

HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE IN THE LAST DAYS?

What would you think if your favorite weather forecaster's weather report was exactly correct in every detail for six straight months without fail? Would you consider such an occurrence to be merely a coincidence or would you feel compelled to look into how he or she managed to accomplish such a remarkable feat?

Similarly, multitudes have felt compelled to investigate for themselves the claims of the Bible. That the Bible actually is a personal message from God is verified by the hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled to the letter. As Bible teacher Chuck Missler puts it, *"The great discovery is that the Bible is a message system: it's not simply 66 books penned by 40 authors over thousands of years, the Bible is an integrated whole which bears evidence of super-natural engineering in every detail... an integrated message system from outside our time domain.* In other words, the Bible has God's "fingerprints", so to speak, all over it! As 2 Peter 1:19-21 informs us, *"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed . . . knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* [emphasis added]. And this is how we can know today the truth about Jesus, Heaven, and the way to salvation - because the Bible is not of human origin. That's why it's called the *Holy Bible*, and it is wholly true.

This is precisely why Jesus held the Jews of His day accountable for not recognizing and acknowledging to the people that He was the promised Messiah they had been waiting for [John5:39]. The religious leaders knew the Scriptures and should have been the first to recognize His genealogical credentials, as

well as the timing of His arrival. Both are clearly laid out in the Scriptures as will be discussed further on. Yet, did you know that the Bible has more to say about the time in which you and I are living than about the days when Jesus walked the shores of Galilee? There are more prophecies given regarding Jesus' return to earth as conquering King than were given regarding His first advent as the suffering Messiah! It is completely inconsistent to profess belief in His first advent and not His second, when Jesus Himself has said, *"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"* [John 14:3]. Having been given so many observable and unmistakable signs to watch for, we will surely also be held accountable to understand the eternal significance of the times in which we are living today.

Did you know that the Holy Bible is the only religious book which contains prophecy? Neither the Quran, the holy book of Islam; nor the Veda, Hinduism's holy book; nor the Tipitaka, the sacred book of Buddhism contain one prophetic word. Why would that be? Because only the One, True God who inhabits Eternity can tell us what the future holds. Furthermore, through His prophet Isaiah Almighty God has issued a challenge to all false gods regarding prophecy, and declares for all time His exclusivity as the only God: *"Present your case," says the Lord. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob. "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; Yes, do good or do evil, that we may be dismayed and see it together. Indeed you are*

nothing, and your work is nothing” [Isaiah 41:21-14]. “This is what the Lord says — Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come — yes, let him foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one” [Isa. 44:6-8]. “For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done” [Isa 46:9-10. Read also, Jer.10:11].

The following are but a few of the prophecies found in the Bible regarding the "last days", but there are dozens of such prophecies.

1. Isaiah 66:8 ~ THE NATION ISRAEL WOULD BE BORN IN ONE DAY.

On May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation again!! Such a thing has never occurred before, that a nation and a people dispersed for 2,000 years return to their homeland as a sovereign nation, and an identifiable ethnic people.

2. Isaiah 35:1 ~ ISRAEL WOULD BLOSSOM LIKE A ROSE.

Israel, once a desolate desert, would blossom in the last days and export produce to the world (Isaiah 27:6; 35:1-2; Ezekiel 36:34-36). Israel's increased rainfall and world-renowned irrigation technology have caused the land to literally blossom.

Incredibly, as predicted, they currently export 800 million dollars in fresh produce each year.

3. Ezekiel 37:15-22 ~ *ISRAEL WOULD BE ONE UNITED NATION IN THE LAST DAYS.* In 950 B.C., the nation Israel split into two kingdoms immediately following Solomon's reign [*"Israel"* in the north and *"Judah"* in the south]. Today, as the Lord God foretold, Israel is again one, undivided nation.

4. Psalms 83:4-8 ~ *ISRAEL WOULD BE SURROUNDED BY ENEMY NATIONS IN THE LAST DAYS.* No comment necessary.

5. Ezekiel 45:12; Amos 8:5 ~ *THE RETURNING JEWS WOULD ONCE AGAIN USE THE ANCIENT SHEKEL FOR COMMERCE.* Amazingly, the shekel is now Israel's official currency.

