

# Table of Contents by Chapter

1. The Bible's Claims	3
2. What is Prophecy?	5
3. Fulfilled Prophecy about Jesus	8
4. Scientific Accuracy of the Bible	11
5. The Anthropic Principle	14
6. Miracles of Jesus	19
7. Unity and Harmony of Scripture	20
8. Archeological Evidence	25
9. Ancient Manuscripts	37
10. Mathematical Probability	40
11. The Resurrection of Christ	41
12. Indestructibility of the Bible and Christian Faith	43
13. Dirty Laundry of Bible Heroes	46
14. Ancient Non-Biblical Writings	48
15. Jesus's Teaching from The Old Testament	51
16. Dead Sea Scrolls	52
17. Comparison to Other "Holy Books"	53
18. Radically Changed Lives	55
19. The Martyrdom of 11 of the 12 Apostles	56
20. Wisdom Beyond Human Understanding	57
21. The Moral Law	59
22. Function and Beauty of Nature	62
23. Fulfilled Prophecy about Israel	64
24. The Conviction of the Holy Spirit	82
25. Convergence of End Times Prophecy	86
26. Final Thoughts	106
Bonus Chapter: God's Plan of Salvation for Man	109

# Introduction

As I begin this book let me first say that I realize that even though I have heard, read, and gathered much information over the years on the subject, this book will in no way be doing justice to the huge topic we will be discussing. It can't begin to scratch the surface of observable proof that is shouting the truth concerning the origin, preservation, and reliability of the Bible. I pray this book will give you something to think about and be a resource to help jump-start your journey to the truth. The evidence for the truthfulness and reliability of the Bible is overwhelming. It is like no other book in history. Christianity is an evidence-based faith. This book contains some of that evidence.

So, "Is the Bible really from God?", and is it reliable today for you, me and each of our other 8,000,000,000 (8 billion) fellow inhabitants of planet earth? If, after diligently striving to find the answer to this question, you come up with a "Yes", the Bible really is from God and has been preserved for us to this very day, then a decision has to be made by you. Will you continue to follow your own path, or will you humble yourself and strive to follow the truth you have found from the One who created all that is, and who directly inspired the writing of the Bible? The Bible is God's gift to us, His roadmap for life, if you will.

So now, let's dig in: please read the below paragraph twice and keep it in mind as you read the pages of this book. Where does faith come from? "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*" (Romans 10:17). The apostle Thomas needed some additional proof before he fully believed. If that is you, I hope you will find what you are looking for in the pages that follow.

I will begin and end this book with three **promises** from God. "*And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart*" (Jeremiah 29:13). "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him*" (Hebrews 11:6). "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*" (James 4:8a).

# Chapter 1

-----  
The Bible's Claims

In the first chapter what we will look at doesn't prove the truth or reliability of the Bible, but it is important to understand at the onset of our study.

*"...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).*

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

Then, more than 4,000 times in the Bible the inspired authors affirm its inspiration by statements such as: *"thus sayeth the Lord", "then God spoke", "the God of your father spoke", "then the Lord spoke", "then God said", "God spoke to him," "Jesus spoke these words", "Jesus said," "now the Lord spoke", "Then the word of the LORD came unto me", "GOD, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets".*

Also, God Himself spoke through the prophets. *"You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. I, only I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me. It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God". (Isaiah 43:10-12).*

Because it is important that you rely on the Bible itself to provide you with a clear presentation of what it has to say, I will be listing verses for you to read. I encourage you to get a Bible and look up the references and verify that which is written here lines up with what God has revealed through the pages of His book, the Bible. As you will find throughout this abridged book there are many links to various resources.

If you would like to more easily follow those links, view the complete free online version of this book at [www.freebibletracts.org](http://www.freebibletracts.org).

Timothy, the apostle Paul's protégé, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote the following: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

In the above verse, *"All scripture"* in Greek, refers to the entirety of the scriptures as a whole and does not pertain to each individual verse. God has given us everything we need in order to follow Him as He prepares a place in heaven for those that are His. By listening to Him and studying His inspired Word, we will be instructed in doctrine, reproof, correction, and the path to righteousness and heaven.

The principle we are to follow is for each of us to, *"Prove all things by the Word of God"* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). That includes all ministers, churches, denominations, teaching, preaching, doctrines, sermons, writings, opinions, and practices. Examine all through the light of the Bible. Any teaching that is not 100% supported by the Scriptures must be rejected. Studying is not optional for Christians but required by God. In fact, we are commanded by God to, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15).

Now, as I mentioned above, one might rightfully say: "This is all fine, but it doesn't prove to me that just because the Bible says it is the Word of God that it really is God's Word". So, here is where our study of apologetics (proofs for the reliability of the Bible) begins. Let me say that it is understandable to have some doubt or little faith about what the Bible is and where it came from before you have had a chance to read, hear and study its pages for yourself. Compared to all other religions, Christianity is an evidence-based faith. I hope you will see the truth of that here.

## Chapter 2

----

### What is Prophecy?

This is a big one! The purpose of prophecy (history written in advance) is to let us know that God exists and that He has a plan for each of us as well as for this world and universe which He created for us. *“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth” (Psalm 33:6)*. By the foretelling of persons, places and events hundreds of years before their occurrence, the Bible demonstrates a knowledge of the future that is too specific to be labeled good guesses or coincidences.

By giving examples of fulfilled prophecy, the Scriptures themselves give a strong testimony of their inspiration. As we look a little closer at the overall Bible, we see that approximately one fourth of its content consist of prophecy.

The Bible clearly shows the 100% accuracy of the hundreds of predictive prophecies which were recorded hundreds, even thousands of years before their accurate fulfillment. To start you thinking about the impossibility of lucky guesses, coincidences, or a pre-conceived scheme, let's look at a few of these below.

*“Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19 NLT)*.

My prayer is that as you focus on these scriptures in the light of the historical record, your faith will be increased and you will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ's sinless life, and thus worthy sacrificial death on the cross has truly cleansed you from all the guilt of all your sins, if you will repent and trust that indeed He has done this for you.

*“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29)*

That is what this book is all about. I trust it will help you see that God's Word is true and can be trusted to guide you in your search for truth and the meaning of this life you have been given.

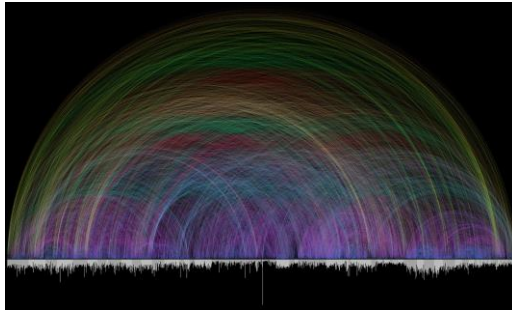
In the following chapters you will see a few of the better-known prophecies from the Bible.

Although Satan, the prince of the power of the air (see Ephesians 2:2), temporarily has great sway and many followers in this world and in the spiritual realm, he cannot see the future. That, only God can do. This fact sets the Bible apart from all other religious books and their leaders who try to draw men from the true God to themselves, their teachings, and their false gods. Further, concerning prophecy, God has this to say about false prophets and their false gods. *"Let them try to tell us what occurred in years gone by or what the future holds. Yes, that's it! If you are gods, tell what will happen in the days ahead! Or do some mighty miracle that makes us stare, amazed"* (Isaiah 41:22-23 TLB). Contrast that with what God says about himself: *"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure"* (Isaiah 46:9-10).

God gave us these prophecies to build our faith and point the way to His Son. As *1 John 1:1-3* states: *"The One who existed from the beginning is the One we have heard and seen. We saw Him with our own eyes and touched Him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the Word of life. This One who is life from God was shown to us, and we have seen Him. And now we testify and announce to you that He is the One who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was shown to us. We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."*

*"I declared the former things long ago, and they went out of My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. Therefore, I declared them to you long ago, before they took place I proclaimed them to you, So that you would not say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my cast metal image have commanded*

them'” (Isaiah 48:3,5). No, God offers proof that He is who He says He is, and the Bible is exactly what it says it is.



Above is a fascinating graphic that shows 63,779 cross-references including the 2,000 fulfilled and 500 yet-to-be -fulfilled prophecies in the Bible. The white bars along the bottom represent each Bible chapter, Genesis 1:1 – Revelation 22:20. The line's color shows the reference's distance from the other. A cross-reference is a scripture that references another scripture forward in time or back in time.

This graph, designed by Christoph Römheld and Chris Harrison, gives visualization to the Bible's amazing interconnectedness and reliability. <https://www.chrisharrison.net/index.php/Visualizations/BibleViz>

Had the Bible been written by one person or at one time, this would be an amazing thing. However, the Bible was penned by 40 authors including about 30 from the Old Testament (ranging from a scribe, four kings, a cup-bearer, a governor, a singer/songwriter, a government officer, a herdsman and grower of sycamore figs, several just known as prophets) and 10 from the New Testament (ranging from fishermen, doctor, prophet, priest and tent maker). It was written over a time span of 1600 years, on three different continents, in three languages with most of the writers of the Old Testament not knowing the other writers. Plus, of course, no writers of the Old Testament knew any of the writers of the New Testament. Can you see that this interconnected coordination would not be possible apart from God, especially without a hint of conspiracy and without powerful computer assistance?

# Chapter 3

----

## Fulfilled Prophecy about Jesus

Original Prophecy	Reference	Fulfilled Reference	Years Later
Killed for the sins of others	Daniel 9:26	2 Corinthians 5:21	520
Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15, 49	520
Miracles Performed	Isaiah 35:5-6	John 2:1-11	700
Wounded for our sins	Isaiah 53:5	Peter 2:24	700
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:25	735
Raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Luke 24:6, Mark 16:6	900-1000
Clothing divided at the cross	Psalms 22:18	John 19:24	900-1000
Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	John 19:34	900-1000
No broken bones	Psalms 22:17	John 19:36	900-1000

Above are just 9 fulfilled prophecies about Jesus, but did you know that the Bible contains over 300 predictive prophecies about the first coming of Jesus, the Messiah? Did you know that every single one of these prophecies about Jesus came to pass from 400 to 1000, years after they were prophesied?

The following prophecy is the most precise of all prophecies. In 538 B.C. the prophet Daniel wrote the following bold prediction: *Daniel 9:25 - "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks of years and sixty-two weeks of years."*

In this prophecy, Daniel is claiming that there will be 69 weeks of years between the issuing of a decree to rebuild Jerusalem and the first coming to earth of the Messiah who would come to deliver the Jews. Now keep in mind that this bold prediction came 538 years before Christ was born and that this prophecy was fulfilled with mathematical precision.

The New Testament confirms the accuracy of the prophets of the Old Testament about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, "*Which God*



*promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures” (Romans 1:1–4).*

Chapter 7 of the book of Isaiah was written about 735 B.C. when King Ahaz was on the throne and Isaiah was sent with the message that God was sending Judah a sign. *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).* The word Immanuel in Hebrew and Greek, according to Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Ἐμμανουήλ, ὁ, **Immanuel (from עִמָּנוּ and אֱלֹהִים means God with us)**. So, when Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, Muslims or whoever else tries to tell you that Jesus wasn't God, show them the Greek and Hebrew in context. *“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on His shoulders. These will be His royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice.” (Isaiah 9:6-7)*

To my Jewish friends and all who are reading this, just ask yourself who is the prophet Isaiah talking about here? Read the verses below to see that these prophecies refer to Jesus.

### **The Suffering Servant**

\*Look up Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; John 18:19-24; 1 Peter 2:21-25 and read the words of the prophet Isaiah in chapter 53, keeping in mind Isaiah wrote this from 700 to 750 years before Jesus was born. Again, fulfilled prophecy proves the reliability of the Bible.

Many Jews have wrestled with these verses, and today there are over 350 Messianic Jewish Christian congregations (congregations of Jewish people who believe that Jesus is the Messiah) in the United States and 80 in Israel. It is estimated that there are 350,000 to 500,000 Messianic (Christian) Jews today worldwide. Those numbers provide evidence of the compelling nature of these prophecies.

As a side note, Isaiah 53 in the Hebrew Bible, or Tanakh, is sometimes called the forbidden chapter. This is because it is rarely if ever discussed

in Jewish synagogues throughout the world and is credited with opening many eyes to the identity of the true Jewish Messiah (Jesus Christ).

<https://pdf4pro.com/view/351-old-testament-prophecies-fulfilled-in-jesus-christ-5b78ff.html>

For 30 more prophecies that Jesus Christ fulfilled go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGyMDTBE9hc> “The Greatest Old Testament Prophecy of All” summarized here by J Warner Wallace in his book *Cold-Case Christianity*.

<https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/perhaps-the-greatest-old-testament-prophecy-of-all/>

# Chapter 4

----

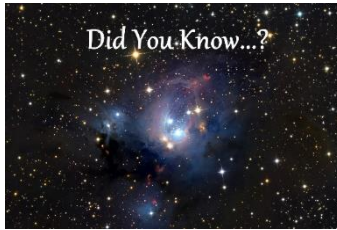
## Scientific Accuracy of the Bible

Many of the principles or facts of modern science were recorded in the Bible long before scientists confirmed them observationally. A sampling of these include:

- A. The earth is a sphere (*Isaiah 40:22*). At a time, and even many centuries later, most (including Mohammad) thought the earth was flat, but the Bible states that it is spherical. Scripture assumes a revolving (spherical) earth (*Luke 17:34-36*). Jesus said that at His return some would be asleep at night while others would be working at daytime activities in the field. This is a clear indication of a revolving earth, with day and night occurring simultaneously in different parts of the world.
- B. Light can be divided (*Job 38:24*). Sir Isaac Newton studied light and discovered that white light is made of seven colors, which can be “parted” and then recombined. Science confirmed this four centuries ago – God declared this 3,500 years ago in the book of Job.
- C. Ocean currents anticipated (*Psalms 8:8*). Three thousand years ago the Bible described the “paths of the seas.” In the 19th century, Matthew Maury – the father of oceanography – after reading Psalm 8, researched and discovered ocean currents that follow specific paths through the seas! Utilizing Maury’s data, marine navigators have since utilized those paths to reduce by many days the time and fuel required to traverse the seas.
- D. Hydrological cycle described (*Ecclesiastes 1:6-7; Jeremiah 10:13; Amos 9:6*). Four thousand years ago, the Bible declared that God “*draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man*” (*Job 36:27-28*). The ancients observed mighty rivers flowing into the ocean, but they could not conceive why the sea level never rose. Though they observed rainfall, they had only quaint theories as to its origin.

We now understand that the hydrological cycle consists of evaporation, transpiration, condensation, precipitation, and runoff.

- E. Strong and weak nuclear force explained (*Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3*). Physicists do not understand what binds the atom's nucleus together. Yet, the Bible states that "all things consist" or are held together by the Creator – Jesus Christ.
- F. First and second laws of thermodynamics prove the reliability of the Bible. See: (*Psalm 102:25-27*). See <https://www.compellingtruth.org/laws-of-thermodynamics.html>
- G. Vast number of stars (*Jeremiah 33:22*) Consider just the three following verses, keeping in mind when they were written (Genesis 3,400 – 4,500 years ago, Jeremiah 2,600 years ago, Hebrews about 1,950 years ago):



*"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore..."* (*Gen. 22:17*) *"As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant"* (*Jeremiah 33:22*) *"...so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable."* (*Hebrews 11:12*)

Pre Galileo, there existed many documented estimates by astronomers, scientists, philosophers and lonely shepherd boys counting and putting a number on how many stars existed in the heavens. To the best of man's abilities those calculations consistently show up at between 2,000 to 3,000. Why would the Bible put the number of stars in the uncountable range along with the uncountable number of grains of sand upon the seashore? Remember the people in Bible times were very familiar with the sands of deserts and seashores as they were both very common to the region. Rough counts of 2,000 to 3,000 stars were considered accurate until Galileo (1564–1642), saw a ten-fold increase in the number of visible stars, up to 30,000, using his homemade telescope. Recently, an article by The Associated Press stated that

scientists have found over 200 sextillion more stars in the sky than previously estimated.

Long before telescopes existed, God was conveying the true message of the huge uncountable number of stars. If instead, mere man wrote the Bible, and placed the number of stars in the sextillions like the grains of sand in the world, that would be saying something totally ridiculous based on the observable knowledge of the day. This is just one more little proof that the Bible truly is from God, preserved by God, and trustworthy for you and me today.

- H. Paramount importance of blood in life processes *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” (Leviticus 17:11)*. Remember until the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, doctors were removing blood from sick patients to cure their illnesses.
- I. Oceans contain springs. The ocean is very deep with almost all the ocean floor being in total darkness. The pressure there is enormous. It would have been impossible for Job to have explored the “springs of the sea”. Until recently it was thought that oceans were fed only by rivers and rain. Yet in the 1970’s, with the help of deep diving research submarines, oceanographers discovered springs on the ocean floor. Here’s how the Bible says it: *“Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?” (Job 38:16)*.

How could the Bible writers quoted here, Job about 3,500-4,000 years ago and Jonah about 2,700 years ago, have known these things? Could one of them have made a lucky guess? Yes! Could two be lucky guesses? Not very likely! Could three out of three be lucky guesses? Not at all likely! How about hundreds with no misses? Absolutely not! There is only one answer, and that answer is that God with foreknowledge inspired His prophets of old to write the things that only the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent Creator of it all could know. And the list of Bible prophecy and its fulfillment goes on and on.

# Chapter 5

----

## The Anthropic Principle

Many anthropic constants point to the universe being fine-tuned for life. There are over 100 identified anthropic constants necessary for life to be sustained. Here are just twenty-seven.

### **1. Oxygen Level**

Oxygen comprises 21% of the atmosphere. If the level moved up a few percentage points, fires would erupt spontaneously. If lowered by a few percentage points, human beings would suffocate.

