

Lies About God

Putting God in a Box & Creating Our Own Image of God

(Booklet #1 of 3)

Booklet 1- Lies About God, Putting God in A Box & Making Our Own God

Booklet 2 - The True Gospel & The Ignored Power of God's Holy Spirit

Booklet 3 - Developing A Heart for God – in Personal & Private Prayer

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by Philip Martinson (© September 1, 2015 – edited June 10, 2021)

Mark 7:6-8 “These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions”.

John 14:26 - The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything.

1 Corinthians 8:5-6 Even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:12 We struggle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

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Introduction: Lies About God - Putting God in a Box And Creating Our Own Image of God

You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do. - Anne Lamott¹

We may believe we know someone, but it is difficult to understand others, apart from an “Other-Person-Perspective” Likewise, it is impossible to know God, or His plan for this world, without input from God Himself. Our world and universe show and reveal God’s existence. **Romans 1:20** *Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.* But God’s direct revelation of Himself comes to us from Outside of THIS world. **John 8:23** *You are from below; I am from above. You are of THIS world; I am not of THIS world.* God’s method and plan to connect with us can be easily misunderstood; if we (1) rely on other people’s opinions; (2) depend on human ideas; (3) follow “Man-Made Traditions” and (4) are deceived by the Evil One, Satan. Is our image of God built on religious ideas about God and human traditions? **Mark 7:6-9** *“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions”. And He continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”* God’s truth is different from man’s sincerity. **John 7:46** *No one ever spoke the way this man does.* God draws us back to Him through Christ. **John 6:44-46** *Jesus answered. “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from Him comes to Me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only He has seen the Father.* Only God can enlighten us about Who He is. **Psalms 18:28** *My God turns my darkness into light.* We are taught about God, by God. **Psalms 32:8** *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

¹ Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott, published by Anchor Books (February 15, 2000); ISBN-10: 0385496095. Anne credits this to her “priest friend Tom”.

A. Is Our Image of God Accurate and True?

How do we understand and build our image of God, and how does God's Spirit enlighten and open our hearts? *Matthew 16:17* ***Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven.*** Our awareness of God may initially come from a pastor, a friend, our family, or from reading the Bible. It is God who opens our eyes towards Him. *Ephesians 1:18* ***I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people.*** Starting with a "seed," God's Spirit works within us to turn our hearts to Christ. *1 Corinthians 3:6* ***I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.*** Only God's Spirit can open our eyes and fallen hearts to a saving knowledge of Christ. *1 Corinthians 2:13-14* ***This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.*** Can our finite minds even comprehend or understand the "Glory" or "Divine Majesty" of an infinite being? *Isaiah 55:8-9* ***For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.*** When Moses asked God to show him His Glory, God revealed Himself with (1) His Goodness, (2) by Proclaiming His Name ("I AM" or "Yahweh" in Hebrew YHWH) and (3) by showing His Mercy and Compassion. God told Moses that no one could see Him and live. *Exodus 33:18-20* ***Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But", He said, "you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live."*** God's glory could not enter our world directly. It was by the nation Israel that God sent His Only Son into our world. God used Israel to display "His Glory" to the world. *Isaiah 49:3* ***You***

are My Servant, Israel, In Whom I will show My glory. Our human impurity is exposed and cannot exist in the presence of God. *Isaiah 6:5-7* “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty”. Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” In the Old Testament (Old Covenant), the “Glory of God” dwelt in the “Holy of Holies” of Israel’s Tabernacle. *Exodus 25:8* Have them make a sanctuary for Me, and I will dwell among them. Under the New Covenant, the “Glory of God” was shown to our world by God’s Son, Jesus Christ. *Hebrews 1:2-3* In these last days, God has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Christ is the visible image of God - His invisible Father. *Colossians 1:15* The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. God’s “Glory” was manifested and displayed by Christ in Grace and Truth. *John 1:14* And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For centuries God promised He would send the Messiah. *Isaiah 2:3-4* He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. God’s Messiah would not only rescue Israel but would bless and enlighten everyone in the world. *John 1:9* The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. This Gospel of Christ was prophesied, but not fully revealed. It was a mystery. *Ephesians 3:7-11* I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of His power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain

to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, Who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Even Satan, the Prince of THIS world, did not comprehend the mystery of Christ until the Blood of Christ defeated him. God's plan to rescue and redeem us was quietly revealed in the humility of God's Son. ***John 5:37-44 The Father who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form, nor does His word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one He sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life. "I do not accept glory from human beings, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept Me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?"***

False images of God bring false hope or assurance and form unhealthy behaviors and habits. It is better to know the truth than live in darkness with a delusion about our image of God. We may prefer to tolerate evil and unhealthy behaviors instead of being held accountable for our bad choices or actions. ***Proverbs 27:5-6 Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*** Abusive relationships may be too painful or dangerous for the light of truth to expose some evil. We need to trust and rely on Christ to guide us in finding a solution. It is the light of Christ that connects us with God and displaces the darkness of our fallen world with hope and a solution from God's Kingdom. ***John 8:12 He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". ONLY in Christ do we find the answer and the power of God to overcome the deceptions of our world. *John 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me YOU CAN DO NOTHING.****

1. God's Creation Misunderstood with Incomplete Truth

Before investigating creation, I doubted the Bible's accuracy and accepted the idea of the earth being 4.5 billion years old. So how could I expect the Bible to give me an accurate image of God?

As a child, I learned about Jesus at a church that didn't teach the Bible was accurate. I believed Jesus was real and sent from God, but also accepted the modern-day delusion of an old-earth, which overshadowed my personal "Image of God." I set my "old-earth" assumptions aside and read books on creation. I also attended a creation course taught by Donald Chittick (a Ph.D. expert on radiological dating methods) at George Fox College. I discovered countless resources supporting the actual Biblical record of creation and the worldwide flood event.² Surprisingly, I found most informed, "Creationists" studied both creation and evolution in detail, whereas many "Evolutionists" did not bother considering creation science or evidence of a "Young Earth." In his book, **The Science Delusion** (the United States version is **Science Set Free**), Dr. Rupert Sheldrake exposes the prejudice and delusion of modern science paradigms that shackle people's minds and limit a clear understanding of our earth's origin.³ Compare the science of creation versus evolution:

- a. The grandeur and complexity of God's creation is evident to all. ***Psalm 19:1-4*** ***The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens, God has pitched a tent for the sun.***

2 Excellent resources for understanding a "Young Earth View" of human origins & creation:

- a) Genesis Apologetics, P.O. Box 1326, Folsom, CA 95763-1326 (844-743-6374). Provides resources on "core" Creationist positions. <https://genesisapologetics.com>
Free App Download at: <https://genesisapologetics.com/product/1-free-genesis-app/>
- b) DVD - Produced by Thomas Purifoy Jr., **Is Genesis History**; (Compass Cinema, 2017). ISBN: 9780979852497; UPC: 723466876100; available at www.isgeneshistory.com
- c) Bryan Osborne & Bodie Hodge, **Quick Answers to Tough Questions**; (Master Books, New Leaf Publishing, July 2017). ISBN: 978-1-68344-010-9; www.masterbooks.com
- d) Robert Carter, Ph.D. **Evolution's Achilles' Heels**; (Powder Springs, Georgia: Creation Book Publishers November 2015). ISBN: 978-1-921643-82-8; www.creation.com

3 Rupert Sheldrake, **The Science Delusion** or **Science Set Free**; (Deepak Chopra, 2013) ISBN-10: 0770436722 or ISBN-13: 978-0770436728; <https://www.sheldrake.org/>

b. We can study both **Historical Science** and **Observational Science**.⁴ **Historical Science** describes a catastrophic flood from the Bible. **Observational Science** explains the flood and creation using Laws of Science that are (1) Measurable, and (2) Repeatable – facts that conflict with the evolutionary hypothesis.

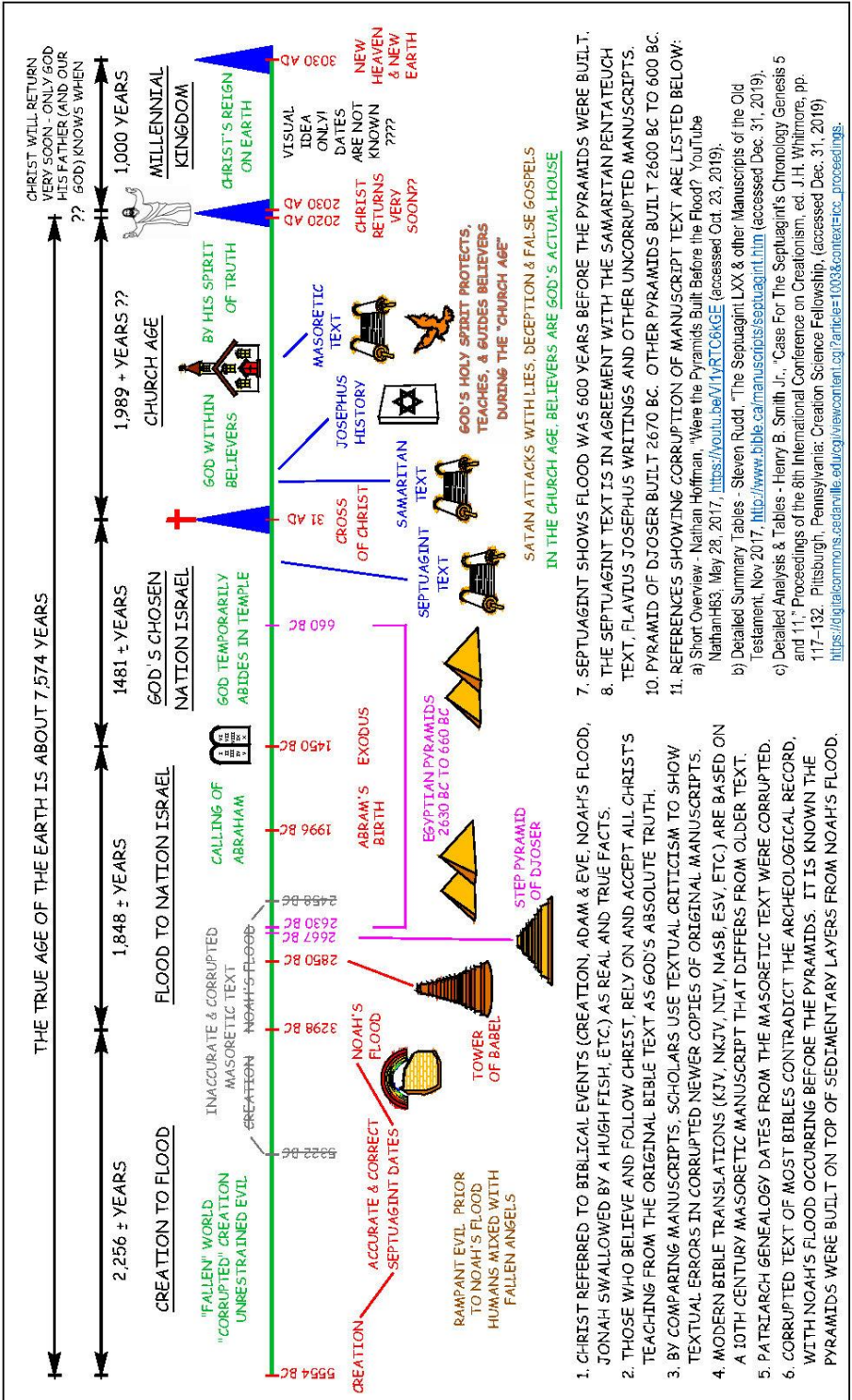
1. **First Law of Thermodynamics** – **Observational Science** - The total quantity of energy and matter in the universe is constant. **Historical Science** - *Genesis 2:1-3 **The heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day, God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day, He rested from all His work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.***

2. **Second Law of Thermodynamics** - **Observational Science** - Also called a law of increasing entropy, all things go from order to disorder - the universe is continually deteriorating, becoming less and less orderly. **Historical Science** - *Psalm 102:25-26 **In the beginning, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing, you will change them and they will be discarded.***

3. **Law of Biogenesis** - **Observational Science** - Life only comes from life. **Historical Science** - *John 1:1-5 **In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him, nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

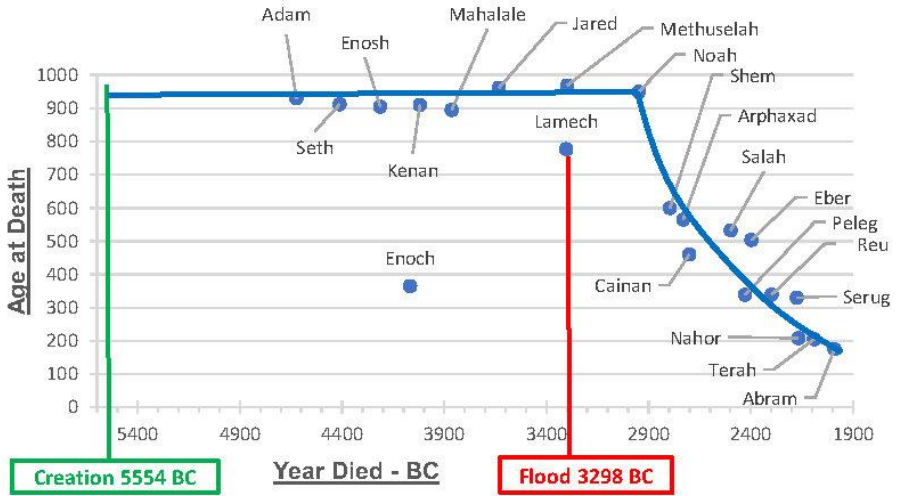
c. Archaeologists are verifying the accuracy of the TRUE Biblical record timeline. Recent discoveries show the actual location of the Red Sea Crossing (Bay of Aqaba) and Mt. Sinai (in Saudi Arabia). There is no discrepancy between the “true” Biblical and archeological record – if **accurately** interpreted. Modern Bible translations (from corrupted manuscripts) give inaccurate dates. The true Biblical and historical timelines are in agreement.

⁴ Answers in Genesis, "Science Confirms the Bible" YouTube Answers in Genesis, May 28, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFYswvGoaPU> (accessed March 12, 2020).



Biblical Timeline - Based on the uncorrupted Septuagint Text - Creation is at 5554 BC. Earth Age = 7,574 years at 2020 AD.

Life Span Decrease - After The Noachic Flood



Life Span Graph Notes:

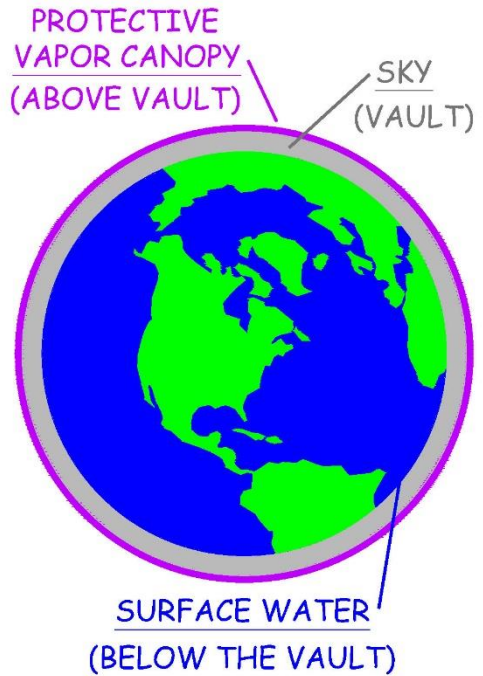
Enoch did not die A natural death. God took him from the earth. **Genesis 5:24 God took him away.**

Methuselah (Noah's grandfather) and Lamech (Noah's father) died near the flood date.

