

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")

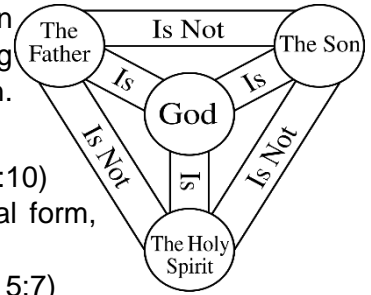
- The most attacked book in history, yet the most widely distributed book in history
- Guinness Book of World Records, 2021 -- approximately 7 billion Bibles have been sold (80 million per year) not counting the millions that are given away each year. (The 2021 top seller sold just 1.3 million copies.)

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

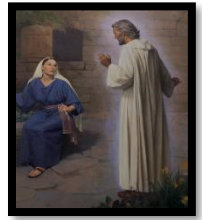
B. Duties: Proclaim God's holiness;

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; - Strongs)
 - 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. 24:63-66)

† 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?