### **2. Atmospheric Transparency**

If the atmosphere were less transparent, not enough solar radiation would reach the earth's surface. If it were more transparent, we would be bombarded with far too much solar radiation.

### **3. Atmospheric Composition**

In addition to atmospheric transparency, the atmospheric composition of precise levels of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and ozone are in themselves anthropic constants.

### **3. Moon-Earth Gravitational Interaction**

If the interaction were much greater than it currently is, tidal effects on the oceans, atmosphere, and rotational period would be too severe. If it were less, orbital changes would cause climatic instabilities. In either event, life on earth would be impossible,

### **4. Carbon Dioxide Level**

If the CO<sub>2</sub> level were higher than it is now, a runaway greenhouse effect would develop (we'd all burn up). If the level were lower than it is now, plants would not be able to maintain efficient or sufficient photosynthesis (we'd all suffocate).

### **6. Rate of Expansion**

If the universe had expanded at a rate slightly slower than it is, expansion would have stopped and the universe would have collapsed on itself before any stars had formed. If it had expanded faster, then no galaxies would have formed.

## **7. Speed of Light**

Any of the laws of physics can be described as a function of the velocity of light (now defined to be 299,792,458 meters per second in a perfect vacuum). Even a slight variation in the speed of light would alter the other constants and preclude the possibility of life on Earth.

## **8. Water Vapor Levels**

If water vapor levels from oceans, lakes, and rivers were evaporating and returning to the atmosphere at a greater rate than they are now, a runaway greenhouse effect would cause temperatures to rise too high for human life. If they were less, an insufficient greenhouse effect would make the earth too cold to support human life.

## **9. Jupiter**

If Jupiter were not in its current orbit, the earth would be bombarded with space material. Jupiter's gravitational field acts as a cosmic vacuum cleaner, attracting asteroids and comets that might otherwise strike earth.

## **10. The Earth's Crust**

If the thickness of the earth's crust were greater, too much oxygen would be transferred to the crust to support life. If it were thinner, tectonic activity with volcanic explosions and lava breakthroughs flowing upward would make life impossible.

## **11. The Earth's Rotation**

If the rotation of the Earth took longer than 24 hours, temperature differences would be too great between night and day. If the rotation period were shorter, atmospheric wind velocities would be too great.

## **12. Axis Tilt**

The 23-degree axis tilt of the Earth is just right. If the tilt were altered slightly, surface temperatures would be too extreme on Earth.

## **13. Gravity**

If the sun's gravitational force were altered by 0.0000000000000000000000000000000001 (37 0's) percent, our sun would not exist, and, therefore, neither would we.\*

## **15. Seismic Activity**

If there were more seismic activity, much more life would be lost; if there were less, nutrients on the ocean floors and in river runoff would

not be cycled back to the continents through tectonic uplift. (Yes, even earthquakes are necessary to sustain life as we know it.)

### **16. Protons**

Protons are the positively charged subatomic particles which (along with neutrons) form the nucleus of an atom (around which negatively charged electrons orbit). Whether by providence or fortuitous luck (depending on your perspective), protons just happen to be 1,836 times larger than electrons. If they were a little bigger or a little smaller, we would not exist (because atoms could not form the molecules we require). So how did protons end up being 1,836 times larger than electrons? Why not 100 times larger or 100,000 times? Why not smaller? Of all the possible variables, how did protons end up being just the exactright size? Was it luck or did God design them this way? Or how is it that protons carry a positive electrical charge equal to that of the negatively charged electrons? If protons did not balance electrons and vice versa, we would not exist. They are not comparable in size, yet they are perfectly balanced. Did nature just stumble upon such a propitious relationship, or did God ordain it for our sake?

### **17. The Unique Properties of Water**

Every known life form depends on water. Thankfully, unlike every other substance known to man, water's solid form (ice) is less dense than its liquid form. This causes ice to float. If ice did not float, our planet would experience runaway freezing. Other important properties of water include its solvency, cohesiveness, adhesiveness and other thermal properties.

### **20. Earth's Magnetic Field**

The Earth's magnetic field acts like a massive cosmic shield. If it were much weaker, our planet would be devastated by radiation. If it were much stronger, we would be devastated by electromagnetic storms with extreme solar winds, even possibly blowing our atmosphere away.

### **21. Earth's Place in the Solar System**

If we were much further from the sun, our planet's water would freeze. If we were much closer, it would boil. This is just one of numerous examples of how our privileged place in the solar system allows for life on Earth.



## **22. Our Solar System's Place in the Galaxy**

If our solar system were too close to the center of our galaxy, or to any of the spiral arms at its edge, or any cluster of stars for that matter, our planet would be devastated by cosmic radiation.

## **23. Winds from the Polar Ice-caps**

Polar ice-cap winds help cool the rest of the planet to levels compatible for human life.

## **24. The Color of our Sun/Heat Output**

If the sun were much redder (cooler), on the one hand, or bluer (hotter), on the other, photosynthesis would be impeded. Photosynthesis is a natural biochemical process crucial to life on Earth. Stars range from about 2,000K for the coolest to 40,000K for the hottest. Our sun is about 6,000K. If it were a little redder we would freeze, a little bluer and we would burn up.

## **25. Elements, Minerals and Vitamins**

All of the naturally occurring elements, minerals and vitamins that the body can not produce but are necessary for life are available from the earth's crust. Did they come by way of coincidence from nothing or did God place them on this earth because we, as well as all plants and animals need them so that when combined with water and sunlight we have what we need to multiply, prosper and sustain life?

## **26. The First Law of Thermodynamics**

also known as the conservation of energy, states, "Nothing is now coming into existence or going out of existence; matter and energy may be converted into one another, but there is no net increase in the combined total of what exists." In other words, even if matter is converted to energy and vice versa, there will never be an increase or decrease in the total amount.

## **27. The Second Law of Thermodynamics**

This law states that the entropy of a closed system cannot decrease: "Every system, left to its own devices, always tends to move from order to disorder, its energy tending to be transformed into lower levels of availability (for work), ultimately becoming totally random and unavailable for work." Author and scientist Isaac Asimov explained,

“The universe is constantly getting more disorderly! . . . All we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself—and that is what the second law is all about.” In other words, over time, everything tends toward disorder, randomness, and disorganization.

The above list is by no means exhaustive. It is just a small sample of the many factors which must be just right in order for life to exist on Earth. We are very fortunate to live on a privileged planet in a privileged solar system in a privileged galaxy in a privileged universe.

The question for us now is, with so many universal constants and cosmological parameters defining our universe, and with so many possible variables for each one, how did they all just happen to fall within the extremely narrow range of values required for our existence? The general consensus is that we are either here by fortuitous luck against tremendous odds or by the purposeful design of an intelligent designer.

Imagine innumerable lifeless universes in which one or more of the necessary variables fail to fall within the specific range of values required for life. The idea is that nature would eventually get it right, and apparently has done so as evidenced by the fact that we exist (or so the argument goes). We are the lucky ones whose universe stumbled upon the right combination of cosmological values.

Intelligent Design theorists hail the Anthropic Principle as further evidence in support of their thesis that life was engineered by a transcendent mastermind. Not only do biological systems bear the hallmarks of design (the information content of DNA, specified complexity, irreducible complexity, etc.), but the universe which supports and provides a context for life appears to have been designed as a means to that end.

# Chapter 6

----

## Miracles of Jesus

As is the case with prophecy, the miracles of Jesus were performed and recorded to show people that Jesus was exactly who He said He was (God in the flesh), and that He was, and is omnipotent (all powerful).

37 Miracles of Jesus					
#	Miracle	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1	Jesus Turns Water into Wine at the Wedding in Cana				2:1-11
2	Jesus Heals an Official's Son at Capernaum in Galilee				4:43-54
3	Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit From a Man in Capernaum		1:21-27	4:31-36	
4	Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law Sick With Fever	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
5	Jesus Heals Many Sick and Oppressed at Evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
6	First Miraculous Catch of Fish on the Lake of Gennesaret			5:1-11	
7	Jesus Cleanses a Man With Leprosy	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-14	
8	Jesus Heals a Centurion's Paralyzed Servant in Capernaum	8:5-13		7:1-10	
9	Jesus Heals a Paralytic Who Was Let Down From the Roof	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
10	Jesus Heals a Man's Withered Hand on the Sabbath	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
11	Jesus Raises a Widow's Son From the Dead in Nain			7:11-17	
12	Jesus Calms a Storm on the Sea	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
13	Jesus Casts Demons into a Herd of Pigs	8:28-33	5:1-20	8:26-39	
14	Jesus Heals a Woman in the Crowd With an Issue of Blood	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:42-48	
15	Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter Back to Life	9:18, 23-26	5:21-24, 35-43	8:40-42, 49-56	
16	Jesus Heals Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
17	Jesus Heals a Man Who Was Unable to Speak	9:32-34			
18	Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda				5:1-15
19	Jesus Feeds 5,000 Plus Women and Children	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-15
20	Jesus Walks on Water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
21	Jesus Heals Many Sick in Gennesaret as They Touch His Garment	14:34-36	6:53-56		
22	Jesus Heals a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
23	Jesus Heals a Deaf and Dumb Man		7:31-37		
24	Jesus Feeds 4,000 Plus Women and Children	15:32-39	8:1-13		
25	Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
26	Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind by Spitting in His Eyes				9:1-12
27	Jesus Heals a Boy With an Unclean Spirit	17:14-20	9:14-29	9:37-43	
28	Miraculous Temple Tax in a Fish's Mouth	17:24-27			
29	Jesus Heals a Blind, Mute Demoniac	12:22-23		11:14-23	
30	Jesus Heals a Woman Who Had Been Crippled for 18 Years			13:10-17	
31	Jesus Heals a Man With Dropsy on the Sabbath			14:1-6	
32	Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers on the Way to Jerusalem			17:11-19	
33	Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead in Bethany				11:1-45
34	Jesus Restores Sight to Bartimaeus in Jericho	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
35	Jesus Withers the Fig Tree on the Road From Bethany	21:18-22	11:12-14		
36	Jesus Heals a Servant's Severed Ear While He Is Being Arrested			22:50-51	
37	The Second Miraculous Catch of Fish at the Sea of Tiberias				21:4-11

# Chapter 7

----

## Unity and Harmony of Scripture

After reading the Bible with an open mind from Genesis through Revelation for the first time thirty-something years ago, this writer, as a true agnostic, became convinced beyond convinced that its words and message were truly from God. At that point, I realized that I only had two choices:

1. To embrace the truth I had found,
2. Put my head in the sand and try to sing loudly.

I have followed up with years of study and have only become more and more convinced as the years roll by that the words of the Bible are the inspired words of a loving, benevolent but also justice-demanding God. One of my favorite little sayings goes like this, *“He came to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay”*. Thank you to whomever first wrote that. It says a lot in a few words.

You have probably heard this verse before, but here, the main theme of the Bible is stated in a nutshell: *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16) This is the amazing, good news of debt paid, our sin forgiven, for all who repent and truly believe. The Greek word for “believe” here **πιστεύω** is not just a casual belief, it is an “all-in” type of belief - a belief strong enough to let you rest in the assurance of your salvation. It is a belief that is strong enough to convict you that you, as a Christian, can’t just go onto the football field with your padding and helmet on and then just stand around near the sideline while the other ten players do all the work. True Christians are to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus. *“And He said to them all, ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’”* (Luke 9:23)

There are some who accuse the writers and transcribers of the Bible of simply writing grandiose words that the people or the king at that time

wanted to hear. Some accuse the writers of writing for political gain or to increase Israel's standing in the eyes of the world or simply to control the masses. However, anyone who has read very much of the Bible should know better. The Bible highlights all of the following:

1. The prophets who penned God's words were often sent on dangerous missions to warn the people about God's coming judgment against sin.
2. In the scriptures, God is almost constantly telling the people of Israel how wicked, stubborn, and disobedient they or their kings were. In Elijah's day, God went so far as to say that there were only 7,000 men in Israel who had not bowed and worshiped pagan idols (1 Kings 19:10 and 19:18), and this in a nation of several million at that time. Upwards of 99% were idol worshippers. "... *So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal...*" (2 Kings 17:16-17)
3. They even degenerated into sacrificing their own children at times. See: *Deut. 12:31; Josh. 6:26; Judges 11:29-40; 2 Samuel 21:1-9; 1 Kings 16:34; 2 Kings 3:26-27; 2 Kings 16:2-16; 2 Kings 17:29; 17:34; 2 Kings 21:1-7).*

Writing negative things about the kings and people was not the kind of thing that anyone would write in order to get in good with the king. On many occasions, the prophets were beaten, imprisoned, or even killed for the Word they proclaimed. The fact is, there would not be any practical reason for anyone to write the words of the Bible except in obedience to the specific direction of God. So, the accusation that the prophets of the Old Testament wrote for their own political, economic or social gain is not the least bit logical.

The Bible is like no other book in the world. It is filled with internal and external evidence that it is the Word of God. No other religion has a book filled with prophecies, fulfilled one right after the other. "... *I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning,*

*and from ancient times the things that are not yet done." (Isaiah 46:9-10)*

It is the magnificent detail of these prophecies that mark the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Only God could foreknow and accomplish all that was written within its pages. Again, the historical accuracy and reliability sets the Bible apart from any other historical document.

The Old Testament portion of the Bible, consisting of its first 39 books shows the inability of fallen man through trying to keep the law, animal sacrifices, or following religious leaders. The Old Testament also highlights God's plan for man and prepares the way for redemption through the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

There are many prophecies in the Old Testament, going as far back as Genesis and Job, which prophesy about things which will not be completed until the future events described in the book of Revelation take place. Are we to believe that the Old Testament prophets each decided to write the beginning of a story and then expected that in a few thousand years, more or less, someone will come along and write a good ending to this? That would be ridiculous. No man would decide to do such a thing on his own, much less a large group of men who did not know each other or even live at the same time, with never the slightest hint of any kind of conspiracy going on. Therefore, the unity of the Old and New Testaments, despite a diversity of writers, circumstances, location and time is evidence of the Bible's divine authorship and reliability.

Those who claim to be only "New Testament Christians" or "Old Testament Jews" are missing the intricate tie and necessity of following the whole Bible to understand the whole council of God to mankind.

The harmony proof relates the fact that the men, who were called and anointed by God, were from 20 backgrounds ranging from fishermen, doctor, prophets, and priests. The Bible itself consists of 66 books written over a period of 1,600 years, in three languages on three continents by 40 different people. Not only did the writers of the Old Testament and New Testament not know each other, they were

separated by as much as 1,600 years and 1,500 miles. Even with that, the Bible speaks with one voice and has one main message.

1. A good and perfect creation by God
2. The fall of Lucifer, the angel, whom we call Satan
3. Man's willing plunge into sin with Satan's prompting
4. The road to redemption from sin for mankind through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ

The degree of harmony is phenomenal given all the variables, not one scrap of evidence for a conspiracy exists. Then what conclusion can be drawn by anyone interested in truth? As a matter of fact, over one-fourth of the Bible is prophecy. There is simply no chance of a planned conspiracy by a group of religious men or philosophers cloistered in a synagogue or monastery somewhere trying to come up with religious rules and teachings whereby society could best be governed. The harmony of the Bible is a profound proof that, yes, the Bible we have today really is the Word of God, just like it claims. Either it was a grand conspiracy, or these things really happened. See some examples below.

1. *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”* (Isaiah 53:5-6)

The question is, “How could the prophet Isaiah have predicted with such stunning accuracy the crucifixion of Jesus 700 years before it happened”?

2. *“...the assembly of the wicked have enclosed Me: they pierced My hands and My feet”* (Psalm 22:16). Speaking 1,000 years before the fact, how could David have predicted the exact method of Christ's crucifixion? Considering crucifixion was not even known in Israel until the Roman occupiers adopted it in order to place fear in their subjects, about 950 years later? Stoning was the standard method of execution

for the Jews at the time David gave this prophecy and continued right up until the time of the Roman occupation.

3. *“and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for His only son.”* (Zechariah 12:10)  
This time, how could the prophet Zechariah predict another perfect picture of Christ’s crucifixion? Well, he couldn’t, unless Zechariah was given divine inspiration from God to write such a thing exactly as the Bible said would happen 500 years in the future.



# Chapter 8

----

## Archeological Evidence

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	---
Pliny	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7	---
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	---
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	A.D. 1100	800 yrs	8	---
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	---
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	---
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	---
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	---
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	---
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	---
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	---	???	20	---
Tacitus	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	---
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	---
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	---
Homer ( <i>Iliad</i> )	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

The above chart was adapted from three sources: 1) *Christian Apologetics*, by Norman Geisler, 1976, p. 307; 2) The article “*Archaeology and History attest to the Reliability of the Bible*,” by Richard M. Fales, Ph.D., in *The Evidence Bible*, Compiled by Ray Comfort, Bridge-Logos Publishers, Gainesville, FL, 2001, p. 163; and

3) *A Ready Defense*, by Josh McDowell, 1993, p. 45. [Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability | carm.org](http://www.carm.org)

There are presently 5,686 Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament. As a matter of fact, there exists in museums, libraries and private collections more ancient biblical manuscripts and portions of manuscripts than all other ancient manuscripts combined.



The New Testament was written after the death of Jesus Christ. Archeologists have found thousands of manuscripts of the New Testament. Some of these pieces of manuscript are dated from 50 to 100 years after the original letters were written. In terms of historical reliability, the evidence for the accuracy of the Bible is superior to all other ancient writings. Compare these ancient fragments and manuscripts to Homer's *Iliad*, which has the second most numerous ancient manuscripts with only 643 still in existence.

