

Ten Key Bible Doctrines

The BIBLE tells of **GOD the Father**, God the **SON**, and God the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

First, God created **ANGELS**, then **MAN**.

Man **SINNED** so he needs **SALVATION**

After salvation comes the **CHURCH**

and finally, **LAST THINGS**.

Foundations of Faith, #1 -- Doctrine of God

How Can I Believe in a God I Cannot See?

I. I believe in the existence of God because the Bible declares it

- Everything begins and ends with God. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 22:5; 13 - *I am Alpha and Omega*....)

II. I believe in the existence of God because the Laws of science and nature demand it

Rom. 1:20 *For the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen....*

A. The First Law of Thermodynamics says energy cannot be created or destroyed.

Either matter and energy have eternally existed, (in which case matter becomes my god),
OR, they were created by a greater power and architect. (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 139:14)

B. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says all things go from order to chaos.

A finely-tuned universe cannot have designed itself. "A watch requires a watchmaker."

C. The Law of Biogenesis says life can only come from life, never from non-living material.

Each of these established scientific laws are contradicted by evolutionary and "Big Bang" theories.

III. I believe in the existence of God because of Jesus' historical resurrection -- more later

IV. I believe in the existence of God because of the lack of evidence against His existence

- It is impossible to prove the non-existence of something. If it is logically impossible for the atheist to prove his position, why would I be drawn to it, unless I do not WANT God to exist. (Romans 1:28 *...they did not like to retain God in their knowledge*....)
- "The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man." - G.K. Chesterton
- If I believe in a God that does not exist, I have lost nothing. If I do not believe in a God that does exist, then I have lost everything. (John 3:16)

V. I believe in the existence of God because of His influence on humanity

- How does one explain the positive universal influence of Christianity for good, if it is all a lie?
- How does one explain the transformed first-century Christians, the Great Awakenings, and millions of changed people who credit God for radical change, if there is no God?
"You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!"



I Believe There is a God, but What is He Like?

Deists and Agnostics believe in the existence of a creator on the basis of logic and reason, but reject belief in a supernatural deity who interacts with humanity. To them, God is unknown and unknowable. Not only do I believe a supernatural creator exists, but I believe He is a personal God who knows me, loves me, and cares about me.

I. What I know from God's creation (Gen. 1:1, 31; Psalm 8:3-4; 19:1-3; 90:2; Romans 1:20)

God is _____

II. What I know from God's names

- A. **Elohim** (Genesis 1:1 - "God") -- Speaks of intellect and greatness
- B. **Jehovah** ("LORD") -- Promise-keeping God
- C. **I AM** (Exodus 3:14) -- Speaks of God's all-sufficient, self-sufficient, eternal existence
- D. **Almighty God** (Genesis 17:1 -- El-Shaddai)
- E. **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** (Jeremiah 23:5 *The LORD our Righteousness* -- God always does right.)
- F. **Jehovah-Roni** (Psalm 23 *The LORD is my Shepherd....*)
- G. **Jehovah-Rophe** (Exodus 15:26 *The LORD that health thee.*)
- H. **Jehovah-Shalom** (Judges 6:24 -- The LORD is my peace)
- I. **El-Roi** (Genesis 16:13 -- *Thou God seest me.*)
- J. **Abba, Father** (Romans 8:15; Matthew 6:9)
- K. **Joshua / Jesus** (Matthew 1:21 -- Jehovah is my Savior)

III. What I know from God's Word

- A. **God is merciful** (Psalm 103:8 *...gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*)
- B. **God is loving** (1 John 4:8; John 3:16)
- C. **God is caring** (1 Peter 5:7 *...He careth for you.*)
- D. **God is unchanging** (Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6 *I am the LORD, I change not.*)

Hard Questions About God



Understanding God is a lot like a fish in a bowl trying to comprehend humans, and the “world beyond”. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, *...as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.* (cp. Psalm 6; 104:1-3; Isaiah 57:15) It is reasonable to assume that there would be mysteries about an Almighty Creator that man, with our limited vision and knowledge, cannot explain.

I. Questions about suffering and evil (Habakkuk 1:13)

Q: “Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do innocent children suffer and die? If God knew that Satan would rebel, why did He create him? Where was God when...?”

A: “God made us to enjoy a loving relationship with him. But love, by its nature, must be a choice. We could not ‘choose’ to do good and love God if there were no other options. Mankind made the decision to reject God’s instruction, and the result is a world that is altered from God’s original design, and filled with sickness, disease and death, all consequences of man’s choices.”

A: “I’ve been asked hundreds of times why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess, I really don’t know the answer totally. I have to accept by faith that God is sovereign, and that He is a God of mercy and love and compassion in the midst of our suffering. [- Billy Graham on September 14, 2001, following the 9/11 attacks]

➤ I will not let the things I don’t know, keep me from trusting the things that I do know. I don’t have to understand everything about light, to accept and appreciate all its benefits.

What I know: *For God so _____ the _____ that He gave His only begotten Son* (Jn. 3:16)

II. Questions about God’s knowledge and sovereignty, and man’s free will

Q: Why would God test Abraham’s faith by telling him to kill his son, if God already knew what the outcome would be? Why does the Bible say that God “repents”, or changes His mind (Jonah 3:10)? What is the point of prayer, if God already knows what He will do?”

A: “When the Bible says God “changes His mind,” it is speaking of God in human terms. God knows all along what He will or will not do, and He can never change His mind because He never gets new information. So, on the eternal level, God never changes His mind, but on the level of interaction with humans--from our perspective--He does.”

What I know: Creation and the Bible tell me that God is infinitely intelligent (Psalm 147:50). He would not be God if He were not sovereign (Psalm 115:3), but the existence of sin tells us that man also has a free will (Joshua 24:15). These truths seem to contradict, only because we do not know all that God knows.

III. Questions about God’s actions

Q: Why did God command the slaughter of men, women and children? (Deut. 20:16-17)

A1: This was hyperbole, like a coach telling his players to “destroy” the other team.

A2: God did whatever it took to protect the line of Messiah through Abraham’s descendants, even if it meant destroying the Canaanites so they would not mingle with the seed line.

What I know:

- Jesus proved by His sinless life that He is good and righteous--He always does the right thing.
- Wrath is never God’s preferred or default response, or there would be no “us”, and no Savior.

➤ If I knew everything God knows, I would do exactly what God does.

IV. Questions about heaven and hell

Q: How can a loving God send people to hell, or create people knowing they will spend eternity in hell? How is, “one way,” fair to people who don’t or can’t know the way?

A: Only one leader has proved He has power over death itself. “Life can only come from life.”

What I know: Anthropology demonstrates that mankind has a universal awareness of God. God promised that whoever seeks Him, will find Him (Jer. 29:13; Heb. 11:6). Jesus died and rose again so ALL could be saved (Rom. 10:13). God wants no human to be in hell (Jn. 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9). God is just (Deut. 32:4), and a just God would not allow anyone to be in hell who has not had the opportunity to seek and choose Him. No sane artist would carelessly discard his crowning masterpiece in the fire (Gen. 1:26-27).

Taking God off the table raises more questions than accepting the existence of a God I can’t fully explain.

Why a BOOK?

Mankind was created “in the image of God”, with the ability to communicate and to socialize at a high level, and Jesus proves God loves the human race (John 3:16), so it is reasonable to conclude that God must want to communicate with us. History and the Bible recount numerous ways in which God has communicated with mankind, from a burning bush to a donkey. **Why might God choose a BOOK for His primary means of communication with humanity?**

- I. **A written document is more reliable than oral communication** -- Ever played the Grapevine Game?
At the end of the game, how do we know what was really said? By what is written on the paper.
- II. **A written document can be precise** (Ex. legal contracts, property descriptions, wills)
- III **A written document can be copied and translated**
Portions of the Bible have been translated into 3,415 languages. [- Wycliffe Bible Translators]
- IV. **A written document can go where people cannot** (Ex. Letters; Colossians 4:16)
- V. **A written document is authoritative** (Ex. A courtroom transcript, a law or statute, Constitution)
↳ Since a written form of communication is the most reliable, precise, copiable, translatable, universal and authoritative method of communicating important truth, it makes sense, that when God wanted to give a message for all people, for all time, He wrote it in a Book. And because Scripture was written down, we know today, exactly what God said thousands of years ago.

Why THIS Book?

Numerous “sacred” books exist for the many religions of the world. None of these books agree with the others in their teachings about God, man’s past and future, life after death, or how to deal with our sins. So, how can I know which, if any, to believe? Would an impartial jury find the Bible to be trustworthy and reliable based on a “preponderance of evidence”?

I. The text is reliable

- A. **The number and age of the “manuscripts”** (ancient handwritten copies before era of printing)
 - 6,000 ancient Greek NT manuscripts, some dating to within fifty years of the originals
 - 10,000 ancient Latin manuscripts of the Bible
 - 10,000 manuscripts in other languages like Coptic, Georgian and Aramaic
 - = 26,000 copies all saying the same thing -- we can be certain of what the originals said.
- B. **Over a million quotations of the New Testament by early Christian and secular writers**
 - Almost the entire New Testament can be reconstructed from their quotations alone.
- C. **The Dead Sea Scrolls verify the accuracy of the copies over very long spans of time**

II. The teachings are reliable

- A. **The Gospels were written by four different eye-witnesses of Jesus**
- B. **The Gospels were peer-reviewed and approved by hundreds who knew Jesus personally**
(1 Corinthians 15:6)
- C. **The Gospel statements are uncontested by hundreds of 1st and 2nd century writings**
- D. **The Gospels are confirmed by the 1st and 2nd century writings of many non-Christians**
 - Cornelius Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, Josephus, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger, Thallus, Phlegon, Mara Bar-Serapion, the Talmud,
 - These independent accounts prove that in ancient times, even the opponents of Christianity never doubted the historicity of Jesus, which was disputed for the first time and on inadequate grounds by several authors during the 18th and 19th centuries.” [- New Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th Ed., “Jesus Christ”]
- E. **The Bible is confirmed by archeology and history -- It is true about places and people**
 - Sir William Mitchell Ramsay--“Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians.”
 - We now possess archeological and historical evidence for almost every people group and many of the important people in the OT.
 - “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical description has often led to amazing discoveries.” [- Dr. Nelson Glueck, world-renowned archeologist]
 - Can any other ancient book, sacred or otherwise, make this claim?
- F. **The Bible is confirmed by a supernatural unity**
 - 66 books penned by 40 writers over 1500 years in three languages, yet it has one unbroken, unified thread--God’s plan of redemption for the human race. The explanation?
 - 2 Peter 1:21 -- *The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
 - 2 Samuel 23:2 -- *The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in my tongue.*

G. The Bible is confirmed by its prophecies

1. Predictions about Israel's past, present and future
 2. Predictions by Daniel of the next three world empires, and then the final one that we see forming before our own eyes.
 3. 300 OT predictions about Jesus' first coming
- Not one Bible prophecy has failed to come to pass to date. This is a statistical impossibility aside from divine intervention. Can any other sacred book make this claim?

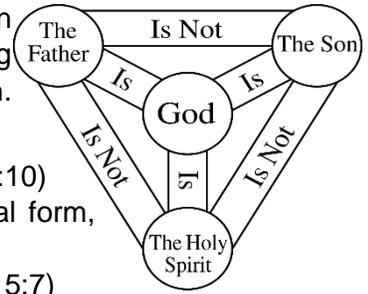
H. The Bible is confirmed by its indestructibility ("The Bulletproof Book")

- The most attacked book in history, yet the most widely distributed book in history
- Guinness Book of World Records, 2021 -- approximately 7 billion Bibles have been sold (80 million per year) not counting the millions that are given away each year. (The 2021 top seller sold just 1.3 million copies.)

Is it possible that mere men, mostly commoners with little education, could write a book that would be the most influential, transformational document in human history, AND the foundational document for the greatest nation on Earth 1700 years later, AND whose prophecies would span 3500 years with 100% accuracy, AND be the global best seller, every year, year-after-year, 2000 years later, in spite of innumerable attempts at its annihilation? The Bible repeatedly claims to be the Creator's message to mankind, and the preponderance of evidence supports the claim.

Jesus, Fraud or God?

Muslims, Jews, and others are often misled to think that Christians believe in more than one God. However, Scripture is clear, and we believe, there is only one true and living God. (Deut. 6:4 -- *Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD.* Isaiah 46:9; Eph. 4:6) But, Christians do believe that this one God is manifest in three persons.



- All three were present at creation. (Genesis 1:1-2; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10)
- The Hebrew word for “God” in Genesis 1:1 and elsewhere is “Elohim”, a plural form, because He is a plurality.
- All three persons were present at Jesus’ baptism. (Matthew 3:16-17; cp. 1 John 5:7)

Many reject a triune God because men cannot explain it. Remember, we are tiny fish with tiny brains in a tiny fishbowl looking out at this enormous universe with an infinite God, trying to explain how they work.

I. The Old Testament states often that the coming Messiah and King is the LORD, Jehovah

(Psalm 24:9-10; Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 44:6; Zechariah 9:9; 14:9, 16; Micah 5:2, etc.)