Our Decreased Life Span

During the flood, the vapor canopy collapsed & protection from radiation was lost. Life spans were reduced from 950 years to 120 years with a new equilibrium of the earth's systems (biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, etc.). **Genesis 6:3 "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."**

"Young Earth" Pre-Flood Model



PROTECTIVE "VAPOR CANOPY"

- d. Using a “Young Earth” Biblical understanding, Creationists have built a hypothetical model, of a Pre-Flood earth based on geological and paleontology discoveries.⁵ Genesis describes the catastrophic events of the Noahic Flood as follows:
1. The Pre-Flood earth is described with a water canopy over the sky (vault): ***Genesis 1:6-8 God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.”***
 2. Before the Flood, there was no rain: ***Genesis 2:5-6 No shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.***
 3. The vapor canopy collapse caused a torrential rain with added impact from subterranean magma upheavals: ***Genesis 7:11-12 In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day, all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.***
 4. There was no rain prior to the Flood. The rainbow was a sign another flood like this would not occur: ***Genesis 9:11-13 I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.***
- e. Perceived discrepancies in the Biblical and archeological records can now be explained, showing the historical timelines and Bible are in agreement. Nathan Hoffman provides a clear explanation of the Biblical timeline and manuscript variations on his YouTube Channel (*NathanH83*). He clarifies the patriarch ages, the Flood date with the Septuagint, Samaritan Pentateuch, and works of Josephus. In addition, Nathan specifically references

⁵ NW Creation Network, 8019 196th St. SW #4C, Edmonds, WA 98026 – Educational Resources Online, <https://www.nwcreation.net/ageyoung.html> (accessed Jan-14-2020).

the work of four reliable authorities who all believed and accepted the Greek Septuagint's record of the patriarch ages.⁶

1. Flavius Josephus - 1st century Jewish historian
2. Theophilus of Antioch - 2nd century church historian
3. Julius Africanus - 3rd century church historian
4. Eusebius of Caesarea - 4th century church historian

Steven Rudd is another resource on the patriarch ages and provides an in-depth analysis (with graphic tables).⁷ Bible translations today (NKJV, NIV, NASB, ESV) use the corrupted Masoretic text, instead of the older Septuagint text. Inaccuracies can now be exposed on the corrupted manuscripts.⁸

Manuscript	Date	Flood	Creation
Hebrew Masoretic	1008 AD	2518 BC	4114 BC
Greek Septuagint	400 AD	3298 BC	5554 BC
Samaritan Pentateuch	200 AD	3108 BC	4415 BC
Flavius Josephus	900 AD	3236 BC	5492 BC
Henry B. Smith Jr. reconstruct Genesis 5 & 11	Refer to Footnote 8	3298 BC	5554 BC

In his paper "**The Case for the Septuagint's Chronology in Genesis 5 and 11**," from the Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Creationism, Henry B. Smith Jr. concluded genealogies in today's Bible translations of Genesis 5 and 11 are inaccurate.⁹ He states the Masoretic Text Translations show the chronology of Adam to Abraham as "... **2008 years**. *The Samaritan Pentateuch presents markedly different chronological data for each epoch, for a grand total of **2249***

- 6 Nathan Hoffman, "Were the Pyramids Built Before the Flood?" YouTube NathanH83, May 28, 2017, <https://youtu.be/Vl1yRTC6kGE> (accessed Oct. 23,2019).
Nathan Hoffman, "How Long Were The Israelites In Egypt?" YouTube NathanH83, Oct. 10, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrVs5HqgthI> (accessed Oct. 25,2019).
Nathan Hoffman, "William Lane Craig - Septuagint Vs. Masoretic Genealogies." YouTube NathanH83, May 19, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrVs5HqgthI> (May 21,2020).
- 7 Steven Rudd, "The Septuagint LXX and other Manuscripts of the Old Testament, Nov 2017, <http://www.bible.ca/manuscripts/septuagint.htm> (accessed Dec-31-2019).
- 8 An excellent resource for understanding the Historical Accuracy of the Bible is the Associates for Biblical Research, PO Box 144 Akron PA 17501, (Henry B. Smith Jr. is the Administrative Director), <https://biblearchaeology.org> (accessed Jan. 1, 2020).
- 9 Henry B. Smith Jr., "The Case For The Septuagint's Chronology In Genesis 5 And 11," Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Creationism, ed. J.H. Whitmore, pp. 117-132. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Creation Science Fellowship, (Dec. 31, 2019) https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=icc_proceedings.

years. Calculations derived from the primary manuscripts (MSS) of the Greek Septuagint (LXX) yield a chronology of **3394 years** for this period, **1386 years greater than** [Masoretic translations (NKJV, NIV, NASB, ESV, etc.) and] “...places creation at 4004 BC and the Flood at 2348 BC.” The Septuagint (LXX) places “creation at ca. **5554 BC** and the Flood at ca. **3298 BC**”. He suggests the Masoretic Translations “...does not represent the original text, and is the result of a deliberate and systematic post AD 70 corruption.” **Refer to the following summary:**

The Difference In Manuscript Genealogies From Genesis

Patriarch	Masoretic			Samaritan			Septuagint				Flavius Josephus		
	Birth Year from Adam	Age at Son Birth	Age at Death	Birth Year from Adam	Age at Son Birth	Age at Death	Birth Year BC	Birth Year from Adam	Age at Son Birth	Age at Death	Birth Year from Adam	Age at Son Birth	Age at Death
Adam	0	130	930	0	130	930	5554	0	230	930	0	230	930
Seth	130	105	912	130	105	912	5324	230	205	912	230	205	912
Enosh	235	90	905	235	90	905	5119	435	190	905	435	190	905
Kenan (Cainan)	325	70	910	325	70	910	4929	625	170	910	625	170	910
Mahalale	395	65	895	395	65	895	4759	795	165	895	795	165	895
Jared	460	162	962	460	62	847	4594	960	162	962	960	162	962
Enoch	622	65	365	522	65	365	4432	1122	165	365	1122	165	365
Methuselah	687	187	969	587	67	720	4267	1287	187	969	1287	187	969
Lamech	874	182	777	654	53	653	4080	1474	182	777	1474	182	753
Noah	1056	502	950	707	502	950	3898	1656	502	950	1656	500	950
Shem	1558	100	600	1209	100	600	3396	2158	100	600	2156	100	600
Arphaxad	1658	35	438	1309	135	438	3296	2258	135	565	2256	135	465
Cainan	-	---	---	-	---	---	3161	2393	130	460	2391	130	460
Salah (Sala)	1693	30	433	1444	130	438	3031	2523	130	533	2521	130	460
Eber (Heber)	1723	34	464	1574	134	404	2901	2653	134	504	2651	134	504
Peleg (Phaleg)	1757	30	239	1708	130	239	2767	2787	130	339	2785	130	339
Reu (Ragau)	1787	32	239	1838	132	239	2637	2917	132	339	2915	132	339
Serug	1819	30	230	1970	130	230	2505	3049	130	330	3047	130	330
Nahor	1849	29	148	2100	79	148	2375	3179	79	208	3177	79	208
Terah	1878	70	205	2179	70	145	2296	3258	130	205	3256	70	205
Abram - Birth	1948	100	175	2249	100	175	2166	3388	100	175	3326	100	175
Septuagint	1440 Less Years			1139 Less Years			0 Base Year				62 Less Years		

Today's Year	2020 AD	Noah	600 Years Old at Flood	Abraham's Birth	2166 BC
Creation	4114 BC	4415 BC		5554 BC	5492 BC
Age of Earth	6134 Years	6435 Years		7574 Years	7512 Years
Flood - BC	2458 BC	3108 BC		3298 BC	3236 BC
Djoser Pyrmid	2670 BC	Pyramids Built Before Abraham		504 Years	
Egypt Pyrmids	2630 BC	Pyramids Built Before Abraham		464 Years	

Dates from "Uncorrupted" Manuscripts. Reliable resources were Steven Rudd and Henry B. Smith Jr.

1. Steven Rudd, "Bible Chronology Charts-Septuagint (LXX) vs. corrupted Masoretic, Nov 2017.
2. Henry B. Smith Jr, "The Case for Septuagint's Chronology In Genesis 5 & 11," 8th International Conf. on Creationism, Editor J.H. Whitmore, pp. 117-132. Pittsburgh: Creation Science Fellowship, 2018.

f. The Bible shows us God's purpose and His truth.¹⁰ Increased evidence and understanding support the accuracy of the Bible and how God's intelligent design permeates all living creatures - from humans to dinosaurs.¹¹ Fossils show plants and animals are the same throughout history, with no changes or transitional links. Common sense tells us a building has a builder; a painting has a painter; a book has an author; and our earth has a creator. Below are reference proofs for a young earth created by God:

1. The presence of DNA and Soft Tissue in Dinosaur Bones

*"Researchers are confirming that soft tissue are present in fossils...'lizard's keratin matched modern lizard keratin. This finding suggests that neither the biochemistry nor the lizard has evolved. A rapidly buried lizard skin in which biomolecules have survived should not surprise scientists who accept the Bible's account of earth's history" ...*¹²

2. Unusually little seafloor sediment Points to a Young Earth

*"...About 20 billion tons of dirt and rock debris from the continents and deposit them on the seafloor.... Yet the average thickness of all these sediments globally over the whole seafloor is not even 1,300 feet (400 m)...This evidence makes sense within the context of the Genesis Flood cataclysm, not the idea of slow and gradual geologic evolution...."*¹³

3. Adaptation versus Evolution (the Micro/Macro Deception)

"One of the dirty little secrets most people don't know is that there are, in fact, 2 types of Evolution – Micro-evolution, and Macro-evolution. Micro-evolution happens all the time and is perfectly Biblical. Macro-evolution is what Darwin claimed, and it never happens.... Evolutionists fill our textbooks, news reports and peer review publications with legitimate examples of observed Micro-evolution and no examples of observed Darwinian....or Macro-evolution. (Because there aren't any) The evolutionists then lump it all together and call it "proof of evolution."..."This "Micro-evolution" is fully accepted by Creation Scientists. [Adaptation] It has always been seen as an example of God's brilliance in creating all life forms with more genetic information than they use at any given time. This allows them to adapt to various environmental

¹⁰ Ray Comfort, "Ten of the Top Scientific Facts in the Bible", YouTube Living Waters, Feb. 10, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2sMJMXDiH4> (Jan-4-2020).

¹¹ Dinosaurs & the Bible (Debunking 7 Myths) YouTube Genesis Apologetics, Aug. 27, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3vQvgfwvbc&t=54s> (Accessed Jan. 6,2020).

¹² Dr. Tommy Mitchell, "More Soft Tissue in "Old" Fossils: Design in Nature", Answers Magazine, July 1, 2011; last featured October 12, 2014, (accessed October 23,2019), <https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/bones/more-soft-tissue-in-old-fossils/>

¹³ Dr. Andrew A. Snelling, "Very Little Sediment on the Seafloor:" <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/sedimentation/1-very-little-sediment-on-the-seafloor/> (Accessed Oct-23-2019)

changes in order to survive. This is the sign of a smart God”.... ¹⁴

4. Science Confirms Creation – Genetics, DNA and Geology

Astrophysicist and author, Dr. Jason Lisle, gives one of the best presentations on scientific facts in (1) genetics, (2) information science, and (3) geology, in the video, "**Science Confirms Biblical Creation**."¹⁵ Dr. Lisle explains assumptions used in the theory of evolution and exposes faults with the evolutionary arguments. Dr. Lisle's other books and resources include:

1. The Ultimate Proof of Creation: Resolving the Origins Debate
2. Discerning Truth: Exposing Errors in Evolutionary Arguments
3. The Stargazer's Guide to the Night Sky
4. Taking Back Astronomy: The Heavens Declare Creation
5. Why Genesis Matters: Christian Doctrine & the Genesis Account
6. www.jasonlisle.com www.icr.org (Acts & Facts Magazine)

5. Carbon-14 Supports a **Biblical Account of a Young Earth**

"In Dr. Libby's original work, he noted that the atmosphere did not appear to be in equilibrium...he attributed it to experimental error. However, the discrepancy has turned out to be very real. The ratio of 14C/12C is not constant"..."the assumptions were evaluated and shown faulty; the results supported the biblical account of a global Flood and young earth.".... ¹⁶

6. Our Complexity is Beyond Perception (**Partial Quotations**):¹⁷

- Your body has 100 Trillion Cells, but at conception, there was one single tiny cell with all the complexity that defines you and all your organs.
- 10,000 average size human cells can fit on the head of a pin.
- All species are complex, with unique immune systems designed to defend.
- Your brain has 100,000,000,000,000 electrical connections (100 Trillion) More than all the connections of all the electrical appliances in the world!
- The back of your eye has over 137 million light-sensitive cells wired to your brain. Your eye is self-cleaning and self-healing, as created by God and is not the result of arbitrary, blind, undirected, and meaningless chance.
- Cells have unique molecular transports moving materials within a cell.

¹⁴ Bob Dutko, "Evidence for Creation vs. Evolution: Top 10 Proofs", P.O. Box 380942, Clinton Twp., MI 48038; <http://www.toptenproofs.com/article.php?id=6> (Oct-23-2019).

¹⁵ Dr. Jason Lisle, Ph.D., "Science Confirms Biblical Creation", Institute for Creation Research, Calvary Chapel Quakertown YouTube, Aug. 24, 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=XatoDTIXRgY&feature=youtu.be> (accessed Apr-7-2020).

¹⁶ Mike Riddle, "Doesn't Carbon-14 Dating Disprove the Bible?:Chapter 7", *The New Answers Book 1*, September 20, 2007,(accessed October 23,2019), <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/carbon-14/doesnt-carbon-14-dating-disprove-the-bible/>

¹⁷ Michael Dimond, Creation is Scientific Fact, Wake Up YouTube, Feb-25-2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWM5sX132nA&feature=youtu.be> (accessed Apr-16-2020).

- Some cell bacteria use a 100,000 rpm flagellar motor to move in the cell.
- A flagellar motor has 30 separate protein parts assembled in an exact order, structure, location, and time - or it will not work, and the cell dies.
- Eight million flagellar motors would fit within a human hair cross-section.
- Cells use thousands of proteins, the simplest cell using 600 different kinds.
- Proteins made by sequencing 50 to 1,000 specific amino acids (20 types).
- Some proteins have thousands of sequenced amino acid chains.
- The 20 different amino acid types must be in a specific order for a protein to function. They are placed in the correct sequence by DNA in the cell.
- DNA is a master code with a four-letter chemical alphabet - ATCG.
- If DNA is absent, amino acids can't be placed correctly, a protein is not formed, and the cell will not survive. But DNA cannot function without at least 75 pre-existing proteins - only produced by DNA. Both are needed.
- DNA and proteins appeared at the same time - as created by God.
- DNA fiber is two-millionths of a millimeter thick, but exceptionally long when uncoiled and flattened. DNA from one of your cells stretches out to 7 feet.
- Yet DNA is so thin that it can't be seen with an electron microscope.
- If all the DNA present in your body were stretched out and placed end to end, it would run from the Earth to the moon over 500,000 times.
- Yet if you collected a set of DNA from all the people who ever lived on earth, the combined DNA of all people would weigh less than an aspirin.
- DNA is worthless without a system in our cells that can understand the DNA language and translate it into "machines" to build proteins correctly.
- Our cells also make identical copies of DNA with special protein machines that copy, proofread, detect errors, and correct mistakes in our DNA.
- Life includes not just matter and energy, but we have information from an intelligent source that created it and put the full data code in each cell.