If the critics of the Bible dismiss the New Testament as reliable information, then they must also dismiss the historicity and reliability of the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, Homer, and the other authors mentioned in the chart. On the other hand, if the critics acknowledge the historicity and writings of those other individuals, then they must also retain the historicity and writings of the New Testament authors; after all, the evidence for the New Testament's reliability is far greater than any other book of antiquity. The Christian has substantially superior criteria affirming the New Testament documents than we do for any other ancient writing. It is good evidence on which to base our trust in the reliability of the New Testament.

The New Testament is constantly under attack, and its reliability and accuracy are often contested by critics. But, there is ample manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability over all other ancient

documents. This is because the New Testament documents are better preserved and far more numerous than any other ancient writings. Because they are so numerous, they can be [cross-checked](#) for accuracy and we find them to be extremely consistent. As you can see, there are thousands more New Testament Greek manuscripts than any other ancient writing. The internal consistency of the New Testament documents is about 99.5% textually pure. That is an amazing accuracy. In addition, there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages, thus bringing the total supporting New Testament manuscript base to over 24,000.

Almost all Biblical scholars agree that the New Testament documents were all written before the close of the First Century. If Jesus was crucified in approximately A.D. 30, that means the entire New Testament was completed within 70 years. This is important because it means there were plenty of people around when the New Testament documents were penned and many people who could have contested the writings. In other words, those who wrote the documents knew that if they were inaccurate, plenty of people would have pointed it out. But, we have absolutely no ancient documents, contemporary with the First Century, that contest the New Testament texts.

Furthermore, another important aspect of this discussion is the fact that we have a fragment of the gospel of John that dates back to around 29 years from the original writing (John Rylands Papyri A.D. 125). This is extremely close to the original writing date. It is simply unheard of in any other ancient writing, and it demonstrates that the Gospel of John is a First Century document.

[Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability | carm.org](#)

This chart compares some of the oldest existing New Testament manuscripts to when they were originally penned. Compare these time spans with the next closest, which is Homer's *Iliad*, where the closest copy from the original is 500 years later. Undoubtedly, that period of time allows for more textual corruption in its transmission. How much less so for the New Testament documents.

<b>Important Manuscript Papyri</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date Original Written</b>	<b>MSS Date</b>	<b>Approx. Time Span</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>52 P</b> (John Rylands Fragment) <sup>3</sup>	John 18:31-33, 37-38	circa A.D. 96	circa A.D. 125	29 yrs	John Rylands Library, Manchester, England
<b>46 P</b> (Chester Beatty Papyrus)	Rom. 5:17-6:3, 5-14; 8:15-25, 27-35; 10:1-11, 22, 24-33, 35; 16:1-23, 25-27; Heb.; 1 & 2 Cor., Eph., Gal., Phil., Col.; 1 Thess. 1:1, 9-10; 2:1-3; 5:5-9, 23-28	'50s-'70s	circa A.D. 200	Approx. 150 yrs	Chester Beatty Museum, Dublin & Ann Arbor, Michigan, University of Michigan library
<b>66 P</b> (Bodmer Papyrus)	John 1:1-6:11, 35-14:26; fragment of 14:29-21:9	70's	circa A.D. 200	Approx. 130 yrs	Cologne, Geneva
<b>67 P</b>	Matt. 3:9,15; 5:20-22, 25-28		circa A.D. 200	Approx. 130 yrs	Barcelona, Fundacion San Lucas Evangelista, P. Barc.1

Dr. Nelson Glueck was the president of Hebrew Union College and a highly respected archaeologist whose reliance upon the historical accuracy of Scripture led to the discovery of 1,500 ancient sites. Regarding the

Bible and archaeology, he stated the following: *“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference but scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail of historical*

*statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical description has often led to amazing discoveries.”*

The distinguished archaeologist Dr. William F. Albright also asserted the accuracy of the Bible’s history when he said, *“Thanks to modern research we now recognize its substantial historicity. The narratives of the Patriarchs, of Moses and the Exodus, of the Conquest of Canaan, of the Judges, the Monarchy, Exile, and Restoration, have all been confirmed and illustrated to an extent that I should have thought impossible forty years ago.”*

Glueck and Albright focused their attention on the Old Testament, but what about the New Testament? Does it enjoy a similar level of confirmation? Actually, because it is more recent, the evidence consistent with the New Testament is more abundant. Consider the following verifiable proofs **in just a single chapter** from the book of Acts in the Bible that have been confirmed by historians and archaeologists:

- The proper location (Amphipolis and Apollonia) of where travelers would spend successive nights on this journey (*Acts 17:1*)
- The reference to a synagogue in Athens (*Acts 17:17*)
- The presence of a synagogue in Thessalonica (*Acts 17:1*)
- The proper title, “politarchs,” used of the magistrates there (*Acts 17:6*)
- The abundant presence of images in Athens (*Acts 17:16*)
- The depiction of the Athenian life of philosophical debate in the Agora (*Acts 17:17*)
- The use of the correct Athenian slang word for Paul, (*Acts 17:18*), **as well as (areios pagos)\***
- The proper characterization of the Athenian character (*Acts 17:21*)
- The proper reaction of Greek philosophers who denied bodily resurrection (*Acts 17:32*)
- An altar to an “*unknown god*” in Athens (*Acts 17:23*)



### A. The Pilate Inscription

The Pilate stone is a damaged block of carved limestone with a partially intact inscription attributed to, and mentioning Pontius Pilate the Prefect of the Roman province of Judaea from A.D. 26 to 36. It was discovered at the archaeological site of Caesarea Maritima in 1961. Wikipedia: Present location: Israel Museum. That's exactly who the Bible says was the procurator during the earthly time of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Also, many Pontius Pilate coins have been excavated from digs in Jerusalem dating at precisely the time of Jesus' ministry. You can even get one of these ancient coins from the time of Jesus from coin dealers today dated from the year A.D. 29 to 31. Again, archeology proves the reliability of the Bible.

### B. The Shekel Used in Jesus's day

### C. Hezekiah's Tunnel (2 Chronicles 32:30)

This massive tunnel under Jerusalem was rediscovered in the early 1800's.



### D. Taylor Prism (2 Chronicles 32:1)

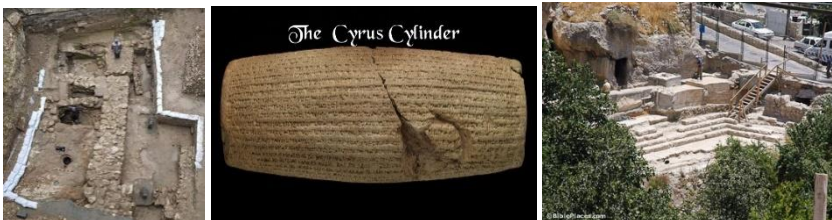
Assyrian King Sennacherib with proof lost until 1830 when Robert Taylor re-discovered this amazing prism.

### **E. The David Inscription**

Until 1993 many people liked to say that David was a figment of the imagination of the Israelites as no archeological proof of David's existence existed in secular museums. However, in 1993, Abraham Biran discovered a stone with the inscription of Israel's King David.

### **F. The Moabite Stone**

This victory marker from 850 B.C. records "House of David" in its inscription and was found in 1868 confirming 1 Kings 16:21-28. Meshab, king of Moab also inscribed Omri on this marker as the king of Israel, just like the Bible said (1 Kings 16:25).



### **G. The Nazareth House**

In 2008 a skeptic named Rene Salm wrote a book named *The Myth of Nazareth*. He wrote this book claiming that there was no town of Nazareth in the first century because archeology had failed to find evidence of any town there dating from the first century. However, in 2009, an archeology dig unearthed a house dating from the first century beneath modern day Nazareth.

### **H. The Cyrus Cylinder**

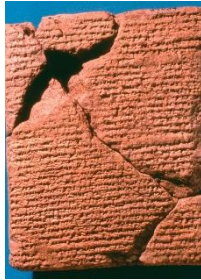
This cylinder was commissioned by King Cyrus II of Persia. Cyrus was the king who reigned from 559-530 B.C. The prophet Isaiah, writing about 700 B.C., predicted a man named Cyrus would be the king who would say to Israel after the Babylonian captivity that Jerusalem shall be rebuilt, and that the temple foundation shall again be laid, and who finally gave permission for the Israelites to return to their homeland and rebuild their

temple. This archeological find verifies the Biblical account of what we read in Isaiah 44:28 - 45:4, (700 B.C.), and Ezra 1:1-11, (425 B.C.).

Remember, Isaiah the prophet, predicted that a man named Cyrus, who would not be born for another 100 years, would give the command to rebuild the temple which was still standing in Isaiah's day and would not be destroyed for another 100 years. The Temple was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. This prophecy was written 2,700 years ago, giving more proof before our very eyes that the Bible is true, preserved and reliable for us to this very day. Go to your Bible and check these amazing verses out for your own eyes to see.

#### **I. Pool of Siloam**

In 2004, the pool was uncovered showing where Jesus said in *John 9:7* "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." Of course, there is no sign on the pool saying "Pool of Siloam," but it does show that there existed an ancient grand pool in Siloam.



#### **J. The Hittite Tablets**

For many years, people mocked the idea that there ever was a Hittite Nation, as again there existed no solid archeological evidence of a Hittite nation or people. However, in 1906 Hugo Winckler uncovered 10,000 tablets in the city of Bogazkoy, Turkey. On these 10,000 tablets is recorded the history of the Hittite people, again proving the reliability of the Bible.

#### **K. Tyre's stones, timber and soil will be cast into the sea**

In a remarkable prediction, the prophet writes in Ezekiel 26:12 (written between 587-586 B.C.) that the stone, timber and soil of Tyre will be thrown into the



sea! This was fulfilled 250 years later in 333-332 B.C. by Alexander the Great when he made a land bridge to the island of Tyre in his final conquest of the city. The debris can still be seen there to this very day.

#### **L. Altar to an unknown God in Athens**

This altar shows the accuracy of *Acts 17:23* “*For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you*”. Confirmation of this altar in Greece come from two early writers, Pausanius in his account entitled “Description of Greece,” as well as Philostratus, in his work “Appolonius of Tyana.” These ancient writings both refer to an altar “to an unknown god”.

Not just these but thousands of additional unearthed archeological finds confirm the reliability of the Bible. John Elder, author of “Prophets, Idols and Diggers,” said “Nowhere has archaeological discovery refuted the Bible as history.” Also see: *Where God Came Down: The Archaeological Evidence* by Joel Kramer. This book is the latest major book on Biblical archeology written by an accomplished author. Joel earned his Master’s in Archeology from the University of the Holy Land in Jerusalem while studying under world-renowned archeologist Dr. Shimon Gibson. Joel spent ten years excavating in the Holy Land and now serves as adjunct professor at Shepherds Theological Seminary in Cary, NC. If you want to dig deeper (no pun intended), just type in the words “archeology” and “Bible” into your favorite search engine and you will be able to spend weeks reading about hundreds of additional archeological finds that prove the reliability of the Bible.

#### **M. Under the valley of Megiddo**

There has been unearthed hundreds and hundreds of stables, part of the riches of Solomon. (2 Tim 3:1, Romans 1:31-32).



Getty Images

Not enough? Here are ten more very important archeology finds that prove the reliability of the Bible. Alan Parr interviews Dr. Johnston in a message entitled “The top 10 Biblical archaeological discoveries...OF ALL TIME! [https://youtu.be/P\\_68KfQFICg](https://youtu.be/P_68KfQFICg) These are mostly or all different than the ten listed above.

Here’s one more fascinating archeology find: Mt. Ebal Curse Tablet (Revisited) Premiered May 11, 2023 YouTube interview by Sean McDowell interviewing Archaeologist Scott Stripling Ph.D. and the new method of water sifting enabling this new fascinating discovery.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEVEKX\\_0x08&t=791s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEVEKX_0x08&t=791s)

Actual peer reviewed article link below.

<https://heritagesciencejournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40494-023-00920-9>

Digging a little deeper:

Genesis Code Hidden Within The Ancient Chinese Language which is one of the oldest written language in the world written 4,500 years ago proves the reliability of the Bible <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjGUC9GNqfE>

Here are a few more YouTube links with more characters and evidence of Biblical Concepts depicted in Ancient Chinese Pictographs!

[https://evidencetobelieve.com/2019/01/28/bible\\_in\\_ancient\\_chinese/](https://evidencetobelieve.com/2019/01/28/bible_in_ancient_chinese/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPu-NmN3aIM>;

<https://youtu.be/WAJXRq8Y3wU> ;

<https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~wwu/chinese/bible.shtml>

<https://youtu.be/YjGUC9GNqfE> ;

[https://youtu.be/aK559\\_ZuQH8genesis/](https://youtu.be/aK559_ZuQH8genesis/) ; <https://youtu.be/aaCUa2Hh1hc> ;

<https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/chinese-characters>

Also see Booklist for books on this topic: **God's Promise to the Chinese**, by *Ethel R. Nelson*, and **The Discovery of Genesis**: (*How the Truths of Genesis Were Found Hidden in the Chinese Language*), by *C.H. Kong*

### **Ancient Chinese pictographs prove the reliability of the Bible.**

Although some characters have slightly evolved over the centuries, they are still recognizable today and through archeology are all verifiable. Again, ancient Chinese characters confirm the Biblical stories in the Bible.



*garden*

土 + 口 + 艹 + 口 = 園  
*dust breath two enclosure garden*  
*persons*

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. Kong and Ethel Nelson, p. 54

The Ancient Chinese Characters of **Dust + Breath + Two Persons + Enclosure = Garden.**

*“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15).*

# 船

boat

舟 八 口  
vessel eight people

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. King and Elliot Nelson, p. 111

The Chinese Characters of **vessel/container + eight + people = Boat**

*“In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark (Genesis 7:13) (Eight people in the Vessel/Boat/Ark)*

Think of the faith of Noah, (a preacher or righteousness) he obeyed God and built the Ark on dry ground before the first rain. The timeline for building the Ark probably was from 55 to 75 years depending on when his sons were born. Think of the non-coincidence of these three ancient Chinese characters combined meaning Boat or Ark.

# 魔

tempter

厶 + 儿 + 田 + 丿 = 鬼  
secret man garden [alive] devil

鬼 + 林 + 广 = 魔  
devil trees cover tempter

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. King and Elliot Nelson, p. 4

The Ancient Chinese Characters of **Secret + Man + Garden + Alive = Devil** and the characters of **Devil + Trees/Forest + Cover = Tempter**

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created man in His image. (see Genesis. 1:27). At that time, God and man lived in perfect harmony in a perfect world. Then the serpent (Lucifer/Satan), a fallen angel who wanted above all things to be as God himself, **tempted** Adam and Eve with the two biggest lies that have ever been told. These lies were: *“Ye shall not surely die:”* and *“ye shall be as gods.”* (see Genesis 3:4-5 & Deuteronomy 4:39). Adam and Eve willingly embraced the lies of Lucifer (The Tempter) and rejected God’s plan and instructions for them. This is where sin entered the human race (see Romans 5:12).

# Chapter 9

## Ancient Manuscripts



(Commons: B Seales Et A. Sci Adv. 2016: 2)

In addition to the Dead Sea Scrolls, Christianity has overwhelming and undeniable evidence that today's Bible is virtually the same as it was when originally inspired by God and recorded by God's prophets and apostles.

For example, an extremely fragile, ancient Hebrew scroll thought to be lost forever has been digitally unwrapped for the first time, revealing the earliest copy ever found of an Old Testament Bible scripture outside of the Dead Sea Scrolls. After fire burned the En-Gedi scroll, it was rendered into a small, charred lump which simply dissolved into powdered ash when touched. Now, through modern technology researchers have been able to "virtually unwrap" what remains of the scroll to decipher its contents by means of Micro-CT scans which pick up traces of metal in the ink revealing the original text. The En-Gedi scroll contains text from the book of Leviticus, and dates at least to the third or fourth century, possibly earlier, according to a report in the journal Science Advances.

Dr Michael Segal, head of the School of Philosophy and Religions at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said, "We were amazed at the quality of the images." In this case, modern micro CT scans prove the reliability of the Bible.

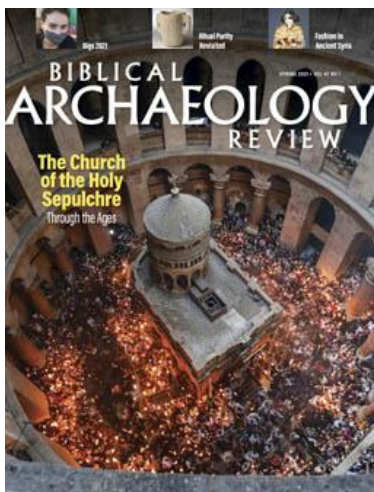
As older and older ancient manuscripts of the Bible have been discovered and are easily found in the museums of the world today, we find minimal variance or changes compared to modern translations. There are literally thousands of these in the museums and private collections available for our inspection today. Far more than any other ancient writing, these ancient manuscripts are basically unchanged as far back as the evidence goes. This proves the reliability of the Bible. (See chapter 17 on The Dead Sea Scrolls for more on this topic.)



For up-to-the-minute updates subscribe to **Biblical Archaeology Review** magazine, published by: [www.Biblicalarcheology.org](http://www.Biblicalarcheology.org) If you would like to go to the Holy Land and get your hands dirty in a current

excavation, you will find opportunities available here to volunteer and work alongside certified archaeologists and meet interesting people from many different cultures.

Here are some sites I recommend on YouTube <https://biblearchaeology.org/shiloh-excavations> At Digging For Truth you can even volunteer to go and participate in “The Shiloh Dig”, an important dig going on right now. <https://youtube.com/user/BibleArchaeology> These sites are full of great information waiting to be unearthed.



Top 10 Biblical Archaeological Discoveries That Give Evidence Christianity is True!

The Beat with Alan Parr interviewing DR. JEREMIAH JOHNSTON – 51 minutes but Worth watching!