6. Zechariah 3:9 ~ *THE HEBREW LANGUAGE WOULD BE RESTORED.* Remarkably, today Hebrew is once again the official language of Israel. Ultimately, when Christ returns to set up his kingdom, all people will share one speech.

7. Zephaniah 3:10 ~ *THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS WOULD RETURN TO ISRAEL.* At least 60,000 Ethiopian Jews have returned over the last 20 years.

8. Revelation 11:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Matthew 24:15 ~ *THE JEWISH TEMPLE WILL BE REBUILT.* Preparations by a group known as the Temple Institute are nearly complete. The altar for the new Temple has been dedicated and the Sanhedrin has appointed a High Priest.

9. 2 Peter 3:10-12 ~ *ATOMIC FISSION ANTICIPATED* .

The Greek word translated “elements” in this portion of scripture is *stoicheion*, which refers to the Greek letters: alpha, beta, gamma, etc. These are fundamental particles and rays of the atomic nuclei which are emitted from a molecule during radioactive decay. It is only since the 20th century that we even understand that elements exist, and that if the elements of the atom are loosed, there would be an enormous release of heat and energy (radiation). How could an uneducated fisherman (Acts 4:13) have written about such things predicting that elements would "melt with fervent heat when the earth and the heavens are "dissolved" by fire"? There is only one explanation: *“No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”* [2 Pet 1:20-21 emphasis added]. This same Holy Spirit warns us, *“And so we have the prophetic word **confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place . . .”* [2 Pet 1:19 emphasis added].

10. Matthew 24:5 ~ *MANY WOULD CALL THEMSELVES “THE CHRIST”*. Jesus was an itinerant preacher who never traveled outside the tiny nation of Israel and yet He had the audacity to predict that many would come in his name, and claim to be the Christ. Today, there are numerous individuals within the New Age Movement, Eastern religions, and the cults who claim themselves to be *the* Christ.

11. Zechariah 14:12 ~ (written some 2500 years ago) *NUCLEAR WEAPONS ANTICIPATED*. No comment necessary.

12. Ezekiel 38 ~ *IRAN ALIGNED WITH RUSSIA AGAINST ISRAEL.*

Modern day Iran was known as Persia until 1939. What is truly amazing about this prophecy is that up until 1979 Iran was sympathetic towards Israel, and Israel had an embassy in Tehran.

13. Revelation 13:16,17~ *MANKIND WOULD POSSESS THE TECHNOLOGY TO TRACK THE WORLD'S POPULATION AND COMMERCE.*

No comment necessary.

14. Mark 13:7,8 ~ *INCREASE IN WARS.* According to Project Ploughshares, there are about forty armed conflicts in the world today.

15. Genesis 6:11-13 and Luke 17:26 ~ *THE EARTH WOULD BE FILLED WITH VIOLENCE.* In the U.S. alone violent crimes have increased 500% since 1960.



SO WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

It means that life is not about this life, but about the life to come. In other words, there's nothing more important than your eternal soul. In Luke 12:19-31 Jesus himself describes an actual account of a real person who gambled his eternal soul that this life was all there is, and then paid the ultimate price for his folly. Some groups teach that if you fail to make the right choice in this life that you'll get another chance after you die. Still others teach that this life is all there is and when you die there's nothing more. These ideas are readily embraced because the thought of being held accountable before a holy God is terrifying. But what evidence is offered for making such a bold and presumptuous statement? However, no matter how appealing these and similar teachings made sound, we must consider the eternal scope of the question and what is at stake. The Word of God exposes us to the reality that just as Jesus was offered up once to pay the debt for the sins of many, so likewise each individual will die once and then face judgment [Hebrews 9:27,28]. The fact remains that only those who have had their sins forgiven can reasonably think that they can escape the judgment which is due for their sin. God's Word informs us those who have "been born of God" know that they "have eternal life", and that they may have "boldness on the day of judgment" because His love has cast out the fear of death and judgment [1Jn.5:1,4 &13 and 4:17 & 18 emphasis added]. Such a knowledge must therefore be based upon real, solid, tangible, verifiable evidence. This evidence is abundantly supplied by the countless prophecies which have been fulfilled in detail, and which thoroughly attest to the veracity of Scripture and the personal testimony of Jesus Christ Himself.



WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS 'FAITH'

The eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews starts out, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”*...[emphasis added], and the entire chapter then proceeds to chronicle the actions of real people, who lived real lives in real time, and whose actions were prompted by having heard God’s word. True faith, Biblical faith, is not a leap in the dark; neither can it be contained in a vacuum. There’s no such thing as “faith in faith”. Neither is true faith a matter of either cultural background or family upbringing. In fact we are informed that *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God”* [Rom.10:17]. In other words, it is neither tradition nor religious or cultural upbringing but the Word of God alone which engenders true faith. True faith must have an object. Jesus instructed us to, *“Have faith in God”* [Matt.11:22 emphasis added]. Also, true faith is based upon evidence! The Apostle Peter testifies that he didn’t believe in Jesus based upon his having known Him personally in life, but because of the sheer evidence of fulfilled prophecy [2 Peter 1:1-21]. Consider also that when John the Baptist was about to be killed by King Herod he wanted to be sure he hadn’t been mistaken about Jesus, and so he sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus straight out whether or not He was the Messiah. To answer John’s question, Jesus directed him to the scriptures for the evidence he was looking for. That was Jesus’ answer to the man that He himself described as the greatest prophet who ever lived. Read Matthew 11:2-6 and Isaiah 2:6,7. Therefore, true faith in Jesus Christ must be based upon the evidence of the prophecies contained in God’s Word as to whether Jesus has the proper credentials to verify His claim to

be the Son of God, the Savior of the world.



“SAVED” FROM WHAT?

In Matthew 1:20 & 21 we have the account of the angel who appeared to Joseph to explain to him that Mary had not been unfaithful to him, but that the Child she carried was indeed conceived by the Holy Spirit and that this Child would “*save His people from their sins*”. Jesus’ death on the cross in our place not only saves us from judgment and damnation, but from the power that sin holds over us. Many people are hesitant to learn more about what the Bible teaches concerning salvation because they think of things they will have to “give up”, and know that they can’t, and they’re right. However, the Bible informs us that the experience of a true believer is that, “*Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace....God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you.. [have] been set free from sin*” [Rom 6:14, 17 & 18]. This freedom isn’t something we can accomplish by religious observances or discipline. It is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer. Salvation is not a matter of our becoming good enough, nor is it a matter of accumulating the right information and adopting a certain creed or set of doctrines. Salvation is to **meet Christ and to know Him personally for who He is**. Jesus said, “*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ*

whom You have sent" [John 17:3 emphasis added]. The only way a lost sinner can meet Christ and truly know Him is to be born all over again. No one can know God otherwise and here's why. *"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption"* [1 Cor. 15:47-50]. The first time we are born we are also born children of Adam and have inherited his sin nature: *"The first man was of the earth, made of dust . . . As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust . . . And . . . have borne the image of the man of dust".* *"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 emphasis added]. In other words, the life that comes *You see, the first time we are born we are born according to the flesh – physical, biological life. In the family album we are children* of our mother and father, and we bear resemblance to them by various physical and character traits. However, the first through being born of our mother is merely physical and material. This physical, biological life is part of the FIRST creation of Genesis chapter one. It is flesh and that is all it can ever be. It has a corrupted, fallen nature no matter how religious or pious it may become. Religion is like the fig leaves that Adam and Eve tried to cover their guilt with. It did not cover their sin then, and it cannot cover sin now. *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified"* [Galatians 2:16]. The Bible clearly states how God views man's righteousness: *"But we are all like an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags"* [Isaiah 64:6]. *"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He*

saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” [Titus 3:4-7].



RIGHTEOUS, OR SINNER?