7. Darwinism's Faults & Destruction of Society (Partial Quotes):¹⁸

- Fault 1 – NO missing links. Life appeared abruptly. Fictional drawings of a Nebraska man "culture" came from one tooth – later found to be a pig.
- Fault 2 - Microevolution = species **adaptation**, **NOT** species evolution.
- Fault 3 - After 170 years of looking for transitions - there are none.
- In a letter to Fredrick Engels, Karl Marx claimed Darwinism was the foundation for communism and justified the Survival of the Fittest.
- Communism is rooted in atheism. God is replaced with the State.
- Adolph Hitler used evolutionary Darwinism to justify building a master race - the epitome of Survival of the Fittest by the genocide of millions.
- In Darwinism, death has no hope but brings fatalistic progress. In Christianity, death is an enemy overcome by the Gospel of Christ.

¹⁸ Dr. D. James Kennedy, Darwin's Deadly Legacy, Wake Up YouTube, Apr-19-2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qHb3uq1O0Q&feature=youtu.be> (Apr-16-2020).

2. God's Image & Presence - Revealed in The World

God's image is easily distorted by institutionalized religions that explain human ideas, man's traditions, and expectations about God. Yet God reveals Himself directly to each of us through:

- a. Awareness in our Soul (mind, will, and emotions) – about who we are as a "person." ***Romans 2:14-15** When Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.*
- b. God's Spirit of Truth convicts us of our sin and our need for salvation. ***John 16:13** But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His Own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.*
- c. God's Word, the Bible, was written by God's Prophets and Apostles. ***Romans 16:25-27** Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith.*
- d. The miracle of Israel is a testimony of God's blessing, and a warning of Christ's return, judgment, and the destruction of evil is near. After being dispersed for 2,000 years, the nation Israel was reborn in one day (May 14, 1948), **exactly as promised**. ***Isaiah 66:8** Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Christ declared the oppression of Israel would continue until the end of the Church Age. **Luke 21:24** They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Israel's restoration and*

crushing victory in the 6-Day War stunned the world. A world that continues to deny and ignore the Hand of God and Christ's soon return. It was prophesied (2500 years ago) the desert would blossom. ***Isaiah 35:1-2 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*** Israel revolutionized agriculture with innovations that benefit the world. God promised the renewal of the Hebrew language. ***Zephaniah 3:9 Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve Him shoulder to shoulder.*** Everyone should tremble at the sign of God's renewed blessing and favor on Israel – as promised. ***Romans 11:29-30 God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience.***

- e. Writings of Christian authors with personal testimonies of God's presence in their lives. Some quotations include:
- "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." -CS Lewis
 - "A dead Christ, I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me." - Andrew Murray
 - "A drowning man cannot be saved until he is utterly exhausted and ceases to make the slightest effort to save himself." – Watchman Nee
- f. Personal testimonies of God's Power in surrendered Believers who are a message or "Letter of Christ" - showing the light of Christ to our fallen world. ***2 Corinthians 3:2-3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.***
- g. Scientists can see Intelligent Design, but may still believe in evolution. Yet, it **all** points to the glory of God's creation:
- "He who thinks half-heartedly will not believe in God; but he who really thinks has to believe in God." - Sir Isaac Newton
 - "To suppose the eye could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree" - Charles Darwin
 - "My experiences with science led me to God. They challenge science to prove the existence of God. But must we really light a candle to see the sun?" - Wernher von Braun

3. The Gospel - Distorted by Human Logic & Church Tradition

God's Spirit reveals the Gospel of Christ. Our salvation is from outside of THIS world, in power from the Shed Blood of Christ. It is for anyone willing to humbly repent and turn to follow Christ. ***1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* We are "reborn" and redeemed by the blood of Christ. God's Spirit now resides in us as both a teacher and a counselor. ***John 14:26** The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.* Our salvation and God's indwelling is a fulfillment of God's plan to rescue us from evil. ***Ezekiel 36:26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.* Christ is the promised Messiah of Israel and the Savior for ALL people. God used the nation Israel as a light to represent Him. ***Isaiah 49:6** I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth*". Sadly, the nation Israel, which included the Northern ten tribes of Samaria and the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin, was unfaithful and rejected Christ, their Messiah. Nevertheless, God is faithful and continues to bless the world through "His nation of Israel." For the past 2,000 years, God has temporarily worked through the Gentile church, which is a wild branch of Israel. ***Romans 8:17-18** If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.* Gentiles have been grafted into God's family through Christ, Israel's Messiah, Who is the nourishing root from God. God promised the rebellion of Israel was temporary, and that Israel would repent and be restored when Christ returns for His church. ***Romans 11:25-27** Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins"*.

Man is unable to be in the presence of God's perfection, purity, and uncorrupted character. ***Exodus 19:10-12 The Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death.'*** Humans cannot come near God without being cleansed or purified by the Blood of Christ. God's nature is perfect, without any flaws, imperfection, or darkness. ***1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.*** God's perfect nature cannot tolerate evil, wickedness, or compromise. ***Exodus 34:14 Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*** God's love for us (the people He created) was the root of God's plan to remove evil from within our corrupted hearts. ***1 Timothy 2:3-6 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all people.*** The purity or holiness of God cannot approach any human since God's perfection destroys any evil near Him. ***Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.*** God's infinite perfection is in contrast with man's fallen, darkened, and finite nature. God's glory and purity could not directly enter a fallen world. ***Hebrews 12:18-20 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death."***

To reach into this corrupted world, God sent His only Son, in the form of a human being. Christ came to us as God's perfect Messiah and revealed a true image of God, His Father, to the world. The curse of sin and evil was destroyed when Christ, in

humble obedience to God, surrendered His perfect life as an eternal sacrifice for repentant souls. ***1 John 4:9-10 This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*** It is only by the Gospel of Christ that God connects with His fallen and broken “children.” ***Hebrews 10:14 For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*** We all have the free will and choice to measure our life by human standards or by God’s standards. God’s truth exposes the thoughts and motives of our hearts. ***Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*** When we depend on human logic, it is easy to be deceived and turn the Gospel of Christ into a "cookie-cutter" formula. ***Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*** We may develop interpretations of the Bible according to our bias, human logic, or some subjective religious view of God. ***1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.***

False gospels also bring permissive acceptance and tolerance of evil and immorality. This happened in Corinth when Christians were “proud” of tolerating or accepting sinful lifestyles within their fellowship of Believers. ***1 Corinthians 5:1-2 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father’s wife. And you are proud! Shouldn’t you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?*** Instead of relying on God’s Spirit to teach us, we may allow our human understanding of God to deceive us, and expect God to accept our human logic. A logic that may appear to be accurate and “true,” but is rooted in religious creeds, ideas from

THIS world, or human traditions. Traditions that originate from Satan, the “Angel of Light.” ***1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*** Before leaving His disciples, Christ promised His Father would send another comforter, His Spirit of Truth, who would teach us, guide us, and enlighten our minds. ***John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.*** We can sense the presence of God’s Spirit – exhibiting Christ’s love, kindness, compassion, encouragement, and honest accountability to others. ***James 3: 17 Wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.*** The true love of God balances kindness and compassion with truth and accountability. ***Mark 12:31 Love your neighbor as yourself.*** It is God's power that rescues us from “Satan's Curse of Evil” and recreates us into the image of our Savior, Jesus Christ. ***John 17:3-11 Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began. “I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours. All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name, the name You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are One.*** True life is only found and possible in the light of Jesus Christ. ***Psalms 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.***

B. We Live in a Broken, Wounded and Fallen World

The existence of evil is obvious - manifested by illness, crime, war, and people's selfish or greedy motivations. Since our world is corrupt, how can "uncorrupted" answers come from within it? People, organizations, and governments attempt to cure disease, alleviate pain, stop crime, end wars, deal with poverty, and try to make the world a better place, but there are no honest and pure solutions that come out of this darkened world. ***Matthew 7:18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.*** Even the caring, humble, and good people of THIS world, with "pure" motives, can be deceived by money, power, praise, sexual desires, and pride. The true "Light of The World" is Jesus Christ, Who is NOT of THIS world. ***John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".*** Even if we know Christ, it is easy to slip into the shadows of our fallen and dark world when trials, illness, family pressures, or financial worries take precedence in our life. ***John 12:35 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.*** It can be difficult to find a solution to problems and circumstances that impede our life purposes and goals. ***John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world".*** As we develop our own "World View" of life and a personal view of God, we may develop a positive purpose and meaning to life with a desire to make the world a better place. Ideas about our life purpose and goals may be enhanced by family, friends, books, education, and "insights" about people, businesses, or THIS world. Our unique "World View" may, or may not, include God. We may reject or doubt the Bible as being an accurate and correct representation of God.¹⁹ Or we may choose to accept the Bible as historically and scientifically

19 For those interested in understanding the origin of their life and the work of Jesus Christ to connect us with God, His Father, following are some excellent resources:

- a) Living Waters, Ray Comfort - CEO, (800-437-1893) <https://www.livingwaters.com>.
- b) Living Waters YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/user/thewayofthemaster/featured>.
- c) World Invisible – Online Library Resources, <http://www.worldinvisible.com>.
- d) The Navigators, sharing the gospel & disciple resources, <https://www.navigators.org>.

correct and receive it as an authentic communication from God to us. No matter what we believe, the meaning to life is rooted in our view of God (or a belief there is no God). Our purpose in life is reflected by our attitudes, understanding of God (or belief in no God), and our relationships with others. We may have similar religious or political views with others, but these opinions may change. Our views about God, religion, politics, others, and ourselves can shift as our life unfolds, and we experience new circumstances, trials, and relationships. As we learn and grow, our connection with God can deepen, or it may darken if we drift away from Christ. ***Isaiah 55:6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that He may have mercy on them, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*** From a Biblical perspective, our view of ourselves includes our **Body**, **Soul**, and **Spirit** (the “Soul” includes our mind, will, and emotions).

We are all different and deal with life issues in our unique way – whether our “methods” are healthy or unhealthy. Our views about ourselves and the opinions of our family, friends, coworkers, and our image of “God” can change as we encounter challenges and disappointments. Surprisingly, many of us understand our relationship with ourselves the least. From a Judeo-Christian perspective, we are “fallen” creatures living in a corrupted world. We may be easily deceived and trust the wrong people. Sometimes we also deceive ourselves. ***Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*** We do not always recognize our own faults and self-deceptions. Most of us don’t know if we’re deceived. If we did know, then we would no longer be deceived. We may develop a comfort zone of living in self-deception with a “false reality” of a “normal” life view. ***1 Corinthians 3:18-20 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”*** It helps to admit our views or knowledge about ourselves, and others may not be accurate. We may

“think” we know what we are talking about – but may be deceived and uninformed about another person’s views, opinions, or perspective. It is easy to be misled by our personal beliefs or prejudices. We may turn away from considering other opinions, disregard alternative views, and deny solid evidence. For many, ***“truth is an unwanted guest when it arrives uninvited.”*** Truth may threaten our “Comfortable World View.” ***Galatians 6:3 If those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.*** Our personal image and understanding of God may be healthy or unhealthy, and it may be accurate or inaccurate.

Satan is the Father of Lies and works to deceive those who seek God – attacking both the church and God’s nation Israel. ***John 8:42-47 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent Me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me! Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe Me? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God”.***

Christ said this to the religious leaders who lived their lives in anticipation of the coming Messiah. The promised Messiah was at the heart of their faith and belief system. At the time, these religious leaders **KNEW in their deceived hearts that Christ was not the Messiah.** They were the ones who taught others about God from the scriptures, and were convinced they were right. Yet Satan had deceived them through spiritual pride, in their confident human hearts. The apostle Paul was a Christian-hating zealot who was transformed by Christ into one of the greatest and influential Christian converts of all time. ***1 Timothy 1:15-16 Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life.*** There are things we know, and

there are things we don't know. Sometimes we BELIEVE we understand a topic, event, or issue, and then change our belief as additional information is revealed or the full truth about a subject is exposed. A good example of moving from "misunderstanding" to "enlightenment" is seen in the life of Daniel Ellsberg; when he changed his belief system from being a "Hawk" to a "Dove" relative to his involvement in the Vietnam War – ***"There was no question in my mind that my government was involved in an unjust war that was going to continue and get larger. Thousands of young men were dying each year. I left the auditorium and found a deserted men's room. I sat on the floor and cried for over an hour, just sobbing"***.²⁰ One of the keys to a healthy life is to be teachable and open. In the words of Confucius, ***"True wisdom is knowing what you don't know."***²¹ By considering things we Don't Know, we can step back and look deeper into our assumptions, beliefs, and prejudices. If we are fixed on a "Goal" or have our own "Rigid World View," we ignore our incomplete knowledge and are easily deceived and confused about right versus wrong; good versus evil; wise choices versus foolish choices. ***Isaiah 5:20-21 You who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! You who are wise in your own eyes, and shrewd in your own sight!*** Fortunately, Christ promised God's Spirit would guide us into ALL truth. As we investigate for ourselves, we can discover the truth about the creation of life in this world and the created origins of the universe. If we take the time to pursue the truth about our origins, we discover the evidence for God's creation and a "Young Earth" theory line up with science, geology, archeology, and the earth's true history.²²

20 Thomas, Marlo; et al. (2002). The Right Words at the Right Time. New York: Atria books. ISBN 0786288892. pp.100-3. Daniel Ellsberg describing his reaction to a War Resistance League Conference at Harvard, in August of 1969.

21 Confucius quotation, died 479 B.C. "True wisdom is knowing what you don't know".

22 Excellent resources on truth about human origins, creation, and earth history include:

- a) Genesis Apologetics, 844-743-6374 <https://genesisapologetics.com>
- b) Institute for Creation Research, 800-337-0375 www.icr.org/homepage
- c) Creation Research Society, 928-636-1153 www.creationresearch.org
- d) Answers in Genesis, 800-778-3390 www.isgenesishistory.com
- e) NW Creation Network - Resources Online, <https://www.nwcreation.net/index.html>
- f) Creation Ministries International, 800-616-1264 www.creation.com
- g) Revolution Against Evolution – 3,000 Scientists; Resources <https://www.rae.org/>
- h) Truth in Science <https://www.truthinscience.org.uk/content.cfm?id=3126>

1. Our Original World – As It was Created by God

When God created the first two humans, they had a loving relationship and open communication with God from their spirits. ***1 Corinthians 2:11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*** Man had dominion over the earth and God told us to take care of it. But Satan lied and deceived us into giving up this dominion. ***Genesis 3:4-5 The serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*** Physical death was not immediate, but our spiritual death was, and we lost our full connection with God. Pain, suffering, illness, and death entered the world. Yet God had a plan to rescue the people He loved and created, with the Light of Christ. ***John 12:46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*** Although defeated, Satan is still Prince of our world and attacks us with deception and lies. ***2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*** God's plan to redeem us was veiled in prophecy and not fully explained. God used Israel as an instrument to send His Son to rescue us and defeat evil. ***Ephesians 1:7-10 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*** God is continuing to redeem us and is advancing towards a complete restoration of the world. This work of God will not finish until all evil, pain, illness, sorrow, and death are contained and destroyed. ***Acts 3:19-21 Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets.***

2. **The Mystery of God’s Plan to Rescue and Redeem Us**

In addition to man, God created angelic beings. One of the highest was Lucifer (Satan). ***Ezekiel 28:12-13 You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God.*** Lucifer is described as a “signet of perfection”; and was blameless. ***Ezekiel 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you.*** Satan became prideful, self-focused, and desired to glorify himself above God, his creator, so he was cast out of Heaven. ***Isaiah 14:12-14 - How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will make myself like the Most-High.”*** Hell was not designed for man. Hell was intended for Satan and his fallen angels. ***Matthew 25:41 You that are accursed, depart from Me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and His angels.*** When the world fell under the control of Satan, man, and this earth became corrupted with evil, pain, sorrow, illness, and death. Yet God had a plan to defeat Satan’s curse of evil through His Son, Jesus Christ. Although this plan was prophesied and foretold, it was not fully revealed nor understood. Not even the angels, Satan, or God’s prophets, knew how God would do this. God’s plan, which is the “**Gospel of Jesus Christ,**” was a complete mystery. Only God and His Son, Jesus Christ, knew the details of this plan. ***1 Peter 1:10-12 The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and subsequent glory. It was revealed to them they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*** Before the resurrection of Christ from the dead, no one understood God’s plan - not even Satan, the smartest being on earth. God’s plan and our opportunity for salvation are ending, when Christ returns, and the final parts of the Gospel are revealed.