[https://youtu.be/P\\_68KfQFICg](https://youtu.be/P_68KfQFICg)

# Chapter 10

----

## Mathematical Probability

Dr. Stoner, a mathematician of the last century, did some fascinating calculations on the mathematical probability of the Bible's prophecies coming to pass hundreds and even thousands of years after they were prophesied by God's prophets of old.

The most famous section of Stoner's book concerns Messianic prophecy. His theme verse for this section is *John 5:39* — "*Search the Scriptures because... it is these that bear witness of Me.*"

Stoner proceeds to select eight of the best-known prophecies about the Messiah and calculates the odds of their accidental fulfillment in one person as being 1 to the 117<sup>th</sup> power.

I love the way Stoner illustrated the meaning of this number. He asked the reader to imagine filling the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars. In this huge number place a check mark on one silver dollar. Then, take a bulldozer and stir the whole mass of silver dollars thoroughly all over the state pushing them in all directions and finally turn a blindfolded person loose in this sea of silver dollars. The odds that the first coin he would pick up would be the one with a check mark would be same as 8 prophecies being fulfilled accidentally in the life of Jesus.

Keep in mind that Jesus did not fulfill just 8 prophecies, He fulfilled over 300 prophecies. Accidental or coincidental fulfillment of these prophecies is simply beyond the realm of mathematical possibility.



# Chapter 11

----

## The Resurrection of Christ

Upon the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, lay the merits of Christianity. Some hating this truth so much have come up with their own version (based on nothing more than this is what they feel like believing regardless of the evidence).



The first faulty theory is sometimes referred to as the “play-act”, or “swoon” theory. Here, proponents claim that Jesus didn’t really die on the cross but that He simply pretended or appeared to be dead and then his disciples took Him down, put Him in the tomb, attended His wounds and then removed Him to a safe location. The second scenario is similar, but they say Jesus did all of this on His own. Both require some or all of the following: Jesus endured the beatings at His trials, the crown of thorns, the terrible scourging, the crucifixion, the spear thrust in His side, and somehow survived. On top of that, the professional executioners, upon examining His body, were satisfied that He was dead. His body was wrapped in linen along with 100 pounds of spices. Then, in spite of great loss of blood, three days in a cold tomb without food, water or assistance, He managed to escape from the tightly

wrapped grave clothes and spices and placed them neatly in the tomb. He then broke the Roman seal, rolled the huge stone up an incline away from the opening, overcame the armed guards in His weakened condition, walked miles on pierced feet, and convinced His followers that He had conquered death as the resurrected Author of Life.

These theories would also have us believe that Jesus lived on after all this and died a natural death in obscurity while 11 of the twelve disciples were martyred to protect a known lie.

The Bible tells the true story. Jesus suffered death by crucifixion. Jesus' body was then placed in a securely guarded tomb. Upon finding out that the tomb was empty, the disciples ran neck and neck to see the empty tomb for themselves. Why would they do that if they had been the ones to empty the tomb? After all this, Jesus was seen over a period of forty days by many eyewitnesses, even to a group of 500 at one point. The evidence to the fact of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is overwhelming and worthy of your study.

A lawyer named Frank Morrison set out to write a book showing why the resurrection could not possibly have taken place. In the process, he became convinced by the evidence for the resurrection, and then became a follower of Jesus Christ. In the preface to his book *Who Moved The Stone?*, he wrote the following: "...it is essentially a confession, the inner story of a man who originally set out to write one kind of book, and found himself compelled by the sheer force of circumstances to write quite another... Somehow the perspective shifted, not suddenly, as in a flash of insight or inspiration but slowly, almost imperceptibly, by the very stubbornness of the facts themselves."

For a more detailed look, please read the Biblical accounts of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and then read one or more of the following books pointing you to evidence for the resurrection: "Who Moved the Stone", *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*, *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach* and *The Case For Christ*. All are recommended and all available at amazon.com and other booksellers.

# Chapter 12

----

## Indestructibility of the Bible and Christian Faith

No other book in history has been outlawed, banned, or burned more than the Bible. See documented examples of Bible banning and burnings throughout history: <https://www.wayoflife.org/database/persecutionofbible.html>

The following are examples of how governments and officials have attacked the Bible by controlling and limiting access to it.

Decree of the Roman Catholic Council of Toulouse (1229 A.D.): *“We prohibit also that the laity should be permitted to have the books of the Old or New Testament; but we most strictly forbid their having any translation of these books.”*

Ruling of the Roman Catholic Council of Tarragona of 1234 A.D.: *“No one may possess the books of the Old and New Testaments in the Romance language, and if anyone possesses them he must turn them over to the local bishop within eight days after promulgation of this decree, so that they may be burned...”*

Fate of John Wycliffe’s Body at the Ecumenical Council of Constance in 1415 A.D.: Oxford professor, and theologian John Wycliffe was the first to translate the New Testament into English (1380 A.D.) to *“...helpeth Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue in which they know best Christ’s sentence.”* For this “heresy” Wycliffe was posthumously condemned by Arundel, the archbishop of Canterbury. By the Council’s decree *“Wycliffe’s bones were exhumed and publicly burned and the ashes were thrown into the Swift River.”*

Fate of William Tyndale in 1536 A.D.: William Tyndale was burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English. According to Tyndale, the Church forbid owning or reading the Bible to control and restrict the teachings and to enhance their own power and importance.

Before the Catholic Church was officially the Catholic Church, Eusebius, the historian wrote about Diocletian (284-316), the ruler immediately preceding Constantine, *"Royal edicts were published everywhere, commanding that the churches be leveled to the ground and the Scriptures destroyed by fire."* Diocletian went on to say that if one had a copy of the Scriptures and did not surrender it to be burned, if it were discovered, he would be killed. Furthermore, if any other should know of one who had a copy of the Scriptures and did not report it, he also would be killed. During this time many, many copies of the Bible were burned, copies laboriously written in longhand. Of this period, the historian Newman said, *"Multitudes . . . hastened to deny the faith and to surrender their copies of the Scriptures; many more bore the most horrible tortures and refused with their latest breath to surrender the Scriptures or in any way to compromise themselves"* After this edict had been in force for two years, Diocletian boasted, *"I have completely exterminated the Christian writings from the face of the earth!"* Of course, we know that Diocletian did not completely exterminate the Christian writings from the face of the earth. Too bad Diocletian didn't believe the Bible's promise. *"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever"* (Isaiah 40:8).

As a matter of fact, history tells us that the next ruler following Diocletian, Constantine, became a Christian and mandated that 50 handwritten copies of the Scriptures be made at the government's expense and distributed to all the churches. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr1TeDFOerY>

Not only has the Bible been indestructible, it has been the #1 best seller since the invention of the printing press. Based on the sheer number of pre-printing press fragments and complete handwritten manuscripts, it has been the #1 best seller of all times. Even though every year it remains the best seller it hasn't made the New York Times Best Seller List since 1934. "I wonder why"? (Newman, Church History, p. 169); (Rimmer, Seven Wonders of the Wonderful Word, p. 15); (Church History, Book VIII, Ch. 1).

For more information on this topic see: <https://carm.org/was-new-testament-written-hundreds-years-after-christ>.

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

*“But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you”  
(1 Peter 1:25).*

Down through the centuries many attacks have been made against the Bible, but there have been some, who after examining the facts have changed their opinion. Three examples are Sir William Ramsey, General Lew Wallace, and Stan Telchin, author of “Betrayed.” Scan the QR code below to read more about these men in the expanded edition of this book.

# Chapter 13

----

## Dirty Laundry of Bible Heroes

Put in a more sophisticated way, the Bible includes major moral failings of its heroes, yet most writings of other religions or movements tend to whitewash the flaws of their heroes. Painful honesty in exposing the dirty laundry of its heroes proves the reliability of the Bible.

It is a universally established fact that when people want to be accepted or gain something, they always put their best foot forward. They conveniently forget to mention their dirty laundry. Consider every promotional piece of every political campaign. Do they ever include their downfalls and past negative character flaws? Basically, the only exception is if a person has been caught red-handed in some scandal or foul play, then they may come forward and try to make some sort of amends to get past the negative publicity caused by their known shortcoming. Think of the millions of resumes sent out every day around the world. Think of your own past resumes. If no one specifically asks, do people tend to include their negative baggage? No, they conveniently forget to mention those things. Not so with the Bible, it puts out both its clean and dirty laundry for all to see. Terrible character flaws of its heroes are not hidden. The Bible simply tells it like it is.

Abraham (the father of the Jewish Nation and Christian faith) Abraham only cared about himself and protecting his own life from harm by telling his wife Sarah to play his sister *“that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you”* (Gen 12:13). He was not hiding his motives. He put his wife Sarah in danger so he would be safe. At her husband’s behest, Sarah complied, but only for the sake of Abraham’s safety. Abraham did not trust God to protect him or his family when entering a foreign land.

- King David - fornication and murder (2 Samuel 11:1-27)
- Noah - drunkenness (Gen. 9:20-22)

- Moses - unbelief, bitterness, anger, directly disobeying God and even murder (Numbers 20:2-12 and Psalm 106:32-33)
- Zacharias - unbelief (Luke 1:18-20)
- Sampson – breaking his Nazirite vow and likely fornication with Delilah (Judges 16)
- Isaac – lying to deceive the Philistines (Genesis 26:1-33)
- Zechariah - doubting God (Zechariah 1:18)
- Peter – denying Jesus three times to avoid scorn and possible persecution (Luke 22:59–62).

All of these and others had their sins or shortcomings exposed for all to read about over the centuries. The Bible writers were not interested in covering up, just accurately recording what God had conveyed for them to write.

# Chapter 14

----

## Ancient Non-Biblical Writings

Some detractors and skeptics of the Bible today like to say that perhaps the original manuscripts were from God but what we have today has changed so much through the years that it is no longer reliable. Yes, some variations are to be found among the many thousands of ancient Greek manuscripts that exist today, but those variances account for less than 2% in total variation. Of that,  $\leq 2\%$ , the vast majority are simply scribal errors such as misspelling, missed word, phraseology, punctuation, or dropped words. Of the few textual variances that exist, **not one affects a major doctrine or precept of the Christian faith.**

As a matter of fact, so numerous are quotes from the early church fathers that even if we did not have a single copy of the Bible, scholars could still reconstruct all but 11 verses of the entire New Testament from material written within 50 to 200 years from the time of Christ.

Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (born A.D. 37) made reference to "Jesus, the so-called Christ." Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus (born A.D. 52) wrote of "Christus," who was "put to death by Pontius Pilate." Pliny the Younger (A.D. 112) spoke of the "troublesome sect of Christians." Suetonius (A.D. 120) spoke of disturbances over "Chrestus" (Christ). Without a doubt, the Bible we have today is truly the inspired and preserved Word of God with overwhelming evidence confirming its reliability.

As you have just read, it was God's plan from before the world began that Jesus (God Himself in the form of a man) would come to earth and be crucified as a holy, worthy and final offering for sin. Because of God's deep love for each one of us, He provided the way of salvation – the only way that our sins could be completely washed away, and we could come into a righteous relationship with God the creator of all things. It was through **Christ's sinless sacrifice, thus worthy atoning sacrifice on the cross.**



Atoning sacrifice is an important word in the Bible that you will want to understand. Here is the definition from the Miriam Webster Dictionary: 1 \ ə- 'tōn: reparation for an offense or injury//satisfaction//a story of sin and **atonement**. He wanted to find a way to make **atonement** for his sins. 2 : the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sinless **sacrificial** death of Jesus Christ. If Jesus had sinned even once He would not have qualified to pay our sin debt. *“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).*



In A.D. 70 Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple within were destroyed, both leveled to the ground by the Roman general Titus.

Again, as recorded by the respected first century historian Josephus the end was total destruction and devastation for the Jews. Here is what Josephus wrote: *“The Temple Mount, everywhere enveloped in flames, seemed to be boiling over from its base; yet the blood seemed more abundant than the flames and the numbers of the slain greater than those of the slayers. The soldiers climbed over heaps of bodies as they chased the fugitives.”*

The origins and details of Yom Kippur trace its roots back to the oldest books of the Bible. This yearly ceremony, however, hasn't been carried out in the prescribed manner, at the Temple, since the first century. In other words, the world has not seen a by-the-book sin atonement sacrifice from Judaism during the past 19 ½ centuries. Was it just a coincidence that during the same century in which Jesus died for our sins, Judaism lost the symbolic, temporary atonement-for-sin ceremony at the temple? During the same time frame in which Jesus became the real and permanent atonement for sin, Judaism lost the ability to carry the Yom Kippur ceremony at the Temple.

Yom Kippur, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance. This interesting information comes from the Talmud, a collection of ancient Rabbinical discussions and commentary.

# Chapter 15

----

## Jesus's Teaching from the Old Testament

Jesus believed in the Bible's divine inspiration (Matthew 22:43), its indestructibility (Matthew 5:17-18), its infallibility (John 10:35), its historicity (Matthew 12:40; 24:37), its factual reality (Matthew 22:29-32), and its spiritual clarity (Luke 24:25). Also, He emphasized the importance of each word of Scripture (Luke 16:17). He even, at times, based His reasoning on a single expression of the Biblical text (Matthew 22:32,43-45; John 10:34). When confronted by Satan, Jesus appealed to the Old Testament as a source of authority by stating, *"It is written,"* (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). *"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished,"* (Matthew 5:18).

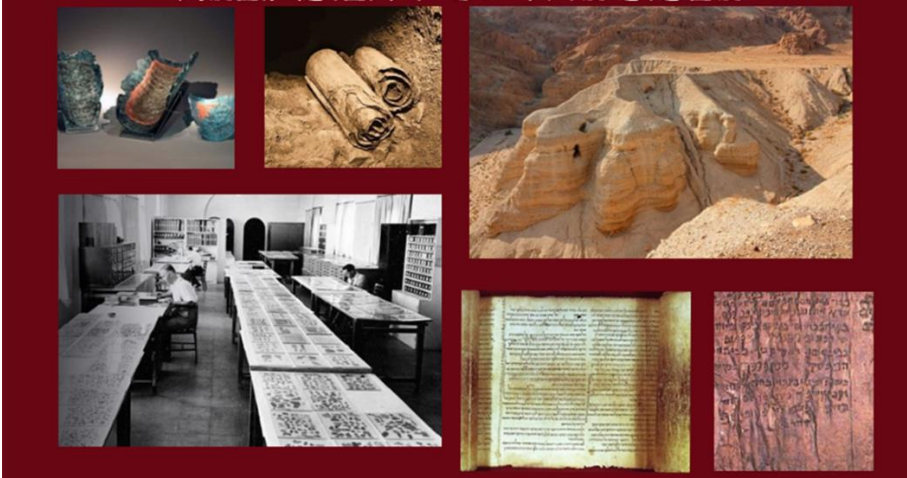
Jesus trusted the reliability of the Old Testament which had been handed down over a 1,700 year span of time. Yes, Jesus trusted and taught from these preserved texts after all those years.

Jesus also appealed to Scripture when correcting false doctrine stating: *"You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God"* (Matthew 22:29). *"Thy word is truth"* (John 17:17). Jesus affirmed the historical existence of Jonah (Matthew 12:40), Noah (Matthew 24:37-38), and Adam and Eve (Matthew. 19:4-6). Jesus made reference to the Law and Prophets as a unit, *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill"* (Matthew 5:17). Jesus explained the Scriptures, *"Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures"* (Luke 24:27). Jesus referred to the entire Canon of Old Testament Scriptures by mentioning the prophets and men of God from Abel to Zechariah (Matthew 23:35) The Bible was reliable in the time Jesus taught from the scrolls and is reliable today.

# Chapter 16

----

## The Dead Sea Scrolls



The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran in 1947, when a Bedouin shepherd boy was looking for a lost sheep in the caves of Qumran, has been decreed the most significant archeological find of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The scrolls, which were stumbled on, are a set of Old Testament manuscripts dating more than a thousand years earlier than the previously oldest Old Testament manuscripts in our possession.

The significant thing is that when one compares the two sets of manuscripts separated by a thousand years, it is clear that they are essentially the same. This incredible accuracy of the Old Testament's manuscript transmission that we have in our modern translations proves the reliability of the Bible.

Combine this with the massive amount of manuscript evidence we have for the New Testament, and it is clear that the Christian Bible is a virtually unchanged, trustworthy and reliable instruction book for the path of life given from God to Man, just like it says.

# Chapter 17

----

## Comparison to Other “Holy Books”

There are over 2,500 prophecies in the Bible, and every one of them up to this time has come true right on schedule without a single exception.

God has foretold the future through those prophecies. This fact sets the Bible apart from all holy books of other religions.



The reason other religious books have no prophecies is because they can't with any sense of accuracy. Only the Bible is from the one true God who knows everything from before time began to the end of time. These Biblical prophecies include prophecies about towns, cities, nations, empires, and political leaders, as well as prophecies about the Messiah, the nation of Israel, and the End Times. The books and sayings of Buddha and Confucius, the Koran, the Book of Mormon, etc. as well as the predictions of Nostradamus and demonstrably false prognostications of people like Edgar Cayce and Jean Dixon prove their unreliability. No other book with supposed prophecy comes anywhere

near meeting the Biblical standard of 100% accuracy for a prophet of God. These spot-on prophecies by themselves show the reliability of the Bible. See *Deuteronomy 18:22* for requirements of a prophet of God.

So here is the test for the other religions of the world: Can they accurately foretell future events? After all, only the all-knowing, all-powerful Creator knows everything that will happen and has the ability to bring it to pass, and God has established His righteous character through this profound and unmatched ability. In *Isaiah 41:26*, the Lord asks, “*Who has declared from the beginning, that we may know?*”

God had this to say about false gods: “*Let them bring them forward and declare to us what is going to take place; as for the former events, declare what they were, so that we may consider them and know their outcome. Or announce to us what is coming; Declare the things that are going to come afterward, so that we may know that you are gods...*” (*Isaiah 41:22-23*). None of these books can do this unless they have perhaps borrowed something from the Bible.