II. Jesus claimed to be Jehovah God (John 10:30-33 -- *I and my Father are one...*)

A. He backed His claim with perfect prophecies (100% accuracy)

1. **His death** -- When, where, how, by whom; Judas’ betrayal; Peter’s denial; His unlikely resting place. (Crucifixion victims were seldom given an honorable burial.) (Matt. 16:21; 26:2, 33-34; 27:62-63; Luke 18:31-33)
2. **The total dismantling of the temple** (Luke 21:5-6; Occurred in AD 70; No trace left)
3. **The Jewish global dispersion and eventual return to their homeland** (Luke 21:24)

B. He backed His claim with unparalleled miracles

1. Jesus’ miracles were far superior to any other man’s, angel’s or demon’s. He stopped storms, healed men born blind, cured the paralyzed, and raised three dead people plus his own self from the grave. ...and, *He healed ALL that were sick* (Matt. 12:15; Lk. 4:40).
2. His miracles were attested by three written eyewitness accounts, thousands of additional witnesses (1 Cor. 15:6), and Dr. Luke’s extensive research and interviews (Luke 1:1-4).
3. His miracles are affirmed by many early historians, such as Josephus, Eusebius, Celsus, Quadratus, Porphyry, Hierocles, Julian, the Jewish Talmud, and more.
4. Jesus’s enemies ascribed his power to Satan and sorcery instead of God, but they never denied that any of his recorded miracles happened.

III. Jesus’ friends claimed He was Jehovah God

(John 1:1-2, 14; 20:28; Acts 7; 12:2; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Hebrews 1:1-8)

- How far would you go to make the claim that your best friend was God--total ruin and death?

IV. Jesus’ enemies called Him God

- Paul the Persecutor (1 Timothy 3:16)
- C.S. Lewis; Lew Wallace, Ben Hur; Lee Strobel, The Case For Christ; William J. Murray III, My Life Without God;

V. Jesus’ Father__ called Him God

Hebrews 1:1-8 ...*unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever...*

VI. The resurrection verified that Jesus is Jehovah God, as claimed (20:28; 1 Corinthians 15)

✚ C. S. Lewis’s famous trilemma, “Liar, Lunatic or Lord?”, from Mere Christianity:
 “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic--on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg--or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either Jesus believed his own claim to be God, or he did not. If he did, he was a lunatic. If he did not, he was a liar, unless, of course, he really was God. So, is Jesus a liar or a lunatic? Neither is the logical answer in my opinion. Why do I think this? Because of his character. There are two things that people will admit about Jesus: He was wise, and He was good. A lunatic is the opposite of wise, and a liar is the opposite of good.”

Why Christ? “The Smoking Gun” Evidence



“The smoking gun” is “something that serves as conclusive evidence or proof” [- Merriam -Webster]. It is the one piece of evidence that seals the deal for any impartial, unprejudiced jury; evidence so conclusive, powerful and persuasive, that there is no more argument. The “smoking gun” evidence that Jesus is God as He claimed, that He alone is “*the way*” to heaven and the Savior of the world, is the empty tomb.

I. The resurrection of Jesus is an Indisputable fact

- A. According to the OT prophets who predicted the details of Jesus’ life with 100% accuracy**
- Messiah had to die (Ps. 22; Isaiah 53; The picture of the OT sacrifices). But a dead messiah cannot give life. He had to live again, or all the promises would be vain.
 - Psalm 16:10 *For thou wilt not leave my [David’s] soul in hell [sheol, grave]; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One [Messiah] to see corruption.* (cp. Isaiah 53:10-12)
 - Psalm 22:1-21 is a detailed description of Messiah’s crucifixion. Verses 21-31 change immediately to rejoicing and the promise of a future kingdom. The O.T. is full of predictions that Messiah would both die and reign. A dead King can’t reign.
- B. According to Jesus’ predictions** (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:12; Matt. 12:40; 20:18-19; 27:63)
- C. According to modern historians**
<https://www.evidenceunseen.com/christ/defending-the-resurrection/empty-tomb-of-jesus/>
- 1. Dr. Gary Habermas** found that 75% of the 1,400 American and European scholars he surveyed, affirmed the empty tomb on the grounds of historical evidence.
[“Resurrection Research from 1975 to the Present: What are Critical Scholars Saying?” The Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus; Vol. 3, 2005]
 - 2. William Wand**, Oxford University church historian -- “All the strictly historical evidence we have is in favor of the empty tomb, and those scholars who reject it ought to recognize that they do so on some other ground than that of scientific history.”
[- William Wand, Christianity: A Historical Religion? (Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson, 1972), 93-94]
 - 3. Michael Grant**, atheistic classicist at Edinburgh University -- “[The historian] cannot justifiably deny the empty tomb.... If we apply the same sort of criteria that we apply to any other ancient literary sources, the evidence is firm and plausible enough to necessitate the conclusion that the tomb was indeed found empty.”
[- Michael Grant, Jesus: An Historian’s Review of the Gospels (Scribner’s, 1977), 176, 200.]
- D. According to women, the first ones to report the news in all four gospels**
(Matt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-18)
- Women were second-class citizens in the ancient world with little legal standing.
 - Testimony of women should not be allowed in a court of law. [- Josephus; Antiquities, 4.8.15.]
 - If Jesus’ disciples wanted to convince the world that Jesus was not dead, they would never have built their case on the testimony of women, much less portray themselves as weak, faithless and fearful doubters.
- E. According to the soldiers guarding the tomb** (Matthew 27:65-66; 28:4, 11-15)
- Did all the sentries really sleep while a large sealed stone was moved aside? (28:13)
 - Did Jesus’ fisherman friends overpower the guards, with no casualties? These were His same friends who fled in fear when Jesus was arrested. (Matthew 26:56)
 - Why further risk their lives, now that their leader was dead? (John 20:19)
- F. According to Jesus’ friends**
To the man, they gained nothing of earthly value and lost everything, even endured torture and cruel deaths, defending the resurrection. A sane man will only die for that which he truly believes. [- Historian Michael Licona]
- G. According to hundreds of eye witnesses over forty days** (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)
“Paul’s purpose in appealing to witnesses still alive is to invite his readers to check his facts if they doubt his words.” [- Charles Keener] Every Gospel statement could easily be fact-checked when they were written.

H. According to the Jewish Sanhedrin

The Sanhedrin bribed the guards to claim that *the disciples came by night and stole [Jesus' body] away while they slept.* (Matt. 28:11-15). Surely somebody went to examine the tomb, and must have found it empty.

I. Supported by the "Nazareth Inscription"

In 1878, archaeologists discovered a marble slab containing a decree from the emperor of Rome that declares the death penalty for anyone who steals a body from a tomb. The inscription dates either to the reign of Tiberius (AD 14-37, governed when Jesus' body went "missing"), or to Claudius, the next emperor (AD 41-54). This was the exact period when a new religion was running rampant throughout the empire, based on a "stolen" body, which some affirmed had come to life.

J. Supported by the non-existent monument

Millions of religious adherents flock to the tombs of their founders, while even the location of Jesus' tomb was forgotten.

K. Supported by the world-changing impact of His resurrection

- Christianity is founded on the premise of a resurrected Savior. A fictitious non-event could not explain the universal, timeless impact of Christianity through churches, hospitals, orphanages, schools, relief organizations, literature, music and art.
- Democracy, personal responsibility and individual freedom are concepts rooted in Christian principles. Wherever the teachings of Jesus have been honored, man's freedom and living conditions have been elevated.
- Millions of individual lives are still being touched and transformed 2,100 years later.

L. Supported by the lack of other plausible explanations

1. Swoon Theory

Jesus was not actually dead as pronounced by the supervising centurion who ran a spear into his vitals. Then, in that physical state, Jesus rolled aside the stone from the inside, overpowered the guards, and fled to a secret hiding place.

2. Stolen Body Theory

Fishermen overpowered the Roman soldiers (no one was killed, just soldiers sent fleeing), moved the stone, removed the body and kept it so well hidden that it was never discovered, meanwhile facing imprisonment, torture and death.

3. Wrong Man Theory

The Romans accidentally crucified the wrong man, or Jesus had an identical twin who died in His place.

4. Wrong Tomb Theory

The disciples, women and Jewish leaders all went back to the wrong tomb.

5. Alien Theory

He was an alien, and/or His body was abducted by aliens.

6. Mass Hallucination Theory

520 people only thought they were seeing Jesus on many occasions for 40 days.

Or, He really did walk out of His own tomb, verifying His claims that He is God, who really did come here to die in man's place for our sins, and really is more powerful than death.

Lee Strobel award-winning investigative journalist and Legal Editor of the Chicago Tribune: "We have nine ancient sources inside and outside the New Testament that corroborate the conviction of the disciples that they encountered the resurrected Jesus. In terms of ancient, historical evidence, this is an avalanche of material. I finally had to conclude that disproving the resurrection wasn't easy! In fact, it was impossible. And that evidence led me to my own faith in Christ." - The Case for Christ:

II. The resurrection of Jesus is an indispensable fact

A. If Messiah is dead, the Old Testament is entirely wrong.

B. If Jesus did not rise, He was a liar (Matt. 16:21; 26:32; Mark 9:9; 14:28; John 2:19)

C. If Jesus did not rise, the apostles and all who believe them ("Christians") are "miserable" fools (1 Corinthians 15:16-19)

D. If Jesus did not rise, there is no eternal life (1 Cor. 15:20-22; Rev. 1:18; Law of Biogenesis)

E. If Jesus was still in the tomb, every ancient testimony and 75% of modern historians are wrong

F. If Jesus did not rise, there can be no Christianity -- the resurrection is its heart and soul.

G. **If Jesus DID rise**, everything He said is truth, and I am accountable to God for what I do with it.

The “Ghost” You Want to Meet

The doctrine of the Holy Ghost is one of the most misunderstood doctrines in the Bible. Maybe this is because the Holy Spirit is the one source of power that Satan fears most in this world today.

I. Who (or what) is the Holy Spirit?

Islam equates the Holy Spirit with the messenger angel, Gabriel. Judaism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormonism and New Age view the Holy Spirit as, “Divine power in action; God’s active force; God sends out his spirit by projecting his energy to any place to accomplish His will” [JW.org]. Only Christianity calls Him Living Deity and Almighty God.

A. The Holy Spirit is a living personality -- He is a person

1. He is addressed as a person (Jn. 6:63; 14:26; 16:13-14; Rom. 8:11, 16, 26; 1 John 5:6)
2. He may be lied to (Acts 5:3)
3. He may be resisted (Acts 7:51)
4. He may be grieved (Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30)
5. He speaks (2 Sam. 23:2; Acts 1:16; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 21:11; 28:25–26; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:7–8; Rev. 2:7; 14:13; 22:17)
6. He sends (Acts 8:29; 10:19; 13:2, 4; 16:6)
7. He appoints overseers in the church (Acts 20:28)
8. He comforts, teaches, reminds and rebukes (John 14:16, 26; Acts 9:31)
9. He convinces and convicts (John 16:8)
10. He guides, hears, shows, and glorifies Jesus (John 15:26; 16:13-14)
11. He intercedes (talks to God) in our behalf (Romans 8:26-27)
12. He loves (Romans 15:30)
13. He knows us, and we can know Him, personally (Acts 13:2; Romans 8:16, 26-27)
14. He reveals and He searches (1 Cor. 2:9-11)
15. He teaches (1 Corinthians 2:13)
16. He has a mind, will and emotions (Rom. 8:27; 1 Cor. 2:11; 12:7–11; Eph. 4:30)

B. The Holy Spirit is an equal member of the triune Godhead -- He is God

1. All three were present and distinct at creation (Ge. 1:1-2; cp. Col. 1:16; Job 26:13; 33:4)
2. All three were present and distinct at Jesus’ baptism (Matthew 3:16-17)
3. All three are present and distinct in Jesus’ Great Commission (Matthew 28:19)
4. All three are present and distinct in Paul’s conclusion (2 Corinthians 13:14)
5. All three are present and distinct in Peter’s salutation (1 Peter 1:2)
6. All three are present in the Christian (John 14:15-18, 23)
7. All the attributes of the Godhead are present in the Holy Spirit. He is...
 - a. Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12)
 - b. Omniscient (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11)
 - c. Omnipotent (Job 26:13; 33:4; Genesis 1:1-2)
 - d. Eternal (Hebrews 9:14)- The Holy Spirit is equal with God in every divine attribute, because He IS God.
8. The Holy Spirit is called “God” (Acts 5:3-4)

II. Where is the Holy Spirit today?

A. In the world (John 16:7-8 ...when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin....)

B. In the church (1 Corinthians 3:16 - Context is the local church, and “ye” is plural.)

C. In the believer (John 14:17; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19 - context is individual believers)

- I can get no “closer” to God’s presence than wherever I am right now.
- My body and life is the showroom where Deity is on display for the world to see.

The Holy Spirit

Part 2 -- My Amazing Helper



“Everybody needs a little help once in a while.” In the spiritual sense, we need help all the time. Jesus reminds us in John 15:5, “*Without Me, you can do nothing!*” Knowing my weakness, God gave me a divine, supernatural helper--His very own Holy Spirit in me.

