebellion against God (Deuteronomy 9:7; Joshua 1:18). God hates sin, and sin stands between all of us and Him. "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). All human beings are sinners by virtue of sin we have inherited from Adam, as well as the sin we commit on a daily basis. The only just penalty for this sin is death (Romans 6:23), not only physical death but eternal death (Revelation 20:11–15). The rightful punishment for sin is an eternity in hell.

Nothing we could do on our own would be sufficient to mediate between ourselves and God. No amount of good works or law-keeping makes us righteous enough to stand before a holy God (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16). Without a mediator, we are destined to spend eternity in hell, for by ourselves salvation from our sin is impossible. Yet there is hope! "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus represents those who have placed their trust in Him before God's throne of grace. He mediates for us, much as a defense attorney mediates for his client, telling the judge, "Your honor, my client is innocent of all charges against him." That is true for us also. Some day we will face God, but we will do so as totally forgiven sinners because of Jesus' death on our behalf. The "Defense Attorney" took the penalty for us!

We see more proof of this comforting truth in Hebrews 9:15: "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." It is because of the great Mediator that we are

able to stand before God clothed in the righteousness of Christ Himself. On the cross Jesus exchanged our sin for His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). His mediation is the only means of salvation.

## **A new way to approach God, our Father.**

There are 2 major covenants in the Bible - the Old Covenant & the New Covenant. There are 2 approaches to God.

The Old Covenant is about self-righteousness- man earns his own way to God by obeying the 10 commandments. The New Covenant is all of grace- that God will forgive and change us because Jesus paid it all!

Here, the Apostle Paul dives deeper into the New Covenant, and shows us 4 things.

1. Comparison. Paul says the Old Covenant is glorious. But he says the New Covenant far surpasses it. The New Covenant brings life, brings righteousness, is the work of the Spirit, and is permanent. So, it is far more glorious than the Old Covenant.
2. Communication. The apostles are unreserved in preaching the gospel, because they are confident it is the message that brings righteousness and life. They know it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.
3. Comprehension. People do not see the glory of the New Covenant because there is a "veil" over their hearts. This veil is removed only when one turns to the Spirit.
4. Confirmation. The glory of the New Covenant is seen in transformed lives. Instead of letters of recommendation written by man, Paul says the greatest proof of ministry is Christ-like lives!

Colossians 2:8-15 NKJV Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. [9] For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; [10] and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. [11] In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, [12] buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. [13] And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, [14] having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. [15] Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

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- † The Old Covenant is a philosophy where man earns his way to God. In the New Covenant we don't earn our way to God, because Jesus had already paid it all on the cross.
  - † The Old Covenant is one that is established at Mount Sinai, where the 10 Commandments are given. But the New Covenant is established at Mount Calvary, where Jesus suffered, died and has arisen from the dead.
  - † The Old Covenant is where the Law is written on stones, tablets of stones. But the New Covenant is where the Law is not outside us but written on tablets of our hearts.
  - † The Old Covenant is a work of man; man's got to earn, man's got to work. But the New Covenant is: man can't work, but the Holy Spirit works. The Holy Spirit will be the One who will give us a new heart, and write God's laws on our hearts.
  - † The Old Covenant is a philosophy of self-righteousness: man's got to try to be right with God; self-righteousness. But the New Covenant is all about God's unconditional love and His unmerited favor upon our lives; the goodness of God bestowed upon undeserving people.
  - † The Old Covenant kills, because the Old Covenant condemns. We can say that the Old Testament was the ministry of condemnation but that the New Covenant with Jesus is the ministry of righteousness. The Old Covenant just shows you your total impotence. But the New Covenant is truly able to give you spiritual, eternal life.

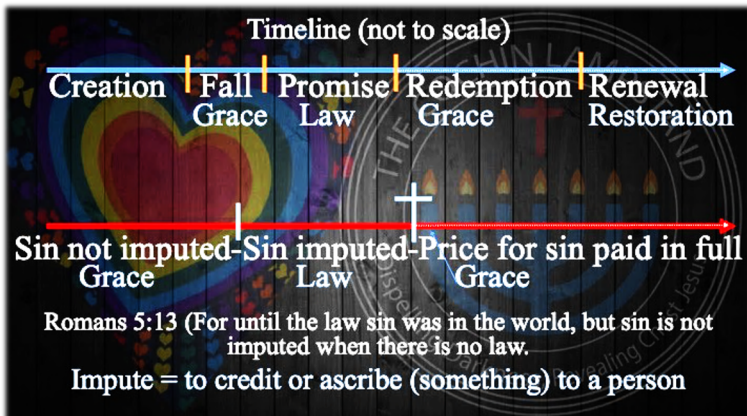
**Jeremiah 31:33–34 (NLT)** <sup>33</sup>“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

**Ezekiel 36:26–27 (NLT)** <sup>26</sup>And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Below is a summary of the Kingdom program in the New Testament.

- † As the New Testament era opens, expectation is heavy concerning the coming of Israel's Messiah, even among some Gentiles.
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- † Jewish believers expected literal fulfilment of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants including restoration and protection for Israel.
- † In fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy John the Baptist is the forerunner of the Messiah and proclaimer of the nearness of the Kingdom.
- † The announcement of Jesus the Messiah is connected with His coming rule from the throne of David over Israel.
- † Jesus the Messiah arrives.
- † After withstanding temptation from Satan, Jesus proclaims the nearness of the Kingdom to the people of Israel.
- † The Kingdom that John and Jesus announce as near is the prophesied Kingdom of the Old Testament prophets, including its spiritual and physical elements; its coming is conditioned on Israel's repentance.
- † With His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reveals the righteous requirements needed for those who would enter the Kingdom.
- † Jesus' miracles and exorcisms are demonstrations of Kingdom authority, glimpses of Kingdom conditions, and prove that Jesus is the Son of David.
- † Jesus delegates Kingdom authority to His disciples, so they can proclaim the nearness of the Kingdom to the cities of Israel.
- † The Kingdom message proclaimed by John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles is resisted by the cities of Israel.
- † The leaders of Israel also reject Jesus, attributing His works done in the Holy Spirit to Satan, and commit personal and national blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
- † With rejection from the cities and leadership of Israel, Jesus and His apostles withdraw from public proclamation of the nearness of the Kingdom to Israel;





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Jesus begins to speak in parables and hides the truth from those who will not believe and gives more truth to those who do believe.

- † Jesus offers new truths in “mysteries” concerning the Kingdom, which describe conditions between His first and second comings; the main thrust of these Kingdom parables is that the spread of the Kingdom-message and citizens will occur in this present evil age until the Kingdom arrives with Jesus’ second coming.
- † With opposition from the leaders evident, Jesus shifts His attention from the nearness of the Kingdom to preparing His disciples for His soon coming death.
- † On the day of His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus formally presents himself as King of Israel but mourns over Israel’s unbelief and states that judgment will come instead of peace; He also says He will not be seen by Jerusalem again until the people cry out to Him with words of blessing.
- † Jesus the Messiah is crucified but provides atonement for sin as the Suffering Servant of the Lord, lays the foundation for the Kingdom, and establishes the New Covenant in His blood.
- † After His resurrection, Jesus receives all authority in heaven and earth.
- † Jesus spends forty days instructing His apostles concerning the Kingdom of God; the apostles expect a restoration of the Kingdom to Israel but are told by Jesus they cannot know the timing of its coming, but instead are to focus on universal gospel proclamation.
- † Jesus ascends to the right hand of God in fulfillment of Psalm 110:1, where He baptizes believers with the Holy Spirit.
- † Peter presents the Kingdom to the leaders of Israel telling them repentance can lead to forgiveness, which will then lead to the return of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.
- † While focusing on his ministry to Gentiles, Paul at the end of Acts still meets with Jewish leaders presenting the Kingdom of God to them.
- † The focus of the epistles and Revelation 2-3 is on how the church should conduct itself in this age and how the coming Kingdom is motivation for faithful service now as the church faces tribulations from Satan and the world.
- † The book of Revelation describes conditions of the Day of the Lord leading up to the coming of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.
- † The return of Jesus begins a thousand-year reign of Jesus on the earth during a time when Satan is bound and Jesus’ saints are resurrected and rewarded.
- † The millennial reign of Jesus merges into the eternal Kingdom of the Father.
- † The eternal Kingdom consists of the nations (gōy/ethnos) serving God, seeing His face, and bringing their cultural contributions to the New Jerusalem.

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## The Church

The word "church" comes from the Greek *Ekklesia* which means "gathering" or "assembly", which in turn comes from the Hebrew word *Knessia* with the same meanings. Therefore, the church is the gathering of the believers who come together to participate in fellowship with one another as they worship God and hear from His Word, the Bible. The primary purpose is to build God's Kingdom through revelation, not from flesh and blood but God our Father who is heaven.

Matthew 16:17-19 NKJV Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. [18] And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. [19] And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, His church was formed to take the gospel to the lost of all nations. The church (*ekklēsia*) went forward with the Good News, and the Book of Acts records the two chief events: evangelizing the Jews (Acts 1-10) and the Gentiles (Acts 11:28).

1. The church was established through the following phases:
  - a. Revelation. God's individual purpose differ, therefore there must be a revelation from God, from which the *Ekklesia* gets God's authority.
  - b. Commissioning. Soon after Christ arose, He commanded that everyone be evangelized in Jerusalem, Samaria, and among all nations (Acts 1:8).
  - c. Empowerment. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the Upper Room congregation of about 120 persons and filled them (Acts 1:15) with power to go with the gospel and evangelize (Acts 1:8). They shared their faith with the masses, resulting in approximately three thousand conversions (Acts 2:1-44).
  - d. Witnessing. The apostles preached, performed miracles, suffered persecution, united in prayer for Holy Spirit power, shared their faith and their worldly goods, and rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name (Acts 3-5).
  - e. Serving. The first deacons were chosen by the apostles by the laying of hands and prayer and were commissioned to serve the tables (Acts 6).
  - f. Martyred. Stephen was the first Christian martyred for preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 7).