Jesus said, *“I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance”* [Mark 2:17 emphasis added]. In other words, those who think themselves righteous do not see their true condition. They are blind to their very real need for forgiveness. Without the confession of guilt, forgiveness is irrelevant. To confess means, to *agree with God*. If we take what God has called sin and we call it something else, that is calling God a liar. Agree with what God has said about **sin**, *your* sin. Don't call it anything else and don't blame anyone else. Own it and take full responsibility for it. This is confession according to the Bible. 1John 1:9 & 10 contains an amazing promise and a sobering charge: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives”* [emphasis

added]. Then, receive by faith His payment in full for your sin. The Word of God informs us that Jesus died ONCE for all sin, period [Rom.6:10; Heb.7:27;9:12;10:10]. John 19:30 is the record of Jesus' last words from the cross which were, "It is finished!" The word rendered here "finished" is translated from the Greek, "teleo" and means, *to discharge a debt*. This is what the Scripture means when it teaches us that Jesus has, *"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"* [Col 2:14]. In other words, Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross discharged the debt - our debt - which was owed to God on account of sin. There is nothing anyone can do that could add to what Christ has already accomplished. The Apostle Paul was perhaps one of the most religious men who ever lived before he was saved. He recounts his religious life of dedication and tells us that now that he knows Jesus, he considers all the efforts of his religious life to be refuse. Read Paul's own testimony in Philippians 3:3-15. This response of faith expresses our surrender to the Lordship of Christ, and will have continuous corresponding results throughout the remainder of our life as we discover deeper and deeper depths of this one initial surrender. In 1 John 5:12 & 13 we read, *"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God"*. So, the question remains, do you have the Son? If so, only then do you have "this life" which the angel spoke of in Acts 5:20. Unless we are reconciled to God by Jesus Christ we are without

hope [read Eph. 2:12]. The litmus test of whether or not a person has been truly saved is not based on his performance, his subscribing to a set of doctrines, or that he/she gives mental assent to truth. The litmus test of whether or not a person has been truly saved is simply that he/she is a new creation. “*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision [i.e. religious acts] nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation*” [Gal 6:15]. We’ll discuss more about what it means to be a “new creation” and how to become one a little further on.

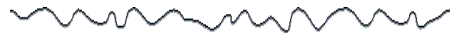


NO MORE RELIGION!

Know this, Jesus did not come to start a new religion as so many mistakenly believe. He came to do away with religion, and to restore mankind back to the ***relationship*** with the Father that He had intended from the beginning, and which sin made impossible [Isaiah 59:2; 64:4-6]. Thus we understand the idea of *redemption*. To be *redeemed* means to be purchased back to the original owner [Eph.1:14; 1 Pet.1:18,19; Rev.5:9 & 14:3]. On the contrary, all religions, by any name, are merely man’s methods and means of trying to establish his own righteousness and thereby justify himself.

Biblical Christianity is not a religion. Even the so-called “Christian”

religion which many of us were raised in is in fact a gross corruption of the simple truth contained in God's Word. Neither is Biblical Christianity even remotely associated with political conservatism, and it most definitely is not at all what the scam artists are pedaling (who appear with Bibles in hand) on what is known as "Christian" television. The Christian faith is not a way of life or a philosophy. Christianity is based solely upon the claims of Jesus Christ - **who He is and what He has done**. That's all it's about. In fact, the entire Bible, in almost every detail, points to Jesus Christ!



SO, WHAT ABOUT JESUS?

There have always been false christs and false messiahs. However, the Scriptures give minute details regarding the true Messiah's mission and identity in order to protect people against impostors. These prophecies are so specific and precise as to even pinpoint the time frame and place of His birth, as well as details regarding His death. For example, the Word of God declares that Messiah **MUST** come through a very specific genealogical lineage. Think about that for a minute. Anyone