- I. **The Holy Spirit gave us the Holy Scriptures** (“Inspiration” -- 2 Samuel 23:2; 2 Peter 1:21)
2 Peter 1:21 *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
- II. **The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus** (“Glorification” -- John 15:26; 16:13-14; Acts 5:32; 1 Cor. 12:3)
- III. **The Holy Spirit makes possible my salvation**
 - A. **He shows me my need for the gospel**
John 16:8 *...He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*
 - B. **He helps me understand the gospel** (1 Corinthians 2:9-14)
 - C. **He helps me receive the gospel**
1 Corinthians 12:3 *...no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*
 - D. **He gives me eternal life through the gospel** (John 6:63; Romans 8:10)
2 Corinthians 3:6 *...the Spirit giveth life.*
 - E. **He dwells inside me at salvation** (John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9)
 - F. **He baptizes (“immerses”) me into the body of Christ at salvation** (Acts 1:15)
1 Corinthians 12:13 *For by one Spirit are we ALL baptized into one body....*
 - G. **He seals me in Christ forever at salvation** (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13)
Eph. 4:30 *...the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
- IV. **The Holy Spirit makes me like Jesus** (“Sanctification” -- 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2)
- V. **The Holy Spirit helps me understand the Bible** (“Illumination” -- Psalm 119:18)
 - John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.*
- VI. **The Holy Spirit directs in my daily life** (Matthew 4:1; Acts 8:29; 13:2; 16:6-7; Proverbs 3:5-7)
 - The Holy Spirit most often directs us through His Word, and confirms with His peace.
- VII. **The Holy Spirit helps me pray** (Romans 8:26-27)
- VIII. **The Holy Spirit equips me to serve Jesus** (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - Spiritual gifts are given to each of us *...for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ* (Eph. 4:12).
 - The best way to discover it, is in the exercise of it. Go find it!
- IX. **The Holy Spirit energizes and emboldens me to serve Jesus** (Luke 4:14)
Ephesians 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*
 - “Filled” means to be under the influence and control of; like one who is intoxicated;
 - The “filling of the Spirit” is not a one-time event, but ought to be my on-gong condition. (Acts 6:3)
 - When I am “filled with the Spirit”, His power is released in me as I surrender and yield myself completely to His control.
 - This is how God accomplishes His mighty eternal work through average, ordinary people.
 - When believers were “filled” with the Holy Ghost in the Book of Acts, it was manifest by their bold, effective witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8, 31)

☞ If the omnipotent power of God lives in me, why do I walk in defeat, discouragement or depression? I must learn to live in daily, minute-by-minute dependence on the Holy Spirit of God.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 4:6

Doctrine of Man “God In My Mirror”

The Four Great Questions of Humanity are: **Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? And, where am I going?** These questions are unique to humanity, because humanity alone has an eternal spirit and soul. We'll answer these questions as we consider the Biblical doctrine of “Man”.



I. Where did I come from?

A. Evolution says I happened by “random chance” from a fish

- Random: lacking a definite plan, purpose, or pattern [- Webster's] i.e. -- an accident;
- “DNA mutations are not random as previously thought.... The findings radically change our understanding of evolution.” [- University of California, Davis Website; January 2022]
- Scientists have never observed any species becoming any other species.

B. The Bible says I am here by divine design (Genesis 1:24-2:1; Psalm 139:14-17)

II. Who Am I?

A. I am God’s masterpiece (Genesis 2:7; 2:21-22; Psalm 139:14-17; cp. Jeremiah 1:5)

- Consider the amazing human eye, heart, brain, etc. Random chance cannot explain us.
- I must never complain about my unchangeable features, but rather, thank my Designer.

B. I am God’s “beloved” (Illustrated by the Song of Solomon; John 3:16; Romans 5:8)

C. I am God’s image and likeness on earth (Genesis 1:26-27)

Genesis 5:3 *And Adam... begat a son [Seth] in his own likeness, after his image....*

- We are not identical to God, but like Him in many ways, as a child is “like” his parents.
- God is a spirit (John 4:24), but when He manifests Himself to man, it is almost always in a human form; i.e.--The O.T. “angel of the LORD”, and Jesus in the N.T.
- When I look in the mirror, I am looking at God’s image and likeness on earth.

1. I have intelligence like God

Adam and Eve were fully developed in maturity, with vast, God-given knowledge (Gen. 1:26, 28; 4:17-22). Much of man’s early knowledge was lost after the global flood and the scattering and isolation after the Tower of Babel. The “Stone Age” and “cave men” were results of this devolving of the human race.

2. I love, fellowship and communicate like (and with) God (Genesis 3:8)

We possess a higher level of emotion and passion, desire for companionship, along with the ability to enjoy a beautiful sunset, music, art....

3. I can make rational choices with a free will, like God (Genesis 2:16-17)

4. I have a moral conscience like God (Genesis 2:24)

Man has an inborn sense of moral right and wrong. Adultery, murder, stealing, abuse, etc. are “bad” in every culture. That universal consciousness of moral right and wrong has led every society to establish systems of laws and justice.

5. I am a triune being like God (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Body	Physical existence	Plants, animals, man
Soul	Conscious life	Animals, man
Spirit	God-awareness	Man

6. I live forever, like God

- God created me to live in eternal fellowship with Himself. (1 Cor. 1:9)
- When I rebel against God and His laws, I am separated from fellowship with God (= spiritual “death”; Genesis 2:17).
- Death is not “ceasing to exist,” but separation. Physical death is separation of the soul and spirit from the body. Spiritual death is soul and spirit from God.
- Restoration of fellowship with God (spiritual “life”) comes when justice is satisfied and my sin penalty is paid. (Romans 6:23; 5:8; John 1:12)
- If I die still separated from God by my sin, I must spend eternity in a lake of fire. (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 15; 21:8)

Why Does it Matter That We Are Made in God's Image and Likeness?

Because mankind is divinely designed in the "image and likeness" of God....

☞ **God's "image and likeness" make every human worthy of dignity, respect and love.**

(Luke 10:29-37; John 4:4-27)

- This includes male and female, young or elderly, able or disabled, in the womb or out of the womb.
- This is why it is always wrong to bully, belittle, abuse, exploit another human being. Such behavior results from a "survival of the fittest" mindset.

☞ **"Image and likeness" speak of ownership** (Luke 20:24-25)

- Ancient kings marked the boundaries of their territories with statues, (images) of themselves.
Cp. Genesis 1:27-28 *So God created man in his own image.... Be fruitful, and multiply, and [fill] the earth....* -- God wanted the whole earth to be filled with His "images".

☞ **"Image and likeness" speak of offspring** (Genesis 5:3 - Seth)

- Genesis 5:3 *And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth.*
- John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.*

☞ **"Image and likeness" speak of representation**

- Jesus is the image and likeness (representation) of God to mankind.
 - Colossians 1:15 *Who is the image of the invisible God....*
 - John 14:9 *...he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father....*
- Every Christian is the image and likeness (representation) of God to man. (Col. 3:10; 2 Cor. 3:18)
 - Romans 8:29 *For whom He did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son.*
 - Sin has grossly distorted God's "image and likeness" in me, like a photo left in the rain.
 - The work of the Holy Spirit of God is to restore the lost image of God in me. (2 Cor. 3:18)
 - Other religions make images of their gods. We are specifically told not to do that. (Exod. 20:4)

The only image of Himself that God desires on this earth, is you and me.
- Is my world observing the "image and likeness" of my God in my daily life?
 - 1 Peter 1:16 *Be ye holy; for I am holy.*
 - 1 John 4:7 *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God....*
- What kind of photo ("image") do you like to present to others of yourself?
- What do you do with imperfect images on your camera? (Aren't you thankful that God is more gracious?) We ought to strive to be "glamor portraits" of our God, giving the world a beautiful and clear picture of just how good, kind, loving, holy, righteous... our God is.

☞ **Satan will counterfeit God's "image"**

Satan's end-time anti-Christ will come with a walking, talking, living "image" of himself, demanding to be worshiped (Rev. 13-14). His "image" will be a representation of himself, and a claim to ownership of the planet. We are the walking, talking, living images of the true God and Christ. Are we leading others to worship our God?

“Why am I Here” and “Where am I Going?”

Last week we examined the first two of the four great questions of humanity--“Who am I”, and, “where did I come from”? The Biblical answer in summary is, I am God’s beloved masterpiece, created in His image and likeness. Here are the next two questions:

III. Why am I here?

- A. **To glorify God** (Revelation 4:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31 ...*do ALL to the glory of God.*)
“Glorify” means, “to light up brilliantly; to represent as glorious” [- Webster’s Dictionary]
- B. **To love God** (Gen. 3:8; Deut. 10:12; Matt. 22:36-38 -- Man’s “greatest commandment”)
- C. **To serve God** (Gen. 1:26; 2:15; Deut. 10:12; 1 Sam. 12:24; Ps. 100:2; Eccles. 12:1, 13)
☞ Man’s failure to follow and fulfill his God-given purposes results in emptiness, brokenness and “dysfunction” in individuals, and in society as a whole. (Solomon called it “vanity”)

IV. Where Am I Going?

- A. **According to Evolution and atheism -- Nowhere**
- B. **According to Deism -- Don’t know where**
- C. **According to the Bible -- Somewhere forever**
 - 1. **A final judgement before God** (Romans 14:11-12; Acts 17:31; Heb. 9:27)
 - 2. **A forever destination with or without God** (Matthew 25:46)
I will live as long as God lives, in one of two places:
 - **Eternal torment** -- “hell” (Mark 9:43-44; Revelation 14:11; 20:11, 10, 15)
 - **Eternal glory** -- “heaven” (Revelation 21-22)
 - **Everyone has a choice** (John 3:16; 3:7 -- *Ye must be born again.*)

Doctrine of Angels, part 1

God's Heavenly Beings

Angels are more prevalent around the birth of Jesus than at any other time in Scripture, appearing to Joseph, Mary, Zacharias (John the Baptist's father), and the shepherds. Ancient civilizations left us records, pictures and statues depicting heavenly beings similar to those described in the Bible. Many people have personal stories about interactions with angelic beings. The most reliable, authoritative and trustworthy source of information about angels is the Bible, where they are mentioned several hundred times in thirty-four different Biblical books.

I. Angels - God's messengers

- "Angel" comes from the Greek word, *angelos*, meaning messenger.
- The OT Hebrew word translated "angel" is *malak*, which also means messenger.

A. Descriptions

1. **Spirit beings** -- They can take on different forms (Hebrews 1:14)
2. **Sometimes appearing as ordinary men** (to Abraham - Genesis 18:2f; to Lot - 19:1f)
Hebrews 13:2 ...*some have entertained angels unawares.*
3. **Sometimes appearing as glorious men** (Matthew 28:3; Revelation 10:1)

B. Disinformation: The Bible never describes angels as having wings, as being women, as singing or playing musical instruments (i.e. harps), and they are not departed people.

C. Duties -- Message bearers and ministers to God's people -- Part 2: "Our Heavenly Helpers"

II. Archangels - God's war generals (Daniel 10:10-18; 12:1; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7)

A. Description

- There is a hierarchy and ranking of angels.
- There is more than one chief prince or archangel.
- Michael is the only named archangel.

B. Duties

- Michael is involved in some kind of spiritual battle in all four Biblical appearances.
- An archangel is connected with the calling up of the saints. (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

III. Cherubim - God's guardians

- These are not babies with wings, and they are not "angels".

A. Description (Ezekiel 1:5-14)

1. Cherubim have four faces (ox, eagle, lion, man), four wings, four hands, legs like a man's, but feet like calves, and skin the color of shining brass. They move at the quickness of lightning bolts.
2. Satan was one of God's guardian cherubs (Ezekiel 28:12-19)

B. Duties

- Guardians of the Garden of Eden and tree of life until the flood (Genesis 3:24)
- Guardians over the ark of the covenant (Exodus 25:18-20)
- Ezekiel saw cherubim standing guard at the temple doors (Ezekiel 10:3)
- Ezekiel saw carvings of cherubim standing at the doors of the Millennial Temple (Ezek. 41:18-25) Archeologists call these huge guardian statues, "Lamassus".
- Solomon hired a sculptor from Tyre to carve lamassus for his palace. (1 Kings 7:13f)



IV. Seraphim - God's worship leaders (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:6-9; also not angels)

A. Description: One face, six wings, multiple eyes

B. Duties: Proclaim God's holiness;

The role of the heavenly creatures is never to receive worship, but to direct worship to God.

V. Angel of the LORD in the Old Testament - God's Son

- The "angel of the LORD" appeared to Hagar (Gen. 16:10-13), Abraham (Gen. 22:15-16), Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4). There are many other OT occurrences when the Angel of the LORD appears, looking like a man, talking like a man, yet claiming to be God.
- Years later, a baby came to Earth, who grew up and looked like a man, talked like a man, and even talked with God like a man, yet, He claimed to actually be God.
- The "Angel of the LORD" in the OT is the Christ of the NT--God's visible, audible revelation of Himself to men--"*Immanuel... God with us.*"

Doctrine of Angels, Part 2

God's Messengers & Man's Ministers



I. Descriptions of angels -- God's heavenly messengers

- "Angel" comes from the Greek word, *angelos*, meaning messenger. The Old Testament Hebrew word that is translated "angel" is *malak*, which also means messenger.
 - The Bible never describes angels as having wings, as being women, as singing or playing musical instruments (i.e. harps), and they are not departed people.
- A. They are created beings** (Psalm 148:2-5; Colossians 1:16)
- B. They were created before the beginning** (Job 38:4-7; cp. "son's of God" in Job 1:6; 2:1)
- C. They are a great number of beings** (Hebrews 12:22 - "i.e. *innumerable*"; Rev. 5:11)
1. As many as the stars? -- Astronomers estimate more than 10/22nd stars in the universe.
 2. Their number is forever fixed -- They do not reproduce (Matthew 22:30), and they do not die (Luke 20:35-36).
- D. They are spirit beings** (Hebrews 1:13-14 *Are they not all ministering spirits...*)
1. **Sometimes appearing as ordinary men** (Genesis 18 and 19)
Hebrews 13:2 *...some have entertained angels unawares.*
 2. **Sometimes appearing as glorious men** (Matthew 28:2-4; Revelation 10:1)
They are spirit-beings, with a visible body (Rev. 5:2, 11; 8:2; 14:6), but are different in their composition (1 Cor. 15:39-40 -- "*celestial bodies*").
- E. They are volitional beings** -- Emotions; ability to choose right or wrong (Luke 15:10; Jude 6)
- F. They are aware of what is happening on Earth** (1 Cor. 4:9; 11:10; 1 Timothy 3:16; 5:21)
Luke 15:10 *...joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*
- G. They are marvelous beings**
1. Transform appearance (See "spirit-beings" above.)
 2. Appear and disappear (Luke 1:11; 2:13)
 3. Travel through space (Daniel 9; Luke 1:19, 26; Acts 12:11 -- Heaven to Earth)
 4. Live in a different, unseen dimension (Daniel 10:12-14; Ephesians 6:12)
 5. Superhuman strength (2 Kings 19:35; Psalm 103:20; 2 Thess. 1:7; 2 Peter 2:11)
 6. Superhuman intelligence (2 Samuel 14:20; Daniel 9:21-22)
 - * But angels are not omniscient, omnipotent, or omnipresent like God.
- H. Angels are inferior to God** -- He is not an angel or archangel as some teach. (Heb. 1:4)