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- g. The church was persecuted and scattered. As they went, they evangelized, winning souls to Christ. Philip, the first evangelist, conducted a great soul-winning evangelistic crusade (Acts 8 and 9).
  - h. Conversion of Paul. Paul, who was then called Saul, was the chief persecutor of the church. He was miraculously converted as he was doing his destructive work (Acts 9).
  - i. Opened doors. The Gentiles were brought into the church - beginning a great new era of soul-winning and discipling of the Gentiles (Acts 10 & 11).
  - j. Deliverance. Simon Peter was imprisoned by Herod. That night, the angel of the Lord led Peter out of prison and to his Christian friends who were assembled as a church in prayer for his deliverance (Acts 12).
2. The church was established among Gentiles:
- a. By evangelism. The church at Antioch was ministering to the Lord when the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13:2). On their three missionary journeys, they were led by the Holy Spirit to evangelize in what is today Turkey and Greece (Acts 13-21).
  - b. By deliverance from legalists. Paul and Silas journeyed to the Jerusalem council to settle the question once and for all that the Gentiles who had been converted to Christ should not be expected to be burdened with the Jewish ceremonial laws (Acts 15).
  - c. By continuing evangelism. Paul & Silas took a second missionary journey in the Greek world (Acts 16-18).
  - d. By strengthening. The third missionary journey, again into Turkey and Greece, edified and strengthened the churches (Acts 19-21).
  - e. By Paul's chains. Though Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea, the gospel was not bound (Acts 22-26).
  - f. By Paul's perilous voyage. Paul was saved to evangelize on his hazardous voyage to Rome (Acts 27).
  - g. By divinely opened doors. Paul's imprisonment in Rome gave him the opportunity to witness and win those who were serving in Rome's palace guard (Acts 28).

In Hebrews 10:25 it says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." The church is an assembly of the Sons of God in the name of Jesus, gathering to receive direction, a revelation from the Lord, to establish the Kingdom of God. We also meet together for edification, to build each other up in the faith.

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# The Rapture

Christians will be raptured at the end of a time called the Beginning of Sorrows before the day of the Lord's wrath (God's wrath).

The prewrath position emphasizes the biblical distinction between tribulation (which Christians have been promised) and the wrath of God (which Christians have been promised deliverance/salvation from).

I mention "Pre-Wrath" often, but I neither fully believe in the movement known as "Pre-Wrath" nor do I belong to their camp. Rather than use Christian terminology, it is best to see what the Word of God says about it.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV)** <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**John 14:1-3 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The Rapture is very clearly mentioned in the Old Testament in Daniel 12:2: "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt." When we look at the context of this verse and then compare it with other Scripture, we can clearly see that this verse is speaking of our being gathered up to Christ at His coming just as it is detailed in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

**Genesis 5:24 (NKJV)** And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not,

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for God took him.

**2 Kings 2:11 (NKJV)** Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

The whole purpose of Jesus Christ's coming was to save those who believe in Him from the wrath of God.

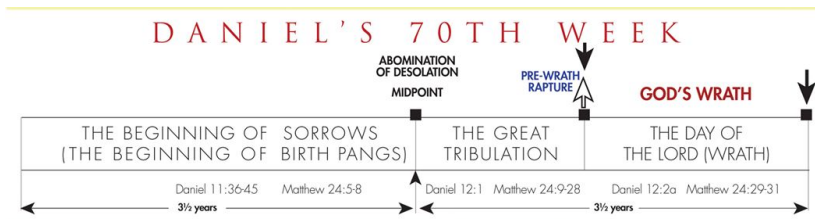
**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

**Romans 5:9 (NKJV)** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

The great tribulation begins 3.5 years after the Antichrist "makes a covenant with the many" (Daniel 9:27), in the middle of "Daniel's 70th week." The 70th week is a reference to Daniel 9:24, where each day of the week corresponds to a year (for a total of seven years). After the first 3.5 years, the Antichrist will make himself known with the abomination that causes desolation, and he will reign for 3.5 years (42 months or 1260 days). The latter half of the 3.5 years is characterized by the Antichrist deceiving the world and persecuting the church.

Although the exact date of the rapture is not known, one of the key points to the Prewrath view is that the rapture comes after the sixth seal is opened (Revelation 6:12), when the moon is turned into blood. The tribulation of God's people will then be cut short (according to Jesus in Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27) with the second coming of Christ and the rapture, and those who are left behind on Earth will face the trumpets and bowls of God's wrath (Rev 16:1); hence the term "Prewrath."

**Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."



**Revelation 6:12 (NKJV)** I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

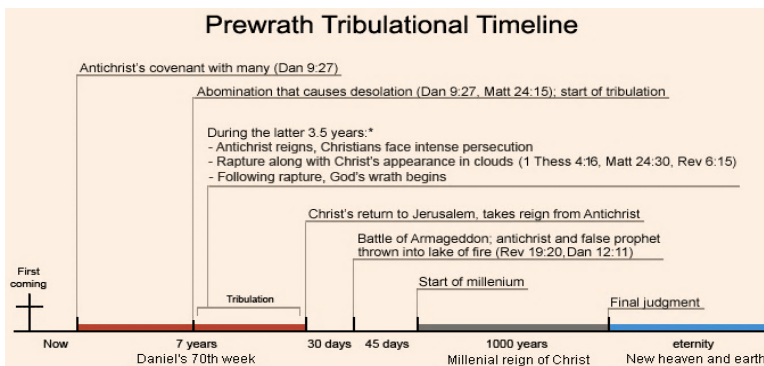
**Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)** <sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**Mark 13:24-27 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; <sup>25</sup> the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

**Revelation 16:1 (NKJV)** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

After the rapture, Jesus will usher His redeemed people before the throne of the Father in heaven (John 14:2-3; 2 Cor 4:14; Rev 7:13-15; Isa 26:19-21). And only after the completion of the series of judgments on earth will God's people then descend to earth in the New Jerusalem.

**John 14:2-3 (NKJV)** <sup>2</sup> 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.  
<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

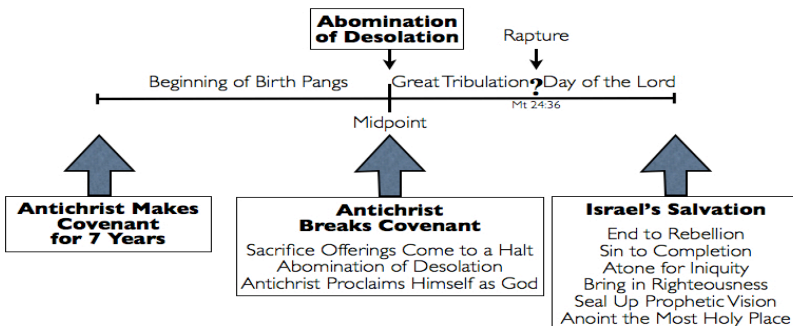
**2 Corinthians 4:14 (NKJV)** knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you.

**Revelation 7:13-15 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup> And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."  
<sup>15</sup> Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

**Isaiah 26:19-21 (NKJV)** <sup>19</sup> Your dead shall live; *Together with my dead body they shall arise.* Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew *is like* the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. <sup>20</sup> Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. <sup>21</sup> For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.

God's wrath against the ungodly will follow for the remainder of the seven years in what is known as the Day of the Lord.

**Antichrist's Seven Year Covenant**



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# The Book of Life

**Revelation 20:11-13 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

† The books were opened.

† And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

There are books in heaven that record everything we do. It really does not matter what you do, if your name is not in the Book of Life. You are doomed to face the severity of the punishment recorded about the things you did, if your name is not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. So, this is absolutely critical.

Anyone not found written in the Book of Life is cast into the lake of Fire.

**Revelation 13:8 (NKJV)** All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**Philippians 4:3 (NKJV)** And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

**Revelation 21:27 (NKJV)** But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

As for the believer, there is the judgment throne of Christ

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**Matthew 12:36 (NKJV)** But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.



## Crowns for Believers

**Matthew 5:12 (NKJV)** Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

There is a vast difference in the doctrine of salvation for the lost, and the doctrine of rewards for the saved. Salvation is "the gift of God, not of works".

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Salvation is received by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**John 3:36 (NKJV)** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Rewards are according to the works of the believer.

**Matthew 16:27 (NKJV)** For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

A most revealing Scripture concerning rewards is found in 1 Corinthians 3:8-15.

**1 Corinthians 3:8-15 (NKJV)** <sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

<sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building. <sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

† Every believer will be rewarded according to his own labor (v.8). We do not labor for salvation.

- † “We are God's fellow workers” (v.9)-not for salvation, but for rewards.
- † The believer is to build on the Lord Jesus Christ, the only foundation (v.11).
- † The believer has a choice of two main types of building materials: “gold, silver, precious stones”-eternal materials; or “wood, hay, straw”-temporal materials.

**2 Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV)** while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

The believer who builds on Christ with eternal materials, “gold, silver, precious stones,” will receive a reward. Those who build on Christ with temporal materials, “wood, hay, straw,” will receive no reward. The “wood, hay, straw” works will be destroyed at the “judgment seat of Christ”, and the believer will suffer loss - not the loss of salvation, but the loss of eternal rewards.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Some believers will be ashamed at the judgment seat of Christ - ashamed of their works of “wood, hay, straw.”

**1 John 2:28 (NKJV)** And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

## The Crown of Life

**James 1:12 (NKJV)** Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

## The Crown Imperishable

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. <sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

## The Crown of Rejoicing

**1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (NKJV)** <sup>19</sup> For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

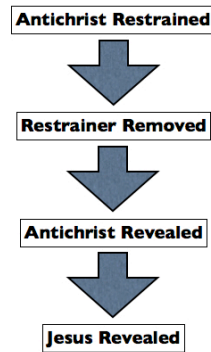
## The Crown of Righteousness

**2 Timothy 4:5-8 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

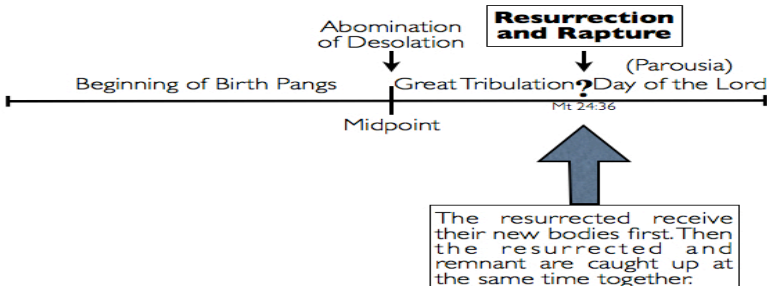
## The Crown of Glory

**1 Peter 5:2-4 (NKJV)** <sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

### Sequence of Key Events



### The Resurrection and the Rapture



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## Some Kingdom Principles

- † Believers Are Salt and Light. (Matthew 5:13-16)
- † Christ, the Law, and the Prophets. (Matthew 5:17-20)
- † The King's Moral Requirements. (Matthew 5:21-32)
- † Christ speaks on Oaths. (Matthew 5:33-37)
- † Turn the Other Cheek, Go the Second Mile, and Love Your Enemy. (Matthew 5:38-48).