3. God's Gift of Salvation and Redemption is Coming to an End

God's nation Israel is the most significant sign of Christ's soon return. Already God is working to restore and protect His chosen nation of Israel.²³ ***Isaiah 11:11-12 The Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.*** In God's plan, there are two kinds of people: Jews and Gentiles (or non-Jews). We need to take a warning from Israel. Our last chance to be rescued from evil ends when Christ returns, and the seventh angel blows his trumpet. ***Revelation 10:7 In the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as He announced to His servants the prophets***". Christ will return to take His followers into eternal life, and the "Mystery of the Gospel" will be completed and fulfilled. ***John 14:3 I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.*** Today, "Outer-Man" Christians quickly follow doctrines or belief systems rooted in human logic and religious traditions – similar to the way Satan deluded the Pharisees. When we trust in our own understanding, we develop our own "personal" version of God. ***Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*** Christ warned us the "Traditions of Man" **Nullify** the Word of God! ***Mark 7:13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.*** Contrast any religious views of God with Christ's revelation of God. Christ lived a life focused on compassion and kindness, balanced with truth and accountability. We may prefer comfortable acceptance from others to avoid any conflicts that come from exposing the truth. As our opportunity for salvation ends, please remember that

²³ Don Stewart, 25 Signs We Are Near the Last Days; YouTube Hope For Our Times, July 11, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NutkCjDcMT4&feature=youtu.be> (Jan-3-2020).

Christ's purpose for each of us is only revealed in honest repentance and surrendering to God's truth. As this Gospel of Truth advances against evil, our only hope is turning to Christ in repentance. ***Matthew 11:12-13*** ***From the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it. For before John came, all the prophets and the law of Moses looked forward to this present time.***

Instead of building an image of who we **THINK** God should be, we need to let God's Spirit teach us about God! Christ stood against and confronted (1) the Institutionalized Judaism of His day and (2) the religious leaders. Christ's closest friends were those who had broken lives. They had been "beat up" by the world and rejected by the "Religious Jewish System." The religious leaders were threatened by Christ's confrontation and honest exposure of arrogance and hypocrisy. ***Matthew 9:10-13*** ***Many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when He heard it, He said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners".***

The religious leaders expected a single advent of Christ - not two separate arrivals. With the first advent, Christ came as a suffering servant. ***Acts 8:32-33*** ***"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He did not open His mouth. In His humiliation, He was deprived of justice. Who can speak of His descendants? For His life was taken from the earth".*** When Christ returns in His second advent, He will come as a victorious and conquering King, destroying all evil. ***Revelation 17:14*** ***They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers".*** Although the Jewish remnant of Israel had rejected Christ when He did not fit into their "**Religious Box**," Christ is now returning to enlighten the darkened hearts of everyone as He redeems, protects, and restores God's beloved nation of Israel.

C. Jesus Christ is the Only Way We can Connect to God

God's truth is eternal. ***Psalm 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.*** Christ's teaching threatened the religious leaders. He asked them if John's baptism was from heaven or human origin? ***Mark 11:30 John's baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!*** Our connection with God is ONLY through Jesus Christ, not from teachings of Human Origin? ***John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*** Christ is our "gate" or "door" to enter God's salvation. ***John 10:9-10 I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*** We cannot know God's plan unless He reveals it to us. ***Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*** Our perceptions of this world vary with our religious, political, and cultural views. Some cultures are atheistic, and others include a religious view of God (such as Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, etc.). Sometimes "religious" belief systems are hidden behind contrived excuses, driven by selfish motives, special interests, or greed. True Christianity is different since it requires surrendering our human-efforts. A Christian's power is from the "Spirit of the Living God," not self-efforts. ***1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?*** Christians live in the power of God's Spirit, from their unseen "Inner-Man." Yet Christianity becomes another religion when it is "Institutionalized" and relies on the logic, reason, and "religious" processes of our visible world. ***Galatians 1:6-9 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is***

preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse! We are easily fooled by following human insights and the rational thoughts of this world, realizing God's Spirit does teach us through Spirit-led pastors and churches.

2 Timothy 3:7 *Who are always being instructed and can never arrive at a knowledge of the truth.* God's truth is only in Christ. It was the power of Christ's shed blood that defeated Satan's authority and rescued us from evil. **Ephesians 1:7** *In Him we have redemption through His blood.* Christ represents us before His God and His Father. Christ is our High Priest. **John 20:17** *"Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'"* God connects to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, Who continually intercedes for us as we are renewed in Him. **Hebrews 4:14-16** *Since we have a great High Priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Christ struggled in His mission to be sacrificed for God's purpose of destroying Satan's curse of evil. **Mark 14:35-36** *Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him. "Abba, Father," He said, "everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will."* He asked God three times to find another way to rescue us. **Matthew 26:44** *So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Yet He surrendered His life in obedience to His Father's will. **Hebrews 5:8-10** *Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him and was designated by God to be High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. We follow Christ in obedience. Not in physical death, but in death to the world's desires and cravings. **John 12:24** *Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.***

1. **THIS World's Religions – Man Striving to Find God**

In our attempt to understand life, we may try to reach God with human ideas about Him. Multiple opinions about God result in false religions with distorted views of God. ***Galatians 1:6-7 I am astonished you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and turning to a different gospel - not that there is another gospel, but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.*** Conflicts and controversy mark our human ideas about God. Religions are defined by leaders who decide on the proper, correct, or accurate view of “God” based on their explanations. But who should we believe? Can any human from **THIS** world direct us to God? There are two choices for a fallen and finite “human” mind. We either (1) give up and rely on God's power to connect with Christ, or (2) we create a false path using human logic and effort. ***Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*** False Christianity denies the power of Christ and gives us a false human hope, rooted in the defeated prince of this world, Satan, the Father of Lies. ***1 Corinthians 4:20 The kingdom of God depends not on talk but on power.*** It is easy for confused and fallen creatures to be fooled; and follow man's ideas. Many distorted ideas about God originate from Satan, who perverts God's truth. ***Mark 7:6-8 Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. They worship Me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules”.*** ***You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.*** In seeking God with human-logic, we limit His power with our personal “Religious Box.” In the words of Martin Luther, “*Your God is too Human.*” We cannot know God, apart from His revelation to us – no matter how sincere we are. God's only plan or path for salvation is in the Gospel of Christ. ***Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*** God's Spirit delivers the Gospel of Christ and enlightens our darkened minds. Without God's Spirit, we use human-logic to develop a false image of God. ***1 Corinthians 2:11-13 What person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit***

of the man, which is in him? So also, no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit, which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who possess the Spirit.

There are two churches. God's church relies on the unseen power of God's Spirit, working with "Inner-Man" believers. The second church is the Institutionalized Church, which relies on the visible human-logic and efforts of the "Outer-Man." *Galatians 3:2-3 Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the [unseen Inner-Man] Spirit, are you now ending with the [visible Outer-Man] flesh?* A diverse and scattered group from all over the world makes up the true church of Christ. We are **taught** individually by God's Spirit of Truth and need to **wait** for God's Spirit to **enlighten** and **guide** us. *John 14:26 The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

God's "**Acts 2 Church**" exhibits a gracious and kind love to our world. The love of Christ depends on power from God's Spirit. *Acts 2:43-44 - Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common.* God's Spirit created the early church, without any organizations, programs, or human-efforts. *John 15:5 - I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing.* Our nourishment comes from Christ **ALONE!** We do not depend on human-efforts; but rely and depend on Christ's power, which is infused supernaturally into us by God's Spirit. *2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

2. Christianity is God Seeking and Reaching Out to Man

God reaches out in a way that is private and personal to our individual needs. God works with our unique hurts, pains, prejudices, beliefs, experiences, ideas, and world views. Our personal opinions are distinct and unique. Churches also develop beliefs about God they assume are accurate. But when we use human logic from this visible world to define and describe the unseen God, we **Put God into a Box** and **Create Our Own Image of God**. We may have a vision of who we want God to be or think He should be, but a system of interpretation or beliefs from THIS world is rooted in our human minds. ***Romans 9:20 But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ The writings and thoughts of THIS world influence our understanding of God. We may be deceived if we build an image of God based on partial Bible verses (perhaps taken out of context), and ignore other verses, to support our own view of God. Can we honestly rely on any human knowledge or understanding from **THIS** world? ***Isaiah 45:9 Woe to you who strive with your Maker, earthen vessels with the potter! Does the clay say to the one who fashions it, ‘What are you making?’ or ‘Your work has no handles’?*** God warns us about trusting in human reason to understand Him. God tells us to rely on His Spirit from within our “heart” to connect with Him. ***Isaiah 26:3-4 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself, is the Rock eternal.*** God’s Spirit of Truth teaches us God’s Truth – not personal opinions, ideas, or understanding - including my thoughts, beliefs, and ideas as I write these words to you! It is only our connection to God’s Spirit that can teach and enlighten us. ***1 John 2:26-27 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him.******

It is by God’s grace alone that we are even aware of our need for salvation and become willing to repent. ***2 Timothy 2:25***

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth. We can share the Gospel with others but need to remember it is **ONLY** by the power of God in His Kindness, that we are led to repent. We receive God's grace for **BOTH** salvation and repentance. It is ONLY God who can enlighten our fallen and darkened souls about our need to Repent.

Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? We WAIT for God's Spirit to reveal Himself to us. **1 Corinthians 2:14-16 The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.** The record of Christ's life attests to His goodness, kindness, perfection, love for others, and His purpose to save humankind. Even His enemies declared this truth. **John 7:46 No man ever spoke like this man!** Christ was declared to be the Son of God. **Romans 1:3-4 The gospel concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.** Christ's mission on earth gave us a path to connect with God and build a new and restored relationship with Him. Christ acts as our advocate or High Priest, representing us to God His Father. **Hebrews 7:24-25 Because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.** As we humbly surrender our life to Christ, He cleanses us and teaches us to rely on His power. Since we are purified by the blood of Christ, God can now send His Spirit to dwell within us, so His Spirit can teach and guide us from within the new heart of our unseen "Inner-Man." **1 Peter 3:18 Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.**

3. **The Shed Blood of Christ is the Foundation of the Gospel**

The power of the Gospel is in the Blood of Christ. *Hebrews 9:22 Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

The blood of Christ broke Satan's power and protects us today.

Revelation 12:11 They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. We consider ourselves dead to the desires and attractions of THIS world as we follow Christ in His death.

Romans 6:11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. We now surrender our human-efforts and rely on the power of God's Spirit to recreate us into the image of Christ.

Galatians 2:19-20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

It is God's Spirit that gives us the freedom to live from our unseen "Inner-Man" instead of being slaves to our visible

"Outer-Man." *2 Corinthians 4:16-18 So we do not lose heart.*

Even though our outer nature [visible Outer-Man] is wasting away, our inner nature [unseen Inner-Man] is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because

we look not at what can be seen [Outer-Man] but at what cannot be seen [Inner-Man]; for what can be seen is temporary [Outer-Man], but what cannot be seen is eternal [Inner-Man].

We live by whichever nature we "feed" or follow. The blood of Christ has freed us from our fallen and worldly old-nature so we can now rely on God's indwelling Spirit to teach, guide, and direct our lives.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart [Inner-Man] and lean not on your own understanding [Outer-Man]; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

As New Creatures in Christ, God's Spirit fills us with His nature, desires, and power.

2 Corinthians 5:17 If one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed, the new has come. The Fruit of God's Spirit is manifested within us, as we surrender our self-efforts and live in Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

D. We are Warned about False Teachers & Gospels

2 Peter 2:1-3 There will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories.** False teachers are deceived and deceive others. **2 Timothy 3:12-13 Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.** God’s truth comes from God, as His Spirit enlightens and guides us. **2 Timothy 3:15 From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** The world has many ideas about God. **1 Corinthians 3:18-20 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”** We are taught by God, not human ideas – recognizing, of course, that God works through pastors and other believers. We live in the hope, light, and power of Christ. **2 Corinthians 4:6-7 God said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.** Satan was defeated by the blood of Christ, but he still uses false teaching to deceive us. **1 Peter 5:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, stand firm in the faith.** Satan uses lies to promote (1) **False Gospels**, (2) **False Teachers**, and (3) **Pride**. **2 Corinthians 11:14 Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.** We can easily drift away from God’s truth. **Revelation 2:2-5 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

- **False Gospels** – Galatians 1:6-7 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 The time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

- **False Teachers** - Matthew 7:15-18 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

2 Timothy 3:2-5 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

- **Pride** - Romans 16:17-18 Keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. They are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

False teaching creates confusion, fear, and doubt, if we focus on this world instead of God's Kingdom. Joshua 1:9 **Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go**".

1. Our Deliverance from Death and Evil is in Christ ALONE

The Gospel is simple and clear. It is God's Message of Salvation, calling us to come to Christ, God's Messiah, as we turn from Death to Life, from Darkness to Light. Before we want to be saved, we need to know we are lost. Why would anyone want to be saved if they don't think they are lost? They have no reason to be saved! The Gospel of Christ is for sinners – those who need a Savior. *Mark 2:15-17* ***While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Him and His disciples, for there were many who followed Him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples: "Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners".*** We are fallen creatures in a fallen world and don't realize we need salvation. Only God's Spirit can show us we are lost and lead us to repentance. *John 16:8* ***He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.*** God waits for us to turn to Him in repentance. *2 Peter 3:9* ***The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.***

Death and evil began with pride. *Isaiah 14:13-14* ***"I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High".*** Satan promotes himself as God and wants to keep us from humbly repenting and finding salvation. *2 Thessalonians 2:4* ***Who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.*** Repentance is a 180-degree turn in our life direction. *2 Corinthians 7:10* ***Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*** We connect to Christ by humbly repenting and admitting to the evil in our hearts. We turn from an old life rooted in pride towards a new life surrendered to Christ.

Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them. The origin of death and evil is rooted in **Pride and Arrogance**. The path to a new life in Christ is rooted in **Humility and Repentance**. All evil started with Satan's **Pride**. **Ezekiel 28:17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.** Our Salvation in Christ requires **Humility**, as we follow Christ in His sacrificial death. We voluntarily die to the desires of our flesh. **Romans 6:7-9 Anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him.** Our new life reflects Christ to others. **Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To (1) act justly and to (2) love mercy and to (3) walk humbly with your God.** Our life in Christ does not happen from academic knowledge, church attendance, or the "right" theology. **1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.** Our new life shines from a life lived in an invisible world (God's Kingdom). It is lived by surrendering our self-will to the power of Christ, in **OBEDIENCE** as we:

- **Have a Childlike Faith** - when we humbly surrender our life to Christ. **Luke 18:17 Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.**
- **Repent** from our choices or thoughts, so we can surrender the desires and the cravings of this world. **Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**
- **Obey Christ** out of our love for Him. **John 14:23-24 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them. Anyone who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.**

2. Do We Follow God’s Truth - Or Human Rules & Traditions?

I committed my life to Christ when I was 28 and took a year off work to attend Bible School. I saw discrepancies between the academic teachings and what I read in the Bible, but accepted what I was taught as true. For example, Christ foretold His death and resurrection: saying He would be in the earth for Three Days and Three Nights. *Matthew 12:40 As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.* I was told Christ was crucified on Friday and rose from the dead on Sunday, based on three (3) partial days. But this conflicted with Christ’s words of “Three Days and Three Nights.” The Bible shows a special sabbath. *John 19:31 It was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath.* In the New King James and English Standard Versions, it says, “*that Sabbath was a high day*” There are seven Festival High Sabbaths – distinct from the weekly Sabbath. Christ was crucified and buried before nightfall on Wednesday (a day before the Passover High Sabbath) and raised on Saturday evening (after the weekly Sabbath).²⁴ Thus He was buried for “Three Days and Three Nights.” We are warned about human traditions. *Mark 7:9 You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!* If we trust human tradition over God’s truth, we pursue God in vain. *Mark 7:7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.* We nullify the power of God’s Word. *Mark 7:13 You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.* Are we putting human tradition and man-made doctrines ahead of the words of Christ? Realizing Christ was crucified on the Wednesday “Preparation Day” before the Thursday “High-Sabbath Passover,” clarifies the year Christ was crucified as 31 AD (from the Hebrew calendar). God’s love is rooted in compassion and accountability. God does not forgive us unless we repent. Just as a parent disciplines a child; not giving them a license to steal, lie, cheat, or disrespect others. God holds us accountable. *2 Chronicles 7:14 If My*

²⁴ “Timeline Explaining 3 Days & Nights - Easter/Passover”, YouTube Tomorrow’s World, March 16, 2018, <https://youtu.be/EmtyYqq11Qc?t=11> (accessed Nov. 25, 2019).

people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. We forgive others **IF** they repent. *Luke 17:3 If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.* God may have us overlook an offense. *Proverbs 19:11 It is to one's glory to overlook an offense.* To ignore an offense doesn't mean we, or God, have forgiven them since there is no forgiveness without repentance. *Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.* Some will say we forgive others for personal healing and that Christ forgave others without repentance: *Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* But they are ignoring God's FULL revelation. Clearly, there is no forgiveness without repentance, *Luke 13:3 Unless you repent, you too will all perish.* We know only God enlightens us to repent. *Revelation 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.* By assuming those at the crucifixion did not repent, we deceive ourselves (and others) with half-truths. Those present at Christ's crucifixion **did repent**, but not by our finite-logic. *Luke 23:47-48 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.* They were broken, convicted, and repentant by the power of God's Spirit.

By not expecting repentance and accountability from others, we become deceived and think God also forgives us without genuine repentance. *1 John 1:7-9 If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* Our need and conviction to repent come only by God's kindness and grace towards us. Godly repentance brings "God's Fruit" into our lives. *Matthew 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.* The early Jewish church did not begin sharing the Gospel with Gentiles until they saw **God's grace in granting Gentiles**

repentance. *Acts 11:18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."*

Repentance, Kindness, Accountability, and Obedience

1. **You cannot have forgiveness without repentance.**
2. **There is no love without grace, kindness, and accountability.**
3. **You cannot love and abide in Christ without obedience.**
4. **Truth & Accountability always balance Love & Kindness.**

God's true teachings conflict with false teachings of human traditions and nullify the power of God's Word. *Mark 7:13 You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.*

God's Decree	How it looks in Our Lives	False Teaching & Religious Logic	Scripture References
Love God	Show our love for God with Obedience	Show our love for God with the right doctrine & sacrifice	John 14:21 Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. * We love God by obedience to His commands.
Love Others	Love others in Kindness & Accountability	Show others love, according to what we (or they) want	John 13:34 As I have loved you, so you must love one another. * God Love us with truth, grace, kindness & accountability
Forgive Others	Forgive others, <u>AFTER</u> they repent	Forgiveness with No Repentance	Luke 17:3 If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; & <u>if they repent</u>, forgive them. * Repentance = Responsible Accountability
Be Patient	Be Patient, but hold others accountable	Tolerate unhealthy behaviors to avoid confrontation & be "nice"	Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. * God holds us accountable - balancing truth & kindness.
Be Kind	Show Kindness according to what is best for their life	Avoid Healthy Confrontation - Not holding others accountable for unhealthy behavior	Ephesians 4:32 Be kind & compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. * God forgives us - <u>ONLY after we repent.</u>
Exhibit Self-Control	Express emotional pressure with open, healthy communication & trust God for guidance	Explode in righteous anger or bottle up emotions to avoid healthy communications that are uncomfortable.	2 Peter 1:5-6 Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness. * Patiently wait for God's direction.

3. Do We Worship The God of Jesus Christ or Another God?

Christ revealed Himself as the Son of God to the Jews (southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin). He declared that God glorified Him as His Son, and Abraham rejoiced at this future revelation. ***John 8:54-56 Jesus replied, “If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies Me. Though you do not know Him, I know Him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and obey His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad”.*** Jesus described God as “His God and our God.” ***John 20:17 I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to My God and Your God.*** The Jews were so locked into their own doctrine and religious beliefs that they missed their Messiah. Their warped belief system had blinded them to God’s Truth and the Light of their Messiah. ***Isaiah 60:1-2 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.*** God used Israel (specifically the tribe of Judah), to bring the Messiah into the world as an instrument of salvation for all people. ***Genesis 22:18 Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed Me.***

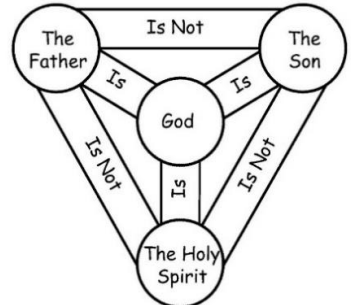
Yet, Israel's religious images and expectations of the Messiah had distorted their beliefs. Are our Christian concepts of God also distorted? ***Isaiah 2:22 Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?*** Who decides on what is accurate and reliable “Christian” truth? ***1 John 4:1 Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*** God says we cannot rely on our human hearts. ***Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*** We were warned there would be false teachers. ***2 Timothy 4:3-4 The time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*** All believers, especially pastors and teachers,

need to rely on God's Spirit to discern God's Truth. ***Acts 20:28-30 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.*** We are warned to obey Christ and to rely on God's Spirit to guide us. ***John 14:24-26 Anyone who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me. "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things."*** We may claim to follow Christ but still tolerate false teachings.

Before reading the Bible, I never doubted or questioned the Doctrine of the Trinity and assumed it was true. But the Bible does not record the Trinity Doctrine taught by God's prophets, Christ, nor the Apostles. If this doctrine is correct and at the root of Christianity, why didn't Christ or His Apostles teach it? The "Spirit of God" and the "Spirit of Christ" are described as an unseen power that comes from God and Christ. In his article **The Trinity Paradigm**, Paul Sumner discusses the Fourth Century formation of the Trinitarian Doctrine: "*For such theologians and spiritual leaders, the Bible alone is not the final arbiter of truth—the Church is. They accept the Roman view that only an elite, priestly class of theologically trained insiders can interpret the Bible for the laity. And they want lay people to trust them about what God wants them to believe.*"²⁵ The Apostle Paul describes "*but one God, the Father*" and "*but one Lord, Jesus Christ.*" ***1 Corinthians 8:5-6 Even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.*** Except for late translations of ***Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of***

25 Paul Sumner, **The Trinity Paradigm**, page 5. Hebrew-streams.org (May 9, 2020). <http://www.hebrew-streams.org/works/monotheism/trinity-paradigm.pdf> (Access May-10-2020).

the Son and of the Holy Spirit, neither Paul nor Peter mention the Holy Spirit as part of a three-person God-Head. Manuscripts written before 340 AD do **NOT** include “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” The uncorrupted text reads, **Matthew 28:19** “...baptizing them in My name.” A useful resource that discusses this verse is the “Jesus Words Only Website.” It includes a PDF summary of 80 Bible translations with the accurate text of Matthew 28:19.²⁶ A church may not accept the Bible as “inerrant” (without errors or fault), yet receive the Doctrine of The Trinity as absolute truth. We can expect a church using human-logic to follow the trinity concept of God since it originated from human traditions. A



"MAN'S DOCTRINE" OF THE TRINITY

A person can deny the words of Christ and accuracy of the Bible, but accept the trinity doctrine and consider themselves “*Christian*” by THIS world’s “*packaged or boxed view of God.*”

The Reformation exposed corruption in the Roman Catholic Church. Yet many churches today are no different, claiming allegiance to Christ and Biblical truth, but promoting false teaching. While older and more accurate Bible manuscripts are available, most Bible translations ignore the obvious corruption of the texts that were altered to fit the doctrines created by the late Fourth Century Church. In the words of Paul Sumner: “*Church thinkers admittedly knew their philosophical model of God did not have explicit support in the New Testament. Over the centuries, various scribes tried to bolster the New Testament witness to the Trinity model. Some of them altered their Greek New Testament manuscripts in order to give theologians proof-texts they needed for their doctrinal disputes.*”²⁷ These altered verses include **John 1:18, Matthew 28:19, 1 Timothy 3:16,**

26 **Matthew 28:19 In Original Gospel of Matthew: Trinitarian Formula or Not?**; Jesus Words Only website, <https://www.jesuswordsonly.com/topicindex/633-matthew-28-19-in-original-gospel-of-matthew.html> (accessed Mar-29-2020). Link to 80 translation PDF review of Matthew 28:19; http://www.trinitytruth.org/matthew28_19bible-translations.pdf

27 Paul Sumner, **What is Monotheism?** Hebrew-streams.org (May 9, 2020). <http://www.hebrew-streams.org/works/monotheism/what-is-monotheism.html> (Access May-10-2020).

1 John 5:7-8; although a few modern translations have corrected these errors. Paul's Epistles use a similar greeting, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Only in 2 Corinthians is the Holy Spirit mentioned along with the Father and Christ, in describing our "fellowship of the Holy Spirit." *2 Corinthians 13:14* May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. But in this verse, the Holy Spirit is described as a unifying force connecting all believers with God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son. Our fellowship is with God and His Son, in the power of God's Holy Spirit. *1 John 1:3* We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. To understand God and see His fullness, we look only to Christ. It is by the Gospel of Christ that God lives and dwells within us. *Colossians 2:8-10* See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Describing the Holy Spirit and Christ as part of a trinity Godhead is absent from the teachings of Christ. Christ described God His Father as follows:

- *Matthew 26:39* "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will".
- *Mark 12:28-30* Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"
- *Mark 13:32* "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- *Mark 15:34* Jesus cried out, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" ("My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?")
- *John 5:18* Not only was He breaking the Sabbath, He was even calling God His Own Father, making himself equal with God.
- *John 5:19* Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing.

- **John 5:21-23 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him.**

Christ was conceived by the “power of the Most High,” but Christ did not refer to the Holy Spirit as His Father. **Luke 1:34-35 “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”** Christ called God, My Father, and My God. **John 20:17 I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.** The Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, goes out from the Father and is part of God the Father. **John 15:26 When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—He will testify about Me.** Although the Bible does not mention a trinity, pagan religions do.²⁸ The first reference to a *Christian Trinitarian Doctrine* was at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD. It was not a new idea since the polytheistic Greeks and Romans worshipped many gods. People believed in many gods, and the concept of a trinitarian god had been around for centuries. **Acts 17:16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.** The God of Israel was in sharp contrast with the pagan gods and the trinitarian beliefs of other nations:

- The Babylon trinity with Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz.
- The Sumerians trinity with Anu, Enlil, and Enki.
- The India trinity with Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.
- The ancient Egyptian trinity with Amun, Re and Ptah.
- The “church age” Egyptian trinity with Isis, Serapis, and Horus
- The Greek trinity with Zeus, Apollo, and Athena
- The Roman trinity with Jupiter, Mars, and Venus

God came to the Hebrew nation, Israel, and said: **Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.** God

²⁸ Resources on the nature of God: United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, Phone: 513-576-9796 (www.GNmagazine.org) (E-mail: info@ucg.org)

a) **Who Is God?** by John Schroeder. Scott Ashley, Tom Robinson. Oct-20-2010.

b) **Is God a Trinity?** by Scott Ashley, Tom Robinson, John Schroeder. Aug-2-2011.

warned Israel to separate themselves from other nations and any pagan idol worship. ***Exodus 34:12-14 Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*** King Solomon was granted wisdom and financial blessing but ignored God's warning to stay away from the influences of other nations and pagan gods. ***1 Kings 11:1-2 Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love.*** He was disobedient and pursued the delusions of this world, and his heart drifted away from the one true God. ***1 Kings 11:11 The Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept My covenant and My decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.*** As punishment, God split Israel into the Northern Kingdom of ten tribes and the Southern Kingdom of Judah and Benjamin. Our only true image of God is revealed to us by our Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ, God's Only Begotten Son. ***Colossians 1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*** The god of THIS world, Satan, blinds our minds, so we are unable to see the light of Christ as the image of the one true God - apart from God's Spirit opening our minds to the Gospel. ***2 Corinthians 4:3-4 Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*** Christ referred to His Father as the only true God. ***John 17:3 This is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.*** Christians become like God, just as Christ is like God. ***1 John 3:2 We know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*** Christ is in the Father and one with the Father. We become one

in Christ and have unity with His Father through Christ alone! We are one with Christ and God, but don't become God. ***John 17:21-23 All of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one—I in them and You in Me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.*** Christ submitted to God in obedience and brought the gospel into the world to glorify His Father. The Bible also compares the connection between God and His Divine Spirit with us and our human spirit. ***1 Corinthians 2:11 Who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*** Our spirit is part of our total person. Our spirit is NOT another being, just as God's Spirit is NOT another being!

1 Timothy 2:5 There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all people. God opposed the pagan “trinity” gods of Nimrod, Isis, Serapis, Horus, Zeus, Apollo, Jupiter, Venus, and others. ***Jeremiah 10:2 This is what the Lord says: Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, though the nations are terrified by them.*** How can believers in Christ, expect God to answer prayers made to an image of God that is rooted in pagan beliefs? The false trinitarian image of God was developed by pagan leaders, starting with Constantine²⁹ at Nicea and followed by Theodosius at Constantinople. The church was further corrupted by pagans who brought their idols, pagan beliefs, and human ideas into the new Institutionalized Church.³⁰ Those who rejected the Constantine and Theodosius form of “Institutionalized Christianity” were persecuted and martyred. Instead of attacking the church from the outside, Satan now persecuted believers from inside a deceived church that ignored the warnings of the Bible. ***1 Corinthians 4:6 I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so***

29 Natalia Klimczak, Was Emperor Constantine a True Christian or Was He a Secret Pagan?; Ancient Origins, Sep-26-2019, <https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-famous-people/was-emperor-constantine-true-christian-or-was-he-secret-pagan-005603> (access Jan-3-2020).

30 Doug Batchelor, Revelation The Bride The Beast & Babylon; YouTube Amazing Facts, Aug. 24, 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMbh9dLZ74Q> (accessed Jan-3-2020).

*that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, **“Do not go beyond what is written.”** Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. The Bible warns us about going outside the written word of God. These warnings date back to the pagan idols used by Satan to lead Israel astray. **Ezekiel 14:3 These men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let Myself be consulted by them?** God’s response to those who follow false images is to let them pursue their false gods and be further deceived by their destructive choices. **Ezekiel 14:4-5 Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.** God let them enhance their deceptions and chase false images so they would either turn and repent or be destroyed by following false gods, as a sign to others. **Ezekiel 14:6-8 Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices! When any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing in Israel separate themselves from me and set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet to inquire of me, I the Lord will answer them myself. I will set my face against them and make them an example and a byword. I will remove them from my people. Then you will know that I am the Lord.** If we profess the name of Christ but are disobedient to His commands, then we don’t know Him. **Matthew 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’** Salvation is not from our doctrinal beliefs or knowledge about God. We are saved by turning to Christ in humble repentance. But this Gospel of Salvation opportunity is ending, as God’s final plan to destroy evil and death is completed in these last days.*

E. What are The True Teachings of Jesus Christ?

The fullness of God is revealed in Christ, Who was sent to rescue us from evil. ***Colossians 1:19-20** God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.* It is vital for us to know the correct and complete teachings of Christ.