II. Duties of angels -- man's heavenly ministers

- A. Message bearers to God's people**
- **Who were some Biblical people who received messages from God by angels?**
(Gen. 19; Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Matt. 28:5-6; Luke 1:19, 26; 2:10-11; Acts 1:11; 27:22-25)
 - **Might God send messages to us today by His angels?** (Hebrews 13:2)
- B. Ministers to God's people**
Hebrews 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?* -- That's us!
1. **Protection** (Daniel 6:22; Psalm 34:7; Acts 5:17-20; 12:7)
Matthew 18:10 *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. -- "God's angels?"*
 2. **Provision and comfort** (Genesis 21:17-21; 1 Kings 19:5-6; Mark 1:13; Heb. 1:14)
 3. **Carry believers to heaven** (Luke 16:22; Cp. Matthew 13:41-42)
- **Might God protect and provide for us today by His angels?**

☞ God created an entire class of beings apparently for the purpose of watching over and caring for us, His children. "Only heaven will reveal the multitudes of instances in which angels protected or assisted us in our earthly journey." - Dr. Michael Bere

☞ Would you rather be an angel or a human? _____

☞ Angels are servants; we are sons Angels are messengers; we are the bride of Christ!

Doctrine of Satan and the Fallen Angels

God's Nemesis & Man's Enemies



The Bible teaches a literal, living being known as “Satan.” Twenty-six Biblical books and every NT writer refer to him. They call him the devil and the tempter (Matt. 4:1, 3), the wicked one (Matt. 13:19), our enemy (Matt. 13:39), a liar, the father of lies and a murderer (John 8:44), a wolf (John 10:12), the prince of this world (John 12:31), the God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4), the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2), a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8), a dragon and a serpent (Rev. 12:9), the accuser of the saints (Rev. 12:10) and the deceiver (Rev. 20:10). His names include Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12), Beelzebub (Lord of dung, Matt. 12:24) and Apollyon (destroyer, Rev. 9:11). Jesus certainly believed in Satan. He mentioned him fifteen times and had conversations with him (Matt 4:1-10; 16:23).

I. Satan's Past

- A. Exalted description** (Ezekiel 28:13-15 -- Addressed to the king of Tyrus, a “type” of Satan)
- A cherub (vs. 14; four faces, wings and hands, legs like a man's; feet like calves)
 - God's guardians (vs. 14 “*covereth*” means to fence in, cover, protect, defend; - Strong's)
 - Clothed in beautiful, precious gems (vs. 13)
 - Musical (vs. 13 -- *tabrets* are tambourines)
 - Created “*perfect*” (vs. 15), but with a free will (Isaiah 14:12-14)
- B. Exalted position**
- Appears to have been the chief of the cherubim. “*Lucifer*” (Isaiah 14:12) means morning star; the brightest in the sky.
 - Appears to be more powerful than archangels (Jude 1:9)
 - Appears to be the most powerful, beautiful created being in God's universe
 - His position led to pride (Ez. 28:17 - *Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty....*)

II. Satan's Present

- A. His present location -- exiled from heaven** (Isaiah 14:12-14 -- Five “*I will's....*”)
- Luke 10:18 *And [Jesus] said unto them, I beheld Satan, as lightning, fall from heaven.*
- B. His present obsession -- opposes all that God does and loves**
- Often described as an apex predator: wolf, lion, dragon, serpent; also a thief, murderer;
1. **He opposes God's creation and the human race** (Genesis 3 - Man's fall)
2 Corinthians 4:4 *...the god of this world hath b_____ the minds of them....*
 2. **He opposes God's people and work** (1 Timothy 4:1-3; Revelation 2:10; 12:10)
1 Thessalonians 2:18 *...Satan hindered us.*
 3. **He opposes God's Word**
He denies the authority of Scripture (Genesis 3:1 - “*Hath God said...?*”), the deity of Christ (2 Pet. 2:1), salvation by grace through Christ alone (Gal. 1:6-9; Eph. 2:8-9), and the second coming of Christ (2 Peter 3:4).
- C. His present condition**
- Satan is smart and powerful, but NOT omnipresent, omnipotent or omniscient like God.
1. **He is cursed** (Genesis 3:14 -- The snake is a reminder to us of Satan's curse.)
 2. **He is condemned** (Genesis 3:15; Colossians 2:13-13; John 16:11)
- Satan does not need to be feared by God's child.
Jam. 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee....* 1 John 4:4 *...g_____ is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

III. Satan's Future (Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:15)

“Whenever Satan reminds you of your past, just remind him of his future.”

Romans 16:20 *And the God of peace shall b_____ Satan under your feet shortly....*

- Means to break in pieces; crush, trample; (Mark 14:3; Revelation 2:27; cp. Ps. 2:9)

Revelation 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone... and shall be tormented day and night f_____ and ever.*

IV. Satan's Soldiers

Our English word, "demon," comes from the Greek word, *daimon*. The KJ Bible calls them *unclean spirits* and *devils*.

A. They were expelled from heaven

- Rev. 12:4, 9 *Satan... was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*
- Many are held in chains in darkness until their judgement day (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)
- Others are allowed freedom to assist Satan, as we see throughout the Gospels.

B. They were heavenly beings -- "angels"

- Spirit beings dwelling in an unseen dimension with superhuman strength and intelligence

C. They torment people

- In the Gospels (Matt. 8:28; 12:22; 17:15-18; Mk. 9:22-25 -- Insanity, illness, depression)
- In the Tribulation (Revelation 9:1-11)

D. They influence people against God (Acts 16:16-18)

- Matt. 13:19 *...then cometh the wicked one and catcheth away that which was sown....*

E. They help Satan to oppose God's people and their work

- Ephesians 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood....*

F. They can indwell the bodies of unsaved people (Matthew 17:15-18; Acts 16:16-18)

- There is no Biblical instance of any follower of Jesus being demon possessed. When people came to Jesus, the demons left.
- Acts 16 is the only specific Biblical account of anyone but Jesus expelling demons.

G. They will one day bow the knee to Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11)

H. Their final destiny is eternal torment in the lake of fire (cp. Revelation 20:10)

- Matthew 25:41 *...into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and h_____ a_____.*

➤ We are not to be obsessed by, nor ignorant of, Satan and his demonic forces.

➤ For further study, request the "I" lesson (Invisible Enemy) and "V" lesson (Victory over Satan and Sin).

Doctrine of Sin

Why Do I Need a Parachute?



A man is quite comfortable on an airplane when a hostess comes up and suggests he put on a parachute. At first, he sees no reason for the parachute. It's bulky, heavy, uncomfortable, and the other passengers may laugh at him. Then, he looks out the window and sees the plane's engines are on fire. Suddenly, he reaches desperately for the parachute and gratefully straps it on. The Doctrine of Sin explains why we desperately need a "parachute".

I. The source of sin

- A. Entrance of evil into Heaven – Lucifer's choice (Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:12-14)
- B. Entrance of evil into Earth – Man's choice (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6)

II. The spread of sin

- A. The first couple (Genesis 3:1-6)
- B. The first child (Genesis 4:1-3)
- C. The first civilization (Genesis 6:5, 11-12)



III. The substance of sin - Idolatry

- A. What is "sin"?
 - 1 John 3:4 ...*sin is the t_____ of the law.*
 - Greek - *anomia* = lit. no laws; a rejection of God's rules; (Ex. Cain; Luke 19:14)
 - Romans 3:23 *For all have s_____, and come short of the glory of God.*
 - Greek - *hamartano* = lit. missed the mark (of God's perfection)
 - James 4:17 *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is ____.*
 - My will and way instead of God's; (cp. Isaiah 14:13-14 -- Lucifer's five "I will's....")
- B. What's the problem?
 - All sin is saying "no" to God, and "yes" to self. i.e. - worship of self;
 - All sin, at its root and core, is idolatry. That is why there are no "small" sins.
- C. Who's on the throne? (Colossians 1:8 *That in all things Christ might have the preeminence.*)
 - Exodus 20:3 *Thou shalt have no other gods _____ me.*
 - Before me* does not mean priority, but, not in His presence or sight. God does not demand or deserve to be at the top of my pile of gods, but to be my only God.
 - "In every heart there is a throne. When self is on the throne, Christ is on the cross. When self is on the cross, Christ is on the throne." - S. D. Gordon
 - My struggle is not with sin, but with self, and self is my greatest idol.
- D. Why does it matter? (Isaiah 59:2 *Your iniquities have separated between you and your God.*)
 - When I choose something, someone or self instead of God, I choose separation from God, either in my relationship as His child (1 John 1:7) or in my eternal destiny (Romans 6:23).

IV. The scale of sin - Universal and Personal (Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12; 1 John 1:8)

- A. We are not sinners because, or only if, we sin. We sin because we are natural-born sinners.
- B. Environment affects the kinds of sins we commit, but environment is not why we sin.

V. The seriousness of sin - Destruction

- A. Sin destroyed God's plan (Gen. 1:31; 3:17-19 -- Everything about life became a struggle.)
- B. Sin destroys my relationship with God (Gen. 3:8; Ps. 66:18; Isaiah 59:2; 1 John 1:6-8)
- C. Sin destroys my relationships with others (Genesis 3:12-13; 4:1-8)
- D. Sin destroys my peace of mind and sanity (Psalm 51:12; Romans 12:2; Phil. 4:6-9)
- E. Sin destroys my body (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 6:18; Prov. 6:27)
- F. Sin destroys my soul (Rev. 21:8 *...the lake which burneth... which is the second death.*)

VI. The solution for sin - A Sacrifice (Gen. 3:21; 4:3-4; 8:20; 12:7; 22:9; 35:1)

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son....*

Doctrine of Salvation

God's Scarlet Parachute, part 1

(Genesis - Psalms)

Luke 24:27, 31 *And beginning at Moses and ALL the prophets, [Jesus] expounded unto them in ALL the scriptures the things concerning HIMSELF... And their eyes were opened, and they KNEW HIM!*

The entire Old Testament is an orderly, progressive, unfolding revelation of God's Rescue Plan for humanity--a man who would heroically give His life to save the world from death and destruction brought on by man's sin.

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Genesis

- † **God's rescue plan will involve a man child to defeat and destroy Satan** (Genesis 3:15)
- † **God's rescue plan will involve a death** (3:21; 4:4)
- † **God's rescue plan will involve a blood sacrifice** (Genesis 4:1-5)
- † **The Savior will be a descendent of Abraham** (12:3), **Isaac** (21:12), and **Jacob** (25:23) -- a **J_____**
- † **The Savior will come from the Hebrew tribe of J_____** (49:10; Matt. 1:2-16)
- † **The Savior will be a substitute sacrifice provided by God--He would be God Himself** (22:8, 13)
- † **The Savior will be like Adam, the perfect man** (Romans 5:14), **but better than Adam** (1 Cor. 5:22)
- † **The Savior will be like Noah's Ark, the only way of deliverance** (6-9; Heb. 11:7; 1 Peter 3:18-22)
- † **The Savior will be like Melchizedek, an eternal king of peace** (14:18-20; Heb. 5:10; 7:1-3)
- † **The Savior will be like Joseph, the son rising from rags to the king's right hand** (Genesis 37-50)
 - Read Genesis 37-50, and look for the similarities between Joseph and Jesus.