No matter if they are true or not; no matter how much evidence is put forth, one thing all these religions have in common is their revulsion towards these simple and clear words from the mouth of Jesus: “*...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (*John 14:6*). Here is a little assignment with a verse I am asking you to look up. Get your Bible and turn to *2 Thessalonians 2:10* (KJV). It is important that you do this. Here you will find the answer and something (perhaps uncomfortable) to ponder in your heart. It contains the answer to the question of who will not be in Heaven. The fourteen words at the end of the verse are all I am asking you to fill in: “*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.*” I pray you are not in this group. (While you have your Bible open Look up *2 Peter 3:3* for a confirmation verse.)

With that, here is the promise from God that I will leave you with: “*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart*” (*Jeremiah 29:13*). For the security of your eternal soul, please don’t tarry in taking God up on this all-important promise and His gift of mercy and grace for those who repent and

# Chapter 18

----

## Radically Changed Lives

If you are sincerely asking God to show you the true path of life, He will show you. This is a promise from God (see Jeremiah 29:13 and Hebrews 11:6). Some people will show an immediate change, and some will see change for the positive come more gradually as they read God's Word and grow in the Christian faith. This change is called sanctification, but changed lives for the better should at some point become evident in the life of every believer. This is an important topic for further study.

The Bible is not just a book of information, but more importantly, it is a book of transformation. It is not hard to find testimonies from thousands of friends, relatives, and acquaintances of changed lives for the better. As a matter of fact, there are also thousands of recorded testimonies of people becoming Christians after witnessing and then thinking "whatever they have I want it." I am not always a fan of the TV program "The 700 Club", but almost daily they have documented uplifting testimonies of people whose lives have been radically changed for the better through the power of God.

# Chapter 19

----

## The Martyrdom of 11 of the 12 Apostles

Most of the apostles were martyred for their faith. Please think about and understand the reality that people would not be willing to die for a hoax. Yes, people of other religions have died for their faith. What makes the New Testament authors' martyrdom different is that these men were in a position to know the truth or lies of what they wrote under the inspiration of God through the Holy Spirit. Do you see the big difference here? Not only were they anointed by God, but they had the Holy Spirit living within. The prophets and apostles wrote the words of the Bible as God commanded and would know if it was a prefabricated lie. They definitely would not be willing to die for a lie, but they knew firsthand or directly from the apostles that the information was true.

The apostles were with Jesus, and wrote the truth of the Christian faith that they saw firsthand and died because they refused to recant the truth of what they saw and knew. This is again, a huge difference in the martyrdom of Christian believers. Even today thousands are killed and have their homes, churches and businesses destroyed for upholding their faith in the face of Muslim fanatics, Communists and increasingly radicalized Hindus. Radical anarchists are also pushing hard to join the fray under the spirit of the antichrist to create a utopia on earth with a one world government without a judgmental God getting in the way. As one young utopian socialist told me when I asked him a few years ago about the lives and property being destroyed during the Black Lives Matter (BLM) riots of even those who agreed with him, he replied: "that's unfortunate, but the ends justify the means".



# Chapter 20

----

## Wisdom Beyond Human Understanding

Now some might ask, if the requirement for being a Christian is to “repent” and “believe” for salvation and Heaven, then is it really necessary to do any more or to be a doer of the Word? Wouldn’t that be works salvation? No, because if you think you can do enough works to deserve entrance to Heaven you are fooling yourself. “*We are all dirty with sin. Even our good works are not pure. They are like bloodstained rags. We are all like dead leaves. Our sins have carried us away like wind*” (Isaiah 64:6 ERV). However, if there is consistently no desire to do good works or study the Bible, you might want to examine yourself to see if you truly believe and are in the faith. Works salvation (practiced by most religions of the world) and easy-believism/quick-prayerism are **both** wrong and an important topic for further discussion. What we do know is that the Lord is: “... *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:8-10). and He has instructed His followers to go into all the world and preach the gospel of redemption to all people. That is how He chooses to reach the world with the good news of sin forgiven by grace through faith in His atoning sacrifice on the cross. Those who really believe that message are forgiven of their sin, indwelt with the Holy Spirit, and are brought back into a right relationship with God. It is those who are called Christians (Christ’s Ones), and whose names are written in “The Lamb’s Book of Life” and are given eternal life. It surely is a wonderful message that true believers (Greek action implied πιστέψτε τη νέα διαθήκη believers) should be anxious to share.

At the end of His approximately three-year ministry, Jesus told those who believed not to be hearers only, but doers also of the things He taught. Jesus tells us some of the things that doers of the word should do. “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15). “*If ye love me, keep my commandments*” (John 14:15). “...*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves*” (James 1:22). “*And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I*

*will make you fishers of men*” (Matthew 4:19). *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”* (John 10:27). If you are a Christian, do you believe enough to willingly face a little discomfort and step out of your comfort zone to show a needy soul the path of life and the path to eternity with God in Heaven. Isn't that their greatest need? If you don't love them enough to tell them the solution to their greatest need, who will?

Think of the words of Jesus. *“Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets’”* (Matthew 22:35-40).

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation”* (Mark 16:15).

*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Matthew 6:19:-21).

*“Jesus answered and said unto him, ‘Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’”* (John 3:3). Think about your neighbors' greatest need. If you hold back from telling them, who will tell them? Christianity is not a game of “playing church”. The fate of your neighbor's eternal soul is at stake!

*“Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God’”* (Luke 9:62). *“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”* (2 Cor. 4:18).

# Chapter 21

----

## The Moral Law

Con•science /'kän(t)SHəns/*noun Dictionary definition – “An inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one's behavior”.*

Webster Dictionary - con•science kŏn'shəns n. *“An awareness of morality in regard to one's behavior; a sense of right and wrong that urges one to act morally.” “A source of moral or ethical judgment or pronouncement.”*

Seriously, how could evolution pull this one off?

The question presented here is: What is the moral argument for God's existence? #1. If God does not exist, moral objective values and duties do not exist. #2. Universal objective moral values do however exist for mankind. Where did these moral values come from? Was there a committee of wisemen or Mr. Evolution who put them in the hearts of all men? Of course not. Question: "What is the moral argument for the existence of God?"

Answer: The moral argument begins with the fact that all people recognize some moral code (that some things are right, and some things are wrong). Every time we argue over right and wrong, we appeal to a higher law that we assume everyone is aware of, holds to, and is not free to arbitrarily change it as he or she pleases. Right and wrong imply a higher standard or law, and law requires a lawgiver. Because the Moral Law transcends humanity, this universal law requires a universal lawgiver. This, I argue, is God.

In support of the moral argument, we see that even the most remote tribes who have been cut off from the rest of civilization observe a moral code similar to everyone else's. Although differences certainly exist in civil matters, virtues like bravery and loyalty and vices like greed and

cowardice are universal. If man were responsible for that code, it would differ as much as every other thing that man has invented. Further, it is not simply a record of what mankind does. Rarely do people ever live up to their own moral code. Where then do we get these ideas of what should be done? Romans 2:14-15 says that the moral law (or conscience) comes from an ultimate lawgiver who is above man. If this is true, then we should/would expect to find exactly what we observe to be the case. This lawgiver is God.

*“Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right”* (Romans 2:14-15 NLT).

This is extreme, but all men know that it is wrong to torture a baby for fun. In the movie *Braveheart* everyone knew that taking another man’s fiancée by force for his own pleasure was morally wrong, even though the king was sovereign and could decree any law he pleased to be the law of the land, making it legal for the king to do so.

If there is no God, what basis remains for objective moral duties? From the atheistic view, human beings are just animals, and animals have no moral obligations. In the animal kingdom when a lion kills a wildbeast it does not murder the wildebeest. When a shark forcibly mates with a female shark it is not rape. The law of the jungle says: “There is no moral dimension to these actions, they are neither prohibited or obligatory.” Bulls of many species, because they are simply stronger or have mastered better fighting techniques gather a harem of as many females as they want just for themselves. No sense of right or wrong, simply, this is what the animal wants and is capable of getting.

Even America’s national bird, the eagle, feels no remorse when he swoops down and takes the lunch of an osprey when the osprey is taking his hard earned catch home to share with his hungry family. No, the fact is that man alone has a conscience.

God put a conscience into the hearts of man alone. *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Genesis 1:27).*

The New Testament concept of conscience is more individual in nature and involves three major truths. First, conscience is a God-given capacity for human beings to exercise self-evaluation. Paul refers several times to his own conscience being “good” or “clear” (Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Corinthians 4:4). Paul examined his own words and deeds and found them to be in accordance with his morals and value system, which were, of course, based on God’s standards. His conscience verified the integrity of his heart.

The New Testament portrays the conscience as a witness to something. Paul says the Gentiles have consciences that bear witness to the presence of the law of God written on their hearts, even though they did not have the Mosaic Law (Romans 2:14-15). He also appeals to his own conscience as a witness that he speaks the truth (Romans 9:1) and that he has conducted himself in holiness and sincerity in his dealings with men (2 Corinthians 1:12). He also says that his conscience tells him his actions are apparent to both God and the witness of other men’s consciences (2 Corinthians 5:11).

Another reference to conscience in the New Testament is to a conscience that is “seared” or rendered insensitive as though it had been cauterized with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Such a conscience is hardened and calloused, no longer feeling anything. A person with a seared conscience no longer listens to its promptings, and he can sin with abandon, delude himself into thinking all is well with his soul, and treat others in a totally corrupt way with no feelings of guilt or remorse. As the apostle Paul warns, we must not let our conscience be seared.

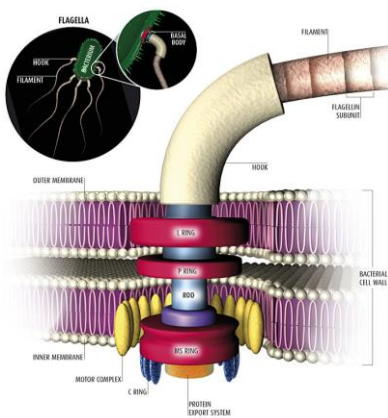
# Chapter 22

----

## Function and Beauty of Nature



Anyone looking at this complex watch movement would, of course, say it had a designer. But when they look at the amazing micro-miniaturized flagellum motor below with its irreducible complexity or at a beautiful baby which is a trillions of times greater in complexity, and insist it designed itself over millions of years and came together by chance even though each part of each machine would have to evolve at the same time in order for the machine to work at all. Take out one piece from the watch movement or one piece from the flagellum motor and the whole machine doesn't perform its function and it dies.



The best argument that evolutionists is that evolution could have found all the parts someplace else and then the parts came together by time and chance. It was not necessary for them to have evolved together to make the working micro motors that we have in every cell and after that they learned to reproduce themselves perfectly by the billions. How ludicrous can you get to try to avoid the truth that God designed them and set them in motion with the balance of perfection!

Watch “Amazing Flagellum”: Michael Behe and the Revolution of Intelligent Design (An amazing motor inside the cell). Let this three minute presentation spark your interest in learning more about irreducible complexity only possible by the hand of God. The evolution model just can’t compete because the whole thing must exist at once for it to work at all. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jnf5OJGCeIo>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNR48hUd-Hw>  
<https://store.focusonthefamily.com/the-truth-project-small-group-curriculum/> Lesson 5 goes into the amazing Flagelum motor and its irreducible complexity.



The beauty of God’s magnificent creation is all around us. Drink it in and consider if evolution did this by chance or did God create it with a purpose for you and me to enjoy and ponder His awesome power.

## Chapter 23

----

### Fulfilled Prophecy about Israel

As we scan the pages of the Bible from Genesis through Revelation, we see prophecy after prophecy foretold and fulfilled, hundreds, and even as much as three thousand years after the prophecy was given. No topic is mentioned more than prophecies concerning God's chosen people the Jews, and the land God gave them. Here we will look at some of those prophecies and see for ourselves that the Bible could only be from the one true God who created it all and knows everything from the beginning to the end.

This includes a brief history of mankind from Adam and Eve to Noah, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel, and on to Joseph who was sold as a slave in Egypt but was favored by God and the Pharaoh at the time and became the second in charge of Egypt. With famine in the land, the Jews were forced to flee for refuge to Egypt where unbeknownst to them Joseph had prepared a sanctuary for them. Hundreds of years later, the Jews in Egypt had become slaves to a new Pharaoh only to escape from his oppression in Egypt through the parting of the Red Sea and the guidance of God's appointed man, Moses. After wandering through desert wilderness for forty years, the Jews were guided into the promised land by Joshua in about 1450 B.C.

In the promised land, the Jews lived under the prophets, judges, and then Kings, including David and his son Solomon, who built of God's great temple and the magnificent and prosperous city of Jerusalem, which was the envy of the world. Later the Jews would be overcome by Nebuchadnezzar and carried off into Babylonian captivity for seventy years, then unexpectedly freed by Cyrus the Great (which was also prophesied) to return and rebuild the temple which stood until it was destroyed by the Romans 40 years after the crucifixion of Jesus. Israel had already been occupied by the Romans for about 150 years when the final conquest and dispersion was carried out by Roman general Titus in 70 A.D.



Read here an awesome two-page condensed version of the history of Israel and the terrible plight of the Jews by Dr. R. L. Hymers, Jr.

[https://www.rlhymersjr.com/Online\\_Sermons/2015/052415PM\\_JewsIsraelInProphecy.html](https://www.rlhymersjr.com/Online_Sermons/2015/052415PM_JewsIsraelInProphecy.html)

Now, pushing forward.

*"You are saying about this city, 'By the sword, famine and plague it will be handed over to the king of Babylon'; but this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. (Jeremiah 32:36-37)*

Not many prophecies need to be fulfilled to complete the timeline of this age. Here, however, is one of those prophecies that is yet to come. Read chapter 12 of Zechariah and consider that it was written about 2,500 years ago and claimed that in the End Times all the nations of the earth would be gathered against Jerusalem. Why would Zechariah even consider writing such a thing about a nearly worthless piece of real estate considering that at the time this prophecy was written, Jerusalem was little more than a heap of rubble having been razed by King Nebuchadnezzar and the people taken into what is called the time of the Babylonian captivity? It was just a desolate wasteland, so why would it take the might of all the nations of the world to team up against this little almost worthless little plot of land with almost no Jews left standing to put up a resistance when the prophecy was written? As you watch the news, can you not see the present shadow of danger lurking over that area of the world as you read this?

After the second conquer, the Bible tells us that the Jews would be expelled from their homeland once again and dispersed to all parts of the world. Both of these predictions were fulfilled to the letter, the first in 607 B.C. and the second in 70 A.D. God's spokesmen further said that the Jews would remain scattered throughout the entire world for many generations without becoming assimilated into the general population of those nations and that the Jews would in the latter times return to their ancient, deeded land to re-establish for a second time their ancient homeland (Deuteronomy 29;30:3; Isaiah 11:12; Jeremiah 25:11;

Hosea 3:4-5, Hosea 6:1 and Luke 21:23-24). Again, this miracle happened 1950 years after it was prophesied. Anyone saying this was just a coincidence is simply denying the near mathematical impossibility of such a thing happening by plan or accident. *Ezekiel 20:34 - "I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath."* It couldn't be clearer that what was prophesied here is exactly what happened so many centuries later.

*Isaiah 11:12 "He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth."* This prophecy was written 2,700 years ago.



The World History Encyclopedia says *"The Arch of Titus is a Roman Triumphal Arch which was erected by Domitian in c. 81 CE at the foot of the Palatine hill on the Via Sacra in the Forum Romanum, Rome. It commemorates the victories of his father Vespasian and brother Titus in the Jewish War in Judaea (70-71 CE) when the great city of Jerusalem was sacked and the vast riches of its temple plundered. The arch is also a political and religious statement expressing the divinity of the late emperor Titus."* The Arch still stands in Rome today as a witness to the accuracy of the Bible.

Nothing like this has ever happened before in the history of the world, but the Bible foretold it would happen to the Jews in the latter times, and it did, and still is in the process of being completed right now (more on that later).

After Jerusalem was taken by the Babylonians, Babylon was conquered by the Persians in about 539 B.C. Shortly after that, a Persian king named Cyrus, gave the decree to pardon the exiled Jews and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. This was around 160 years after the prophecy of Isaiah! If that wasn't a revelation from God, why would the prophet Isaiah say such a thing if the foundation had already been laid and the temple had already been re-built? How could he have known what would happen 160 years in the future?

There was no political or religious contention over the city of Jerusalem at the time. Five hundred years before Christianity and 1200 years before Islam, the tiny nation of Israel had just rebuilt Jerusalem from the ruins of the Babylonian conquest. Israel was then a tiny nation of less than 50,000 men who had returned from the Babylonian captivity (Ezra 2:64), a mere remnant of its ancient glory days.

*Leviticus 26:33-38 says: "And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste." This was the condition of the land and exactly what the case would be for the next 1950 years.*

*"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:23-24).*

**Even the order of the end-time return of the Jews today was prophesied.** The first returning Jews to Palestine came primarily from neighboring eastern Arab countries. The next major movement came from Germany and the western countries of Europe after WWII. Then they came in great numbers from the north (Russia). However, when it looked like the prophecy couldn't continue to be fulfilled because the biggest remaining pocket of dispersed Jews were stuck in the Soviet Union with its closed borders ("The Iron Curtain"), an amazing thing happened. The Soviet Union collapsed giving the Jews the freedom to

leave, and this they did to the tune of over 1.2 million with smaller numbers still leaving every day from Russia and the former Soviet-block nations. The last great migrations of Jews returning to Israel came from Ethiopia in the south when Israel finally recognized the Beta Israel Jews and granted them the "Right of Return". This precise order of return was predicted by Isaiah the prophet.