***Hebrews 6:1-2** Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the (1) foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of (2) faith in God, (3) instruction about cleansing rites, the (4) laying on of hands, the (5) resurrection of the dead, and (6) eternal judgment.*

The Elementary Teachings of Christ Include:

- 1. Repentance from Acts that Lead to Death**
- 2. Faith in God**
- 3. Instruction about Cleansing Rites**
- 4. Laying on of Hands**
- 5. The Resurrection of the Dead**
- 6. Eternal Judgment**

The author of Hebrews (possibly Apollos) spoke in the power of God's Spirit and told us to go **Beyond the Elementary Teachings** to more advanced teachings with **better things ... that have to do with salvation.** Only by God's grace are we open to God's Spirit, turning the hard soil of a "**spiritually dead**" **old heart** to the fertile soil of a "**spiritually alive**" **New Heart** - given us by Christ. We need the fertile soil of a New Heart to understand the **Advanced Teachings of Christ.** ***Hebrews 6:4-12** It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and (7) who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace. Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that (8) produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of*

*better things in your case - the things that have to do with salvation. God is not unjust; (9) He will not forget your work and the (10) love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. We want each of you to (11) show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. Hebrew 6:13-16 reviews God's promises to Abraham and God's fulfillment of these promises in Christ. God keeps His promises, which assures us that He is a faithful and unchanging God who can be trusted. The **Advanced Teachings** of Christ continue with *Hebrews 6:17-20* **Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, He confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the** (12) **hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a High Priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.***

The Advanced Teachings of Christ Include:

- 7. Falling Away After Experiencing Christ and Salvation**
- 8. A Fruitful Life in the Blessings from God**
- 9. Rewards from God for Our Life's Work in Christ**
- 10. Our Life in Christ is Reflected by our Love to Others**
- 11. Follow Christ - The Assurance & Hope of God's Promises**
- 12. Trust in Christ our High Priest - Presents us to God**

Moses was a faithful servant **IN** God's house. However, in the Gospel, Believers **BECOME** the actual **HOUSE OF GOD**. *Hebrews 3:5-6* **"Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's House. And we ARE His House, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.** As God's new dwelling place (His new temple) on earth, we need to know and understand the teachings of Christ. Following is a summary of these twelve (12) teachings about Christ, which include six (6) Elementary and six (6) Advanced Teachings.

1. Summary of The 12 Teachings About Christ in Hebrews

- **(1) Repentance** - Forgiveness is conditional, requiring honest repentance and change in our life direction (a 180-degree turn in our behavior). *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* We are warned about continuing in habitual sin with an attitude of license instead of brokenness. *Hebrews 10:26-27 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.* We may be sorry about the effects of sin or worried about getting caught. *2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.* By repenting, we admit to the selfish motives driven by the evil in our hearts. *1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*
- **(2) Faith in God** – Salvation is by faith in God. *Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.* What is faith? *Hebrews 11:1 Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* The visible universe was formed by what is unseen. *Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.* Credulity (gullibility) is the opposite of faith – believing and accepting the impossible. Credulity believes the earth and intelligent humans appeared out of nothing. Credulity is a “*readiness or willingness to believe especially on slight or uncertain evidence.*”³¹ In the words of Dr. David Menton, “*The word credulity seems to perfectly fit belief in bacteria-to-man evolution. Faith, on the other hand, generally involves belief or trust in something or someone who has proven faithful.”³²*

³¹ Credulity. 2018. In Merriam-Webster.com. Retrieved November 1, 2018, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/credulity>

³² Dr. David Menton, Faith or Credulity?; (AIG Newsletter on Oct-1-2010). Retrieved Nov-1-2018, <https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/david-menton/2010/10/01/faith-or-credulity/>

- (3) **Instructions about Cleansing Rites (Spiritual Baptisms)** – God’s Spirit dwells in us by the Gospel of Christ. *Mark 1:4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*. There are three “Cleansing Rites” or “Baptisms”; (1) Spiritual Baptism; (2) Water Baptism; and (3) Baptism of God’s Holy Spirit.
 - + (3.a) **Baptism into Christ (salvation)** – Adopted by God and reborn in Christ. *Titus 3:5 He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit*. We are physically born into THIS world but spiritually born into God’s World. *John 3:4 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit*.
 - + (3.b) **Water Baptism** – Outward sign of obedience to our inner decision for Christ. *Acts 22:16 What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name*. Going underwater symbolizes submersion into death; coming out symbolizes our resurrection into our New Spiritual Life.
 - + (3.c) **Baptism or Filling of the Holy Spirit** – Christ is present in our world within His Followers - by God’s Spirit. *Ephesians 4:12-13 To equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith*. God’s Spirit distributes different gifts. *1 Corinthians 12:8-11 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues*. *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines*.
- (4) **Laying on of Hands** – Affects a transfer into others for (1) blessing; (2) consecration for spiritual service; (3) Baptism of God’s Spirit; and (4) healing from evil. God’s Spirit enters the Outer and Inner-Man to stop Satan’s curse of evil.
 - + (4.a) **Bless Others** – Christ blessing children with His hands. *Mark 10:15-16 Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it*. *He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them and blessed them*.

- + **(4.b) Dedication for Spiritual Service** – We place hands on others and pray for God’s Spirit to empower, bless, and protect them. *Acts 13:2-3 While worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” After they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*
- + **(4.c) Baptism of the Holy Spirit** – Laying on of hands for the empowerment of Believers with supernatural gifts. *2 Timothy 1:6-7 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*
- + **(4.d) Healing or Deliverance** – We are in Christ, and He heals others. *Mark 8:25 Jesus put His hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.* We pray for deliverance from illness and evil. *Acts 28:8-9 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.* Praying for the sick and oppressed can be done by a church or by those with the healing gift from God’s Spirit. *James 5:15-16 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*
- **(5) Resurrection of the Dead** – At Christ’s return, the righteous and unrighteous will all rise. *John 5:28-29 All who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out - those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.* Christ’s resurrection is proof of the Gospel. *Mark 16:6 You are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.* The resurrection assures us we follow Christ from death to eternal life. *Matthew 27:53 Many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.*
- **(6) Eternal Judgment** – Everyone will go before the **Great White Throne of God**. *Revelation 20:11-12 I saw a great*

white throne and Him who was seated on it. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. Those “In Christ” will be saved to eternal life in God’s Kingdom. **Hebrews 9:28 *He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.* We face the Judgement Seat of Christ to give an account of our lives. **Acts 17:30-31** **He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed.****

There is another judgment of Believers for Good Works, called the **Judgment Seat of Christ.** **2 Corinthians 5:10** *We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.* The Judgment Seat of Christ is for eternal rewards for a Believer’s obedience. **1 Corinthians 3:13** *The fire will test the quality of each person’s work.*

- (7) **Falling Away** – Even if we follow Christ, false teachers, deceitful spirits, and demons may lead us astray. **1 Timothy 4:1** *In later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.* We need to be careful about being fooled and led astray. **Matthew 24:11-13** **Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. Because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.**
- (8) **A Fruitful Life** – The power to live a full Fruitful Life, was created by the Gospel. **Galatians 5:22-23** *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* Nothing can stand against the power of Christ. **Ephesians 3:20-21** *To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.*
- (9) **Rewards for a Life Surrendered & Obedient to Christ**
We live from our unseen “Inner-Man” as ambassadors for Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:20** *We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.* We can now

focus on God's purposes and strive for eternal rewards instead of pursuing the temporal rewards of our world. ***Colossians 3:23-24*** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.* When we "live in Christ," we pursue "eternal" rewards.

- **(10) Reflecting Christ's Love** – Our love for others may be corrupted by our old nature. ***1 John 4:7*** *Love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.* The power of Christ teaches us to balance (1) Kindness and Compassion with (2) Truth and Accountability, while keeping healthy boundaries to protect others. We need to be honest with friends who have abusive behaviors, even if it is more comfortable to avoid confrontations. ***Philippians 2:3-4*** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.* True love is honest and forgives others when they repent.
- **(11) Following Christ by Assurance in God's Promises** - Our assurance and hope are from confidence in Christ. ***Hebrews 10:19-22*** *We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings.* Our assurance in God is from dependence on Christ, not knowledge, which fosters pride. ***1 Corinthians 8:1*** *All possess knowledge.* *But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.*
- **(12) Christ - Our Eternal High Priest** – Christ continually intercedes for us with God, His Father. ***Hebrews 4:14-16*** *We do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.* *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Christ humbled Himself to become human. ***Hebrews 2:17*** *He had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in service to God.*

2. What are the True Christian Creeds of the Bible?

Do we follow the scriptures and God's truth alone, or do we use religious creeds and doctrines developed by Human Traditions? ***Psalm 14:2 The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.*** God spoke through His prophets, apostles, and His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible's pattern for a church is a small local fellowship with a Spirit-Led pastor. The church depends on God's Spirit alone. This world's "Experts" have ideas about the Bible and opinions about God, but can any human take the words of an infinite God and interpret them correctly? How can any of us translate God's "living words" into "human words"? It is God's indwelling Spirit who teaches us His Truth. ***1 John 2:26-27 I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*** It is by God's Spirit that we read and understand the Bible from within our hearts. We are taught directly by God's Spirit from our "Inner-Man," **the Creeds of God:**

- ***Romans 1:18-25 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised.***

- **Romans 10:9** *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- **1 Corinthians 12:3** *I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.*
- **1 Corinthians 15:3-6** *What I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*
- **Acts 5:29-32** *Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*
- **Philippians 2:6-11** *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- **1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.*
- **1 Timothy 3:16** *The mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

3. **The True Celebrations, Holidays and Festivals of God**

Do our celebrations of God come from the Bible, human traditions, or the world? God warned Israel about pagan worship and the false God's of other nations. ***Deuteronomy 7:3-4** Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.* We can be deceived by Satan's lies, but God's compassion and grace guides us into His Truth. We are free in Christ, but warned about letting our freedom cause others to stumble.

***1 Corinthians 10:31-32** Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God.* We are united to God as a wild shoot, grafted into the root of Israel in Christ. ***Romans 11:17-18** You, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

- a. **God's Festivals** – God instructed Israel, how to worship Him, and set aside seven annual festivals that Israel was to observe.
1. **Passover** – Deliverance from slavery in Egypt (15 Nisan)
Passover Preparation – Sacrifice of the Lamb (14 Nisan)
 2. **Feast of Unleavened Bread** – Departing Egypt (15-21 Nisan)
 3. **Feast of Firstfruits** – Spring Barley Harvest (16 Nisan)
 4. **Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)** – Giving of the Law (6 Sivan)
 5. **Feast of Trumpets** – Ten Days of Repentance (1 Tishri)
The New Year; 10 days of Repentance; ends on Yom Kippur
 6. **Day of Atonement** – Reconciling Man to God (10 Tishri)
Repentance final day; Yom Kippur; Most Holy Day
 7. **Feast of Tabernacles** – Wilderness Journey (15-22 Tishri)
Also called the Festival of Booths or Sukkot

In addition to God's Seven Festivals, the Jews (Southern Tribes of Judah and Benjamin) added Hanukkah and Purim as Jewish Holidays. **Hanukkah** (15 Kislev) celebrates the rededication of the Temple after the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire - also called the Festival of Lights. **Purim** (14 Adar or

the 15 Adair for walled cities) celebrates saving the Jewish people from Haman, an Amalekite and descendant of Agag who hated Israel. He conspired to kill the Jews before God intervened through Esther to protect them. God's **Seven Festivals** are a picture of His plan to work through Israel, to destroy Satan's Curse of Evil. They included feasts and seven additional **Special or High Sabbaths**. When Christ returns to reign on earth, everyone will come to Jerusalem and worship Christ, celebrating the **Feast of Tabernacles**. ***Zechariah 14:16 Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.*** Christ referred to the future celebration of the **Passover**. ***Luke 22:15-16 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."***

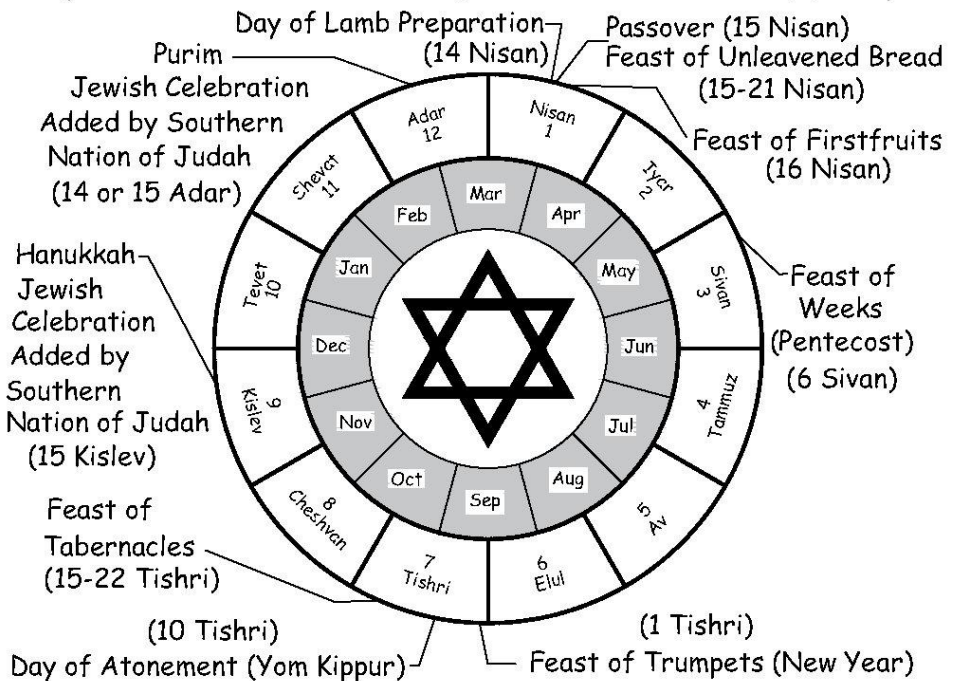
- b. **Human Traditions and Celebrations from the World** – Easter and Christmas were pagan festivals changed and adopted by the Institutionalized Church as Christian Celebrations. The actual birth of Christ occurred near the Passover, and the crucifixion on the Day of Preparation (sacrifice of the Lamb). It is interesting to note that God had ordained the Sabbath day of rest (Saturday) before the Ten Commandments. ***Genesis 2:3 God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.*** Although opinions about worship on the Sabbath vary, Sunday worship began with Constantine to honor His "Sun" God. How we deal with God's Festivals, Celebrations, and the Sabbath is between God and us. ***Colossians 2:16-17 Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.***
- c. **Hebrew Calendar versus the Gregorian Calendar** - The Hebrew Calendar is related to Israel's spring and fall harvests and are a reminder of God's relationship and provision for Israel. The Hebrew Festivals are a picture of God's purpose and plan for Christ, Israel's Messiah. God's Law is satisfied and fulfilled in Christ, and the Festivals symbolize and celebrate God's plan of redemption. The Hebrew "**lunar**" calendar is based on the

moon. The Hebrew day begins at sunset and ends the following day at sunset. The Hebrew calendar has 12 months with 29 or 30 days, and every 3rd year adds an extra month (leap year) for an accurate adjustment in the seasons. The Gregorian calendar was set up by Pope Gregory in 1582 AD as a “**solar**” calendar.