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Exodus

- † **The Savior will be like the Passover Lamb** (Exodus 12; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7)
- † **The Savior will be like manna** (Exodus 16; John 6:58)
- † **The Savior will be like the smitten rock issuing life-giving water** (Ex. 17; Jn. 4:13-14; 1 Cor. 10:4)
- † **The Savior will be like the Tabernacle** (Exodus 25-27; Hebrews 9:8-12)
- † **The Savior will be our High Priest** (Exodus 28-40; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 3:1; 4:15; 9:11-12)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Leviticus

- † **The Savior is pictured by the sacrifices**
 - **Burnt offering** -- The Savior will give Himself completely to the Father (1:1-5; Heb. 9:13-14)
 - **Meat (unleavened meal) offering** -- The Savior will be sinless (2:1-3; cp. Luke 3:22; 22:19)
 - **Peace offering** -- The Savior will restore peace with God (Lev. 3; Rom. 5:1; Col. 1:20-22)
 - **Sin offering** -- The Savior will remove guilt (Lev. 4:1-5; John 19:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 10)
 - **Trespass offering** -- The Savior will pay our wages of sin (Lev. 5:5-6; Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn. 1:9; 2:1; 2 Cor. 5:19; Heb. 9:8-12)
- † **The Savior is pictured by the seven Holy Days**
 - **Passover** -- A slain lamb whose blood saved men from death (Lev. 23:5; Ex 12; 1 Cor. 5:7)
 - **Unleavened Bread** -- The holy walk of the Savior's people (23:6; 1 Cor. 5:8)
 - **First Fruits** -- The first eternally resurrected one (23:20; 1 Cor. 15:20; Always on Sunday)
 - **Weeks** (Pentecost) -- Pictured Christ's great harvest -- 3000 saved! (Deut. 16:10)
 - **Trumpets** -- Announces a grand arrival (23:23-25)
 - **Day of Atonement** -- Blood applied to the Mercy Seat on the ark (Lev. 16; John 2:2)
 - **Tabernacles** -- A coming kingdom of peace (Lev. 23:33-44)
- † **God's rescue plan explained** -- Lev. 17:11 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood... it is the _____ that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Numbers

- † **The Savior is pictured by the serpent on the pole** (Num. 21:4-9; John 3:14-16)
- † **The Savior is pictured by the red heifer** (Numbers 19)

Red symbolized blood. No blemish (not even a hair of another color) symbolized purity. The heifer (a female cow) symbolized the giver of life; NOBODY could enter God's presence until cleansed.
- † **The Savior is pictured by Balaam's prophecy** (Numbers 24:17)
- † **The Savior is pictured by the Cities of Refuge** (Numbers 35)

God designated places of refuge for anyone guilty of accidentally taking another's life. The cities were accessible to all with well-maintained access roads (Deut. 19:3). The guilty sinner was safe inside the city as long as his high priest lived. (cp. Hebrews 4:14)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Deuteronomy

† **The Savior is pictured by Moses** (Deuteronomy 18:15; cp. John 1:21; 6:14; Acts 3:20-22)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Joshua

† **The Savior is pictured by Joshua** (The Greek name is "Jesus", meaning savior, deliverer; Matt. 1:21)

† **The Savior is pictured by Rahab's "scarlet line"** (2:18, 21; Research "scarlet" in the Bible)

† **The Savior is descended from Rahab** (Matthew 1:5)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Judges

† **The Savior appears as the Angel of the LORD -- "Christophany"**

- ¼ of the Old Testament appearances of Christ are in Judges. Why?
 - 17:6 *...every man did that which was right in his own eyes.* -- Israel's lowest point
 - Romans 5:20 -- *...where sin abounded, _____ did much more abound!*

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Ruth

† **The Savior is pictured by Boaz, the redeemer kinsman** [Research the Hebrew word, "goel"]

† **The Savior's Laws of Redemption are illustrated** (Ruth 4:4-6; Lev. 25; Deut. 19, 25)

- The redeemer must be RELATED ("kin") to those he redeems (Ruth 4:4; Lev. 25:25-49; cp. John 1:14; Rom 1:3; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 2:11)
- The redeemer must be ABLE to pay the full price of redemption (Ruth 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- The redeemer must be WILLING to pay the price of redemption (Ruth 3:11; Lev. 25:25; cp. Matt. 20:28; John 10:15, 18; Gal. 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Heb. 10:7)

† **The Savior's gentile bride is pictured by Ruth** (1:4; Eph. 5:30-32; Rev. 21:9)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in the Books of History (1 Samuel through Nehemiah)

† **The Savior is prophesied in Hannah's song** (1 Samuel 2:10 -- *his anointed* = Hebrew "Messiah")

† **The Savior is pictured by Samuel, a prophet, priest and judge in favor with God** (2:26; Lk. 2:52)

† **The Savior is pictured by David**

† **The Savior is King David's royal heir** (2 Sam 7:10-16; Matt. 21:9; 22:45; Rom. 1:3; Luke 1:32).

† **The Savior's line is preserved** -- Judah has only had one reigning family and dynasty--King David's.

† **The Savior is pictured by Solomon, the prince of peace ruling over Israel's Golden Age** (Matt. 12:42)

† **The Savior is pictured by Elisha, the miracle-working preacher**

† **The Savior is pictured by Ezra**

- He was a priest who led the faithful remnant to freedom in the Holy Land, rebuilt the temple and reinstated Biblical worship. (Messiah will do this. Ezekiel 40-48; Zechariah 14:16)

† **The Savior is pictured by Nehemiah** (Philippians 2:5-7; John 4:34)

- He left the king's side to work with peasants and modeled total dependence upon God.

† **The Savior is pictured by Esther, similar to the Messianic picture presented by Joseph in Genesis**

- Like Joseph and Jesus, Esther was falsely accused. (3:8; Matt. 26:60)
- Like Joseph and Jesus, Esther was sent, *"for such a time as this"*. (4:14; cp. Galatians 4:4)
- Because of her relationship with the king, Esther could intercede for her people. (5:3; 1 Tim. 2:5)
- She was willing to die for her people. (4:16; John 10:15-17)
- The universal law of death was superseded by a new law of life (8:8-11; Romans 6:23)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Job

† **Job knows he is a sinner in need of a Redeemer** (7:20; 40:4; 42:6)

† **Job knows his Redeemer is coming** (19:25 -- The promised "seed" of Genesis 3:15)

† **Job knows his sins are forgiven, and he has eternal life through his Redeemer** (19:26; cp. 21:30)

† **Job knows he is saved by trusting his Redeemer** (13:15)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in The Psalms (Luke 24:44)

"Messianic Psalms": 2, 8, 16, 20, 21-24, 31, 35, 40, 41, 45, 50, 55, 61, 68, 69, 72, 89, 96-98, 102, 109, 110, 118, 132;

† **The Savior will be crucified** (Psalm 22:14-18, 69, 118)

† **The Savior will come back to life** (Psalm 22:22-31; 16:9-11; cp. Acts 2:27)

† **The Savior will be crowned King** (2; 8; 16:8-11; 24; 72; 89, 110; 132; Heb. 2:6-8; Acts 2:25-28)

† **The Savior is Creator GOD** (Psalm 24:7-10)

Doctrine of Salvation

God's Scarlet Parachute, part 2

Proverbs - Malachi

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Proverbs

† The Savior is wisdom personified (insert "Christ" for "wisdom" - 4:7; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30; Col. 2:3)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Ecclesiastes

† The Savior is the only way to a meaningful life -- life without the Savior is "vanity". (1:2; 12:1)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in The Song of Solomon

† The Savior is pictured by Solomon, the loving groom (2:4, 16; 6:3; 7:10; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-8)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Isaiah

† The Savior will be born to a virgin woman (Isaiah 7:14; cp. Gen. 3:15; Matt. 1:18, 22-23)

† The Savior will be "Emmanuel", GOD with men (8:8; Matt. 1:23)

† The Savior will be God coming as a child to be a king (9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33)

* Isiah 9:6 is a dual, or blended prophecy where two events are seen as one by the prophet.

† The Savior will be publicly anointed by God's Spirit (11:2; 61:1-2; Luke 3:22 - dove; 4:16-21)

† The Savior will perform many miracles and healings (35:5-6; Matt. 4:23-24)

† The Savior will be preceded by a herald in the wilderness (40:3-5; Matt. 3:1-3--John the Baptist)

† The Savior will be scourged, His beard pulled out, and spit on (50:6; Matt. 26:67; 27:26)

† The Savior will be severely disfigured (52:14; Matt. 26:26-31)

† The Savior would be despised and rejected (53:3; Matt. 27:20-23)

† The Savior will suffer for the sins of others (53:4-5, 8; cp. Gen. 22:13; Luke 23:34; Rom. 5:6-8)

† The Savior will refuse to defend Himself (53:7; Matt. 27:12-14)

† The Savior will be with criminals and the rich in His death (53:9, 12; Matt. 27:44; 57-60)

* Most of these fulfillments were carried out by His enemies, not His friends.

† The Savior will return from the dead (53:12; Matt. 28:6)

† The Savior will satisfy ("propitiate") God's wrath (53:11; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)

† The Savior will be honored by gentile world leaders (60:3)

† The Savior will come as a great conqueror (63:1-6; 66:16-19; Zech. 14; Rev. 19:11-21)

† The Savior will rule a peaceful world (65:17-25 -- a dual prophecy; Rev. 20:1-4)

† The Savior will create a new heaven and a new earth (65:17-19; Rev. 21)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Jeremiah

† The Savior will be **THE LORD** [Jehovah] **OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. (23:6; John 8:58; 10:30)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Lamentations ("Lament" means to mourn)

† The Savior is pictured by Jeremiah, "a man of sorrows" (2:11; 3:48-49; Isa. 53:3; Matt. 23:37-38)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Ezekiel

† The Savior is the glory of God (3:22-23; The "Glory of God" throughout the Bible is Jesus)

† The Savior is the true Shepherd (34:11-31; Ps. 23; John 10:14 -- *I am the good shepherd....*)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in Daniel

† The Savior is the crushing stone (Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45)

† The Savior is the fourth Man in the fire (3:25; cp. 6:22 - was Jesus in the den of lions too?)

† The Savior is the Son of Man (7:13; Zeph. 1:2; Matt. 26:63-66)

† The Savior is the MOST High (7:27; Gen. 14:18-20)

† The Savior's countdown begins (Daniel 9:25; See a Study Bible or commentary for explanation.)

God's Rescue Plan Revealed in the Minor Prophets (Hosea - Malachi)

† The Savior will bring victory over death (Hosea 13:14; 1 Cor. 15:55)

† The Savior will restore Israel from among the nations (Joel 3:1-2; Matt. 25:31-32; Acts 17:31)

† The Savior will restore the fallen House of David (Amos 9:11)

† The Savior will rule over all the nations around Israel (Obadiah vs. 21)

† The Savior's death and resurrection are pictured by Jonah (Jonah 2:2-6; Matt. 12:38-41)

† The Savior will be struck with a rod in the face (Micah 5:1; Matt. 27:30; cp. Psalm 22; Isaiah 53)

† The Savior will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:5-6; Luke 2:1-7)

† The Savior is the coming Judge (Nahum 1:2; Rev. 19-20)

† The Savior is the coming Messiah (Habakkuk 3:13; 1 Samuel 2:10 - the "anointed")

† The Savior is the LORD, at "The Day of the LORD" (Zephaniah 1:2; 2:11; 3:8, 15-17; Zech. 14:9)

† The Savior is the Desire of all nations (Haggai 2:7)

- † The Savior is God's perfect servant (Zechariah 3:8; 6:12-13; Mark 10:45)
- † The Savior will be presented on a donkey (Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:1-9)
- † The Savior will be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:4-13; Matt. 26:15; 27:5-9)
- † The Savior will be pierced (Zech. 12:10; cp. John 19:34, 37)
- † The Savior will be a cleansing fountain (Zech. 13:1; John 1:29; 1 John 1:9; Rev. 7:14)
- † The Savior's hands will be wounded (Zech. 13:6; cp. John 20:20, 25)
- † The Savior will conquer all Israel's enemies (Zech. 14:1-9; Mal. 4:1; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-16)
- † The Savior will rule over all nations (Zech. 9:10; 14:9)
- † The Savior will be worshiped by all nations (Malachi 1:11)
- † The Savior will heal all nations (Malachi 4:2)

How Christ and the early Christians led people to saving faith in the Redeemer

- Luke 18:31 *Then He took unto Him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and **all** things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man shall be accomplished.*
- Luke 24:27-31 *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in **all** the scriptures the things concerning himself.... And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him....*
- Luke 24:44-48 *And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all** things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me. Then opened He their understanding that they might understand the scriptures.*
- * Notice that "all" the Scriptures point to Christ. He is on every page. Cp. Matthew 5:17-18.
- ** "Law, prophets, psalms" and "scriptures" refer to the entirety of the O.T. -- there were no N.T. scriptures yet.
- John 1:43-45 *We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*
- John 5:39, 46 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.... For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me.*
- Acts 3:18-19 *But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out....*
- Acts 8:34-35 *...Then Philip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus.*
- Acts 17:1-3 *...Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.*
- Acts 18:28 *For he [Apollos] mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.*
- Acts 26:22-23 *...witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.*
- Acts 28:23 *...he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.*
- Romans 1:1-2 *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures).*
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

👉 The Old Testament matters deeply to New Testament Christians! The Old Testament told mankind what was going to happen. The New Testament tells us what did happen. (By the way, many of the predictions were fulfilled by Jesus' enemies, who had every interest in NOT fulfilling the prophecies.) Christ is the central character and theme of the O.T. The first generations of Christians preached and led people to Christ exclusively from the O.T. Before the "Romans' Road," they followed the "Scarlet Rope" from Genesis to Jesus, and millions were effectively convinced and converted to Christ. The "Scarlet Rope" used by the early church is not the only way to lead people to Jesus, but especially in an age of Biblical ignorance, it may still be the best way.

Doctrine of Salvation

God's Scarlet Parachute, part 3

The Saving Blood in the New Testament



After His original promise of a deliverer for humanity in Genesis 3:15, God directed more than 30 writers to give us 39 different books over 1200 years, with each book unfolding something new about the coming Savior. Finally, Malachi laid down his pen, and for the next 350 years, the world waited for the promised Redeemer who would once-and-for-ever pay for all of mankind's sins. While the world waited, God was working, preparing the world, moving entire empires at his bidding. It has been said, "God may be silent, but God is never still." *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons* (Galatians 4:4-5). John's Gospel opens with a striking announcement by John the Baptist, "...Behold the _____ of God, which taketh away the _____ of the world" (John 1:29b). How could a man be a Savior for all humankind? John 1:1 and 1:14 inform us that this Man is none other than God in flesh (the "incarnation"). Why is He called a "Lamb"? John was connecting Jesus with the OT blood sacrifices and with Leviticus 17:11, *...it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul*. The Scarlet rope continues to a cross where God's own precious, perfect blood is poured out as a complete payment for all mankind's sins.