## Maranatha

The expression “Maranatha!” was a key watchword and prayer among the early Christians. It is an Aramaic word which is a combination of two words “marana - tha” which literally mean “Our Lord comes” or in the imperative case “Come, our Lord!”

**1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)** If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

**Revelation 22:20 (NKJV)** <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

It is time we prepared ourselves for Jesus' return. It is our hope.

**Titus 2:11-13 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,

## Forgiveness

**Matthew 18:21-22 (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

I think Peter thought he was being very generous to ask how many times he should forgive someone who sinned against him, “seven times in a day, do you think?” Jesus said, “Peter, not seven but seventy times seven.” That’s 490 times, but it doesn’t mean that after 490 times you don’t have to forgive. What Jesus said was an impossible number of offenses that would happen to an individual in a day. He was saying forgiveness should be continual, that it should go on and on. Forgiveness should be the real attitude of a Christian. Jesus said in Luke 23:34, “Father forgive them; for they

know not what they do.” And also Stephen the martyr, in Acts 7:60 said, “Lay not this sin to their charge.” Not all people will receive forgiveness, but the attitude in the heart of a Christian should always be to offer it. Jesus tells a parable about forgiveness when He continues in verse 23,

**Matthew 18:23–27 (NLT)** <sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. <sup>24</sup> In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. <sup>25</sup> He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ <sup>27</sup> Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

Now, here’s the situation: There is a man who actually owes ten million dollars to his master. There is no way he can pay it back - he knows he can’t and the master knows he can’t. In those days, you couldn’t claim bankruptcy like you can now - they’d sell you, your wife, your children, and everything you had, and you’d go into slavery. You would be sent to prison until everything was paid, and if it never was, you’d stay in prison all your life. This man did the only thing he knew to do: He got down on his knees and cried for mercy, “O master, please be patient with me! Please, I beg you. I’ll repay you everything. Just be patient!” Notice what happened in verse 27. It says the master was moved with compassion for him, and he forgave him his debt.

We had a debt we could not pay. The Bible says that the wages of sin was death (Rom. 6:23) - separation from God for eternity—all the silver and gold in the world couldn’t redeem us. Then God in His compassion and in His grace sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth to pay the debt we couldn’t pay. God looked upon us in His compassion and mercy and said, “I forgive you that debt.”

Jesus said that if we do not forgive from our hearts after we’ve been forgiven such a great debt by our heavenly Father, we will be delivered into the hands of the tormentors. What are the tormentors? They can be all kinds of things - demonic strongholds, oppression, sickness, depression, disease, and many other things. The root is unforgiveness. Not forgiving after we have been forgiven allows Satan a foothold in our lives. The Bible says we have to make the decision to forgive. In the Lord’s prayer (Matt. 6:9-11), Jesus said to forgive as we’ve been forgiven.

Mark 11:25-26 says that when we pray, if we have anything against anyone, we’re to forgive. What does that mean? Unforgiveness should stay in our hearts for how long? Only as long as it takes us to go to the Lord and pray. And if we have the slightest bit of unforgiveness against anyone, we should release them and say, “God, I’m letting them go today. I’m forgiving them. I’m making a choice because You forgave me such

a great debt.”

## Miracles

Miracles are God's direct supernatural interventions in the world where He overrides or suspends the laws of nature to accomplish His purposes. The miracles in the Bible include physical healings, resurrections, controlling nature, and casting out demons. They also involve cosmic signs and judgments like the plagues against Egypt.

Miracles do not occur in a vacuum. They operate within the context of bigger themes. One such theme is God's sovereignty. In reality, the question of miracles at its simplest is a question of whether an infinite, sovereign God has the power as well as the right to demonstrate that power within the sphere over which He rules. The answer to that question is a resounding, Yes!

Another important theme that intersects with Kingdom miracles is the fall of man. Miracles occur because of negative circumstances in a fallen and cursed world. For example, physical healings in the Bible occur because people are sick. Resurrections occur because people die. Nature miracles occur because creation threatens man (i.e. Jesus calming a threatening storm). Exorcisms were needed because Satan and demons harm people.

Miracles were not needed before the fall when there was no sickness, death, nature run amok, or demon possession. Miracles also are not necessary in the eternal Kingdom because nothing bad happens there. Miracles are acts of restoration. They correct something that has gone wrong. They are tastes or glimpse of the restoration of all things (see Acts 3:19-21). Miracles, therefore, are inherently related to the Kingdom of God and have Kingdom implications.

Miracles serve several purposes. They are acts of compassion. Also, miracles confirm God's messengers (see Heb 2:3-4).

**Hebrews 2:3-4 (NKJV)** <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, <sup>4</sup> God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Miracles are also closely connected to God's Kingdom plans. The coming of God's Kingdom involves miracles. Just as miracles were associated with Israel's Kingdom after the exodus, so too miracles will be associated with Messiah's reign. This was true with Jesus' first coming (see Matt 4:17, 23-24). It was also true for the apostles who performed miracles as part of their proclamation of Jesus and His Kingdom in Acts 3. It will also be true in the future when the two witnesses of Revelation 11 perform miracles in light of the soon return of Jesus.

# The Restoration (5 of 5)

## End time Events

The Bible records the beginning of the world and the end of the world for us. The story of mankind, from beginning to end—from the fall into sin to redemption and God's ultimate victory over evil—is found in its pages.

### Timeline as traditionally understood.

1. The "beginning of birth pains" starts with wars, famines, and earthquakes around the world (Matthew 24:19). This duration is thought to cover the first 3.5 years of Daniel's 70th week, which starts when the Antichrist confirms or strengthens a seven year "covenant with the many" (Daniel 9:24).

**Matthew 24:19 (NKJV)** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

2. The Antichrist starts his reign with the "abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24:15) at the midpoint of the 70th week, putting an end to sacrifice and offering (Daniel 9:27). His reign, along with the false prophet (Revelation 13:11), lasts for 3.5 years.

**Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)** "Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation,*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

3. The Antichrist's rule begins the great tribulation, a worldwide distress unequalled to any across history (Matthew 24:21). At this time, the believers of God face persecution.

**Matthew 24:21 (NKJV)** For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

4. During the latter half of the 3.5 years and prior to Jesus' return, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, stars will fall from the sky (Joel 2:10, Matthew 24:29). In Revelation 6:12, this coincides with the opening of the sixth seal, when the sun turns black, and the moon turns blood red.

**Matthew 24:29 (NKJV)** "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be

shaken.

5. Jesus appears coming on the clouds of the sky to all, and angels will bring about the rapture of the Church (Matthew 24:30-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52). In Revelation, his appearance is signified by the people calling out, "hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" (Rev 6:12)

**Matthew 24:30-31 (NKJV)** <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NKJV)** <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

6. God's wrath falls on the remaining unbelievers, called the "day of the Lord" (Joel 2:11). Since the Second Coming and the rapture of the Church occur immediately before the Day of the Lord, they occur before God's wrath - hence, the "Prewrath rapture" of the Church. The 7th seal encompasses the wrath of the seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2); the seventh trumpet may represent the seven bowls of wrath, which complete the mystery of God (Revelation 11:15).

**Revelation 8:2 (NKJV)** And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

**Revelation 11:5 (NKJV)** And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

7. Since the Antichrist's reign lasts for 42 months (or 3.5 years) according to Revelation 13:5, the Antichrist's rule ceases at the end of the 70th week.

**Revelation 13:5 (NKJV)** And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

8. At the battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist and the false prophet are defeated and cast into the lake of fire. Since the time of the Antichrist is 1290 days according to Daniel 12:11 (30 days longer than his 42-month reign), his end is then placed 30 days after Daniel's 70th week.



**Daniel 12:11-12 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

9. 45 days after the destruction of the Antichrist, Christ's millennial reign is established. This is based on Daniel 12:12, which states, "Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days." The 45 days is derived from taking 1335 and subtracting 1260 days (42 months of Antichrist's reign) and 30 days (the end of the Antichrist), or  $1335 - (1260 + 30) = 45$ .

## Our Future According to The Bible

1. There is a future seven-year period, and at the midpoint the Antichrist will be revealed and commit the abomination of desolation, initiating his great tribulation against the Church and Israel.
2. There is a biblical distinction between the Antichrist's great tribulation against the Church and Israel and the day of the Lord's wrath against the ungodly. The latter event happens after the former event.
3. The gathering of the elect mentioned in Matthew 24:31 refers to the rapture (cf. Mark 13:27; Luke 21:28; Rev 7:9-17; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 2 Thess 2:1).
4. At an unknown day and hour during the second half of the seven-year period, the Antichrist's great tribulation will be cut short by the Revelation of Christ to resurrect and rapture God's people, and this will be followed immediately by the day of the Lord's wrath executed upon the ungodly.
5. On the same day the rapture happens, the onset of the day of the Lord's wrath takes place, just as it was in the days of Noah and Lot (Luke 17:22-37; cf. 2 Thess 1:5-10).
6. The second coming (parousia) is not a simple (instantaneous) event. The second coming is a complex-whole event containing various purposes of God, beginning with the Revelation of Christ in the sky displaying his Shekinah glory and power to the whole world, and resurrecting and rapturing God's people, followed by the day of the Lord's judgments upon the ungodly and the Antichrist's kingdom, restoring Israel to salvation, and culminating in Christ's earthly reign.
7. Although Armageddon is an element within the complex-whole second coming, Armageddon does not initiate the second coming; instead, the second coming begins between the sixth and seventh seal.
8. The resurrection and rapture happen between the opening of the sixth seal and the seventh seal.