Hebrew Month	Month Number	Length in Days	Gregorian Month
Nisan	1	30	March-April
Iyar	2	29	April-May
Sivan	3	30	May-June
Tammuz	4	29	June-July
Av	5	30	July-Aug.
Elul	6	29	Aug.-Sept.
Tishri	7	30	Sep.-Oct.
Cheshvan	8	29 or 30	Oct.-Nov.
Kislev	9	30 or 29	Nov.-Dec.
Tevet	10	29	Dec.-Jan.
Shevat	11	30	Jan.-Feb.
<i>Adar used During Leap Year Only – every 3 Years</i>			
Adar	12	29 or 30	Feb.-March

The Seven Festivals of Israel

(With Two Added Celebrations for the Southern Nation of Judah)



F. Our New Life in Christ - Self-effort or God's Power

Every day, we choose to either ignore the power of Christ, or depend on the power of God's Spirit as we follow Christ. When we ignore the power of Christ within us, we trust in our good intentions, human-efforts, self-achievements, and our own understanding. Man has NO power in the spiritual realm. ***Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*** Religions based on "Human Logic" or "Academic Understanding" are futile and ineffective in the spiritual realms. We have only two choices: (1) confidence in God, or (2) confidence in ourselves. It is only by surrendering our will to Christ that we can depend on the power of God's Spirit. ***Joshua 24:15 Choose this day whom you will serve.*** The Prince of THIS world is Satan. ***1 Peter 5:8 - Satan prowls like a lion, seeking to destroy.*** He works at deceiving and discouraging us from waiting, trusting, and relying on God's promises. ***Psalm 37:7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*** Christ is not in THIS world, but He remains connected to us by God's Spirit, living within our hearts. This connection is a fulfillment of God's promise to provide us with power from His Spirit, enabling us to follow Christ in obedience to God's commands. ***Ezekiel 36:27 I will put My spirit within you, and make you follow My statutes and be careful to observe My ordinances.*** Instead of using our self-efforts, we learn to humbly WAIT on the power of God's Spirit to give us His direction and guidance. God's starting point for a relationship with Him is clear. Be (1) honest, (2) Kind, and (3) Humble. ***Micha 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to (1) do justice; to (2) love kindness; and to (3) walk humbly with your God.*** God's plan is different for every person, and His revelation to us is unique to who we are. God created us to trust in Him, but our choices, failures, and success reflect our willingness to follow God. No matter how we live out our life, God works in the Power of His Son, Jesus Christ, to rebuild us for HIS glory and HIS purpose. ***Romans 8:26-28 The Spirit helps us in our weakness.***

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

The only way we can know and follow God's purpose for our life is by humbly surrendering to God's unique plan for each one of us - created and revealed to us in Christ. *1 Peter 2:1-5 Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to Him, the living Stone — rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* We are re-born and changed into a new person according to God's purpose, NOT by our ideas about God's plan. *1 Peter 2:9-12 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.* It is only by the light of Christ that we see our faults and repent. By repenting, we let the power of Christ guide us in making choices that bring us closer to God and allow His Spirit to direct our lives, relationships, and life decisions. *John 12:35-36 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light."* When He had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid Himself from them.

1. God's Power Comes from His Grace, Not Human-Efforts

God delivered us from Satan's Curse of Evil by the work of His Son, Jesus Christ. ***Ephesians 2:8-9*** ***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.***

God's grace manifested His love for us through a New Covenant (or New Testament). ***Mark 14:24*** ***This is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many.*** Yet God's grace in the New Testament has nothing to do with abolishing God's laws. ***Matthew 5:17*** ***Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*** The Old Testament required obedience based on God's Law, yet **salvation has always been based on faith in God's forgiving grace.** ***Romans 4:6-8*** ***David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."*** People either looked forward or backward to the cross of Christ in faith. ***Romans 4:13*** ***It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.*** How we hear the gospel is different for everyone; Christ even preached to those who perished in Noah's flood. ***1 Peter 3:19-20*** ***After being made alive, He went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.*** Everyone's salvation comes from the Gospel of Christ, whether they lived before or after the time of Christ's sacrificial crucifixion and resurrection. ***Ephesians 4:7-9*** ***But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When He ascended on high, He took many captives and gave gifts to His people."*** [Psalm 68:18] ***What does "He ascended" mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions?*** **Salvation** shows God's love for us. Our obedience to God's commands shows our love for God. ***1 Samuel 15:22*** ***Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in***

obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. Only obedience shows God our love for Him. John 14:21 Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them. It is impossible to claim our allegiance and love to Christ without obedience. 1 John 2:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. Our obedience is a manifestation of the divine power of God's Spirit dwelling within us. Luke 24:49 I am going to send you what My Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." In both the Old and New Testament, a person's love for God is shown by humble and faithful obedience. Exodus 19:5 Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine. Our love for Christ (and God His Father) is only revealed by surrendered obedience to the commands of Christ. 1 John 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know Him if we keep His commands. Whoever says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys His word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did. We DO NOT connect to God through sincerity and knowledge, but through humble obedience to God in the power of Christ. James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Although the Gospel of Christ never changes, some try to "improve it" with "cookie-cutter" human ideas. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

2. **OBEDIENCE is the Key to Loving and Abiding in Christ**

We learn to rely on the power of God and not human-efforts, when we live from our unseen “Inner-Man.” If we pursue God with a visible “Outer-Man” attitude, we should expect to be fed with the logic and reason of an “Outer-Man” human view of God. If our beliefs come from academic knowledge, how can God’s power enter our lives? ***1 Corinthians 1:17-18 Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*** We constrain God if we build a human image of Him and ignore the Spirit of our “Inner-Man.” ***1 Corinthians 2:12 Who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.*** Any version or image of God developed with human logic, and academic knowledge ignores the authority and teaching from God’s Spirit of Truth. Rather than relying on human thoughts, logic, or intellectual understanding, we need to humbly yield our powerless visible “Outer-Man” and WAIT on the Divine Power from God’s Spirit to guide and direct us. ***Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the [unseen Inner-Man] Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the [visible Outer-Man] flesh? God’s Spirit is within every Christian.*** God’s Spirit guides and directs our lives when we (1) ignore human-views of God, (2) flee the desires of this world, (3) yield our self-efforts, and (4) wait for Christ to direct our life. ***Psalms 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.*** Yet we may feel more comfortable living as “slaves” to a religious system, than living under the freedom we have in Christ. ***2 Corinthians 3:17 The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*** Our old stubborn nature may prefer the human-logic of academic, religious systems, as we become part of a standardized scheme of repression and conformity to a set of human traditions. We inadvertently deny Christ by pridefully

choosing to depend on human wisdom and logic. **2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.** By denying the power of Christ, we pollute the Gospel of Christ and nullify God's Word. **Mark 7:13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.** Satan, the Prince of this World, wants us to "profess" allegiance to Christ, but ignore (or deny) the Power of Christ from God's Spirit of Truth. **Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God."** We replace the Perfect Power of Christ with a false or counterfeit gospel rooted in human-efforts, intellectual logic, and academic reason. By doing so, we glorify human thoughts and the "speculative" theology that comes out of this world. **John 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness.** God has invited everyone to come to the light of Christ to be transformed and healed. **John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** The guiding light of Christ is delivered into our darkened world by the power of God's Indwelling Spirit. It is not enough to believe Christ is our Lord and Savior; even demons know Christ defeated Satan. **James 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder.** Satan's plan is to (1) **distract**, (2) **deceive** and (3) **discourage** people. We can sincerely desire to follow Christ, but then deny or ignore the power of Christ that enables us to follow Him. We cannot follow Christ without HIS power. **Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** The Shed Blood of Jesus Christ defeated Satan. Christ gave the authority to use His power to all His followers. **Luke 10:19 See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you.** Recognize the battle belongs to Christ and allow the Power of God's Spirit living inside of you, to protect you from Satan and lead you into God's truth! **2 Chronicles 20:15 Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's.**

3. Humility in God's Power or Pride in Human Understanding

We may understand the Bible and have our version of God, but how can ANY human explain God? That is the work of God's Spirit, ALONE! Our "work" is to unite with God by obediently surrendering or dying to self in the power of Christ. ***Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*** We point others to Christ and then let God's Spirit show them their need for repentance and salvation. ***1 Corinthians 4:5 Wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.*** God's Spirit teaches us to rely on the power of Christ to direct our thoughts and guide our choices. ***Ephesians 4:22-24 In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*** We "die to self" and become 100% dependent on the power of Christ, dwelling within us. ***Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*** God's love is not of THIS world, and God's Spirit of Truth guides and rebuilds our lives. Christ is the perfect sacrifice, who's shed blood destroyed Satan's Curse of Evil, which had corrupted the perfect world that God created ***1 John 3:8-9 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.***

It is God's power, NOT human understanding, or religious systems, that makes it possible to display God's love in THIS world. ***Galatians 5:22-26 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such***

things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. As we learn to depend on God's indwelling Spirit, Christ works through our imperfections and shines His Light to others, out of our surrendered lives. We become vessels of Christ when we are weak and broken, allowing Christ to use us as a yielded container and shine His light into this darkened world. The true Gospel is contrary to any man-made religion. The Gospel of Christ heals our soul, spirit, and body. We move from death into eternal life, and God now dwells on earth within our New Heart. **Galatians 3:3 - Are you so foolish? Having begun in the [unseen Inner-Man] Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the [visible Outer-Man] flesh?** Christ brought glory to God, His Father, with His humble life, complete obedience, sacrificial crucifixion, resurrection from the dead, and placement at the right hand of God in heaven.

Philippians 2:5-11 Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. God places the infinite power of Christ in everyone willing to surrender their will to Him. **Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** The Gospel of Christ creates an "Inner-Man" temple so God can dwell within us. **1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?** The power of God's Spirit is a continuous connection flowing to us from outside of this world. We are now free stop "striving," as we learn to depend on power from Christ alone! **1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.**

G. Summary – Finding & Knowing The Only True God

There is only one true God. *1 Corinthians 8:5-6* For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. We find God in Jesus Christ alone. We are warned against the deceptions of human traditions. *Colossians 2:8-10* See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Without guidance from God’s Spirit of Truth, our minds are veiled from the light of Christ. *2 Corinthians 4:3-4* Our gospel is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. The world looks at images of godliness and denies the power of the Gospel. *2 Timothy 3:5* Rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid them!

God has always worked through His chosen nation Israel to bring Christ into our world. He is the God of both Christ and Israel.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. The Gospel delivers the power of God’s Spirit to Believers. *John 14:26* The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. We learn to depend on Christ alone. *John 15:5* - I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me YOU CAN DO NOTHING.

Christ dwells in our world through Christians who are surrendered and reliant on the power of God’s Spirit. *Acts 1:8* You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. Christ made it truly clear that we ONLY find and connect to God through Him ALONE. *John 14:6* Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Unfortunately, our image and understanding of Christ can be

easily warped, and we can be led astray if we do not depend and rely on God's Spirit to teach us. **Hebrews 2:1-3** **We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.** **For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?** Uniting with God is beyond our abilities and human efforts. **Job 11:7-9** **Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.** God's Spirit communicates to our "Reborn" **Spirit** through our "New" **Heart** (the "**Mind of our Spirit**"). God's Spirit of Truth draws us to Christ from outside of THIS world. **John 6:44** **No one can come to Me unless drawn by the Father who sent Me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.**

As we surrender or die to human-logic and ideas about God, we find God in His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ redeems us and guides our New Life with His power, from our "Inner-Man." **Galatians 2:19-20** **I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.** As we connect with God's Spirit, we learn to pray from both our visible "Outer-Man" (**Body** and **Soul**) and our "Inner-Man" (**Spirit** and **Heart**). Our "Inner-Man" and "Outer-Man" prayers overlap as we seek God with every part of our being, **Body, Soul, Spirit, and Heart.** **Ephesians 6:18** **Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.** Only God's Spirit of Truth can guide, teach, and enlighten us about Christ, God His Father, and God's Word (our Bible). **Mark 7:6-9** **"Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules." You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions". And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"** We are easily deceived when we lose focus and drift into the shadows. **Hebrews 2:1** **We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.**

1. Jesus Christ - Our Only True and Perfect Image of God

The only TRUE and perfect image of God is Jesus Christ, our Jewish Messiah. *Colossians 1:15* **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.** It is only in Christ that we can connect with God. *Matthew 11:27* **All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.** Although Christ left THIS world, He remains joined to us by God's Spirit. *Romans 8:11* **If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit that dwells in you.** There is no rational explanation for God's love and favor for us undeserving creatures. *Luke 5:31-32* **Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."** The only thing we can do to accept God's gift of Salvation is to turn to Christ in humble repentance. *Isaiah 30:15* **The Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength."** We turn to Christ in repentant faith to accept this gift of God's "General Grace" given to the entire world. *Titus 2:11* **The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.** We also experience God's "Specific Grace," when His Spirit convicts us individually of our need to be saved. *2 Corinthians 4:4* **The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.** We are blind to the things of God, but God's Spirit enlightens us from our unseen "Inner-Man." *Luke 13:3* **Unless you repent, you will all perish as well!** We become "clothed" in Christ as we repent and turn to Him. *Galatians 3:26* **You who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.** It is only in Christ that we can know God His Father. *John 1:18* **No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son - the One who is at the Father's side - He has revealed Him.** We also experience Christ's love from local church fellowships who encourage and support us in difficult times. *Ephesians 4:2-3* **Be completely humble and**

gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Christ works through His Church as one body to grow and shine the light of Christ into our darkened world.

Ephesians 4:14-16 We will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

God's Love is fully revealed in Christ. **John 13:3-5**

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.



Jesus Christ's Leadership ³³

In contrast to many churches, Christ came to serve - in obedience to His Father. **Mark 10:43-45 Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.** Our new life is in Christ alone – NOT a church or a set of church doctrines. **2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.**

³³ Painting by Albert Edelfelt - Bodil Karlsson / Nationalmuseum, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=52122916>

2. Free in Christ or Captive to the Delusions of THIS World

In Christ, we are free to escape the delusions of our world. The science of today is a slave to a belief that the universe and humans are one big unconscious accident. This idea violates the laws of science (Law of Biogenesis, First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics, etc.), yet evolution is taught and presented by our world as a fact. As stated by Dr. Rupert Sheldrake (**The Science Delusion: Freeing the Spirit of Enquiry**), “*The science delusion is the belief that science already understands the nature of reality. The fundamental questions are answered, leaving only the details to be filled in.*”... “*the default world view of educated people.*”... “*As my friend, Terence McKenna used to say, ‘Modern science is based on the principle: give us one free miracle and we’ll explain the rest.’ And the one free miracle is the appearance of all the matter and energy in the universe and all the laws that govern it from nothing in a single instant.*”³⁴ In Christ, we are free to reject Satan’s delusions and turn from the desires of our world. **1 John 2:16-17 Everything in the world—the (1) lust of the flesh, the (2) lust of the eyes, and the (3) pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.** We are helpless without Christ’s power and authority. Only in Christ can we rest from the trials, pain, false hopes, and delusions of our world. **Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** These delusions include human traditions and false teachings created by Institutionalized Christianity. We may question the Bible’s accuracy. But if we accept the Gospel of Christ, we also need to recognize Christ quoted the Bible as true and historically accurate when He referred to:

- a. **Creation of Adam & Eve - Matthew 19:4 He replied, “That at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female.’”**
- b. **Noah and Sodom & Gomorrah - Luke 17:26-29 As in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. The flood came and destroyed them all. “It was the same in the days of Lot.**

³⁴ Rupert Sheldrake, The Science Delusion Banned Ted Talk; YouTube, Mar 15, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKHUaNAxsTg&t=137s> (accessed Jan-28-2020).