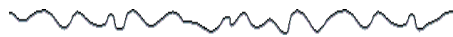
claiming to be Messiah in the past or in the future, would have to be able to verify his lineage according to the Scripture's specifications. This is the reason why the Jews kept impeccable genealogical records, because they were supposed to be watching and waiting for Messiah to arrive. Therefore, the Messiah had to be born before the Temple was destroyed, because the genealogies were kept in the Temple. Once the Temple and the records were destroyed, no one could authoritatively verify his genealogy, which was absolutely essential if someone was to claim to be the Messiah, the son of David. In addition, Genesis 49:10 states that Shiloh (a term for Messiah) would come only after Israel had lost its national sovereignty, which occurred when the Romans conquered Israel. So, a very definite but limited window of time in which the Messiah of Israel would come is revealed to us in the Word of God: 1. Messiah would come sometime after Israel lost its national sovereignty - which occurred when Rome conquered Israel and : 2. Messiah would come before the *Temple [which contained the genealogical records]* was destroyed - which occurred in 70 A.D.. This is what is meant in Galatians 4:4,5 where we read, "*But when the fullness of time had come God sent forth His Son...*". God gave these details so that people could be absolutely certain as to the Messiah's identity and need not be fooled by imposters. In fact we find that Jesus always directed those who were looking for the truth about Him to the Word of God: "*And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. And He opened their understanding that they might*

comprehend the Scriptures” [Luke 24:27]. Jesus told them, “*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and **these are they which testify of Me***” [John 5:39-40]. For this same reason the Apostles’ preaching always directed the people’s attention to the scriptures: “*But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ*” [Acts 9:22].

“*Then Paul, as his custom was ... reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ*” [Acts 17:2-3]. “*Now a certain Jew named Apollos . . . An eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures . . . spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord. . . for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ” [Acts 18:24-25,27,28].*

Most of the apostles’ hearers were very familiar with the scriptures because they had been brought up knowing them. However, they had merely a cultural understanding, which was full of error. For example, the people had been taught that when Messiah arrived on the scene they wouldn’t know where He was from [John 7:27] and yet Scripture clearly reveals where He would be born Micah 5:2]. The religious leaders of Jesus’ day certainly knew the scriptures and were supposed to be watching for Messiah’s arrival. They should have known the times and been the first to acknowledge Him because the prophet Daniel had pinpointed the time in exact detail [Dan. 9:25,26]. Yet, they did not receive Him simply because He did not fit what had become the religious and cultural idea of what Messiah ought to be. Yet, there were some who did

understand the times in which they were living and who were watching and expecting Messiah to arrive. Such were Simeon and Anna whom we read about in Luke 2:25-38. Also, the Apostles Philip and Andrew who, as soon as they met Jesus immediately told others, "*We have found the Messiah*" (*which is translated, the Christ*). "***We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph***" [John 1:40-45 emphasis added]. The indisputable record of the prophecies in God's Word authoritatively substantiate His claim to be the Son of God, the Savior of the world. He could only do the things He did, and say the things which He said because of who He is. Therefore, the Christian faith in contrast to what is known as Christendom or the "Christian religion", is based solely upon the claims of Jesus Christ. That is why He could say with authority that He himself is "*the Way, the Truth, and the Life*", and that no one could come to the Father except through Him (John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 & 1 Tim.2:5 emphasis added).



WHY IS THERE ONLY ONE SAVIOR FOR EVERYONE?

There is only one Savior for every human being on planet earth for two very good reasons:

#1-THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD, AND HE IS THE SAVIOR. In Isaiah 43:11 God spoke these words to His prophet, *“I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no savior”*. He repeats essentially the same message in chapters forty-four and forty-five and again in Hosea 13:4. All of mankind needs the same savior simply because there is only one God, and there is only one mankind. Mankind being categorized into “races” is the invention of Charles Darwin. Darwin’s theory of evolution based on natural selection has been scientifically debunked and is being renounced by more and more prominent scientists every year. In contrast, the Word of God informs us, *“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth”* (Acts 17:26 emphasis added). Read *“Creator, Cosmos, and Human Destiny”* by Dave Hunt for a detailed, scientific documentation of the facts.

#2 - ALL THE NATIONS BELONG TO GOD. In Psalm 24:1-2, Deut.10:14, and Isa.2:2 we read, *“The earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters”* ...*“Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it”*...*Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it”*.