9. The first six seals are not part of the day of the Lord's wrath. The first six seals are conditional events that must happen before Christ's return.
10. The sixth seal signals the impending day of the Lord's wrath as recorded in Joel 2:30-31; Matthew 24:29; Luke 21:25-26; Mark 13:23-25; and Revelation 6:12-17.
11. The seventh seal pronounces the day of the Lord's wrath.
12. The trumpets, bowls, and Armageddon contain and execute the day of the Lord's wrath.
13. The trumpets, bowls, and Armageddon will not occur before the seventh seal is opened.
14. Paul's "last trumpet" (1 Cor 15:52) is not the seventh trumpet judgment in the book of Revelation.
15. Christ's return to resurrect and rapture God's people is not imminent ("any moment"), since discernible prophesied events must happen first (e.g., the Antichrist's revelation and his ensuing great tribulation; the apostasy; coming of Elijah; and a cluster of discernible celestial events). Christ can return in any generation of the Church.

<b>Feast of Lord</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Represents</b>	<b>Fulfillment</b>
Passover	Nisan 14	Death of Christ – Lamb of God	üNisan 14, AD 33
Unleavened Bread	Nisan 15	The Bread of Life	üNisan 15, AD 33
First Fruits	Nisan 16	Resurrection and New Life	üNisan 16, AD 33
Pentecost	Sivan 6	The Gift of the Holy Spirit (may also allude to the Rapture)	üSivan 6, AD 33 (2 <sup>nd</sup> time - ?)
Feast of Trumpets	Tishri 1-2, or 10—Year of Jubilee	The Rapture or Christ's Second Coming?	Tishri 1-2 (or 10), Year?
Day of Atonement	Tishri 10	A Trumpet or Bowl Judgment?	Tishri 10, Year?
Feast of Booths	Tishri 15-22	Millennium & Marriage Supper of the Lamb?	Tishri 15-22, Year?

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## Some Current Events

Matthew 16:3 NKJV and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

The Apostle Paul tells us that prophecy is supposed to be revealed and made known to help bring people to faith in God.

Romans 16:25-27 NKJV Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began [26] but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith- [27] to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

How can we do that as believers if we are not studying and making use of the prophetic writings? Shouldn't we be holding them up as lights and guides to the nations, believing that they are something completely reliable ?

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

But some have treated the prophecies with contempt by ignoring them or downplaying their relevance. Often, the reason they don't pay attention to prophecy is because they don't think the interpretations are reliable.

1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 (NKJV) <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies. <sup>21</sup>Test all things; hold fast what is good.

2 Peter 3:3-4 NKJV knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, [4] and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

If Psalm 90 is interpreted in the context of Israel as a nation, then the time is very short. Israel coming back as a nation is a fulfillment of a prophecy.

Isaiah 66:8 NKJV Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

† On May 14, 1948, Israel was born at once again.

**Psalm 90:10-13 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> The days of our lives *are* seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, Yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away. <sup>11</sup> Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, *so is* Your wrath. <sup>12</sup> So teach *us* to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. <sup>13</sup> Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.

V 10 - Seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

† 2024 -1948=76 years

V 10 - For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

† Is that speaking of the rapture?

V 11 - Who knows the power of Your anger? as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.

† Followed by the wrath of God?

V 13 - Return, O LORD! How long? have compassion

† Second coming?

V 12 - So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

† Discern the signs of the times.

† Discern using wisdom from God.

## Test all things; hold fast what is good

Daniel 9:24-27 NASB “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. [25] So you are to know and understand that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with streets and moat, even in times of distress. [26] Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. [27] And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete

destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”

There was a (fifth) decree to rebuild Jerusalem in the sixteenth century AD made by Sultan Suleiman I, who began to restore and rebuild Jerusalem around 1537 AD. At that time, Suleiman rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and the Golden Gate. Accordingly, we do have a relatively modern decree that deserves our present consideration. And why should we consider it? Because of the prophecy given by Isaiah.

Isaiah 60:10 (NKJV) “The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you.

Sultan Suleiman restored many parts of Jerusalem between 1537 and 1541. His equivalent name in English is literally Solomon, and we know that he saw himself as a second King Solomon because he had the title engraved in stone during his reign.

In Daniel 9:25, it says that Jerusalem’s restoration will include work at a “plaza and moat.” If you read different translations, you will find that they have struggled with the proper meaning of the ancient Hebrew words in English. Some have translated it “streets” and “trench” for example. The word for plaza, *rechob*, was specifically used in Ezra 7:15-19, speaking about the plaza of the temple (i.e., the Temple Mount). It can also mean a wide street area (for a meeting place at a gate or square in the city), but we have a good scriptural tie for associating it with the temple, in this case.

The repairs Suleiman made included an actual moat. It can still be seen today around the Citadel of David, the so-called Tower of David, near the Jaffa Gate inside the Old City.

When the moat was repaired, he embedded a carved stone plaque in the wall to document his work. The part of the moat where the plaque is located was buried in 1898, but a photo of it was taken by Max van Berchem before it was covered over in the expansion of the city.

That is not the only plaque. Suleiman also extensively repaired the plaza of the temple, and he placed a fountain (*sabil*) and another plaque with an inscription to document its restoration. The plaque Suleiman had placed there is located at the north end of the Temple Mount about fifteen meters south of the Gate of Darkness (*Bab el Atm*).

It is dated “the beginning of Shaban 943.” The date given by this plaque converts to a modern date ranging from between the 13th to the 23rd of January, 1537 on our Gregorian calendar.<sup>177</sup> That gives us a verifiable date range from which to begin counting 483 years forward. If you count 483 years from 1537, that brings us to the Suleiman’s decree year 2020!

Therefore, applying Daniel’s prophecy to the decree of Suleiman that he issued in

1537, and counting sixty-nine weeks of years, brings us to the year 2020. It's not a maybe, it's not a could be, it just is 483 calendar years after that event. That doesn't prove for sure that we are now in Daniel's final seventieth week, but it is an historic fact that the year 2020 saw the completion of sixty nine weeks of years since Suleiman's decree!

## Nothing new under the Sun

The wisest man on earth before Jesus once said that there is nothing new under the Sun after making a careful observation of all things.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 NASB What has been, it is what will be, And what has been done, it is what will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.

I also understand it also to mean as the old song says "que sera, sera - Whatever will be will be" in the sense that everything in our fallen society will try to continue as normal. If we consider what Jesus said, you'll understand what I mean.

Luke 17:26-32 (NKJV) 26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; 29 but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 31 In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife.

We think we will know for sure but that is not what the scripture says.

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man.

As it was also in the days of Lot.

- † They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage,
- † They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built.
- † Discern "that day" V 31 3. The society will try to continue as normal, but discern the signs of the times.
- † Remember Lot's wife, count the cost – Your eternity is at stake.

The Bible tells us over and over that if we accept Jesus, we become sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

1 John 1:5 NKJV This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

This is important, especially in discerning the end times.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 NKJV But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. [2] For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. [3] For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. [4] But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. [5] You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. [6] Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

† "You have no need that I should write to you", why is that?

† They know perfectly well because they are children of the light.

2 Thessalonians 2:5 NKJV Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

† Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

† But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Let us watch and be sober.

## Your Greatest Need

Do you know for an absolute fact where you will end up if you die today?

Hebrews 9:27 NKJV And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

There is no escaping death. You might have witnessed it at a burial service for someone else, but you know what? Death is going to come for you one day. What are you going to do about it?

The problem we call "death" is explained in the Bible. Romans Chapter 5 verse 12 (Romans 5:12) tells us that through Adam's sin, humans started dying because "all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Romans 3:23). Guess what? The price or the wages for sin is death (Romans 6: 23). In other words, the sin in you demands your death whether you like it or not. And it gets worse.

Romans 5:12 NKJV Therefore, just as through one man sin entered

the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-

Romans 3:23 NKJV for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 NKJV For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You see, when we die, our spirit moves on to its eternal resting place. Whether that place is with God in Heaven eternally or in absolute separation from God in Hell eternally depends on the choices you make while you are still alive here on planet Earth.

The entry to Heaven is issued on this side of the border. Once you die without it and cross over, there is no option to get it. You are truly dead then.

There is a solution. His name is Jesus. Bible tells us in John 3:16 that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".

## Saved From God's Wrath

Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Saviour? If not, now is a very good time to start. Do not harden your heart, but know that God loves you and will not turn away anyone who calls on Him.

- † "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." Hebrews 4:7
- † For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- † But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- † For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
- † "What must I do to inherit Eternal life?" Mark 10:17

Romans 10:9-13 NKJV that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [11] For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." [12] For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. [13] For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."



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## The Day of the Lord

There is a very important distinction between the Antichrist's great tribulation, which will be directed against God's people, and the event of the day of the Lord's wrath, which will be directed against the ungodly.

The great tribulation will happen first, and at some unknown day and hour those days of persecution will be cut short with the return of Christ (Matt 24:22). The Lord will come down to the clouds to resurrect the dead-in-Christ and rapture together those believers who have survived up to the coming (parousia) of our Lord.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 (NKJV)** <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Immediately after the rapture, the Lord's wrath will begin to be executed against the ungodly, displayed in the systematic judgments of the trumpets, bowls, and the battle of Armageddon.

**Matthew 24:22 (NKJV)** And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

**Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)** <sup>29</sup> "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (NLT)** Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. <sup>2</sup> For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on

them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

<sup>4</sup> But you aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. <sup>5</sup> For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don’t belong to darkness and night. <sup>6</sup> So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. <sup>7</sup> Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. <sup>8</sup> But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

<sup>9</sup> For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. <sup>10</sup> Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. <sup>11</sup> So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Commonly, but inappropriately, the entire 70th Week is referred to as the Day of the

	Jesus	Seals	Trumpets	Paul
1	Matthew 24:4-5	Revelation 6:1-2	Revelation 8:7	Acts 20:29-31
2	Matthew 24:6-7a	Revelation 6:3-4	Revelation 8:8-9	2 Thessalonians 2:3
3	Matthew 24:	Revelation 6:5-6	Revelation 8:10-11	Romans 8:35-39
4	Matthew 24:9-14	Revelation 6:7-8	Revelation 8:12	2 Timothy 3:1-5 2 Timothy 4:1
			Revelation 8:13	
5	Matthew 24:15-28	Revelation 6:9-11	Revelation 9:1-12	2 Thessalonians 2:3-12
6	Matthew 24:29	Revelation 6:12-17	Revelation 9:13-21	
	Matthew 24:30-31	Revelation 7:9-17	Revelation 10:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 Romans 16:25 Ephesians 3:3-5
7		Revelation 8:1-2	Revelation 11:15-19	

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Lord. On the contrary, I have shown that, starting at the *midpoint* of the 70th Week, the following events-as a sequence of four *axioms* used as foundational blocks in demonstrating the timing of the Pre-Wrath Rapture event-will occur in *chronological order*, as follows:

1. The cessation of sacrifices and offerings in the midst of the 70th Week, then the abomination that causes desolation inside of a “holy place,” as described by Jesus, which will be standing in Jerusalem at that time (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15).
2. The beginning of the Great Tribulation period.
3. The cosmic disturbances of the Sixth Seal, where the sun and moon will turn dark and the heavenlies will be shaken.
4. The Pre-Wrath Rapture of believers, and finally
5. The Day of the Lord, which will not merely be one day in length but will be a period of time, beginning with the opening of the Seventh Seal.