*Isaiah 43:5-6,21 - "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth..."*  
*"... the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise."*

*Psalms 107:2-3 - "Let the redeemed of the LORD say this -- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. This was written 1000 years before Christ walked on this earth and another nearly 2000 years until it finally came to pass in significant numbers with the rebirth of Israel as a nation in 1948.*

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied about 600 years B.C. and spoke of a day when Jews would once **again purchase their own** land that God had given them many centuries before. That is precisely what returning Jews did, starting about a century ago. They started buying back much of their own inherited land. They started to rebuild previously named cities that did not still exist, and left untouched those cities which were prophesied to never be rebuilt. For example, there are many cities in Israel that again bear the ancient Biblical names of previously destroyed Jewish cities. Some of these that bear their original Biblical identification include: Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, Nain, Bethany, Bethlehem, Hebron, Gaza, etc. Again, as the ancient nation was in the process of being destroyed, Ezekiel and Jeremiah the prophets of old predicted that many of the ancient cities would, in fact, be re-inhabited and settled in their exact ancient locations, and they have been. Prophecy fulfilled, one right after the other.

*Jeremiah 32:44 "Fields will be bought for silver, and deeds will be signed, sealed and witnessed in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem, in the towns of Judah and in the towns of the hill*

*country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, because I will restore their fortunes, declares the LORD." (written about 625 B.C.)*

*Ezekiel 36:11; 24 KJV - "And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better [unto you] than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land." (written about 580 B.C.)*

In the past, scoffers liked to say the Bible was wrong as there was no evidence that many of these cities ever existed but within the last 70 years archeologists continue to disprove the skeptics and affirm the accuracy of the Bible.

Yeshua pronounced a curse on at least three cities within the land. These remain in ruins to this day.

*Matthew 11:21-23 NIV - "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day."*

The Bible is complex, diverse, and intricate, and yet it has one unified message: The creation of a perfect world and all that exists by God, the fall of Lucifer, the highest angel, and then man into sin. This is followed by God lovingly redeeming and bringing back into relationship with Himself all who repent and believe in Jesus! "*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us*" (Matthew 1:23). The Bible is clear about who Jesus was and is, and the price he paid for our redemption on Calvary's cross.

Upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist tells us who Jesus was, and what He did for us. "*...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29). This was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah about 700 years earlier. "*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for*

*our God*” (Isaiah 40:3). This is one more prophet who foretold that Jesus would be both Lord and God who would take away the sin of the world for all who believed.

This prophecy foreshadowed the life of John the Baptist, who played an important role in preparing the groundwork for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Also, the prophet Malachi about 300 years after Isaiah prophesied the same thing as he foretold of a messenger who would prepare the way for the Lord: *"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty (Malachi 3:1).* Yet another prophecy fulfilled exactly like the Bible said would happen hundreds of years later. Jesus Himself confirms what these prophecies were. In Matthew 11:10, Jesus proclaimed that John the Baptist was the messenger who had been prophesied 700 years before the birth of John the Baptist. *“For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before You.’”*

There are, in fact, literally hundreds of prophecies which predict future events. The idea that the fulfillment of the predictions is a result of coincidence or chance, or some pre-planned conspiracy is absurd in light of the vast number of prophecies with evidence of their fulfillment available to us today. The evidence proves the truth and reliability of the Bible, just like its reliability was when Jesus taught from the ancient scrolls during the time of His ministry on this earth some two thousand years ago. For 50 more major prophecies and their fulfillment see God’s Work in History by Don Stewart.

*"And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest..." (Deuteronomy 28:64-65).*

## Recent History of Israel's Fulfilled Prophecy



Why would the prophet Zechariah 12:3 claim that in the End Times Jerusalem would be a burdensome stone to all people of the world when all he saw while standing there was what the world would see for the next 2000 years after the Roman conquest, total destruction of the second temple and dispersion of the Jewish people into all the known world. This was, to say the least, a far cry from its glory days when Solomon's Temple and great riches was the case for Jerusalem, not a desolate and barren, nearly uninhabitable wasteland. Hardly a land worthy of being referred to as a burdensome stone for the whole world which it is today.

Why would the prophet Zechariah claim that in the End Times Jerusalem would be a cup of trembling, a burdensome stone for the whole world when it was little more than an undesirable pile of rubble and barren wilderness for the next 2,425 years from when he was writing that prophecy? Surely the prophecy of a reborn nation abundant in fruit, flowers and other agricultural items in a barren wilderness that God was showing him proves the consistency and the perfectly fulfilled reliability of the Bible.

### Hebrew, the Dead Language of Israel Reborn

*“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord.”*

(Zephaniah 3:8&9 NASB). The NIV states that the Lord will "purify the lips of the people." The English Standard Version says: "I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech." The Living Bible paraphrase reads: "At that time I will change the speech of my returning people to pure Hebrew so that all can worship the Lord together." (Zephaniah 3:9)

Today the dead language of Israel has been reborn, and the corrupted languages of the Jews are being replaced by pure Hebrew as the official language of Israel once again. Thus, the Bible prophecy of Zephaniah 3:9 has been fulfilled. Yiddish, Ladino etc. are out and Hebrew is back, just like Zephaniah said would happen in the End Times 2,600 years ago. Yes, prophecy proves over and over that the Bible is from God and is preserved for us to this day.

### Shekel Reborn

Another remarkable prophecy fulfilled is the rebirth of shekel, the ancient monetary system of Israel, dead for nearly 2000 years. Pictured here is Israel's reborn money, the shekel.



"The shekel is to consist of twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels equal one mina.... All the people of the land will participate in this special gift for the use of the prince in Israel." (Ezekiel 45:12-16) The prince of Israel is Jesus, and this is what will be in use when He returns.





Pictured above is a near mint ancient Jewish shekel which recently sold for one million dollars. The shekel was dead and out of production and circulation for nearly 2,000 years, then reborn in 1980. Another prophecy fulfilled just like the Bible said 2,600 years before it happened.

### **Military Miracles of Israel**

Many of Israel's modern military accomplishments have defied all odds and logic. Surprise victories in Israel's War of Independence in 1948, Six-Day War in 1967 and Yom Kippur War in 1973 will forever stand among Israel's most miraculous and unlikely historical achievements against overwhelming odds.

Although the nations agreed to let the Jews have their ancient homeland returned to them, they did not assist them in the war that began the following day. Within hours of the signing of the declaration of independence on June 5, 1948, Israel was attacked by the surrounding countries of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. When reading Isaiah 66:7-8, keep in mind that Israel's status as a sovereign nation was established and reaffirmed during the course of a single day just 24 hours earlier. You will see a few of these miracle stories below. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/17-miraculous-israeli-military-victories>

Abandoned Egyptian tanks (miracles of the six day war in 1967)

<http://www.susancanthy.com/res/dennis/sixday.html>

Abandoned Egyptian tanks (miracles of the six day war in 1967)

<https://ffoz.org/discover/messiah-magazine/miracles-of-the-six-day-war.html>

As the war began, Israel found itself outnumbered and out-gunned on three fronts, Egypt to the south, Jordan to the east and Syria to the north. The Soviet Union had poured \$2 billion worth of arms into the Arab nations. Israel's enemies brought two times as many soldiers, three times as many tanks and four times as many airplanes to the battlefield.

The night before the war, Egypt's commander-in-chief, Abd al-Hakim Amer gathered his high command for a party at an air base far away from the front lines. "They were caught by surprise, totally," Yaari said. "I mean some of them tried to get into the air in order to join their units. They couldn't do it."

On the morning of June 5, Jordanian radar detected the Israeli Air Force taking off. They sent a red alert to Cairo but the decoding officer used the wrong day's code and failed to decipher the vital information! The warning never came. Instead, the Israeli Air Force decimated the Egyptian Air Force on the ground, one of the miraculous keys to the outcome of the war.

Another miracle of the Six Day War in 1967 was when Gershon Salomon lay badly wounded and saw Syrian soldiers moving into their area shooting wounded Israeli soldiers. They were about to shoot him, when all of a sudden, they fled the area leaving their weapons behind. The Syrian soldiers later reported to UN officers that **they saw "thousands of angels" surrounding the wounded soldiers and that was why they ran away.**

Another story of an encounter with angels is told of a small Jewish community, Pekin, that was under siege by Arabs who were determined to wipe them out. However, the Arabs encountered huge, strange beings with flaming swords, and they ran away in great fear, as the astonished village rabbi watched them.

There is no end to the stories that have been documented from the battles in Israel's wars. Another is of an Egyptian tank commander in the Sinai Desert who surrendered to a vastly inferior Israeli force on the second day of the war, because a desert mirage made him see hundreds of Israeli tanks, where there were no more than a dozen. Another is to the great surprise of the Jews when Jordanian forces welcomed the Israeli tanks under the command of Colonel Uri Ram into Shechem on the third day of the war, because faulty communications misled the Arabs into thinking that these were Iraqi tanks which had come to reinforce them. <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/7133> THE WARS OF ISRAEL (Two DVD set) by Amir Tsarfati <https://shop.beholdisrael.org/collections/dvd/products/the-wars-of-israel>

Amir teaches from Jerusalem, the story of the miraculous survival of the nation of Israel. Learn how Israel once again has become a nation in their true homeland. This is a fact-based, documentary with plenty of Bible verses supporting the message. (see Amir's YouTube channel "Behold Israel" for up to the minute updates on current events in Israel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuJQqjKnKXE&t=706s> )



Notice the tiny spec of red in the middle of all the green in the picture above showing Israel surrounded by mostly hostile enemies wishing only the destruction of the tiny nation. Although God has had His hand on Israel, attacks and wars have been the plight of the Jewish homeland over the centuries. Even now, in 2023, Israel is faced by near daily rocket fire coming in from proxies of Iran in Syria and Lebanon.

### **Modern Day Israel**

Take a good look at the picture below which was taken in 1947 at the beginning of the transformation of a wasteland to the beauty and agriculture wonder of the regathered nation of Israel today. Remember, Zechariah's prophecy was made about 2,425 years before this picture was taken. This and the additional pictures [on page 87](#), taken about 2,500 years after Zechariah's prophecy, show the amazing fulfillment of what Zechariah wrote through the guidance of God. No coincidence or pre-planned plot could have seen a scenario like this come to fruition but by the hand of God.



*Joel 3:2 - 'I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.'*

*“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.” (Amos 9:14-15).* This was written by the prophet Amos about 750 BC, concerning the latter days. Today we see this prophecy unfolding before our very eyes.

*Isaiah 35:1&2 - "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy..."*

The restoration of the agriculture and of the trees and forests of Israel has been another remarkable miracle. Scarcely 75 years ago, the land

was a desolate waste, full of malarial swamps and deserts. Today the replanted forests are flourishing and the Israeli agricultural production is one of the great wonders of the world. This tiny country exports quality produce around the world. "Again, just as the Bible predicted!"  
Written 750 B.C.:

*Isaiah 26:6 "In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit."*



*Ezekiel 36:8-10 - "But you, O mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will multiply the number of people upon you, even the whole house of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. (written about 580 BC)*

Today's marvel of a nation re-born, and a prophecy fulfilled. Remember it was the envy of the world under King Solomon and then occupied for

most of the next 600 years after its return from Babylonian captivity and then it basically laid waste after being totally destroyed a second time by Roman General Titus in 70 AD and its people dispersed to the four corners of the world for the next 1950 years.

The Jews have had a long history of being oppressed, first by the Egyptians, then the Philistines, Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans, Greeks, Ottomans, Nazis and Czars.

*“And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years” (Jeremiah 25:11).* This was written about 150 years before Nebuchadnezzar completely destroyed Jerusalem for the first time and took the Israelites into what is called the Babylonian Captivity.

*“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.” (Isaiah 11:11-13)*

Not only flowers and citrus but over 250,000,000 (that’s millions) trees have been planted since 1948 with 3 million more being planted ever year reclaiming a desolate wasteland into a beautiful oasis of green. Again, how could the prophet Zechariah predict such a thing would take place approximately 2,425 years before it happened? Israel is God’s timetable. With the Jews, God’s chosen people and God’s Holy Land we see so much prophecy and then its fulfillment from hundreds to over three thousand years later.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the re-birth of Israel....

*“Before going into labor, she gave birth; before her pains came, she delivered a male child. Who ever heard of such at thing? Who has ever seen such things? Is a country born in one day? Is a nation brought forth all at once? For as soon as Tziyon went into labor, she brought forth her children” (Isaiah 66:7-8: Stern's Complete Jewish Bible).*

*Isaiah 60:15 - "Whereas you have been hated With no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, A joy from generation to generation.*

IF YOU CAN'T COME TO NEW YORK, ORDER THROUGH 4-6-5-2

**CARL MARX**  
FREDERICK MARX AVE., BRONX, N.Y.

**THE PALESTINE POST**

ESTABLISHED 1948  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018

**THE PALESTINE POST**

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS DEPARTMENT  
Box 418, P.O. 1, New Palestine Post  
Office, New York, N.Y.

---

# STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

**Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History**

Yerusa, Thursday night and the morning following were the most crowded hours in the history of the Holy Land since the beginning of the Jewish people's return to their ancestral home. The city was filled with a throng of Jews from all over the world, many of whom were returning to their homes after a long absence. The atmosphere was one of joy and anticipation as the people prepared to celebrate the birth of the new state.

**Jews Take Over Security Zones**

Yerusa, Thursday night, the Jewish people took control of the security zones in the Holy Land. The takeover was peaceful and orderly, with no violence reported. The Jewish forces were well-prepared and met little resistance from the Arab forces. The takeover was a significant step towards the establishment of a Jewish state.

**Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down**

TEL AVIV, Thursday night, Egyptian Spitfires bombed the city of Tel Aviv. One Spitfire was shot down by the Israeli Air Force. The bombing caused damage to property and resulted in several injuries. The Israeli Air Force responded quickly and effectively, demonstrating its capability to defend the city.

**2 Columns Cross Southern Border**

TEL AVIV, Thursday night, two columns of Arab forces crossed the southern border of the Holy Land. The forces were well-armed and appeared to be moving towards the interior of the country. The Israeli forces were alerted and prepared to respond to any further incursions.

**Eritron Settlers Taken P.O.W.**

TEL AVIV, Thursday night, a group of Eritron settlers were taken prisoner by Arab forces. The settlers were being held in a camp. The Israeli government expressed concern over the safety of the settlers and called for their immediate release.

**Special Assembly Adjourns**

TEL AVIV, Thursday night, the Special Assembly adjourned after a long session. The assembly discussed the current situation in the Holy Land and the challenges facing the new state. The adjournment was marked by a sense of accomplishment and hope for the future.



In Isaiah 66:7-8, written from 701 – 681 B.C., the prophet foretold the re-birth of Israel, and just like the Bible says, it happened *"in one day."* The woman represents Israel. This accurately describes what happened on May 14, 1948, when "the world" briefly felt sorry for the Jews after the Holocaust and returned Israel to them and they were able to declare independence for Israel as a united and sovereign nation for the first time in over 2100 years which was the date of the first Roman conquest. Israel shall be brought forth in a single day and become a nation once again. Isaiah 66:7-8 puts it this way: *Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labour than she gives birth to her children."* When the prophet Isaiah foretold the re-birth of the nation Israel in a single day. This prophecy was written about 2,600 years before the prophecy was fulfilled on May 14, 1948. On Nov. 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved a

resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. On the morning of May 14, 1948 (the last day of the British mandate), a meeting of the People's Council took place in Israel to decide on the name of the state and to finalize the declaration. At precisely 4:00 pm, the proclamation ceremony began in Tel Aviv Israel. The 979 Hebrew words of the Scroll of Independence were read. All stood, and the scroll was adopted. The notorious "White Paper", issued by the British in 1930 restricting Jewish immigration, was terminated. Members of the People's Council signed the proclamation. David Ben-Gurion rapped his gavel, declaring, *"The State of Israel is established. This meeting is ended."* Israel was brought back as a nation in one day, at once, exactly as the Bible predicted approximately **2,640** years before it happened. It is simply impossible that this fact of history was just a coincidence. No, the Bible is true and accurate and can be relied upon by you and me to this very day.

With all this, one portion of the prophecy wasn't fulfilled because the prophecy cited that Jerusalem would again be under Jewish control in the End Times (*Isa 28:14; Ezek. 22:19*). This happened as a result of the Six Day War in 1967 exactly as prophesied by Isaiah and Ezekiel over 2,600 years earlier.

Another prophecy that seemed to deny the possibility of fulfillment was the fact that the U.S.S.R. with its closed borders (the Iron Curtain) would not let any of its citizens emigrate, including the Jews. Then, as a Christmas present on December 25, 1991, Gorbachev resigned, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic dissolved. At that point the Jews were granted the freedom to leave, and this they did to the tune of over 1.2 million. Today, the last remaining Jews still trickle in from Russia and the former Soviet bloc nations.

These are just a few of the prophecies that were either fulfilled entirely or at least partially when Israel was reborn as a nation in 1948. Several others are found in Isaiah 66:18, Ezekiel 37:21, Jeremiah 29:14 Isaiah 66:8; Micah 5:3; Ezekiel 38:8; Isaiah 66:7-8 and elsewhere. Anyone willing to look can clearly see that these ancient prophecies about the nation of Israel actually were fulfilled from many hundreds of years to a few thousand years after they were prophesied. There is no reason to



believe that the relatively small number of prophecies remaining to be fulfilled will not be fulfilled just like the rest. A coincidence or pre-planned scheme could not make that happen, only the hand of God. Detailed and fulfilled prophecies like these could not be pre-planned or coincidence. They again prove the reliability and preservation of the Bible.