I. The blood's source -- a perfect man (Luke 23:4; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

- Hebrews 4:15b He *...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without _____.*
- Mary was His mother, but God was His Father; He had none of Adam's sin nature.



II. The blood's sufficiency -- a once and forever sacrifice (Hebrews 9:12)

- The OT animal blood was called an "atonement" (Heb. *Kaphar*, a temporary covering). It was insufficient to deal with our sin problem. But Jesus takes all our sins away forever (John 1:29).
- 1 John 2:2 *The propitiation... for the sins of the whole world;* (a satisfactory, complete payment)

III. The blood's strength -- Everything I need to be restored to fellowship with God

- A. **Jesus' blood redemms me** - Pays my penalty, and buys me for Himself (1 Peter 1:18-19)
Col. 1:14 *In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*
- B. **Jesus' blood pardons me**
Matthew 26:28 *"Remission of sins"* means freedom, pardon, forgiveness, deliverance;
- C. **Jesus' blood cleanses me** (Hebrews 9:14; Revelation 1:5)
1 John 1:7 *...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
- D. **Jesus' blood reconciles me to God** (Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 10:19)
Colossians 1:20 *Having made peace through the blood of His cross....*
- E. **Jesus' blood justifies me** - Declared "not guilty" by God, my final Judge (Heb. 9:27)
Rom. 5:9 *...being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*
- F. **Jesus' blood guarantees my final victory** (Hebrews 9:12)
Revelation 12:11 *And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb....*

IV. The blood's accessibility - "Whosoever will, may come." (Acts 10:43; 1 John 4:15; Rev. 22:17)

- Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

The "Scarlet Rope" runs from Genesis to Jesus, and now to you. Adam grabbed hold of it by faith. Able took it and was saved; Cain refused it, and was lost. Noah, David, Isaiah and countless others have taken it. You can too. Realize the imminent danger you are in--that you are hopelessly and helplessly drowning in an ocean of sin. You must believe that Jesus is God's rescue plan, a perfect Savior, and that His blood paid the penalty in full for all your sin and that He rose again from His tomb. All one must do is reach out, and grab that lifeline to be pulled by God's omnipotent arms to the safety of Heaven's shore. Are you willing to turn from living life your own way, and accept His free offer and gift of forgiveness today?



Doctrine of The Church

Part 1: The Bride of Christ

“The Greatest Love Story of All Time”



One's wedding day is often the most anticipated event of a person's life. Every born-again follower of Christ has a wedding day in their future. Jesus Himself has been waiting since eternity past for that glorious day, and the signs indicate, it's getting very close!

I. **Christ's Bride in eternity past** (Eph. 1:3-7 -- *...chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world....*)

- God delighted to give His beloved Son a willing bride who would love Him, worship Him, serve Him, and display His glory for all eternity. This is the glorious purpose of God's creation and redemption.
- This bride would not be one person, but one body, which the New Testament calls, "the church."
- This bride would be a beautiful, eternal, extraordinary gift like no other. (John 6:37-40; 17:6, 26)
- Hebrews 12:2 *...for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross....*

II. **Christ's Bride in the Old Testament** (a "great mystery", later revealed to the apostles; Eph. 5:32)

- A. **The Wedding Psalm** (Psalm 45 -- "A Song of Loves"; A Messianic Psalm about Jesus)
1. **The Groom, God's Son** (45:1-8; Hebrews 1 quotes this psalm and applies it to Jesus.)
 2. **The Bride, God's redeemed** (45:9-17; Cp. Rev. 19:6-9 -- This is Christ and His bride.)
45:15 *With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the King's palace.*
- B. **The Wedding Song** -- The Song of Solomon: A picture of the King and His adoring bride;
- 2:4 *He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love.*
- 2:16; 6:3; 7:10 *I am my beloved's, and His desire is toward me.*

III. **Christ's Bride in the New Testament -- the church** (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-8)

- The New Testament church as a whole is comprised of all who have trusted in Christ for salvation and have received eternal life. If Christ is your Savior, then you are His bride.

IV. **Christ's Bride in Hebrew custom** [from "Marriage" in International Standard Bible Encyclopedia & Smith's Bible Dictionary]

- A. **The covenant** ("betrothal, espousal")
A betrothed couple was considered legally married even though the actual wedding ceremony would not take place until a future date. This was a binding contract that required a legal divorce to dissolve. (cp. Matthew 1:18-19) During this period, the groom was preparing a new home for his bride.
- B. **The calling out**
When the father approved the preparations, he sent his son to call the bride to their new home. She would know the time was getting close, but the exact date was not announced. The bride was to keep herself pure, and be prepared, ready, and eagerly waiting for the bridegroom's coming at any time.
- C. **The ceremony**
The groom brought his bride to his father's house where there would be a wedding ceremony followed by feasting, festivities and fellowship often lasting seven or more days.

V. **Christ's Bride in the future**

- A. **The Groom is preparing a forever home** (John 14:2 *...I go and prepare a place for you....*)
- B. **The Groom will call us to the wedding** (John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- C. **The Groom and bride will enjoy a marriage feast in the Father's house** (Revelation 19:6-9)
- D. **The Groom will reveal the magnificent new home prepared for His bride** (Revelation 21:2)

Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

Doctrine of The Church, part 2

The Body of Christ

“What’s The Big Deal?”



Jewish pilgrims from across the ancient world had travelled to Jerusalem for the Festival of Weeks, also called “Pentecost”, when 3000 people responded to the gospel preached by Peter. That day, the first local church was planted, was empowered by the Holy Spirit, and began its unstoppable march to the ends of the earth.

I. The magnitude of the church -- *It’s a big deal!*

A. Jesus is the founder and foundation of the church

- Matthew 16:18 ...*I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
- Ephesians 2:20 - Jesus is the corner stone of the church.

B. Jesus paid dearly for the church

- Ephesians 5:25 ...*Christ also loved the church, and gave H_____ for it.*
- Acts 20:28 ...*feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own _____.*
- We value things based on their cost. No other institution cost so much as the church.

C. Jesus empowered the church by His Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 2; cp. Jn. 14:16-18; 16:7-8)

D. Jesus is eternally committed to His church

- Christ cherishes the church as one’s bride. (Ephesians 5:23-32; 2 Cor. 11:2)
- Christ nourishes the church as one’s body. (Ephesians 5:29)

II. The manifestation of the church

A. The global body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:4)

B. The local body of Christ (The majority of New Testament references)

The local church is made up of saved, baptized and obedient believers [Ac. 2:47; 1 Cor. 1:2] with a definite membership [Ac. 2:41, 47; 9:26; 20:28; 1 Cor. 5:7-13] regularly gathering for the purpose of edification [Ac. 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 14:26-33; 1 Thes. 5:11-15; Heb. 10:25], and going out for the purpose of evangelization [Mat. 28:19-20; Ac. 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20]. A local church is led by an ordained pastor [Ac. 12:17; 15:13-21; Col. 1:7; 1 Tim. 3:1f; Tit. 1:5-7], assisted by deacons, teachers, evangelists and others [Ac. 6:2-7; Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-13].

C. The local church movement spreading

- Jerusalem (Acts 2:41-42) to Samaria (Acts 8) to Caesarea (Acts 10) to Antioch (Acts 11:19-26) to Asia and Europe (Acts 13-28) and the world (Mark 16:15)
- Everywhere the apostles went, they started churches.

D. The local church movement unstoppable (Acts 3-9)

- Tacitus, 1st century Roman Senator and historian, wrote in *Annals of Rome*, “*Christians were arrested, and a great number were condemned. Before killing them, Nero used them to amuse the people. Some were wrapped in furs to be torn apart by packs of dogs. Others were crucified. Others were covered with tar, hung from poles, and set on fire in the night for illumination.*” (Paul and Peter were among those killed under Nero.)
- “The blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church.”
- Thousands of believers in Rome met in the infamous “Catacombs” under the city.

III. The mission of the local church (Matthew 28:19-20)

A. Evangelization - “Go ye therefore... baptizing them....”

B. Edification - *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you....*

IV. The message of the local church (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Timothy 1:15)

Mark 16:15 *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Doctrine of The Church, Part 3

The Body of Christ -- "Where Do I Fit?"



In our last study, we looked at the magnitude of the church, the manifestation of the church, the mission of the church, and the message of the church. Today, we continue our examination of the body of Christ, with a closer look at my personal role in my church.

V. The members of the local church

I must be...

- A. **Born again** (Acts 2:47 *...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be _____.*)
- B. **Baptized** (The Biblical order: Acts 2:41 *....received his word... baptized... added unto them*)
- C. **Behaving** (1 Timothy 3:15 *...behave thyself in the house of God...;* cp. Eph. 5:27)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:2 *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.*
 - The Greek word for "saints" is *hagios*, which means holy. Am I behaving like Christ?
- D. **Believing** (Acts 2:42 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine...;* cp. Amos 3:3)
- E. **Belonging** (Acts 2:41 *...there were added unto them about 3000 souls.*)
 - Every new member was recorded and counted. (Acts 1:15; 2:47; 4:4)
 - The church voted, an act that requires a membership. (Acts 6:5; cp. 14:23 - "ordained")
 - The church exercised discipline, which implies a membership. (1 Corinthians 5)
- F. **Busy** (Romans 12:1, 3, 6, 9, 12; 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Peter 4:10)
 1. **Grateful to serve** (Romans 12:1 *...your reasonable service.* 1 Cor. 15:58)
 - Luke 12:48 *...unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required....*
 2. **G_____ to serve** (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; Ephesians 4:11)
 - Spiritual gifts today include: prophesying (proclaiming), serving, teaching, giving, encouraging, administration, mercy and faith.
 - One's gift(s) are best found and developed by exercising them, much as one finds his best position on a sports team. It often requires trying something new.

↻ What is my Biblical spiritual gift? _____

↻ What other talent(s), experiences, training, personality, etc. do I have that God can use?

↻ How am I using my gifts to serve my church? _____

↻ How am I using my gifts to reach my community? _____

G. Brotherly

- Ephesians 4:29 *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying....* [building up; not tearing down]
- John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have _____ one to another.*

VI. The meetings of the local church

- A. **The first NT churches met daily** (Acts 2:46-47; 5:42)
- B. **The NT churches met regularly in a specific place**
 - First at the temple, then in houses
 - (Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon vs. 2; cp. Acts 8:3)
- C. **The NT churches met regularly on a specific day** --the first day of the week
 1. Jesus' resurrection was on Sunday. (Luke 24:1)
 2. Jesus first appeared to His followers on Sunday. (Luke 24:13, 36)
 3. Jesus appeared the second time to His followers on Sunday. (John 20:19, 26)
 4. Jesus sent His Holy Spirit on Sunday. (Lev. 23:10-11, 15-16; Act 2:1)
 5. John calls Sunday, "*The Lord's Day*". (Revelation 1:10)
 6. The churches in Troas and Corinth met on Sunday. (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2)
 7. Numerous ancient writings testify that the early church met regularly on Sunday.
 8. The Council of Laodicea in A.D. 364 did not change the meeting day to Sunday, as Adventists claim, but simply affirmed what churches were already doing.
 9. The ___th Commandment is the only one of the 10 not repeated in the letters to churches.
- D. **The NT church is to continue to meet faithfully until Jesus comes again** (Heb. 10:23-25)
This is why believers in hostile nations defy man's edicts and risk all in order to gather.

The Body & Bride of Christ

Doctrine of The Church, Part 4



VII. The management of the local church (Philippians 1:1)

- A. **Christ is the “Head” and “Chief Shepherd” of the church** (Eph. 5:23; 1 Peter 5:4)
Denominations are man’s attempt to improve on God’s plan. Historically, they always turn political, get messy, and usurp the authority of Christ over His churches. Spiritual authorities (archbishops, cardinals, popes, etc.) over multiple local churches are not found in the New Testament. Even the first church in Jerusalem, when it was consulted about serious questions in Acts 15, exercised no authority over, and only gave limited advice to the other churches.
- B. **The apostles gave us the foundation of the church** (Eph. 2:20; 4:11; Rev. 22:18)
There is no office, succession or need of apostles today. Their work is completed and contained in the NT.
- C. **The pastor is the under-shepherd** (“pastor”) and **overseer** (“bishop”) of the local church (1 Timothy 3:1f; Titus 1:5f; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
- D. **The deacons are the servants of the church and helpers to the pastor** (1 Timothy 3:8-13; cp. Acts 6:3f)

VIII. The means of support of the local church

* God devised a means of support for everything He created, even for microbes beneath Earth’s crust.

- A. **The church is supported by the joyful giving of God’s people** (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
 - 1. **Giving is a command for Christians** (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
 - 2. **Giving is to be preceded by salvation and full surrender** (2 Corinthians 8:5)
 - 3. **Giving is to be accompanied by a “cheerful”, willing heart** (2 Cor. 8:12; 9:7)
 - 4. **Giving is to be proportional and personal** (Acts 11:28-29; 2 Corinthians 8:12)
- B. **The church is to demonstrate Biblical financial practices**
 - 1. **Integrity** (2 Corinthians 8:20-21)
 - 2. **Accountability** (2 Corinthians 8:22)
 - 3. **Frugality and priority** (Matthew 6:33)
 - a. **Support of practical needs** -- facilities, utilities, insurance.... (Exodus 36:3)
 - b. **Support of faithful spiritual leaders** (Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor. 9:7-14; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)
 - c. **Support of suffering people** (Matt. 25:34-40; Acts 6:1f; 11:29; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 4:9-10; James 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17)
 - d. **Support of missions and evangelism**
(Matt. 6:33; Acts 13:2; 2 Cor. 11:8-9; Philip. 4:15-18; 3 John vss. 5-8)

When I consider that God, who gave His life for me, asks me to give a portion of my “stuff” back to Him (which He already owns anyway), and then promises me great eternal reward for doing so, why should lavish giving be a question or a struggle?