In the beginning when God created Adam and placed him in the Garden, He gave Adam dominion over the planet [Gen.1:26-28; 2:8, 15]. Adam had enjoyed fellowship with God in this role up to

this point [Gen.3:8-10]. By disobeying God's command not to eat of the fruit of one specific tree in the Garden [Gen. 2:16 & 17] they in effect declared that they had rejected God's rule over them, and had chosen instead to follow Satan [read Romans 6:16]. Their gross insubordination to God's clear directive wasn't a minor issue, but rather constituted treason against God. Ever since, all of Adam's progeny have inherited his fallen nature and followed suit in his rebellion. So we are instructed, *"Therefore ... 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 idea that we were "born in sin" does not refer to the physical union of our parents when we were conceived. Consider the common phrase, "they're a born liar" or "a born thief" etc. Or those who will declare, "I was born this way". Rather than being a valid defense argument, the realization that we are all "born sinners" actually substantiates God's righteous indictment against us. The Law of God is holy, and just, and good [Rom.7:12]. It is not fragmented parts, but one complete whole. We can understand it in the way we understand glass. Imagine some one trying to poke a hole into a beautiful plate glass window by tapping in the corner with a hammer. The obvious result would be that the entire window would be shattered. In much the same way, James 2:10-11 informs us that whoever has broken what we would consider to be *just* "one" law, has in fact broken the whole law. Therefore, anyone who has "just" told a lie, or "just" stolen a paper clip is guilty of breaking God's law. Who can deny that they are a sinner?

THE INDICTMENT

- **No one is righteous:** *“As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one”...“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”, Romans 3:10 & 23.*
- **All have broken God’s law:** *“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law”, James 2:10 & 11.*
- **The entire world is guilty in God’s court:** *“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God”, Romans 3:19.*
- **Every heart is deceitful:** *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind...”, Jeremiah 17:9-10.*
- **No one can make their own heart right:** *“Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin”? Proverbs 20:9.*

And yet, in spite of our sin and rebellion, stubbornness and pride, the Word of God informs us, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He

who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” [John 3:16-18 emphasis added]. Clearly, there is no hope of anyone obtaining God’s forgiveness and pardon by good works, no matter how religiously sincere. To attempt to do so is an affront to God and an insult to His grace because God has clearly revealed His plan. The Word of God informs us, “A man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified” [Gal 2:16]. “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”, Eph 2:1-9.

THE PROMISE

We find that immediately after pronouncing judgment upon Adam and Eve (and Satan who had deceived them), God tells Satan that He is going to “*Put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise [crush] your*

head, and you shall bruise His heel", [Gen.3:15]. This is the very first reference we find to the promise of a *Savior*. In Hebrew this is, *Messiah*, which means, "Anointed One", or in the Greek, "Christ". Much of the Old Testament contains the clues as to His arrival and His mission. In His life, death, and resurrection Jesus fulfilled dozens and dozens of prophecies. Here is a sampling of His impeccable credentials:

Genesis 22:18: THE MESSIAH WOULD COME THROUGH ABRAHAM .

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice".

"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" [Galatians 3:16 emphasis added].

➤ **Fulfilled: Matthew 1:2, 17**

2 Samuel 7:13,16,17: THE MESSIAH WOULD COME THROUGH DAVID'S FAMILY LINE .

"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David".

➤ **Fulfilled: Luke 1:32**

Micah 5:2: THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One

to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (i.e. eternally existent, denoting deity).

➤ **Fulfilled: Luke 2:1-6**

Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6,7: THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN, BEING GOD IN THE FLESH. *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel". "For unto us a Child is born (his humanity), unto us a Son is given (his divinity); and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".*

➤ **Fulfilled: Luke 1:26-35**

& Matthew 1:20-25

Daniel 9:25,26: THE MESSIAH'S TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM WAS FORETOLD TO THE EXACT DAY.

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary .

➤ **Fulfilled: Luke 19:28-38**

(The exactness of this prophecy is detailed in the book, "The Coming Prince" by Sir Robert Anderson)

Psalms 22:1,7,8,14-16 &18 and 16:10: THE DETAILS REGARDING MESSIAH'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION WERE FORETOLD.