The opening portion of the Day of the Lord-the “day of vengeance”-probably will last approximately a year (Isaiah 34:8, 61:2, 63:4), during which the devastating wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth. Just as the 70th Week is a “week” of seven years, the final “day” of that “week” of years-the seventh year-most likely will be set apart from the rest of the week. It will be the first segment of the Day of the Lord period. The remainder, which will be the majority of the Day of the Lord, will be the Millennium, lasting a thousand years (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8; Revelation 20:2-7).

Interestingly, the apostle Peter, quoting the prophet Joel (Joel 2:31) in his reference to the Day of the Lord (Acts 2:20), changed one word in his description. Joel said that it would be “great and dreadful,” but Peter described it as “great and glorious.” Both were correct. The beginning of the Day of the Lord period will be dark, cruel, fierce, and dreadful. After that, however, that “day” will be bright, compassionate, gentle, and glorious (Isaiah 11:10). Just as a day, in Jewish tradition, begins with darkness (after sunset) and ends with light (after dawn), so the Day of the Lord will begin with a time of gloominess and despair and be transformed, after Jesus returns, into an era of illumination and enlightenment.

In Paul’s day, some of the Thessalonians had been given deceptive information, indicating that the “day of the Lord”-with which Paul associated “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered [raptured] to him” (2 Thessalonians 2:1,2)-already had come. Paul told the Thessalonians that the “day of the Lord” would not come until the man of lawlessness (Antichrist) would be “revealed” at the time that he “sets himself up in God’s temple [or shrine], proclaiming himself to be God” (2:3,4).

**Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)** And as it is appointed for men to die once,  
but after this the judgment,

**John 16:8 (NKJV)** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

**Luke 4:16-21 (NKJV)** <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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: <sup>18</sup> *"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;* <sup>19</sup> *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."* <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

**Isaiah 61:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*; <sup>2</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

The day of vengeance of our God. This is a day of comfort to those who seek Him, and a day of judgment to those who deny Him.

Today a man may be a blasphemer of God, an atheist, can denounce God and teach bad doctrine. Seemingly God does nothing about it. But the day designated in Scripture as "the day of the Lord" is coming when God will punish human sin, and He will deal in wrath and in judgment with a Christ-rejecting world. One thing we are sure of, that God in His own way will bring every soul into judgment.

Today, you may be wondering when your vindication will come, wondering what the point in living for God is, that day will prove you, and God will vindicate you.

**1 Timothy 5:24-25 (KJV)** <sup>[24]</sup> Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some *men* they follow after. <sup>[25]</sup> Likewise also the good works *of some* are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

This is the landmark event, one that is to come, that serves as the passing of this age to the next.

It is in the future, and it is drawing closer as we speak. You can spend a lifetime studying it. I have taught a two-hour session on it. Speak to me if you need the link.

**Zechariah 14:1-4 (NKJV)** <sup>[1]</sup> Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. <sup>[2]</sup> For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. <sup>[3]</sup> Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. <sup>[4]</sup> And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south

## Parousia

I want to give a brief explanatory note for the Greek noun behind the word “coming,” which is *parousia*, meaning “an arrival and a continuing presence.” It is the term behind the expression “second coming” or “second advent.” The Lord’s second coming (*parousia*) will be a comprehensive-complex whole.

**Acts 1:9-11 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

The same Jesus will return, as He went up, so He will come down. This is what we just read about in Zechariah.

We can illustrate this by looking at Jesus’ first coming. When we think of this event, we do not think exclusively of his birth. His birth was his arrival, but his subsequent presence included his upbringing, teaching ministry, miracles, discipleship, death, burial, and resurrection. It was a complex whole that God used to fulfil his purposes.

Similarly, the second coming will begin with Jesus’ arrival in the clouds to resurrect the dead and rapture them along with believers who are alive at that time (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NKJV)** <sup>[13]</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>[14]</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

<sup>[15]</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>[16]</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>[17]</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>[18]</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The biblical writers often emphasized the arrival aspect of the parousia because they wanted to induce godly living in their listeners. But it would be a mistake to think they viewed it as limited only to Jesus' glorious appearing in the sky to resurrect the dead and rapture all believers.

This is because his subsequent presence (*parousia*) will encompass major events such as the day of the Lord's wrath, bringing the remnant of Israel to salvation, and reclaiming his earthly regal-rule, which will extend into the millennium.

In short, Christ's parousia will be realized in his delivery of God's people, judgment upon the wicked, and reign over the world.

## A personal appeal.

I firmly believe that this is it; we've reached the end. Two thousand years ago, people saw with their own eyes that Jesus was performing signs and wonders, and yet many, including the Pharisees and teachers of the law still didn't believe that he was the Messiah. But there were some who did believe, and they wisely asked a very simple question, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?" (John 7:31). So, I ask you to seriously consider and to think about this question: When the time for Jesus to return has truly arrived, will there be even more signs than all these? I think not.

And because of my Heavenly Father's great and precious promises, I'm excited to see God's Word happening before my eyes and that my King is coming! I'm excited that "after the tribulation of those days," (Matthew 24:29) he is coming on the clouds with power and glory to get me.

I hope Jesus Christ is coming to get you, too, because He will come to get everyone who believes in His name and follows Him. And because we have this hope, we should be zealous about readying our hearts to meet the Lord. We must purify ourselves and "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" so that we can finish the race that has been marked out for us.

You were born for such a time as this. We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord have the special honor of seeing our faith made sight. And because we have this hope, we must purify ourselves (trim our wicks) so that we will be ready with

our lamps burning brightly when he arrives.

1 John 3:2 (NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is

Hebrews 12:1-3 NKJV Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

I urge you to pray in your heart to God and cry out for His help, His love, and His forgiveness. Choose to follow Jesus Christ by reading the Bible and obeying His commandments and teachings.

God promises that if we do, His Holy Spirit will immediately begin living inside us, changing our hearts and minds so that we will start to hunger for the truths and ways of God.

† His Holy Spirit gives us the ability to turn from our sin and obey Him.

† His word, the Bible, teaches us everything we need to know about how to live a Godly life.

If you've made the decision to follow Jesus the Christ/Messiah, know that you have now been adopted as a child of God.

Galatians 4:4–6 (NKJV) But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

My Father will not leave you as an orphan.

John 14:18 (NKJV) I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

In fact, he's promised that he'll be coming very soon.

Revelation 22:7 (NKJV) “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

Maranatha!

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# The Judgment

The Bible records for us the beginning of the world and the end of the world. The story of mankind, from beginning to end—from the fall into sin to redemption and God's ultimate victory over evil – but there is more than meets the eye.

**1 Corinthians 15:24-28 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. <sup>27</sup> For "*He has put all things under His feet.*" But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. <sup>28</sup> Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

The statement "when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father", includes restoration from both the Fall of man and the judgment that caused the flood during Noah's time; two events that caused more damage that we are traditionally taught.

Galatians 3:19 NKJV What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Whose transgressions? The transgressions of the sons of God.

2 Pet 2:4 HCSB For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but threw them down into Tartarus (hell) and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness until judgment;

The first coming of Jesus the Christ was to restore you and me. That work is finished. Our Lord Jesus will finally finish what started at the judgment that caused the flood in Genesis 6 with fire when He returns.

**2 Peter 3:7 (NKJV)** But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**2 Peter 3:12-13 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.



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Then the wrath of God will be completed. Always remember that a born-again, Holy Spirit filled believer in Jesus Christ is saved from the wrath of God.

Psalm 31:23–24 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints!

*For* the LORD preserves the faithful,

And fully repays the proud person.

<sup>24</sup> Be of good courage,

And He shall strengthen your heart,

All you who hope in the LORD.

## The Beginning and The End

At the judgment, the books will be opened. The Book of Life contains the names of those who have put their trust in Christ to save them. These books also contain the recorded deeds of everyone, good or evil. Everyone's life will be reviewed and evaluated. No one is saved by deeds, but deeds are seen as clear evidence of a person's actual relationship with God. Jesus will look at how we have handled gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities. God's gracious gift of salvation does not free us from the requirement of faithful obedience and service. Each of us must serve Christ in the best way we know and live each day knowing the books will one day be opened.

**Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

**Revelation 20:11-15 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

In the Scriptures, we are instructed to rightly divide the word of truth. This is most essential when studying the judgments. Do not endeavour to make all the judgments conform to the theory of one “general judgment.” The “general judgment” theory is the invention of early medieval religion and is not taught in the Word of God.

**2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

There are at least five separate judgments revealed in the Bible, and they differ as to time, place, and purpose. Yet, they all have one thing in common: The Lord Jesus Christ is the Judge.

**John 5:22 (NKJV)** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

Everyone, from Adam to the last man to be born on this earth, will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ to be judged. In the first judgment, the sins of the believer have already been judged in Christ on the cross. In the second judgment, the believer is to judge themselves or be judged and disciplined by the Lord Jesus Christ. In the third judgment, all believers must appear at the “judgment seat of Christ”, where their works are to be judged. In the fourth judgment, all nations are to be judged at the second coming of Christ. In the fifth judgment, the wicked dead are to be judged at the Great White Throne.

Death and the grave are thrown into the lake of fire. God's judgment is finished. The lake of fire is the ultimate destination of everything wicked-Satan, the beast, the false prophet, the demons, death, the grave, and all those whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life because they did not place their faith in Jesus Christ. John's vision does not permit any grey areas in God's judgment. If by faith we have not identified with Christ, confessing him as Lord, there will be no hope, no second chance, no other appeal.

The Pharisees, Sadducee's and the teachers of the law all prophesied and rightly taught people to expect a Messiah, but ended up rejecting Jesus because the Christ did not come as they understood the scriptures, according to their expectations.