* * * * *

Wrap-up

- The purpose of creation, and of God’s amazing plan of redemption, is an eternal love gift for His only begotten Son. (God created marriage to help us understand His plan.)
God delighted to give His beloved Son a willing bride who would adore Him, worship Him, joyfully serve Him, and share His glory for all eternity.
- The marvelous bride of Christ is manifest locally in our gatherings, called “the church” throughout the New Testament. My relationship with my church is intended to be one of love, not duty. Jesus desires a bride, not slaves. (Revelation 2:4 *Thou has left thy first* _____.) Am I finding immense joy in faithfully serving? Do I long for every moment spent together in corporate and personal worship? Are costly gifts a delight? Is my adoration enthusiastic and heartfelt? Do I enjoy sharing His glory with others?
- Jesus’ bride, the church, will be the centerpiece of glory for eternity. The local church is my window into heaven. It is my privileged place to joyfully serve, and love, and learn about, and worship my Beloved.
- A grateful Christian who loves Jesus, and understands what the church is really all about, will not need to be coaxed, coddled or bludgeoned into making Christ’s church central to their life here on earth.





Doctrine of Last Things, part 1 “Preview of the Future”

Studies report that most churches and Christians seldom study Bible prophecy. Reasons given include, “It’s too confusing, divisive, inconclusive, not important, scary, and too many failed predictions by prophecy teachers.” So, let’s examine this neglected but important Bible doctrine.

Ten Reasons We Should Study Bible Prophecy

- I. **To see the hand of God** (Isaiah 46:9-11; 2 Peter 3:8; Psalm 90:4; Daniel 2:21)
 - The study of Bible prophecy is the study of God’s hand at work in the affairs of men.
- II. **For our profit** (2 Timothy 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable....*)
 - More than 1/4 of the Bible is, or was prophecy, when it was written.
 - If we are to preach “*the whole counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27), we must teach on Bible prophecy.
- III. **For our motivation to right living** (Matt. 24:42; Rom. 13:11-14; Col. 3:4-5; 1 Pet. 4:7; 2 Pet. 3:10-14)
 - Every mention of the Lord’s return in the N.T. is accompanied by a call to righteous living.
- IV. **For our encouragement** (Luke 21:28; John 14:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:7-8)
 - 1 Corinthians 16:22 -- “*Maranatha!*” -- Our Lord cometh.
 - Many of the promises and songs that Christians hold near and dear are based on prophecy.
- V. **For our curiosity** (1 Corinthians 2:9)
 - God made us curious to drive us to explore, investigate, and seek to know Him better.
- VI. **For our perspective** (Matthew 24:38-39; John 14:1-3)
 - God’s promises about the future change my perspective about life and the world around me.
- VII. **For our confidence in God’s Word** (Jeremiah 25:11-12; Daniel 2, 7)
 - Prophecy repeatedly affirms the truth of Scripture (John 13:18-19)
 - Not a single Bible prophecy to date has failed to come to pass.
- VIII. **For our evangelism**
 - Peter’s Pentecost sermon was based on the prophecies of Ezra and David. (Acts 2:14f)
 - Philip used the prophecies of Isaiah 53 to lead the Ethiopian to Christ. (Acts 8:30f)
- IX. **For our blessing** (Revelation 1:3; 22:7; 2 Timothy 4:8)
- X. **To know Jesus!** (Revelation 19:10b; Jesus is the focal point of all Bible prophecy.)
 - “*The Book of the Revelation of _____....*” (Revelation 1:1)
 - Bible prophecy confirms the truth about Jesus (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44; Acts 10:43)

Ten Guidelines to Understand Bible Prophecy

- I. **Be born again** (John 3:3b, 9-10; 1 Cor. 2:14 *The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit....*)
- II. **Be humble** (1 Peter 1:12 -- Some revelation is not fully understood yet, even by angels.)
- III. **Don’t place interpretations of Scripture on the same level as clear Scripture**
- IV. **Don’t be a date-setter** (Matthew 24:27-36)
- V. **Prophecy becomes more clear at or near its fulfillment** (1 Corinthians 13:9-12)
 - Example: Isaiah 53:9 *And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death....*
 - God gave prophecy in such a way that every generation would have reason to be looking up.
 - When Jesus comes back, every prophecy about His second coming will become perfectly clear.
- VI. **Assume that all Scripture is literal, unless the context indicates otherwise**
 - “*If the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense, or it become nonsense.*” - David Cooper
 - Every prophecy fulfilled to date has had a literal, historical fulfillment, so it is reasonable to assume that the remainder of the Biblical prophecies are literal also.
- VII. **Symbols in Scripture are explained by Scripture** (Example: Daniel 7; Jesus’ parables)
- VIII. **Daniel is the key to understanding Revelation** (Example: Daniel 7 explains Revelation 13.)
- IX. **Bible prophecy (like all Scripture) is to be understood in context**
 - Each statement of Scripture should be interpreted first by its immediate context, then with the broader context of its book, and finally compared with all the Biblical texts on the given subject.
- X. **Remember the “Rule of Double Reference”**
 - Many prophecies have a near partial, and then a later complete fulfillment. (Example: Isaiah 9:6)
 - Many Messianic prophecies blend predictions of His first and second comings.

✦ **The ultimate goal of Bible prophecy is not that we might know the future, but that we might know the One who holds the future.**

Doctrine of Last Things, part 2 -- What's Next?

The Second Coming

- Most who approach the Scriptures historically, grammatically and literally, agree on the basic outline of future events. The precise timing and details of some events are unclear, and may remain so until the time of their fulfillment. Remember this rule: "Prophecy becomes more clear at or near its fulfillment."
- The Bible presents two very different pictures of Christ's Second Coming. These are easily resolved by the "Rule of Double Reference" -- Two events are often seen as one. As we look back on the OT Scriptures, we clearly see that they predicted two separate comings of the Messiah -- a child and a king, a lamb and a lion, a suffering servant and a sovereign Lord. They did not contradict; they painted a complete picture. We again have two different descriptions regarding Jesus' return. They do not contradict, but complement and complete the picture, showing us two phases of His second coming.
 - A partial coming occurs before the time of wrath, at the beginning of the Day of the LORD.
 - A final, complete coming occurs at the end of the Tribulation and concludes the Day of the LORD.

One Coming in Two Phases

First Phase of Christ's Second Coming

- **Jesus comes to call away His bride, the church**
(John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:14-17)
- **This coming is followed by a wedding in heaven**
(Rev. 19:6-9; Eph. 5:25-27)
- **Jesus meets the saints and returns to heaven**
(1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)
- **Israel will follow Anti-Christ; 3½ years of peace**
(Daniel 9:27)
- **Imminent (can happen at any time); No man knows**
(Matt. 24:36; Titus 2:13; 1 Thess. 5:4-6; Rev. 3:3)
- **Before God's time of wrath; no prior signs**
(1 Thess. 1:10; Titus 2:13)
- **A message of hope and comfort for believers**
(1 Thess. 4:18; Titus 2:13)

Final Phase of Christ's Second Coming

- **Jesus comes back with His church**
(Col. 3:4; Zech. 14:5; Jude 14; Rev. 19:14)
- **This coming is followed by a war on earth**
(Zech. 14:3; Rev. 19:11-21)
- **Jesus returns to Earth and receives a kingdom**
(Zech. 14:9; Rev. 19:11-21)
- **Israel will follow The Christ; 1000 yrs. of peace**
(Zech. 12:10; Matt. 24:30; Rev. 20:1-7)
- **Occurs at the end of seven years of Tribulation**
(Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:29-30; 2 Thess. 2:3-8)
- **After God's time of wrath; many prior signs**
(Matt. 24:29)
- **A message of hope and comfort for Israel**
(Zech. 14:1-3; Rom. 11:25-27)
- **A message of judgment for unbelievers**
(Joel 3:12-16; Mal. 4:1-6; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 19:11-21)

I. First Phase of Christ's Coming -- the catching up

1 Thessalonians 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up [Latin - rapturo] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

- A. **A catching up to heaven is illustrated in the OT** (Gen. 5:22-24 - Enoch; 2 Kings 2:11 - Elijah)
- B. **A catching up to heaven is described in the NT** (1 Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17)
- C. **A catching up to heaven is an historical teaching**
 - Many early writings describe an expected, imminent catching away of believers.
 - Read online, "A Brief History of the Rapture", by Dr. Thomas Ice
- D. **A catching up to heaven was eagerly anticipated by the early church and apostles**
 1. **A pattern of removal from God's wrath**
God removed Noah's, Lot's and Rahab's families before dispensing His wrath. He protected his chosen people from His plagues on Egypt. His followers are delivered from His wrath in hell. God seldom removes Christians from man's wrath and the consequences of humanity's sin--wars, plagues, persecution, etc., but His wrath is reserved for those who reject Him.
John 3:36 *...he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
 2. **A promise of removal from God's wrath**
1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9 - *God hath not appointed us to wrath*--Context: Day of the Lord
 3. **A joyful anticipation of removal from God's wrath**
His coming is "imminent" and a source of great hope and comfort for believers.
(John 14:1-3; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; 4:15; 5:23; Titus 2:13)
- "They were not looking for something to happen; they were looking for Someone to come!" - Vance Havner

E. Our catching up to heaven requires preparation

Wherever we find Christ's second coming in the NT, it is accompanied by a call to right living.

1. **Be saved** (1 Thessalonians 5:1; 1:9-10; Hebrews 2:3)
2. **Be watching** (1 Thess. 5:6)
3. **Be encouraging** (1 Thess. 5:11, 14)
4. **Be working peaceably** (1 Thess. 5:12-13)
5. **Be rejoicing and praying** (1 Thess. 5:16-18)
6. **Be purifying** (1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 2:28)
7. **Be assembling** (Hebrews 10:25)

☞ Did I live last week in a way that "matters" to Christ, or that made a difference 100 years from now, or for eternity? (Matthew 24:36-39)

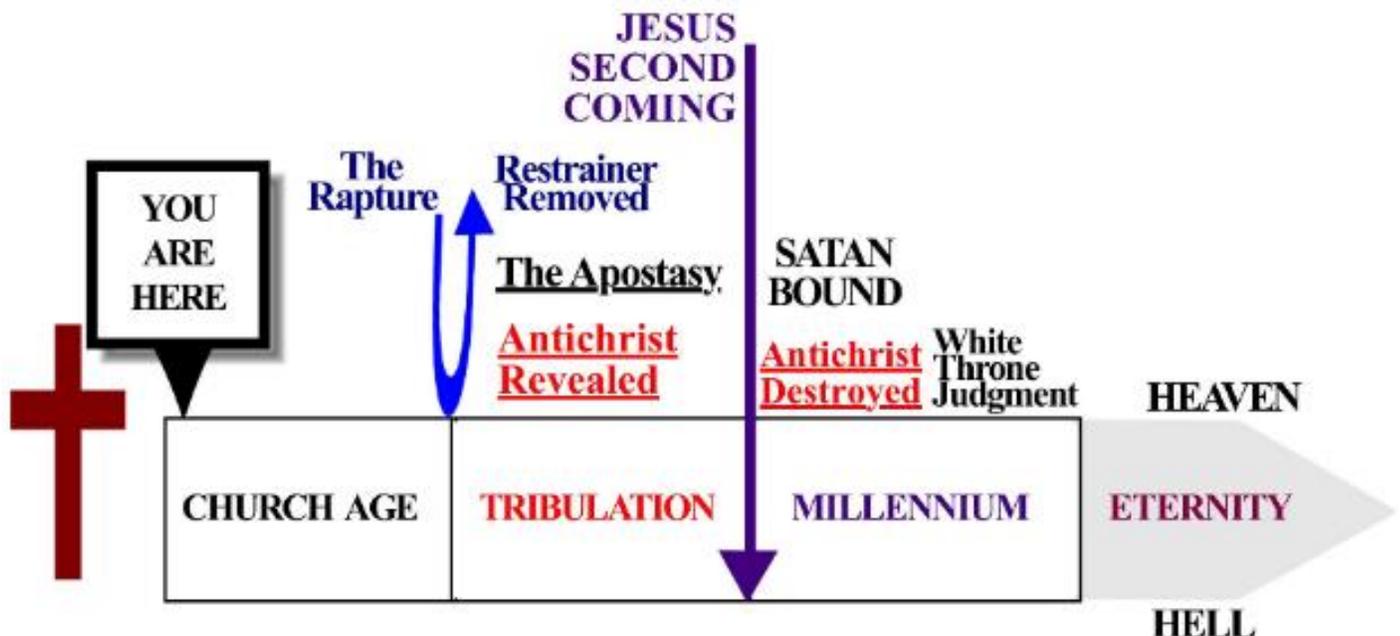
☞ How will I live differently this week in light of Jesus' imminent, any-moment, call home?

The Historical/Literal/Grammatical Approach to Scripture

"If the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense, or it becomes nonsense."

If God said it happened, then we can believe it DID happen, just the way He said it did, for example, the six twenty-four-hour days of creation in Genesis 1 and 2. If God said it will happen, then we can believe it WILL, exactly when, where and how He said. The first coming of Jesus in exact and literal fulfillment of the prophets, is the greatest verification for the literal approach to Bible prophecy.