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? ...All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" . . .I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; my heart is like was; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; you have brought Me to the dust of death...They pierced My hands and My feet . . .They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots” . . .“For You will not leave my soul in Sheol (meaning the grave or the abode of the dead), nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption”.

➤ **Fulfilled:Matthew 27:25-54**

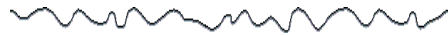
Psalm 41:9 & Zechariah11:12,13: MESSIAH WOULD BE BETRAYED BY SOMEONE CLOSE TO HIM FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER.

“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” . . .“So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"-- that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter”.

➤ **Fulfilled: Matthew 26:14-16,
23-25, 45-50**

These are but a sampling from the scriptures which tell us about Jesus' life and ministry, death and resurrection, and which

were foretold, some hundreds, some thousands of years before He was born. Such is the compelling evidence that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world.



A NEW CREATION

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” [2 Cor 5:17]. Through recent discoveries regarding the human genome we now understand that human beings are primarily software rather than hardware. There is actual information – a four letter alphabet - which is digitally encoded on our DNA, and which contains the specific details of who we are as individuals. Consider the fact that Francis Collins PhD, who was the first to map the human genome, rejects the theory of Evolution. This discovery helps us to understand Jesus’ meaning when He said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. *“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again’* [John 3:6-7]. The word translated here “again” means not only *again*, but ‘*entirely afresh*’, as from a new source of life and point of departure. In other words, this new birth issues from an entirely

new source and origin of *life* which is entirely different in kind altogether from our physical, biological life. In Acts 5:20 we have the account of Peter being miraculously rescued from prison by an angel who instructs him to "*Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.*" Which "life" is the angel talking about? The life which has been born of the Holy Spirit - born from above and RECEIVED by faith. Please read Ephesians 2:4-9. Think about it this way: Just as we understand that we cannot use a program which has been designed for Microsoft in a Mac computer - because the Microsoft program is not compatible with a Mac; it simply won't work. Similarly, the life [or "programming" if you will] of the first birth is simply not compatible with the Kingdom of God; it just doesn't "work" because the programming and formatting of the one is not compatible with the other. The life we received from our first birth is merely physical and material, and is part of the first creation. Again, we come back to Jesus' words in John 3:6-7, "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh [i.e. first birth], and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit [i.e. second birth]. *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again' [emphasis added]. Here again we see Jesus is speaking of a spiritual, supernatural event and yet which is a literal rebirth that brings to us an entirely different *life* altogether. The Word of God instructs us, "*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" [John 1:12-13]. Notice this is referring again to a birth that is not physical, and does not come by either the will, design, or effort of man. In addition, 1 Corinthians 2:14 informs us, "*The****

natural man [i.e. the man who has only born once] does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" [emphasis added]. So we understand why talk about spiritual matters often makes people so uncomfortable, or they find it comical. It is for this very reason that we MUST be born of the Spirit because we cannot know, or understand, or receive the things of God with the natural mind which is of the first birth, "because they are spiritually discerned", and the natural mind of the first birth is inherently opposed to them.

Therefore, we clearly understand that no religious activity of any kind can accomplish salvation [Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5-7]. This is why the Word of God strictly warns us, "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" [Col. 2:8 emphasis added].



THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Many people are put off by the subject of salvation because they know someone who claims to be a Christian who cheated them or is a horrible person in one way or another. It makes no sense to allow such a person [who may or may not in fact actually have a relationship with Jesus Christ] to keep you from a relationship with Him. Let God deal with such a person and let Him deal with you. Remember, Christianity is not about Christians. Biblical Christianity is about Jesus Christ and the claims He made about Himself. Others hesitate to investigate the truth of Scripture because they think the Christian life must certainly be either unbearably dull or horribly difficult. On the contrary, let's remember that the angels' announcement at Jesus' birth was one of "good news" and "great joy" to "all people" [Luke 2:10]. Jesus assures us that the reason He came was so, "*That they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*". The truth is, we cannot know true *life* until we receive it from God. Until then, as we are informed in Ephesians 2:1-5, we are truly the walking dead.



WHAT ABOUT HELL?