In the gospel of Mark, we learn of a man who had a son that was demon possessed. After hearing Jesus, he believed for his sons deliverance, but somehow not strong enough so he prayed...*“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”* (Mark 9:24) I put this here suggesting that this prayer could be your prayer, if you are still having trouble fully believing. God knows where your heart is and how sincere you are. It is impossible to fool God. Here are the scariest words in the Bible. These are words you or I never want to hear and don't have to hear, and the reason this book was written. *“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* (Matthew 7:23)  
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/17-miraculous-israeli-military-victories>

# Chapter 24

----

## The Conviction of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit draws the believer... *“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 6:44).*

The Holy Spirit instructs... [Jesus speaking] *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:13, 14).* Notice the capital H in He. The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit recalls... [Jesus speaking] *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26).*

The Holy Spirit regenerates... *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit’” (John 3:3-6).*

The Holy Spirit baptizes... *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one spirit” (I Corinthians 12: 12,13).*

The Holy Spirit indwells... *“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 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.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” (I Corinthians 6:15-19).*

The Holy Spirit seals... *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).*

The Holy Spirit assures... *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:14,16).* Notice the words *“The Spirit Himself”*. Again, we see words that tell us that the Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit strengthens... *“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man” (Ephesians 3:16).*

The Holy Spirit infills and makes possible thanksgiving *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:18-20).*

The Holy Spirit liberates... *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2).*

The Holy Spirit directs... *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Romans 8:14)*. Are you lead by the Spirit of God? In 100% sincerity, ask God to help you with this and He will.

The Holy Spirit makes possible true prayer... *“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 20)*.

The Holy Spirit makes possible worship and praise... *“For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3)*.

The Holy Spirit will quicken the believer’s body... *“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. But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance” (Romans 8:11, 25)*.

The Holy Spirit calls to special service *“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus” (Acts 13:2-4)*.

The Holy Spirit guides... *“So he [Philip] arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and over take this chariot’” (Acts 8:27-29)*. Notice here that the Holy Spirit speaks. The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the trinity.

The Holy Spirit illuminates... *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. But the natural man 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” (I Corinthians 2:12, 14).*

The Holy Spirit empowers... *“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we are among you for your sake” (I Thes.1:5).*

The Holy Spirit produces fruit of the Spirit (Christ-like graces)... *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22, 23).*

Although the above Bible verses are very encouraging, they are not applied in the fullest sense to every believer. We must continually yield our human spirit to the Holy Spirit if we really want the fullness of those fruits to be manifested in our mortal lives.

# Chapter 25

----

## Convergence of End Times Prophecy

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28).

The reason for writing this chapter is to show the reliability of the Bible, the lateness of the hour in which we live, and to plead as the prophet Isaiah did all those centuries ago. “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon (Isaiah 55:6-7).

I have picked out a few of the ways that the Bible makes clear where we are in the time-line of prophecy and the world in which we live. With an open Bible and an open newspaper check them out for yourself. My prayer is that you will tie it all together and see the urgency to get right with God while there is yet time. You don't need to be a mathematician to see that the chance for coincidence for all you have read here is about 0.000000000000...1% even if you insist on factoring in zillions of years and zillions of universes.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, (Matthew 24:6-7). In John's report of Revelation, he saw a vision of four horsemen that would usher in the end of the age: the red horse pictures war and violence that will spread around the earth (Revelation 6:4).

At the time of this writing the world is seeing conflict not experienced since WWII. Threats of the Bear to use nuclear weapons if it doesn't get its way in the Ukraine. Europe increasing its military strength separate from the US and NATO. The Chinese Dragon making military gestures against Taiwan, Hot spots and persecution on the rise in many parts of the world. Way under reported genocide occurring in several African nations

and Armenia. Nato member Turkey abandoning the west and Israel and seeking dominance in the Muslim world. Iran within days of getting a nuclear bomb. Now the announcement that they have developed a hypersonic missile capable of carrying a nuclear weapon to Israel in 400 seconds. The question is: What will Israel (the timeclock of world and Biblical events) do to protect their existence before Iran has the capability of putting their nuclear weapons on their hypersonic missiles and destroying Israel's own nuclear deterrence.

Yes, there have always been wars, but the ability for mankind to totally destroy all life on earth has never before been seen. Several years ago China even boasted that it was capable of mustering an army of 200,000,000.

“And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. (Revelation 9:16-18)

How would you describe rockets, missiles military, jets and tanks if you were given such a vision 2,000 years ago. Would you say it was bow and arrows with their tips on fire. I don't think so.

“And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine” (Revelation 6:4-6).

The prophet Joel predicted that the Day of the Lord (Christ's return) would bring unprecedented disasters, including a devastating period of drought in which "the grain is ruined... the harvest of the field has perished... all the trees of the field are withered... Is not the food cut off before our eyes?" (Joel 1:10-16).

Last year, over 43,000 people died in Somalia as a direct result of drought (Wall Street Journal, March 20, 2023). Bible prophecy reveals that as the end of the age approaches, famine, pestilence, and wars will cause far more catastrophic deaths, on a scale previously unknown. Revelation 6 shows that one-fourth of the earth's population will fall under the power of such forces of death and destruction: "And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth" (Rev. 6:8). Using today's world population numbers, this translates into roughly two billion people! Times are going to get more harrowing and many more will die. However, this terrible time will pass relatively quickly, and then Jesus Christ will finally return and usher in true and lasting world peace.

And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they have started to do, and now nothing which they plan to do will be impossible for them" (Genesis 11:6).

Therefore the hope for mankind is only the Lord Jesus Christ can cleanse mankind and the world from sin, creating a real Utopia by His sinless blood sacrifice. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him". (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The challenge for the Church today is that no matter the difficulties we may face, God's true church must stand and march forward towards the mark of His high calling and use this technology which is available to us for good. Satan does not have a monopoly on technology. Now is definitely not the time to slumber or give up. It is time for the true church of Jesus Christ to boldly go forth and reach this world (which we see spinning out of control) with the message of hope, which is the truth of the Gospel.

We have all had experiences or heard stories of our phones or devices listening and responding with ads for what we may be talking about when our phones were not in use. At first we were shocked and now we have grown so accustomed to this phenomenon with little complaint from us. It is no longer a tinfoil hat conspiracy it is a common fact. When big government and big business and the multi billionaire elite join together in



forming a “big brother environment” is when the “Reset” button is finally pushed, supposedly leading to their utopia on earth; and the God who created and owns it all is ignored.

Tech executives and CEOs from AI corporations, including such companies as OpenAI and Deepmind, have signed a simple-yet-haunting 22-word statement about the potential dangers of AI: “Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war.” As per Dr. Darren Orf AI researcher.

For example, a 2023 New York Times headline reads, “Elon Musk and Others Call for Pause on A.I., Citing ‘Profound Risks to Society.’”

More than 1,000 tech leaders, researchers and others signed an open letter urging a moratorium on the development of the most powerful artificial intelligence systems.

Regardless of any open letter few are heeding the warning. Militaries around the world race for top spot in AI R + D. The great militaries know they can not afford to get behind in this technology as they will be overwhelmed facing new and powerful weapons of war. They are not slowing down and striving for peace, but dominance.

Again, only Jesus Christ who was without sin can take away the sin of the world. Only he can ever bring peace and safety for mankind on earth and for eternity.

Become secure in His everlasting arms. You can go to the last page in this book and get right with God now, if that is your desire. Will you put your faith in the ways and schemes of evil man or in the loving arms of Jesus Christ? Read the last page over and over until you understand “God’s Plan of Salvation for Man” and are positive that you want to trust Christ and give your whole life to Him. The decision is only yours to make. We are all individually on our own, in this, the most important decision of your life.

With the aid of AI, it is projected that in the end times the knowledge curve will double every two months instead of every 1000 years as it was in the time of the prophet Daniel 2200 years ago.

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” (Daniel 12:4). Wow! What God told Daniel in about the year of 200 BC

At that same time the prophet Daniel was also told by God that in the end times people would be running to and fro. No doubt people are running to and fro in the day in which we live. Remember, at the time of the prophet Daniel’s writing people were only able to travel about twenty miles per day on foot or about the same on camel or donkey. For the few that had horses the average was 25 to 40 miles in a day, and for ancient sailing ships they could travel about 4 knots or 4.5 miles per hour if they had favorable winds.

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 24:12-13).

Men’s “...consciences have been seared as with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:2b). Here’s another one just as sick. Civilization is rapidly losing its civility.

“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

The Bible prophesies that in the End-Times there shall be a uniting of all religions (an attempt at a one-world religion under the Antichrist and the false prophet). (See Revelation 6:1-8.) A white horse pictures a one-world leader with his false prophet combined with a one-world economic system

by which he attempts to control mankind. The pope even goes along with this to a point where he said: “there is urgent need of a true world political authority with real teeth needed to tackle economic and social injustice.” I am not saying this pope is the false prophet but through the Bible we know this coming world leader will be none other than the Antichrist with his false prophet.

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

Here are three future prophecies:

1. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14-18) (Jesus).

We are getting close to when this one is completed. Even now predominant languages of every country have the Bible in their language.

For example: ask your phone “How do you say the words of John 3:16 in Swahili”? Instantaneously you will hear John 3:16 in Swahili.

2. The rapture of the true Church - It may sound a little hard to believe, but it is not based on wishful thinking. It is based on the reliability of the Bible with 100% of it’s prophecies coming true so far. Here is where you have to have a little faith that this one will also come true at the appointed time.

At that glorious moment our sin nature will be removed from us. We don't know the day or the hour of the rapture of Christ's true Church, but with all the prophecies we have looked at so far it sure looks like the season is at hand.

In Matthew 24:22, Jesus Christ prophesied about the coming great tribulation "... except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved ...." War on this scale would have been unthinkable in the first century when this prophecy was written.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"

1 Corinthians 15:52 "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

Luke 12:40 - Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Luke 17:34-35 "I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."

Mark 13:32 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father".

Revelation 3:10 "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Daniel 12:1-2 "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

3. The 'False Covenant' will be signed. The tribulation period begins when the Antichrist makes a seven-year covenant “with many” concerning Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:27 “The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.”

The antichrist will try by a false offer of peace and safety with some pretty good sounding solutions to the world’s problems, while consolidating power. He will reveal his true colors and transition to a heavy-handed rule of the world through unspeakable and merciless oppression and tyranny. You don’t want to be here for that.

While we seek unity in truth, we do not seek a false unity within Christianity or the Antichrist’s false unity among all religions. He will sit on the unsanctified false throne in the rebuilt false unsanctified third temple in Jerusalem.

“America is a failed state... God's wrath is being unleashed to take down a nation of sin.

The US military, hell bent on going "hyper-woke" with transgenderism and gays in the military, is utterly unable to protect its own personnel overseas, and has been impotent in protecting the US southern border from a relentless invasion of illegals that are pouring into the country by the millions bringing in disease, drugs and human trafficking and unvetted military aged men from all over the world, including terrorists.

As the current rigged regime is ending, so is the United States of America as a "united" nation. With outrageous levels of fiat currency money printing, the collapse of the rule of law, untrusted elections, government-

enforced censorship of conservative views, media-fomented racial animosity, left-wing efforts to defund the police, racist CRT indoctrination in the schools and even a CDC director "doctor" who cannot admit that only women can get pregnant. The once great United States of America has fallen into a pathetic, laughable state of self-mockery and collapse. God's wrath is being unleashed to take down the sinners and Satan worshipers, and we will all bear witness to this "cosmic cleansing" now being undertaken to sweep away the evil that currently runs this world.

The Bible clearly explains why we need a savior and how He, Jesus, accomplished that perfect worthy sacrifice.

The only solution to the most important problem we'll ever encounter; our separation from a holy, righteous and perfect God, a God who offers what we need now and an eternity of blessings upon blessings beyond our wildest dreams. You don't want to miss that. "Seek the LORD while he may be found..." (Isaiah 55:6).

The following clearly show the converging prophecies: Cryptocurrencies, National Digital Currencies, Blockchain Technologies, Global Digital ID and the Mark of Beast, and the coming cashless society of the Antichrist and his mark, without which no man could buy or sell.

In the past, even the worst of wars could not even come close to annihilating all life from the planet. But in our generation that has all changed. With our modern nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, this could easily be done. The rider of the red horse in Revelation 6:4 takes "... peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."

The red horse is followed by the black horse of famine from the book of Revelation, chapter 6:5-6.

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6 Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a

day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

This crisis of hunger has been building for years due to many factors, including political instability. In Latin America and the Caribbean, nearly 40 percent of the population—267 million people—experienced moderate to severe food insecurity. (Al Jazeera News). Elsewhere in the world, hunger rates are even higher. According to Oxfam International, 11 people die every minute from hunger! And according to Bloomberg “the number of people facing famine-like conditions has increased by six times over the past year.”

These statistics should sober us! Today, many people live with excess even as many more are starving. Many world leaders' lust for more power and control while their citizens suffer. In Africa, hunger is increasing at an alarming rate. The recent COVID pandemic, conflict, drought, economic woes, and extreme weather are reversing years of progress.

Consider food prices in the rest of the world. Just take a walk into any North American or European grocery store. Again, we see prophecy coming in harder and harder as with birth pangs, just like the Bible prophesied for the End Times. Food prices in North America have risen at the fastest rate in more than 30 years. This is all before the full effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, “the breadbasket of Africa and Europe,” and the curtailment of fertilizer supplies to the world from Russia. Hundreds of tons of wheat sit in Ukrainian ports being stolen by Russia, eaten by vermin, and rotting in the ports. This is Ukraine's main export to the world.

The Bible tells us from long ago what it will be like in the End Times, just before Christ' return for His true Church. As in the days of Noah and Lot, so shall it be at the Lord's return.

Well, what was it like in the days of Noah?

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5-7).

As you read the following prophecies, you’ll know that no amount of lucky guesses or coincidences would paint the picture of life on our planet that we see today.

Matthew 24:37-39 ...'But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.'

Remember, it wasn't Noah who closed the door. It was God who finally closed the door when it was time for Noah to stop preaching and God's judgment was spilled out on a sin filled world.

"And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as Elohim had commanded him: and Yah shut him in" (Genesis 7:16).

“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” (2 Peter 2:5).

...Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed' (Luke 17:28-30).

Visit [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org) to get even more details about the days of Noah.

The point Jesus is making, is that these things were the focus of the people in those days. In other words, coupled with the evil their lives were all about themselves. Their lives were all about self pleasure, indulgence, etc. There was little to no sacrifice and consecration to God. And yet what did



Jesus say? ... "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment ... But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Luke 12:22-31). And what did the apostle Paul say? ... "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." (1 Corinthians 6:13). In other words, do not live for food, drink, clothing, money, building, etc. As these things will be destroyed. But live for the Lord! As He is the only way to true life now and especially for eternity (John 14:6).

Is the world full of violence today? Yes! Protests, riots, murders and wars rage across the whole world!

...'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.' (Jude 1:7)

Is the world going after 'strange flesh' today? Yes! Sodomy is not only being legalized, the approval of it is in the process of becoming mandatory for all members of society to approve of, or be labeled as intolerant or hateful.

Not only is this world today full of violence and sexual immorality, including homosexuality, these evils have now been turned into entertainment! That's right! This world is now entertained by the very things that God destroyed the old world and Sodom in Noah's and Lot's day! Just look at all the television programs and movies. They are full of violence, fornication, and sodomy, with little societal mandated restraint.

"...Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:32).

Do you see what the Lord is telling us here? He made an example of the wicked people in Noah's day who were filled with evil and showed His

anger by destroying them with the flood. And He made an example of the God rejecting people in Lot's day who practiced sexual perversion and all manner of sin by destroying them with fire. We must see this as a warning to us.

**A warning for God's people, A greater sin than Sodom!** There is another description of what sin the people of Sodom committed, and we find that description in the book of Ezekiel, the 16th chapter. Let us take a look at what it says.

“...As I live, saith the Lord God, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good” (Ezekiel 16:48-50).

Can you see the sin of Sodom? It wasn't all about homosexuality. Look at the root of Sodom's sin - LOVE OF SELF! I'm going to do what pleases me. I'm going to ignore the conscience that God gave me to the point that it becomes seared as with a hot iron.

Just look at how rich many of us are today and look at how little sacrifice we are willing to make for the gospel and for the needy. Do we really believe in Jesus Christ? Well, what did Christ do?

Noah, a “preacher of righteousness,” preached to the people watching as he built the ark, warning them of the judgment to come. 2 Peter 2:7-10 confirms that “...if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

We are living in the time Jesus talked about. It is a time like the days of Noah and Lot where violence, wickedness, sexual immorality of both hetro and homosexual types, love of self and idleness would control the minds of men and women alike. Take a look around, turn on the TV, and you will see a world full of evil, corruption, deception, untruth, and violence prevailing.

God's Spirit is still striving with man, to convict him of sin and to turn to Christ Jesus through faith, to obey Him and keep His commandments. But as the verse in Genesis 6 says ... 'My spirit shall not always strive with man.' God will give all people a chance, which He is doing right now, to turn to Him with all their hearts and to turn away from sin. But if they choose to continue to ignore the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the warnings from God's Word, then His Spirit will be withdrawn and the day of judgment will come upon them swiftly unawares.

2 Peter 3:3-4 ...'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 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 the creation.'

I just learned a fascinating custom of the Jewish people. It is not practiced much today, but in days past it was only the bride groom's father that knew the day and the hour of the wedding. We look around and can see the season, but no man knoweth the day or the hour. Only the Father of the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) knows and will present those whose wicks are trimmed in anticipation for His return.

“Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God,

For He will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:6-7).

So all I can say is, we all need that pardon from God. Seek truth and let God soften our hard hearts of arrogance, pride and an insistence on doing

it our way. If you will repent and trust Christ, this is what you can miss while on this earth, not to mention that which is far worse, the Lake of fire for eternity! Again, this is not meant to scare you, but the opposite, which is to warn you out of love, while there is still time for you to do something about it. Please read verse 6 and 7 above one more time.