† Simeon – Holy Spirit was upon Him

† Anna – A prophetess

† Nicodemus – A truth seeker

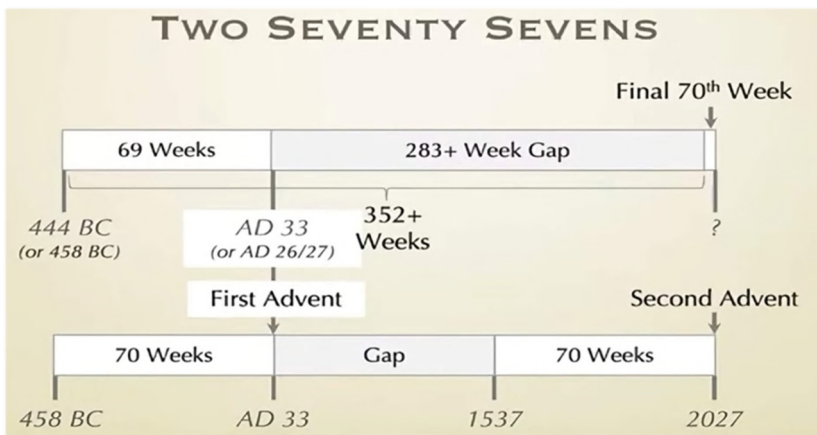
Jesus kept telling the teachers of the law that the scriptures were talking about Him. The same way, we who are expecting and teaching about His return should not miss the times and the seasons.

Matthew 16:3 NKJV and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

† Do we correctly interpret the signs of the times?

Daniel 9:24-27 NASB “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. [25] So you are to know and understand that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with streets and moat, even in times of distress. [26] Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. [27] And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”

This subject requires a deeper study which I've embarked on in 2024. There are multiple playlists on our YouTube channel and links to download audio & video, all free of charge. Get in touch with me if you need help with this.



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## The Renewal of All Things

We now come to one of the most important Kingdom passages- Revelation 19 and 20. Revelation 19:11-21 describes the second coming of Jesus. Jesus returns with power and glory and destroys His enemies. Also destroyed are the beast and false prophet (20-21). The kingly implications of Jesus' coming are evident in Revelation 19:15-16:

Revelation 19:15-16 NKJV Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Striking the nations and ruling them with "a rod of iron" brings what God promised for His Messiah in Psalm 2:9 (see also Rev 2:26-27). The nations that scoffed at the Messiah are brought into subjection to the King of kings and Lord of lords. With Revelation 20:1-10, the events of the second coming of Jesus unfold and an intermediate Kingdom of a thousand years is explicitly revealed.

## The Timing of The New Earth

Revelation 21:1 NKJV <sup>1</sup> Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

The most detailed discussion of the eternal Kingdom is found in Revelation 21:1-22:5. There is much described here but our focus is mostly on how this section relates to the Kingdom's timing and nature. As for timing, what is described starting in Revelation 21:1 occurs chronologically after the thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth, the final rebellion and defeat of Satan, and the Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20. These events are followed by, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth" (Rev 21:1). The "new heaven and a new earth" language of Revelation 21:1 is first found in Isaiah 65:17-"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth," and then again in Isaiah 66:22. Second Peter 3:13 declares: "But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells." The final hope and destination of the believer is not the intermediate state in heaven, or even the millennium of Revelation 20:1-6, but the eternal state as described in Revelation 21 and 22.

God has never given up on his original creation. Yet somehow we've managed to overlook an entire biblical vocabulary that makes this point clear. Reconcile. Redeem. Restore. Recover. Return. Renew. Regenerate. Resurrect. Each of these biblical

words begins with the re-prefix, suggesting a return to an original condition that was ruined or lost.

The “river of the water of life” in Revelation 22:1 shows the presence of water in the new Jerusalem. As with Ezekiel 47, the presence of a river means vegetation abundance, in this case “twelve kinds of fruit.” Ezekiel 47 also says the gushing river that flows from the temple makes its way to the sea so “the waters of the sea become fresh” (47:8), not only this, but “every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live” and “there will be very many fish” (47:9). Again, the description of Ezekiel 47 best fits the intermediate millennial Kingdom, but the similar language of Revelation 22:1-2 indicates a positive function for water in the eternal state.

## The Millennium and The Eternal State

The Bible speaks of two ages. There is a present age, which describes conditions on the earth before Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom. Then there is an “age to come”, which describes conditions on earth after Jesus returns. I am not saying that there were no ages in the past, but this is for human understanding.

Just as “this age” has various eras and dispensations, the millennium and eternal Kingdom are two phases of the “age to come.” Both are superior to this present age which is characterized by sin and death, yet there are some differences between them.

Revelation 20:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The millennium is primarily the Kingdom of the Last Adam, the Messiah, as Jesus reigns for a thousand years. This Kingdom is mediatorial in that the Father reigns through Jesus and His followers. They succeed in the realm (earth) where the first Adam failed. In doing so, Jesus fulfils the task God gave to man in the Garden of Eden.

The eternal Kingdom, on the other hand, involves the direct reign of both the Father and the Son. First Corinthians 15:24-28 explains the distinction. Jesus the Messiah “must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet” (1 Cor 15:25). We are also told that when the “end” comes “He [Jesus] hands over the Kingdom to God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power” (1 Cor 15:24). Thus, Jesus reigns for a period of time (millennium) and then hands His Kingdom over to the Father (eternal Kingdom).

## Summary of the End Times:

1. Satan will be bound, and all his activities will completely cease for a thousand years.
2. Positions of Kingdom authority are granted to God's people and previously martyred saints.
3. The martyrs who were slain for the testimony of Jesus are resurrected and reign with Christ for a thousand years.
4. Another group, "the rest of the dead," comes to life a thousand years later.
5. Those who are part of the first resurrection are priests of God and Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
6. At the end of the thousand years Satan is released and leads a rebellion that is immediately defeated with fire from heaven.

Genesis	Revelation
The sun is created.	The sun is not needed.
Satan is victorious.	Satan is defeated.
Sin enters the human race.	Sin is banished.
People run and hide from God.	People are invited to live with God forever.
People/Creation cursed.	The curse is removed.
Tears are shed, with sorrow.	No more sin, no more tears or sorrow.
The garden and earth cursed.	God's city is glorified; the earth is made new.
Paradise is lost.	Paradise is regained.
People are doomed to death.	Death is defeated; believers live forever with God.



# Go!

## Go Make Disciples

Anyone not found written in the Book of Life is cast into the lake of Fire.

**Revelation 21:27 (NKJV)** But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

This is the final goal; to have our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Once you are sure of that, once there is boldness in your life because you are filled with the Holy Spirit; because you have been with Jesus, then you will be a disciple of Christ and you will make disciples of Jesus Christ whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Matthew 28:17–20 (NKJV)** <sup>17</sup> When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

We are to go-whether it is next door or to another country-and make disciples. It is not an option but a command to all who call Jesus "Lord." We are not all evangelists in the formal sense, but we have all received gifts that we can use to help fulfil the great commission. As we obey, we have comfort in the knowledge that Jesus is always with us.

2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT) <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

## The Walk of Life

I present this Biblical concept to get a better understanding.

Anything that is purposed of the Lord will begin as a book in Heaven. These books are written after God has a counsel.

**Romans 8:28-30 (NKJV)** <sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

## Foreknew

### Foreknew > Predestined > Called > Justified > Glorified

**Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you - This is foreknowledge.

No single individual is chosen, elected, foreknown, or predestined to be saved or lost without that individual's personal choice and responsibility in the matter.

**John 3:16 (NKJV)** 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.

**1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)** 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.

**Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)** And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Foreknowledge speaks of that which occurred in the counsel of the Lord. In this counsel, decisions were made about the destinies of the world. This includes individuals, cities, states, businesses and all the way up to nations. There were conclusions that were arrived concerning what part of God's Kingdom agenda each would fulfil. There was a "foreknowing" of us from the counsel of God.

Once these decisions were made, they were written down in a book in Heaven, and it became a predestined thing. This is the next stage that the Apostle Paul wrote about.

## Predestined

### Foreknew > Predestined > Called > Justified > Glorified



You and God agreed to fulfil His plans when you are sent on a "mission" to Earth. The Apostle Paul tells his spiritual son Timothy to fulfil what was planned before time began.

**2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)** who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Notice that purpose and grace were given to Paul and Timothy before time began. This is really interesting. How can something be given to something else that does not yet exist?

Purpose is what is written in the books of Heaven about them and grace was the empowerment to bring it into the reality of the Earth realm. This was given during the counsel of the Lord, before time began.

Being predestined has nothing to do with us not having a choice or a will. In fact, we can have a predestined plan for our lives and not fulfill it. Each person born arrived with a predestined plan concerning their life. They have a book in heaven about them. We can either choose to discover what is in the books about us or disregard it and go our own way. It is each person's individual responsibility to discover what was predestined about them and written in the books of Heaven.

**Psalms 139:16 (NKJV)** Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

God wrote down in a book the destiny and Kingdom purpose for each of our lives. God 'saw' us in our fleshly form on the Earth, before we ever existed. He saw our days. Not just the number of them, but He saw the activities in them and what we would accomplish in our life. Our individual book is a written record of all that God planned for us and the Kingdom impact He has destined for our lives. Every person ever born has a book written about them. The battle is to get what is in the book to manifest on the Earth.

Even Jesus had a book. Hebrews 10:5-7 tells us that Jesus had a volume of the book that He came into the Earth to fulfil.

**Hebrews 10:5-7 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. <sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come-- In the volume of the book it is written of Me-- To do Your will, O God.' "

There is a book in Heaven that chronicled what Kingdom purpose Jesus would fulfil on the Earth. Jesus came with a passion and a commitment to complete what had

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been written in the books of Heaven about Him. This is interesting because John 1:14 says that Jesus is the Word made flesh.

**John 1:14 (NKJV)** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In other words, Jesus was the Word sent out of Heaven to be born in the flesh. His physical birth allowed what was written in the book of Heaven to manifest in the flesh. He then spent the next thirty-three and a half years of His life fulfilling what had been written in His book.

Anything God-ordained is first written in a book or scroll in Heaven. It must be sent out of Heaven and birthed into the Earth realm before it can become flesh. This is what happened to Jesus, but also to us and anything else that is ever 'born' into the Earth realm. So it could be said that before we came into the Earth, we were a word written on a scroll. When we are born-again, we begin the process of living out our Kingdom purpose as it is written in Heaven in our book. This is the reason that Ephesians 2:10 says that we are His workmanship.

**Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

This is the purpose spoken about in Romans.

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

## Called

### Foreknew > Predestined > Called > Justified > Glorified

God has to call you to Salvation because we lost all contact with God when we arrived here on Earth.

**John 6:44 (NKJV)** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

**John 6:65 (NKJV)** And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

**Psalms 51:5 (NKJV)** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

**Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)** But your iniquities have separated you from

your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear.

**Romans 3:23 (NKJV)** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- † Still, we have this longing in our hearts for God. It is because of this foreknowledge.
- † We know we are called to do something better. That is because of predestination.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)** Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity (owlam) in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

Eternity means

- † Past: long duration, antiquity, futurity, forever, ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual, old, ancient, world, ancient time, long time.
- † Future: forever, always, continuous existence, perpetual, everlasting, indefinite or unending future, eternity

So God calls you to Eternal Life again.

**1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV)** But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

After we respond to His call, He then justifies us.

## Justified

**Foreknew > Predestined > Called > Justified > Glorified**

**Romans 3:24-25 (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth *as* a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Justification is the judiciary act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law, i.e., as conformed to all its demands.

This is the stage where we begin to get glimpses of what we were made for. We begin to discover what is written in the books of heaven about us.

**Jeremiah 29:11-14 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

We realize these plans as we renew our mind in the Word from God.

**Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

As we renew our mind in the Word of God. Jesus is the Word of God we need to conform to, that which made everything.

**John 1:1-4 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

## Glorified

### Foreknew > Predestined > Called > Justified > Glorified

**1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**James 1:21 (NKJV)** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

**Isaiah 43:7 (NKJV)** Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

**Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The fifth and final stage mentioned is being glorified. Being glorified is not talking

about going to Heaven. It is speaking about us fully stepping into all that is written in the books of Heaven about us. We begin to 'live the dream' that God had about us before time began. This has been called the convergence point. It is where everything we have gone through, good or bad, works together to propel us into our ultimate destiny.

We see this in the life of Joseph where he was in his father's house, but then sold into slavery by jealous brothers. He ended up ruling over the household of Potiphar. Then he was cast into prison unjustly, after which he was promoted from this most unlikely place to Prime Minister of Egypt. He became the preserver of life that God had destined him to be as it was written in the books of Heaven. All of these things worked together and converged together to prepare and get Joseph to his appointed place. He then, from his glorified position, had the Kingdom impact that was predestined by God that he was to have. The reaching of the convergence point of our lives can be costly and expensive but worth it. Not only do we find the ultimate satisfaction that we were built for, but God gets His Kingdom purpose fulfilled through us.

The most critical stage of this process for individuals all the way to nations, is being justified. Once we manoeuvre our ways through the courts of Heaven and get legal things arranged, God can freely then grant to us the passion of His heart.

The battle is to get what is in His will as written in His books manifested on Earth through our lives.

**Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)** Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.

## The Opposition

**Romans 8:29 (NKJV)** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

For whom He foreknew, why is there a qualifier there? Are there those who God did not foreknow? Obviously not, in the sense that He is Omniscient. Were things created later, things that God did not intend to be created? Discern this for yourself, but according to the Word of God.

**Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

**Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name,

and done many wonders in Your name?'<sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Who opposes that? Those whom God did not Foreknow. In other words, those who are not His. Who is not "His"? Not humans who were created in God's image; not His seed, but the "serpents" seed.

**Genesis 3:14-15 (NKJV)**<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

This started the war as we know it in our realm of existence, between the seed of the "serpent" and the seed of the woman.

**Matthew 13:24-30 (NKJV)**<sup>24</sup> Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup> but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.<sup>26</sup> But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.<sup>27</sup> So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'<sup>28</sup> He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'<sup>29</sup> But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

**Matthew 13:36-43 (NKJV)**<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."<sup>37</sup> He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.<sup>38</sup> The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*.<sup>39</sup> The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.<sup>40</sup> Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.<sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,<sup>42</sup> and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

**Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)** <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup> On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ <sup>23</sup> But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

This is the reason that separation is absolutely vital to our purposes in Christ.

**Ephesians 2:1–7 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT)** Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.

## God's Plan Outlined.

1. The Principle of Self-Value
  - a. We are created in God’s image to share His life, love and purpose and we are therefore infinitely valuable to Him.
    - i. For we are God’s workmanship. Eph.2:10
    - ii. God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God created He him, male and female created He them. Gen.1:27
    - iii. The Lord made humankind a little lower than God, [King James Version—“angels,” Original Hebrew, French and certain other language-versions—“Elohim.”] and crowned him with glory and honor, and made him to have

dominion over the works of his hands; and has put all things under his feet. *Psa.8:5-6*

## 2. The Basic Problem in Human Life

- a. Adam and Eve chose to not trust God's word.
  - i. And the Lord commanded, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die. *Gen.2:16-17*
  - ii. Satan contradicted God and said, You will not surely die. *Gen.3:4* a. He influenced them to distrust God's word.
  - iii. Eve took of the fruit and ate it and gave some to her husband with her; and he ate it. *Gen.3:6*

## 3. The Negative Power of Unbelief

- a. To question God's integrity produces deterioration and death in the human race.
  - i. God said, in the day that you disavow my instructions and eat the fruit that I forbade, you will surely die. *Gen.2:17*
  - ii. The wages of sin is death. *Rom. 6:23*
  - iii. Whereas, by one person sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so, death passed upon all persons, for that all have sinned. *Rom.5:12*

## 4. The Plan of God for Us

- a. God loved and valued us too much to let us die; He gave Jesus to be judged and condemned in our place, to exonerate us from all guilt.
  - i. God was not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. *2Pet.3:9*
  - ii. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have everlasting life. *Jn.3:16*
  - iii. God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us. *Rom.5:8*
  - iv. Now God says He will accept and acquit us—declare us not guilty—if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all of God's anger against us. Our acquittal is not based on our good deeds; it is based on what Christ has done and our faith in him. *Rom.3:21,25,27*
    1. Since no debt can be paid twice, or no crime punished twice, we can be restored to God as though we have never committed sin.
    2. Since Jesus Christ suffered the penalty that we deserved, and since He did it on our behalf, we are no longer guilty before God and can never be judged for the sins that we have committed, because the



judgment we deserved was put on Jesus, our substitute and that judgment can never be imposed on us again.

- b. That was God's love-plan to save us and to restore us to the life that He designed us for.

#### 5. The Secret of Identity with Christ

- a. We are restored to God's life when we commit our lives to Jesus Christ and receive Him.
- b. When we identify with what He did for us and when we believe that He assumed the judgment of our sins, in our place, this is what occurs:
  - i. The righteousness of Christ is transferred to our account and we are free of all guilt and judgment.
  - ii. Jesus Christ comes and lives the life of God in and through us.
  - iii. We become new creations.
  - iv. We are restored to God according to His original plan.
  - v. A supernatural power is given to us that makes us children of God. It is a miracle.
    - 1. God made Jesus Christ who knew no sin to be made sin on our behalf, so that in him we might share the righteousness [or life] of God. 2Cor.5:21
    - 2. As many as receive Jesus Christ, God gives them power to become the children of God. Jn.1:12
    - 3. If anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creature. All things become new. 2Cor.5:17
    - 4. Jesus said, I am come that you might have life more abundantly. Jn.10:10
    - 5. In receiving Christ, we are restored to friendship, fellowship, and Life with God as we were designed for in the beginning.

Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

**1 John 1:3 (NKJV)** that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**John 17:3 (NKJV)** And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

**Romans 15:13 (NKJV)** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## How I met Jesus Christ



My search for a living, loving God is a journey that took me from Catholicism to Hinduism to Islam and finally ended with the discovery of a Saviour and an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.

I was born into a Roman Catholic family. As far back as I can remember, I wanted to know God and be close to Him. From way back when I was in 5th standard, I remember going to the Catholic mass in the morning before school seeking God, but neither could find him there nor could get any

concrete answers to my questions about God.

I grew up in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. My father, an Architect, worked for Aramco; an oil company. Aramco's residential camp was then devoid of all Islamic influences, and my school, Dhahran Academy, inside the U.S. embassy in Dhahran then, was also an oasis of western culture. All of my friends were either American, Canadian, European or Australian.

Seeing the attitudes of the Muttawas (the Islamic religious police), the arrogance and the hypocrisy of the locals, and experiencing the intrusion of their belief systems into our lives developed a deep-rooted prejudice against Islam within me.

After 9th grade, I went to High School in Wisconsin, United States. Though I say that America "gave me my soul", I developed a lifestyle involving alcohol, drugs and women. Wild parties dominated my weekends.

My father passed away when I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. My family left Saudi Arabia, I finished High School in the US and went to college in Switzerland. After graduating I was offered a very good job in Saudi Arabia. Though I detested even the thought of going back to Saudi Arabia, I felt this job opportunity was too good to pass. I was not happy there, but I tolerated it initially with the hope of moving to another country later.

Things started going wrong for me when I broke up with my girlfriend from college. I missed everything; I was away from all my friends and in a place I detested. Loneliness aggravated by a sense of isolation that the culture created almost drove me mad. I was so desperate for peace of mind that I was willing to try anything.

Sometimes when I could not handle that sinking feeling in the middle of the night, I used to cry out and try to reach out to God the best I knew how. I knew God existed but did not know how to get to Him or even what to do.

This void had led me to the Hindu Gita before I was a teenager, Parapsychology, Hypnotism, and even black magic during my teens, but none of that helped me handle

the bleak darkness I was facing. I somehow managed to find some comfort by hiding myself in the daily routines of work.

## Conversion to Islam

Life went on and things were getting somewhat bearable. I met Anupama (Anu) who I am married to now. I had made new friends and among them, Junaid, my younger brother Joe's old classmate, and I got along very well. (He passed away in May 2021 due to Covid-19)

Junaid was a Muslim. I met a lot of Muslims through him. I was intrigued by their openness to me and felt uneasy about my prejudices towards Islam. The solution to this set me on a course to find out what it said about God and how that made life in Saudi Arabia so rigid and miserable.

I had no intention of doing something so "uncool" as becoming a Muslim and definitely did not set out to find God in the Quran. However, the Quran started making sense to my intellect right from the beginning. I felt that the Islamic system of prayers was more assuring and concrete than anything I had experienced in Christianity till then.