Know this, no one will wind up in hell because of any particular sin or sins which they've committed, but because they have rejected God's provision for sin through His Son Jesus Christ. God cannot rightly be accused of sending anyone to hell. Those who have rejected God's payment of their debt cannot blame God when payment comes due. Know also that Hell was not prepared for people but for the Devil and his angels [Matthew 25:41]. People will wind up in hell because they have both denied Jesus' rightful place as Lord over them and have rejected Jesus' provision for their entrance to Heaven. In so doing they have chosen instead to follow Satan who is the one who will lead them to hell. If you have not been reconciled to God by confessing your sin, and you're not sure how to pray, read Psalm 51 and make it your prayer. Ask God to bring you the new birth of the Holy Spirit. Then put your faith in Jesus Christ in the same way you would put your faith in a parachute. You don't just "believe" it will benefit you, you actually trust yourself to it by putting it on. Then, once you have made peace with God read the Bible daily and obey what you read. Start in Genesis and read through to Revelation. Don't worry about the parts you don't understand. The Holy Spirit will give you understanding in His time. Just keep reading. The Bible is a supernatural book and we are told that, "*The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" [Heb.4:12-13]. See also Eph. 4:23, Col.3:16 and John 17:17.



IN SUMMATION:

So what does all of this all mean for each of us? It means that no one can claim that tomorrow will be theirs, and there is no such thing as neutral ground before Almighty God. It is not enough to merely believe that there is one God. The demons believe that much [James 2:19]. Are you trusting in the tradition you were raised in or your own made up ideas about life, death, and eternity? One way or another each of us makes a choice to either ignore or reject the evidence before us, or to confess our guilt before God and receive what Jesus has done on our behalf. It's just that simple, and God made it that simple so that man could not take credit. Please read Eph.2:9. Think about it, our loving Creator God is not willing that any should perish but desires that all men everywhere should repent of their sin and so be saved [1 Tim. 2:4 & 2 Pet.3:9]. Only Jesus can procure our salvation because only He was without sin [Heb.4:15 & 7:26; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1Pet.2:22; 1Jn.3:5]. There is simply no other way to Heaven because Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* [John 14:6]. *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all"* [1 Tim 2:5-6]. *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* [Acts 4:12].

So, why do you believe what you believe? What evidence do you have for believing it? The Bible presents a mountain of irrefutable evidence for the claims of Jesus Christ which can be verified scientifically, historically, and archeologically. With our

eternal souls laying in the balance, it seems more than reasonable that we should soberly weigh the evidence before us. Several years ago headlines heralded the sad accounts of those who believed claims and promises that they fully trusted in. Then, based on those claims, made unwise investments, and wound up losing everything they worked all their lives for. Obviously, no one would knowingly put everything at risk by investing in something which they knew beforehand could not fulfill their expectations! These individuals *thought* they had a sure thing, *thought* they had made a sound investment. However, their confidence was sadly misplaced because it was based upon trust in a man's word! To their great shock they discovered they had in fact invested their all in that which, in the final tally, could not fulfill the claims and promises of which they had been assured. In contrast, Jesus gives us the assurance that, "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away*" [Matthew 24:35], and in Psalm 119:89 we read, "*Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven*". Also in Psalm 9:10 & 34:22 we read, "*And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, **have not forsaken those who seek You***" . . . "*The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, **and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned***" [emphasis added].

Please seriously consider the eternal weight of the information contained in this booklet because there really is nothing more important than your eternal soul. There is no more serious consideration than what happens to us after we die. Jesus asked the question, "*What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for*

his soul" [Mark 8:36-38]? At life's finally tally the choice we make regarding the evidence that all the world lies under the just and righteous judgment of God because of crimes against Him, and that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world, will alone determine our eternal destiny.

So the question remains, do you know that you have the Son; do you know that you are a new creation; do you know that you have eternal life? What evidence are you basing your answers on?

As we are told in John 20:31, "*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name*". And again in 1John 5:13, "*These things I have written to you . . .that you may know that you have eternal life*".

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ,
as though God were pleading through us:
we implore you on Christ's behalf,
be reconciled to God”.

2 Corinthians 5:20