Open your Bible and read about the Seven Seal Judgments in Revelation 6:1-17.

Jesus, in His mercy, has provided a way to avoid these terrible seal, trumpet and bowl judgments. These judgments are on the unbelievers who are left behind after the rapture of the true church and probably near the end of the seven year tribulation. For a good summary of the 7 bowl judgments of God. See: <https://bible.org/seriespage/22-bowl-judgments-rev-161-21>

Below are a few more indicators of the lateness of the hour and convergence of many End-Times signs as though stacked one upon the other.

The recent COVID pandemic with its variances has put many nations, banks, businesses and credit card companies in a race to find the better Bitcoin, which was the first decentralized cryptocurrency. Could this be a telltale sign edging towards the Mark of the Beast connections? Below are a few recent news headlines to consider.

Things that were unimaginable in the time of the apostle John are pushing that prophecy to fulfillment in our time. The Cryptocurrencies, National Digital Currencies, Blockchain Technologies, Global Digital ID and the Mark of the Beast connections are all a part of the term “reset” which we are hearing all over the place today.

For the first time in 1950 years since John received his revelation from God and relayed to us in the book of Revelation, we now have the technology to do this. A tiny chip could be placed under the skin of one’s hand or forehead that contains identification plus medical information including required vaccination records, as well as all financial

transactions. Purchases could all be made by electronic transfer in a fraction of a second from anywhere in the world without the use of cash, checks or money orders with platforms such as Cash App, Zelle and Venmo. In addition, this could serve as a global positioning device, allowing the tracking of everyone's position to within a few feet anywhere on the planet at any time. People will be clamoring for the mark and holdouts will be scorned, A cashless society won't come without reasonable argument and some positive things happening, but still needing arm twisting of some to speed the process up.

The reality is that the mark and the technology it likely brings with it could virtually eliminate everything from purse snatching to muggings, to the illegal drug trade, human trafficking, and tax evasion. We cannot say with absolute certainty that this chip will be the vehicle through which the mark of the beast will be given, but it could effectively perform the function. Such technology is being tested on volunteers as you read this. Sweden currently boasts it will be the first country to go cashless. A cashless world may be closer than we think.

Recent headlines from various publications are saying more and more things like “The End of Cash?”, “The Move Toward Crypto Currency,” “The Upcoming Implementation of Digital Citizen Scorecards.”

While this chapter on the convergence of End Times signs is not meant to be political, the free flow of information is critical to help open eyes to the realities around us. As we witness our world unraveling more and more every day my prayer is that we (Christians) be fully persuaded that nothing “... shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord” and that “in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (See Romans 8:37 and 39).

There is little doubt that we are seeing a convergence of all End-Times prophecies being fulfilled before our very eyes. Hopefully this will motivate you to prepare for your eternity while you still can. I am not talking about stockpiling guns, ammunition and food stocks. That is a different topic for others to talk about. At best, that approach is only a

temporary bandaid to postpone for a milli-second what you need to avoid for eternity.

In Revelation 13:16-18, the Anti-Christ, referred to as the beast, "... causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

Below is a partial Biblical list of prophecy, either fulfilled, or well along in the process of being fulfilled.

As you read these verses, ask yourself, "Is there any doubt that we are living in the days prophesied millennia ago?"

After 20 years of severe drought 2023 saw a massive "Atmospheric river" dumping rain on Northern California causing devastating floods, loss of lives and \$31,000,000,000 in damages.

In the book of Matthew Jesus tells us of calamitous events that will precede His second coming. These He refers to as "birth pangs" because they will get increasingly severe as the time gets closer. What's next?

As of July 2023 Canada's massive wild fires have destroyed over 28,000,000 acres (approximately the size of the state of Ohio) with smoke pollution spreading as far as Ireland. Washington Post headlines Aug. 4, 2023 "Canada's wildfires have doubled previous records and keep raging. The area burned and the amount of carbon pollution are about twice previous records.

On another front, June, July and August 2023 "Rare heat domes cover various parts of the US causing record temperatures". Remember this chapter is not about individual occurrences of difficult conditions, but an unparalleled "convergence" of fulfilled prophecies and their increasing severity as with birth pangs of a woman in labor. (see Matthew 24:8)

According to Bible prophecy much of the world will get its wish with the rise of a charismatic leader who is empowered by Satan and is known as the antichrist. This man will arise with seemingly brilliant solutions to much of the world's problems. He starts out as a seeming benevolent ruler but as the months slip by and things aren't going as quickly as he envisions, he starts to crack down with greater and greater force against all dissenters, especially new believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then at about the mid point of what is called the tribulation, this man is actually indwelt by Lucifer/Satan and fights for total authoritarian control with unbelievable furiousness. During his reign, hostilities will get so bad that as the Bible says: "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved..." (Mark 13:20). So at the end of the seven years Jesus Christ returns with the Saints who had previously been raptured, to destroy the antichrist's reign of terror and throw him and his false prophet into the "abyss" (Hell). This starts the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth. (See Revelation 20:2-10)

The point I am trying to make is that there will soon be coming on the scene a man that will be supported by most as a ruler with wisdom and ability. He will be thought of as a man who will rule with a firm hand of law, order, and justice. This, his lying signs and wonders will be the deception of deceptions as this man will be the man the Bible refers to as "the antichrist". His stated goal will be to create a perfect world. But and think.

Good as this man may seem at first, sinful imperfect man is simply incapable of making a perfect world. "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). It is only Christ who can make a perfect world. "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21) It is Christ, and only Christ who will provide us with a perfect world. And better than that, He will make His imperfect followers to be made perfect at the moment of the rapture, if we will but trust in His atoning (Debt paying) sacrifice for us.

## APPROXIMATE TIMELINE OF THE END-TIMES EVENTS

While there is debate on the exact sequence of end-times events the following gives at least my speculation of the time-line of what we might expect.

1. Increasing convergence of signs of the world spinning out of control (happening now). (Mark 13:20)
2. Probable beginning of “birth pangs” with Psalm 83 war Jerusalem (burdensome stone) as of Oct 2023???
3. The rapture of the Church (1 Corinthians 15:51-53, Matthew 24:42-44, Matthew 24:36-39)
4. The War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38:14-16, Ezekiel 39:9)
5. The Antichrist's 7-Year Covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27)
6. The Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-17, Revelation 14:9-11)
7. A new temple will be built in Jerusalem
8. The Tribulation (Daniel's 70th Week) (Daniel 9:24-26, Revelation 6:1-17, Revelation 8:1-9:21)
9. Global Government ADVANCES (Revelation 13:7 & 13:16-17)
10. Satan Thrown to the Earth (Revelation 12:7-12, Job 1:6)
11. At the mid point of the tribulation the Abomination of Desolation will occur and the Antichrist will demand to be worshiped as God. (Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:16, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Daniel 9:27)
12. The Jews Flee Israel (Matthew 24:15-21, Revelation 12:6)
13. The Great Tribulation starts (Daniel 7:25, Revelation 13:5, Revelation 12:14, Revelation 11:2-3)



14. The Appearance of the Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-6)
15. The Death of the Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:7-10, Revelation 11:11-13)
16. Babylon Destroyed in One Hour (Revelation 18:8-10)The Battle of Armageddon –(Revelation 16:16, Revelation 19:19 and Zechariah 12)
18. The Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-14 & 16)
19. The Glorious Appearing of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:27, Zechariah 14:3-5)
20. The Birth of the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 10, Isaiah 11 and 35, Zechariah 14:6-9)
21. The 1000-year reign of Christ with His church (Revelation 20:1-10 and Isaiah 11)
22. Satan loosed for a short time to again deceive some of those who were born during the 1000-year reign. (Revelation 20: 7-10)
23. The great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
24. A New Heaven and a New Earth where 0 sin exists. (Revelation 21:9-22:5) What a glorious time that will be!

# Chapter 26

----

## Final Thoughts

\*

OK! Now you might be thinking, “I’m convinced about the reliability of the Bible and I want to be sure I’m a Christian and headed to Heaven when my time on this earth is over. So, what exactly do I need to do in order to be saved and spend eternity with God in Heaven?”

So, **believe**, **grace**, **faith** and **trust** are key words. “... **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” (Acts 16:31). “For by **grace** are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). “**Trust** in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock” (Isaiah 26:4 ESV). “Behold, God is my salvation; I will **trust**, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2).

You must voluntarily take yourself or any false religion you cling to off the throne of God, and let God be God on the rightful throne of His creation, including your life. If you know where truth lies and you are not willing to accept it, then you are rejecting the free gift of God, which is eternal life.

There is only one thing required that you must have so you can be sure of your salvation. That one thing is “...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” (Acts 16:31) or “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 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. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:8-10).

With that said, there is something about the word believe that is too often glossed over. In Genesis 15:6 we read, *"Abraham believed the Lord, and it was credited to him as righteousness."* This word "believe" in the Hebrew אָמַן אָמַן (ʾāman - Strong's H539) is an action-oriented verb, as is the Greek πιστέψατε τὴν νέα διαθήκη. Both are much more than mere intellectual assent. *"After all, the demons believe, and shudder"* (James 2:19). True belief requires genuine faith, which is trusting Jesus Christ. This is a faith that enables you to release your own agenda, desires, and will in submission to God. It shows action. Scripture often uses the words "believe" and "obey" interchangeably, emphasizing God's view of faith as an obedient faith.

Notice, *"He who **believes** in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not **obey** the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him"* (John 3:36 NASB). "Eternal life" is for everyone who truly "believes" but "not" for those who do not "obey." The words, in God's dictionary, mean the same thing. *"And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?"* (Hebrews 3:18-19). So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Then we see: *"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation **unto all them that obey him**"* (Hebrews 5:9). *"Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God"* (Luke 9:62).

Eternal salvation is for those who have an obedient faith. Believing, as God defines it, includes desire and effort with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit living within all believers to help them to obey what they say they believe. If you are still having trouble while desiring only truth, pray as the father of the demon-possessed son prayed: *"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief"* (Mark:9:24). Please know that I am not talking about sinless perfection. For the believer, we wait for that until the rapture of the church when our sin nature will be removed. How I look forward to that day! Remember, even the apostle Paul had trouble with sin while walking on this earth. *"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do"* (Romans 7:19).

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

He said to them, *“But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15).* Please think hard about this question, because if you get it wrong, there are eternal consequences. The apostle Peter, when asked, said: *“You are the Christ the son of the living God”*. For this Jesus commended him. Sadly, millions of people who say “I believe in Jesus” won’t be entering the kingdom of God because they stopped short in their search for the true Jesus.

For example, Muslims say Jesus was just a prophet, Mormons say they believe in Jesus but to them he is a created being and half-brother of Lucifer, a god among many gods. Jehovah’s Witnesses’ say they believe in Jesus but to them he was not God at all. Jehovah's Witnesses teach the false doctrine that Jesus Christ was a created being and not God the Son from all eternity. The Bible clearly teaches: *“For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by Him, and for Him**” (Colossians 1:16).*

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God.**” (John 1:1) ...And the Word was made 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 (John 1:14).* This clearly shows us that “The Word” is Jesus, and Jesus is God.

As I said on the first page, “I will begin and end this book with three promises from God. One from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament”. Here they are again: *“And ye shall seek me, **and find me,** when ye shall search for me **with all your heart**” (Jeremiah 29:13). *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must **believe that he is,** and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him**” (Hebrews 11:6). *“Draw near to God **and He will draw near to you**” (James 4:8a).***

# God's Plan of Salvation for Man

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created man in his image. (see Genesis. 1:27) At that time, God and man lived in perfect harmony in a perfect world. Then the serpent (Lucifer/Satan), a fallen angel who wanted above all things to be as God himself, tempted Adam and Eve with the two biggest lies that have ever been told. These lies were: "Ye shall not surely die:" and "ye shall be as gods." (see Genesis 3:4-5 & Deuteronomy 4:39) Adam and Eve willingly embraced the lies of Lucifer and rejected God's plan and instructions for them. This is where sin entered the human race. (see Romans 5:12)

We further learn from the Bible that because of God's purity and holiness He can not have any sin in his presence. (see Habakkuk 1:13, Psalms 5:4, Revelation 21:27 & Psalms 97:2) So when Adam and Eve, and subsequently every one of us in the human race choose the way of sin and rebellion, (see Romans 3:10, 3:23 & 6:23) it is simply justice that demands our separation from God.

From the time of Adam and Eve until the present time, the Bible records several thousand years of man's efforts to do it his way (become as God), or to be reunited to God by his own efforts. These efforts, no matter how diligently pursued have never worked, nor can they ever work, because man with his sinful nature is not capable of reaching God's standard of absolute purity or sinlessness. (see Isaiah 64:6)

So, if history has so clearly proven that man can not become God, or even come back to God through his own self efforts, is there then any hope that we can escape this sinful fallen state and imperfect world in which we live? The answer is a resounding Yes! (see Romans 5:8) And this is what Jesus Christ and Christianity is all about.

God in His infinite mercy and love has provided a way. (see John 14:6, 5:24, Acts 4:12, & Ephesians 2:8-9) It was a costly way, but it was the only way to bridge the separation that sin had caused between man and his creator. (see Hebrews 9:22) God gave his only begotten and sinless son as a ransom worthy of paying the price necessary to pardon us from the condemnation and just separation from God caused by our sin. ( see 2 Cor. 5:21 & John 3:16)

While Jesus Christ's willing sacrifice on the cross was worthy to cleanse all people from all sin and from eternal separation from God, (see 1 John 1:7) he has never forced anyone to accept the gift. He does though offer it to all who desire it and ask for it. (see Romans 10:9 & 13 & Matthew 10:32) Kings and paupers must all come to Christ the same way. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) Many would try to add good works, righteous deeds, church traditions or denominational affiliations as pathways to salvation (see Titus 3:5 & Romans 3:28); but the Bible is clear that doing so can only have the opposite effect. For if we try to add anything to grace; then "grace is no longer grace". (see Romans 11:6 & Galatians 5:4) It is only with a humble and thankful heart that God's grace is received by faith. And it is only there, at the foot of the cross, that we can be forgiven and rest in the assurance of our salvation from the punishment we deserve for the sins we have committed.

This brief explanation of God's plan of salvation is given that you too may come to the one who loves you more than you can imagine; if that is your desire. The steps below will guide you. Tell God in prayer that you are ready to make a true heart commitment to Him and accept the cleansing gift of His only begotten and sinless son. Now is the time to make your decision. This is the most important decision of your life; (see John 8:24) please do not take it lightly, there may not be a "later". (see 2 Corinthians 6:2)

Heavenly Father,

I see my sins (through the truth of your word) and realize that my sins are what separate me from you. I am sorry for my sins and desire to turn from the wrong ways I have been directing my life. I repent and believe in the perfect life's work of your Son, Jesus, as revealed in the Bible, to cleanse me from my sin. From this day forward I ask that you come in to me and be the Lord and guiding light of my life. I thank you and accept as a free gift, the worthy substitutionary sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on the cross to pay for my sins. Thank you for forgiving my sins and saving my soul for all eternity.

I have sincerely prayed the above prayer to the best of my understanding and ability. I understand there are no other requirements for becoming a Christian; but that full meaning and purpose in this life comes only when I willingly die to self and allow Jesus Christ to live through me. Increased blessings will also come in this life and in heaven as I am obedient and grow in the knowledge and application of my Christian faith through the Word of God, the Bible.

Although signing a piece of paper has nothing to do with salvation, signing may be helpful to you in recollecting your point of decision or commitment to Christ.

I (signature)\_\_\_\_\_, have read the above message and wish to acknowledge my acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of my life.

I (signature)\_\_\_\_\_, have read the above message and do not choose at this time to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

\*Notice (Matthew 12:30) that to make no decision about Jesus Christ, and your relationship to him; is to make a decision against him. Even though our God is a God of second chances, no decision is the same as a “NO” decision.

Bible References  
(Please also read this most important section)

*Gen 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*

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

*Deut. 4:39 “Therefore know this day, and consider in your heart, that the Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on earth beneath; there is no other.”*

*Rom 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all have sinned:”*

*Hab 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...”*

*Rev. 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it (Heaven) any thing that defileth...”*

*Rom 3:10 “as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”*

*Rom 3:23 “for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

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

*Jam. 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”*

*Isa 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags...”*

*Rom 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

*John 14:6 “Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

*Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*



*Heb 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of Blood is no remission.”*

*John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

*Eph 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

*Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”*

*Rom. 3:28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”*

*Rom. 11:6 “And if by grace, then it is no longer works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.”*

*Gal. 5:4 “You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”*

*John 6:28-29 “Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”*

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

*Gal. 2:21 “I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”*

*John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

*1 John 5:12 “He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*

*1 John 1:7 “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

*Luke 11:9 “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.”*

*Jer. 29:13 “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*

*2 Cor. 7:10 “Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation.”*

*Rom. 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

*Rom 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

*Matt. 10:32 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven”*

*John 8:24 “...If you do not believe I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”*

*2 Cor 6:2 “...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*

*Matt. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me...”*

\* If you have not yet settled the matter of your eternal destiny and relationship with Jesus Christ, please go back to the prayer on the proceeding page and give yourself to Him in complete trust. Jesus

Christ loves you and invites you to accept the gift and payment which he has already made to rid you of your sins and the consequences they demand. He waits now (2 Corinthians 6:2), but the bible tells us that a time will come when He can wait no longer. Please do not slumber this day only to awaken in Hell for eternity. There is a way out. It is Jesus Christ. Now it is up to you to accept or reject the payment he has made and be willing to die to your old life of sin and rebellion. Remember, you are not expected to do this on your own. If you desire, however, and ask him, He is sure to give you the help you need in the path of your new life. Read your Bible, pray, and gather for worship and study with other Bible believing Christians. The Bible we have today is still the infallible Word of God and contains the keys to the meaning of life and a light for the pathway to Heaven.