I remember one evening sitting in my apartment with an illegal Bible on my left, the Quran on the right and an illegal bottle of 'siddiqi' (bootleg liquor) in front of me. Everything I knew about Christianity told me it was okay to get drunk, but here was the Quran telling me that this is not good for me. I threw away the bottle because I knew the latter to be the truth; that it was not good for me.

My new Muslim friends had mentioned how humans have changed and tampered with the word of God in the Bible and how through translations the original message from God was lost. I started suspecting this to be true. The Siddiqi incident was a turning point, by that time the Quran was making more sense to me than what I knew about the Bible.

Also, for the first time, I began to meet Muslims who were true to their beliefs and I could see no guile or hypocrisy in them. I grew to love them as brothers and enjoyed their fellowship thoroughly. Their love and sincerity complimented what I read in the Quran about Allah. This impressed me thoroughly. I also started to experience a sensation of peace while reading the Quran. All this took away the isolation, and instead of the desperation, I felt contentment.

I had to decide now. Although Muslims may claim similarities in their beliefs in Christ and the Bible, they believe that only those who bear witness that there is no god but Allah, that Mohammed is his prophet, obey Allah and his prophet can enter into "paradise". All others will be sent to Hell. This meant that I had to make a commitment. At that point in my life, I believed that I had found the truth and that God had called me to it.

So I became a Muslim. I did not expect much opposition from my family and got none.

I returned to India, got married and was a practicing Muslim.

In 1996, Anu and my sister Preethy had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ at a retreat. I tried to persuade Anu that it was all a deception caused by errors in the translation of the Bible, but she claimed to have personally met Jesus.

She was talking about a person, and I was talking about errors in a book. She said that Jesus had touched her and changed her life completely. She kept on talking about the Holy Spirit. I did not know Him then, so it went totally over my head. When she explained the deliverance session at the retreat, I was convinced that this was black magic. I did all I could to stop her from going to further 'prayer' meetings.

By then I had a well-paying job, a good apartment in another city, and was moving up in life. However, I was not very thrilled about this strange desolation and gloom that I had started feeling deep within me.

The contentment I once had when I became a Muslim had turned into frustration, and I was seeing through the people whom I once thought were guileless. Even while praying, I could not reach out to Allah as I thought I should be able to do by now. I reasoned that I could not because of the pork I ate in the pizza I'd had and/or because of the beer I'd been drinking occasionally during several momentary lapses of faith; both strictly prohibited for a Muslim.

Still, this emptiness that God was supposed to fill could no longer be ignored. I longed for a personal relationship with God. The peace I had once felt in reading the Quran had somehow dissipated into emptiness and disconsolation. It bothered me that I could not honestly say that I had become a better person after becoming a Muslim, but on the contrary, there were new deeper and darker volatile prejudices that seem to consume me. My outlook towards the world had changed completely.

Things went from bad to worse; my stepfather deserted us for his then 22 year old secretary and all our money, and my step brother, his son, was killed in a motorcycle accident. Though I was getting fed up with a great many things, I still believed that Allah would get me through.

When my mother asked me to attend a Christian retreat in 1997, I initially refused to do so because I considered Christianity corrupt and incorrect, and thought of its followers as deceived idol worshipers. It was only when she consorted to emotional blackmail that I attended just to make her happy; for it was the first time I'd seen her cry through all the years after the death of my father and through all the mess with my stepfather.

My intention partly was to try to open a debate with the preachers to expose the mistakes in the Bible. I had been training to become a Muslim apologist.

The retreat started with me wondering at the foolishness of the deceived Christians there, and even asked Allah to open the eyes of spiritually blind preachers. I was praying as fervently for them as they were praying for me.

When it became known that there was a Muslim attending the retreat who was refusing to believe, Pastor Rajesh of the Joshua Generation (now Cornerstone Church) wanted to speak with me. I told him the reason I refused to believe in what was being preached. He quoted Romans 10:9 from the Bible "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved". Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

I thought to myself, why would I confess Jesus as "Lord" when I did not believe it to be true. This contradicted what the Quran said about who God is and about who Jesus is.

According to Islam, Jesus is a prophet in line with many other prophets; "no more than a mortal whom Allah favoured and made an example to the Israelites" Sura 43:59. The only thing that the Quran agreed with is the virgin birth and him being sinless performed miracles. It denied the only Gospel that saves. Claiming he did not die and rise again, it claims he was taken to heaven alive because God does not have true prophets killed.

What Islam excludes and denies is the very purpose that Jesus came for, which is to die for the sins of the whole world and our healing.

But back then at the retreat, I intensely believed that the Quran was God's answer to all the mistakes made in the interpretations and translations of the Bible, and therefore the only true word of God. According to it, Jesus was neither slain nor crucified, but that Allah made it appear to be so. "... it appeared unto them, and Lo! those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not for certain. But Allah took him up to himself" – Surat al Nisa. 4:157-158.

I did not want to end up in hell for denying the authenticity of the Quran and denying that Allah was God by assigning Godhood to Jesus.

I asked him if he really believed in all that he preaches, and he said that he did. For reasons unknown to me, I was convinced that he was not lying, but it did not matter because I thought he was deceived and therefore wrong. Then I thought of the emptiness gnawing inside of me, and from the depth of my heart I cried out to God to help me and to show me the truth.

I wanted to believe that God was loving, and from childhood I knew that the God who created me was gentle and fair. I knew He could fix broken cords in my life. I knew He could take away the darkness and the despair, and I knew that He alone could give me true peace that lasts. I do not know how I knew all this, but this was part of the concept I had of who God should be.

Now here in front of me was Pastor Rajesh telling me that God was all that and much more, but all this available to me only through Jesus Christ.

It was too good to be true, except for the Jesus bit.

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## Redemption by Jesus the Messiah

At the risk of going to hell, I thought to myself, “my creator should be able to understand the intention of my heart, and know that I only want to know Him and serve Him, and be accepted and be loved by Him. So He should be able to understand if I make a mistake now.” So with this in mind, I agreed to take a chance and believe and say that Jesus is Lord.

The rest of the retreat did not go well for me. I felt deeply disturbed and to make things worse, when I asked the Holy Spirit to fill me later during the retreat, all I felt was the urgent need to vomit. I felt nothing apart from that. It was very disappointing.

I imagined by the end of the retreat that God would make himself known to me, so that I would know that I’ve made the correct decision by choosing Jesus. The retreat was over and that did not happen, so I decided that I was wrong to think that Jesus was anything more than a prophet like Moses was. I felt condemned for denying Islam and was going to set things right again.

When I got home, I confronted Preethy and Anu, for they were behind all this hoopla behind getting me to attend this retreat. I told them I could not accept their Jesus as Lord. This was just before dinner, we were sitting around the dining table. I remember being very angry when I said that, and Preethy said something like “He who was sinless took upon himself your sins”, at least that was all I heard when I felt something powerful go through me. Suddenly, I was gently pushed back into my chair, my arms flung wide open, my eyes shut and I saw a cross in front of me!!!

She had quoted 2 Corinthians 5:21 which says; For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Those words hit me like thunder and reverberated deep within me. It was as if a veil had lifted from the eyes of my heart and instantly I knew that Jesus had died and risen for me.

My heart melted when I felt the pain He felt, not because of what He suffered, but because of my unbelief in Him and my hard-hearted stubbornness in resisting His hand that was reaching out to me. I could do nothing but surrender to His love. I gave up struggling and just believed in Jesus.

I then felt a hand reach into my heart and tear out something dark and burdensome. I instantly felt the compassion that Abba Father had for me. For the first time in my life I became aware of my heavenly Father’s presence and love through the cross of Jesus Christ. Every cell in my body was convinced that Jesus is indeed God and my risen Lord.

That evening in 1997, Jesus became real to me, and I gave my life to Him. My search for God was finally over, and my walk with Him had begun.

The one whom I was trying to reach out to had reached out to me. All I had to do was

believe in my Father's love for me that put Jesus on the cross to save me from my sins. Jesus did not stay dead, in fact, there is an empty grave in Israel. The Holy Spirit of God raised Him up to life again!

I was free at last and furthermore, I had become God's righteousness through Christ Jesus. I did not have to depend on any rituals, deeds or sacrifices, nor worry about tipping the scales favourably for me to even have a hope of going to Heaven when I die, Christ had been there and done that.

It has been almost 30 years since then. I have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, have found that every word of God in the Bible is true, and that his faithfulness exceeds and overpowers our unfaithfulness. I have found true peace.

God has been good to me. As declared in Acts 16:31, my whole household is now saved. In 1998, the doctor's report said that we could not have children, but my heavenly Father said otherwise through Isaiah 54:13: "all your children shall be taught by the Lord and great shall be their peace". Samuel was born to us in 2001, Daniel in 2003 and Joel in 2005. In 2003, God set me free from the demonic strongholds which had plagued me even after I got saved. Immediately I experienced freedom in every area of my life. I continue to see his deliverance daily as he takes me from strength to strength. More than once, through word of knowledge and forewarning, he has saved my life. The list goes on, and too numerous are His wonders I see daily.

In October 2009, I was ordained by The Father's House Assemblies of God Church Bahrain. I now pastor The Cochin Lampstand Church in Cochin, Kerala, India.

In March 2018, after multiple heart attacks and a stroke, I had to relearn everything on the right side of my body. The doctors had given up on me. As I'm fond of testifying, they tried everything in their books but finally threw away the book. From what I'm told, my family was told to pick out a coffin for me.

I believe in a healing God; that our healing is part of what was won for us by Jesus Christ. Since then, besides pastoring through miracles among God's people, I've recorded albums, made a couple of music videos, and directed short films in multiple languages to let folks know about Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

John S. Kodiyil.  
Pastor, The Cochin Lampstand



If you require a deeper knowledge and understanding of God's Kingdom, then this handbook is for you. It is the ultimate plan that God has for His Kingdom divided into five easy to understand sections.

Focused on the Biblical plan that God has for us, from before our creation to the restoration of all things; a saga that started even before time as we know it began, scriptural references are included.

**Titus 2:13 NKJV looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

John Samuel Kodyil is the founder the Lampstand Church and serves as the Senior Pastor of The Cochin Lampstand.

His search for a living, loving God; a journey that took him to Catholicism to the tenets of Hinduism and Islam, ended when the One who he was trying to reach out to had reached out to him, with the discovery of a Savior and an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ in 1997.

A heart attack and a debilitating stroke in 2018 made him relearn everything on the right side of his body. Though born right-handed, this handbook is made using the left hand.