The meaning of any Bible passage is determined by the context, as well as by grammatical and historical considerations. It does not rule out figures of speech, symbols and types, but these are all interpreted plainly by the Scriptures themselves, and are not subject to men's creativity. Many Bible teachers claim that the prophecies are "allegories" which must be interpreted, and not actual events in the future. But 2 Peter 1:20-21 says, "...no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." Let Scripture be its own interpreter.



Doctrine of Last Things, part 3

The Great Tribulation

Daniel's seventieth week of years (Daniel 9:24-27), frequently called, "The Day of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:12f), is the seven-year period between the first and the final phases of Jesus' second coming. The terrible nature of this period is revealed by the names given to it: "great tribulation" (Matt. 24:29; Rev. 7:14), "time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7), "great day of God's wrath" (Rev. 6:17), "A time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation...." (Dan. 12:2), a time "of wrath, ...trouble ...distress ...wasteness ...desolation ...darkness ...gloominess ...clouds and thick darkness" (Zeph. 1:14-15), and "sudden destruction" (Joel 1:15; 1 Thess. 5:3).

I. **Events on earth -- Seven years of "Tribulation"** (Revelation 6-19)

A. **Seven Seal Judgements** (Rev. 6)

- Wars, earthquakes, asteroids;
- All are actual, literal events; Nothing like them has ever happened in history.



B. **144,000 Jewish virgin male servants of God are sealed** (Rev. 7:1-8; cp. 14:1-5)

C. **An innumerable multitude of saved tribulation martyrs in heaven** (Rev. 7:9-17; 6:9; 20:4)

Why is God bringing such awful destruction to the world?

- One clear reason is that it will result in the greatest "revival" in human history! In addition to the 144,000 Jews who are converted, "a great multitude of all nations" (7:9) and one-third of all Israel (Zech. 13:8-9) will turn to the true God and His Son.
- One of the most effective tools for God to gain man's attention is a crisis. "A little fire now to turn millions from the eternal fire to come", is not harsh vindictiveness, but the love of a Father who sent His own Son to die for sinners. (16:9, 11; 9:20, 21; cp. 2 Peter 3:9)
- "If I knew all that God knows, I would do exactly what God does, just the way He does it."
- The decision to follow the true Christ, and not the anti-Christ, will almost immediately cost them their lives. (7:14-17; 20:4)

D. **Seven Trumpet Judgements** (Rev. 8-10)

- More natural disasters, hail, fire, asteroids; 1/3 of the oceans contaminated (ch. 7)
- Demonic creatures released (ch. 9)
- Another billion people will die. (9:18)

E. **Two supernatural prophets preach for 3½ years, then are killed and resurrected** (Rev. 11)

F. **War between Satan and Israel throughout history -- a glance back in time** (Rev. 12)

G. **Anti-Christ and his false priest rule the last global empire** (Rev. 13; Dan. 2:40-44; 7:7-9)

1. **His name**

- No actual name is given, only descriptions.
- John calls him "anti-Christ" = against Christ; a false Christ (false messiah)

2. **He will embody all that is evil, immoral and corrupt**

He is called, "man of sin, the son of perdition" and "that Wicked" (2 Thess. 2:3, 8), "the abomination of desolation" (Matt. 24:15), "a king of fierce countenance" (Dan. 8:23), and "a vile person" (Dan. 11:21).

3. **He will come as a peace maker**, [a "messiah"], brokering a seven-year treaty with Israel (Daniel 9:26-27)

4. **He will govern the world's religion** (13:4, 15), **people** (13:7, 16), **economy** (13:16-17), and **militaries** (19:19)

5. **He will have supernatural powers**, like a "Marvel" hero (13:3, 4, 13, -15; 2 Thess. 2:9)

6. **He will desecrate the temple in Jerusalem** (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 25:15)

7. **He will be defeated at the Valley of Megiddo by the true Christ** (19:19-20)

- H. **The 144,000 witnesses now in heaven; World-wide messages of three angels** (Rev. 14)
- I. **Seven Vial (bowl) Judgements** (Rev. 15-16 -- More plagues, darkness, quakes, hail, death)
- J. **Mystery Babylon** -- A global religion and a global government united against Christ (Rev. 17)
- K. **Destruction of Babylon** (Rev. 18)
 Babylon is the second-most-named city in the Bible after Jerusalem, and is Satan's capital city and seat of power, going back to Nimrod in Genesis 10.

II. **Events in heaven during the Tribulation**

- A. **An award assembly for NT believers** (Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10)
 - Our Heavenly Father's perfect plan and great delight is for each of His children to enjoy His personal, individual rewards for eternity. Am I letting Christ work in and through me to fulfill His special plan and purpose for my life, and to bless me for eternity?
- B. **A wedding and a feast for Christ and His bride** (Rev. 19:6-9; John 14:2-3; Eph. 5:25-27)
 - In Hebrew Bible-time culture, after the bride accepted the groom's marriage proposal, he left to get their home ready while she busily prepared for her wedding day. The date was not announced, but one day, when everything was ready, the groom would come with shouts and trumpets to call his bride away to their new home. The wedding day was accompanied by a feast that typically lasted seven days.
 - While the tribulation is happening on earth, the saints are already in heaven.

"Beloved, Jesus is coming! He is even NOW on the way.
 Ears of faith can hear the sound of His chariot wheels approaching.
 Every moment of time and every event of providence bring Him nearer."
 - Charles Spurgeon, "When Christ Returns"

Isn't it interesting that...

- astronomers are increasingly concerned with tracking every close encounter of asteroids with planet earth? [Rev. 6, 7; Nasa's DART Mission]
- DNA research has begun to identify the ancestry of the members of the tribes of Israel? [The 144,000]
- "all nations" will simultaneously see the dead bodies, will celebrate, and will witness the resurrection and ascension of God's two witnesses.
- the whole world is embracing and celebrating the most vile, immoral practices, and elevating those who practice them to places of honor? [Global acceptance of a wicked, immoral anti-Christ]
- the holy grail of peace accords today is a treaty between Israel and her neighbors?
- there is even an Israel at all? She is the only nation in history to ever lose her land and be reborn after 2000 years.
- the whole world is quickly moving to universal ID's and a digital currency that easily tracks and monitors every purchase of every consumer? [*No man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark....* Rev. 13:7]
- the world has becoming enamored and accustomed to people with supernatural powers through movies and games? [Marvel heroes, etc.]
- after 2000 years without a temple, every Biblical furnishing for a new temple, all the priestly garments and the temple cornerstone, are prepared and ready at a moment's notice? [The Temple Institute]
- "Megiddo [Armageddon] is among the most fought over pieces of ground in history."? [- HistoryNet]
- a modern mega-city can rise from the sands of the Middle East in just a few years? [Babylon to be a commercial world and religious center]

Why not believe in the literal fulfilment of Bible prophecy?
And why not believe that Jesus is coming back soon?

Doctrine of Last Things, part 4

Final Phase of Christ's Second Coming

Jesus' "second coming", and "the Day of the LORD", sometimes includes the entire seven-year period of tribulation bracketed on either end by His partial coming to catch away His saints, and His complete coming to Earth to reign. Other times, Christ's "second coming" and "the Day of the LORD" is the actual day of His return that concludes the seven-year period. Context tells us whether a passage is referring to the whole seven-year period of time leading up to His coming, or the actual day of His arrival. In our last meeting, we looked at the seven-year period, now we examine the very day of Christ's return, and His visible, global kingdom established on earth.



I. The Coming of Christ to Earth (Revelation 19:11-21)

A. War against Israel

Zechariah 14:1-2 ...*For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle....*

B. Jesus returns - The "Second Coming" (Zechariah 14:3)

1. **Jesus will be spectacular** (Zech. 14:4; Matt. 24:27-29; cp. Acts 1:9-12 -- Mt. of Olives)
Matthew 24:27-29 *For as the sun cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*
2. **Jesus will be universally visible** (Matthew 24:30)
Revelation 1:7 *Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him....*
3. **Jesus will be recognized** (Zechariah 13:6)
Zechariah 12:10 *...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced....*
4. **Jesus will be accompanied by His saints** (Jude vs. 14-15; Revelation 19:7-8, 14)
Jude vs. 14 *...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints....*
5. **Jesus will be victorious over the armies of the world at the Valley of Megiddo**
 - Revelation 16:16 - "Armageddon"
 - Cp. Isaiah 29:6-7; 66:15-16; Ezek. 20:33-34; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; Micah 5:10-15; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 9:14-17; 12:8-12; 2 Thess. 1:7-8; Rev. 14:20; 16:16-20; 19:15-21;
 - Zech. 12:9 *...I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*
6. **Jesus will execute justice on the Anti-Christ**
Revelation 19:19-20 *...cast alive into a furnace of fire burning with brimstone.*

II. The Kingdom of Christ on Earth

A. Satan will be restrained for _____ years (Revelation 20:1-3)

- *Bottomless pit* is from the Greek, "abyssos", a chasm of great, immeasurable depth.
- A period of 1000 years is called a "millennium", thus the name for Christ's kingdom age.

B. The world will be renewed similar to the time of creation

- Isaiah 11:6 *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb....*
- Isaiah 35:1, 5-6 *...the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose....* (Isaiah 65:25)
- This is not "heaven", but the conditions on Earth during the 1000-year reign of Christ.
- Sin, rebellious hearts, and death will still exist. (Isaiah 65:20)
- Ezekiel 47:8-9 - The Dead Sea and the Ein Gedi wilderness will team with life again.

C. The world will realize peace (Isaiah 2:1-4; 9:6; Micah 4:3; Zephaniah 3:13; Zechariah 8:4)

- Isaiah 2:4 *...they shall beat their swords into plowshares....*

D. Israel will repent and be restored to honor

- (Isaiah 11:10-12; Ezekiel 39:27-28; Amos 9:11-15; Zeph. 3:13-20; Romans 11:1-2)
- The "church" has not replaced Israel as the recipient of these prophetic promises.

E. The LORD (Jesus) will rule the Earth (Micah 4:1-7; Zech. 2:10-12; 9:9-10; Rev. 20:1-6)

- Psalm 24:9-10 *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.*
- Zechariah 14:9 *And the LORD shall be king over the earth....*

Jesus taught His followers to pray, *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven* (Matt. 6:10). One day that prayer will be answered! Jesus also said in John 3:3, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Will you enter His kingdom if you died today? _____

Doctrine of Last Things, part 5

The End!

I. Satan's final rebellion (Revelation 20:7-10)

- The Millennium is not h_____. It is a partially restored world, but not a perfect world. The believing survivors of the tribulation will repopulate the earth (Matthew 25:33-34). They will bear children, and will eventually die (Isaiah 65:23). Their offspring are still sinners who will still have to make a personal choice for, or against, Christ (Revelation 20:7-8).
- What may the world population be after 1000 years of bountiful crops, no wars and little disease?
- After 1000 years, _____ is released from the pit and rallies the world against King Jesus. (20:7)
- Even with a perfect King ruling a wonderful, peaceful, abundant world, those who rebel against His reign will number "as the _____ of the sea". (20:8)
- Those who remain with Christ appear to be a small remnant who take shelter in Jerusalem. (20:9)
- The coup ends suddenly and spectacularly, without a battle --and _____ came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. (20:9)
- Satan will join his anti-Christ in "the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are [they are still alive there after 1000 years], and shall be t_____ day and night f_____ and ever. (20:10)

II. Man's final destination (Revelation 21-22)

A. Lake of fire

- Those who have died without Christ have not ceased to exist. (20:12; Luke 16:19-31)
- They will meet God at "The Great White Throne Judgement". (20:11; Hebrews 9:27)
- This judgement appears to be for the purpose of justifying each person's eternal separation from God, and to determine their degrees of eternal punishment. (20:13)
- "Hell" is the temporary waiting place for those who die without Christ. (20:13-14)
- "Death" in the Bible means s_____. Physical death is separation of the soul and spirit from the body. The "second death" is eternal separation from God. (20:14; 21:8)
- Most who call themselves "Christians" do not believe hell is real. Should we believe them, or Jesus, who spoke a great deal about hell in the Gospels. He said it is...
 - a place of everlasting burning (Mark 9:48)
 - a place of outer d_____ (Matthew 8:12)
 - a place of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8:12; 13:42, 50)
 - a place with no h_____ (Matt. 12:32)
 - a furnace of fire into which people are cast alive (Matt. 13:42; Luke 16:24)
 - a place of "everlasting punishment" (Matt. 25:46)
 - prepared for the _____ and his angels (Matt. 25:41)
 - a place where the worm never dies (Mark 9:48)
 - a place of conscious "torments" where people beg for relief (Luke 16:23-24)
 - a place where the inhabitants never want loved ones to join them (Luke 16:28)
- And it is a place where God wants NOBODY to go. (John 3:16-18, 36; 2 Peter 3:9)

B. New Earth (Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:9-13)

- The present heaven and earth will be *dissolved* and *melt with fervent heat*. (3:10-12)
 - Will God simply stop holding together the atoms that make up the elements of the universes? (Col. 1:17b; Heb. 1:3 -- Jesus is holding it all together.)
- God must destroy and purge the old because _____ has been there. (2 Peter 3:13b)
- What do you suppose life on the new earth will be like? (Revelation 21:3-5)
- The new earth will be crowned with a magnificent capital city for the saints.
 - Revelation 21:2, 10-27 -- This is not heaven, but "*the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God _____ heaven (21:2), that great city, the holy Jerusalem,* (21:10)
- The new earth will have rulers and nations that will worship and serve God forever.



C. New Heaven (Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:10-13)

- Why are we told almost nothing about the "new heaven"?