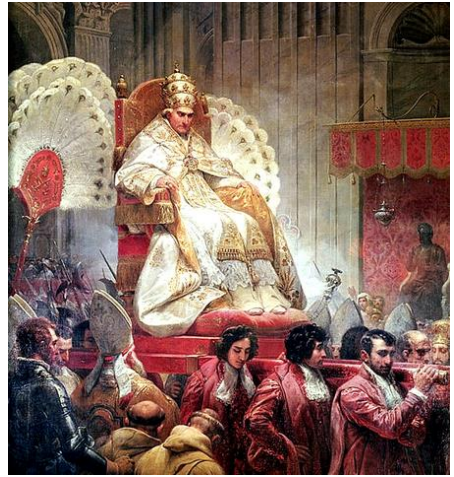
People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

- c. *Prophets Abel to Zechariah - Matthew 23:35 On you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and altar.*

Christ believed and relied on the scriptures. As shown earlier in Section A.1 of this paper, portions of today's translations are from altered manuscripts - changed to fit some particular Church doctrine that may corrupt God's truth (per manuscript experts). As we near the end of this age and Christ's return is imminent, the delusions of our world are being exposed. The truth about our origins and earth history is being clarified and revealed. God's truth is shining forth from science, archeology, and the fulfillment of prophecies. We also see an increase of evil as the delusions of Satan infiltrate every corner of THIS world. But as evil becomes more rampant and insidious, the hope we have in the Gospel of Christ shines brighter. The power and grace of God's Spirit is making one last call for everyone to repent and be saved. *Hebrews 10:25 Encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* As evil continues to grow, we know God's promised judgments on sin are coming upon our world. God made it clear that His judgment will begin with the purification of His church. *Psalm 119:118 You reject all who stray from your decrees, for their delusions come to nothing.* God's Spirit is enlightening His followers about false teachings and the delusions of human traditions that have infiltrated Institutionalized Churches. *1 Peter 4:17-19 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.* It is time for Christians of all denominations to turn to Christ in true repentance *James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

God's true Church doesn't want your money or property. God wants your repentant heart. Christ's true church is all believers, who are united together by God's Spirit.

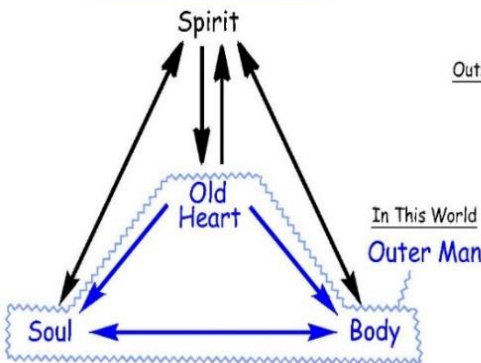
1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Don't you know that you are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.



The World's Church Leadership³⁵

God does not dwell in a temple built with human hands. ***Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.*** We cannot resist Satan with the self-efforts of our visible "Outer-Man." Only the power of Christ from our unseen "Inner-Man" gives us freedom from THIS world's desires and delusions.

Outer Man Led

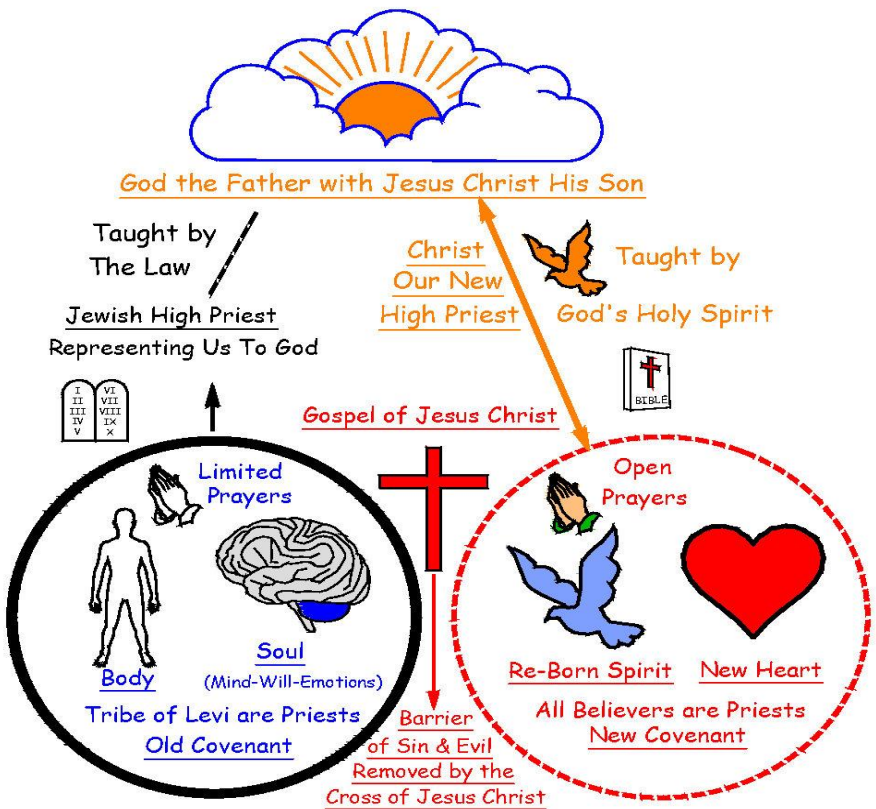


Inner Man Led



Outer Man Led (with an Old Heart) versus Inner Man Led (with a New Heart)

³⁵ Painting by Horace Vernet - http://www.allposters.com/gallery.asp?startat=/getPoster.asp&CID=C208C6E1931040E4BF97BB86371CF38E&frameSku=1740229_4986654-507814, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12130223>



Outer-Man

Inner-Man

Christ lived as a man and battled human temptations; (1) lust of the flesh, (2) lust of the eyes, and (3) the pride of life. Satan offered to give Christ all the Glory of the world if He would bow down and worship him. *Matthew 4:8-11* **The devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give You,” he said, “if You will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”** Our freedom to turn from evil is in Christ’s authority. Christ used scripture alone to defeat Satan. Concerning the Lust of the Flesh (Food, Cravings, etc.), Christ used *Deuteronomy 8:3* **He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then fed you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.** With the Lust of the Eyes (Coveting the world’s desires) and the Pride of Life (Self-Glory). Christ quoted from:

Deuteronomy 6:13-16 Fear the Lord your God, serve Him only and take your oaths in His name. Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. Do not put the Lord your God to the test. We have freedom in Christ's power to reject the world's pleasures. As we give our lives to Christ, He becomes our real nourishment and strength. **John 15:3-5 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.**

In Psalm 4, God talks about our false images of Him and His plan to rescue us through His Only Son. We cry out to God for mercy when we have nowhere else to go, knowing in our hearts that He created us and cares for us. **Psalm 4:1 Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.** God tells us we have created delusions about Him and created a human god with false images of who we WANT Him to be and how He should rescue us from our trials, sorrows, and pain. **Psalm 4:2 How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?** Despite our delusions and human ideas about how God should deliver us from our problems, God has His own divine plans to guide, direct, and redeem us through Christ, His Only Son, who He calls "His Faithful Servant." **Psalm 4:3-5 Know that the Lord has set apart His faithful servant for Himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord.** It is only by the Spirit of the true God that His love shines into our hearts, and we experience true peace and safety in His divine power. **Psalm 4:6-8 Many, Lord, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?" Let the light of your face shine on us. Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

3. Following the True Teachings of Christ in God's Power

God warned us about falling away and pursuing false gods.

Deuteronomy 11:16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. Human traditions nullify the power of God's word. ***Mark 7:13 You nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.***

Demons work to deceive us with corrupted teaching and religious traditions. ***1 Timothy 4:1 In later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.***

Christ warns us about falling away. ***Revelation 2:5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*** Our faith is shown in (1) **repentance**, (2) **obedience to Christ**, and (3) **waiting on God's Spirit for direction and guidance**.

We learn to trust Christ from our unseen **Inner-Man** rather than our visible **Outer-Man**. ***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart [unseen Inner-Man] and lean not on your own understanding [visible Outer-Man]; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.*** As we seek Christ, Satan tries to lead us astray with false teaching.

There are two churches. The **Acts 2 Church** was formed by God's Spirit. It is the ***True Church*** with a diverse group of **Spirit-led Inner-Man** Believers who exhibit Christ by relying on the power of God's Spirit for guidance and direction. ***Acts 1:8 You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*** The ***True Church*** began around 31 AD.

Acts 2:43-44 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. The **Acts 2 Church** was

fully surrendered and reliant on the power of God's indwelling Spirit. The church had no building programs, human-efforts, or organizations directing its formation. Today, we see churches attempt to imitate the **Acts 2 Church** with a visible "Outer-Man" duplication process. A system that relies on building programs, marketing, attorneys, and organizations to copy its appearance. The success of the **Acts 2 Church** came from the power of God's Spirit **ALONE**, not from human talk! ***1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.***

There is also a visible *Institutionalized Outer-Man Church* that relies on human effort and the processes of *this* world. Counterfeit churches are driven by self-serving agendas, building programs, and a politically correct appearance. This church began at the Councils of Nicaea in 325 AD and Constantinople in 381 AD; under the direction of two pagan Emperors who wanted to unify their empires. A corrupted form of Christianity was used for political expediency, since the Outer-Man doesn't comprehend the things of God. ***1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*** It has been said, "***Christianity conquered paganism and paganism corrupted Christianity.***" Many who know and trust the Bible will still accept human doctrines NOT taught by Christ or His Apostles. The Bible clearly reveals God the Father, Jesus Christ (our Savior, the Messiah & God's Son), and the Spirit of God (which goes out from God) and now dwells within us. ***2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*** The Trinitarian Doctrine is absent from the Bible! Most Christians are unfamiliar with the history of Constantine and Theodosius, who formed and led the Nicene and Apostolic Councils. Martin Luther stated, "*The name 'Trinity' is nowhere to be found in the Holy Scriptures, but has been conceived and invented by man.*" Some who claim Biblical inerrancy also rely on pagan councils and ignore the scriptures.³⁶ Different versions of the council's history have been written and many were "sanitized" for religious conformity. Rather than debate these events, we can simply expose the fruit of these councils. The positive and negative versions of these councils all agree on the history and critical results as follows:

- 1. Constantine's brutal history and murder of his family members.*
- 2. The council's hatred and persecution of the Jewish people.*
- 3. The persecution of Christians not agreeing to the new creeds.*
- 4. The creeds were created by human thought, not God's Spirit.*
- 5. The councils used the world's ideas, not the power of God.*
- 6. Pagans had used trinitarian concepts for centuries; it wasn't new.*

36 Is God a Trinity? United Church of God Website. Beyond Today. (Accessed February 18, 2020) <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/who-is-god/is-god-a-trinity>

Both the early church and Spirit-Led Christians of today esteem and love the Nation of Israel, who God used to bring us our Jewish Messiah. ***John 4:22 Salvation is from the Jews.*** Some claim to follow “***Sola Scriptura***” (*Scripture Alone*), ***Scriptures are the sole infallible rule of faith and practice,***” but then accept the Nicene or Apostolic Creeds from Pagan Emperors. In the 4th Century, Pagan Temples were converted into churches and pagan idols renamed as Christian saints. Instead of persecuting Christians willing to die for Christ, the new Roman Empire killed Christians who refused the “**bad fruit**” of the contrived Roman Creeds. Christ told those who were blind to God’s work, to at least look at the fruit or the results. ***Matthew 7:16-18 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.***

God is Pure, unapproachable, and Holy. He cannot come to us and we cannot go to Him. We can only come to God in Christ. ***1 Timothy 6:15-16 God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.*** It is only by the Blood of Christ (*Yahshua = Yahweh’s Salvation*) that cleanses and brings us to the One True God (*Yahweh*). ***Hebrews 10:19-22 We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart.*** The infinite power of God is in everyone willing to surrender their will to Christ. ***Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*** The Gospel creates an *Inner-Man Temple* for God to dwell with people of all nations. ***Ephesians 2:19-20 You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*** To know and understand God, we look only to Christ and learn to rely on His power. ***Colossians 2:8-10 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy,***

which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Are we seeking the God revealed in Christ? Christ's teachings are NOT of our world, and we need Christ's Power to obey and comprehend them. 1 Thessalonians 1:5 Our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. The miracle of God's salvation is from faith in Christ, NOT human doctrines. Christ cleanses us and then uses His power to purge the evil from our lives. Yielding our life can be difficult if we see our world from a temporal view since our actual life battles are in an unseen world with eternal consequences. Ephesians 6:12 We struggle not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. As God dwells within us, He works to remove any sin from our lives. Our body may be destroyed, but our Soul is saved for an Eternal Life in Christ. 1 Peter 2:11-12 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles [our real life with Christ is in God's Kingdom], to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us [Christ will return very soon]. Are we a humbly surrendered vessel of Christ, living for God's purpose? Or do we try to use God's power to advance our personal needs and our view of God's plan for our world? Our love for Christ is shown by obedience, not by emotions or knowledge. Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Sadly, some who verbally profess allegiance to Christ, are disobedient to the will of God, and will not be saved. The end times are here! The Gospel of Salvation will soon be over. We must turn to Christ and repent now!

Final Notes & Resource Information

1. We find God through Christ in the power of God's Spirit. The intent of this booklet is not to teach or enlighten you about God, but to point you to Christ, so He will teach you His Truth, in the power of God's Spirit. Although this study was helpful to me, I know God's Spirit of Truth works and teaches us differently. What I find insightful may not be useful to others. I hope you find this interesting and enlightening but know God's Spirit will teach you His Truth – NOT man's truth. **1 John 2:26-27: I am writing to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you [Human teaching to our Outer-Man]. But as His anointing teaches you [God's Spirit teaching to our Inner-Man] about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit - just as it has taught you, remain in Him.**
2. For clarity, this paper uses the names of God from modern translations. But this ignores God's name "Yahweh", used over 7,000 times in the original text. God told Israel His name was Yahweh. **Exodus 20:2-3 (RSB) I am Yahweh thy Elohim [Supreme One], which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.** God's angel told Joseph to name Mary's son Yahshua (Yahweh's Salvation) because He would save His people from their sins. Most translations do not use God's name (Yahweh) or Jesus's name (Yahshua = Yahweh's Salvation) but substitute them with titles, generic changes, church traditions, and translation changes. In our world, the name "God" is used to describe countless gods from all religions. There is no other Supreme One (Elohim) in all the universe. Yahweh is the Only True God. Although Bible translations use the term "God" or "LORD" and "Lord," Yahweh told Israel to not even mention the name of other gods. **Exodus 23:13 Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.** Peter preached the Gospel and said to repent and be baptized in the name of Yahshua (Yahweh's Salvation).
3. My prayer and hope for myself and others are that God would empower us to live our lives for His purpose and plan. As we learn to surrender our Outer-Man Self-Efforts and rely on the power of God's Spirit, Christ leads us in our new life, as we learn to show kindness towards others and to ourselves. Christ works in us to develop new attitudes of humility, patience, and confidence in God. God's Spirit directs and teaches us: from (1) His word, (2) His indwelling Spirit and (3) His work in the lives of other Christians, teachers, and pastors who teach God's truth.
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5. Other free resources are available on-line at www.godstruth.us. God's Truth is an informal group of Christians providing free discipleship materials and other resources to help you develop a personal and private connection with Jesus Christ, in the power of God's Spirit of Truth. You are welcome to visit our website and download other FREE resources.

Inviting Jesus Christ into Your Life

If you would like to connect with Christ in a personal and private relationship, here is an example prayer; revise it as you see fit.

Dear Jesus, I desire to know You and accept your free gift of salvation that came from Your redemptive death for me - as planned by God, Your Father. I come to You privately as I am, with no “*Good Works*” or merit of my own, and acknowledge my failures, sins, and mistakes. Though I may lack a clear understanding of You, I humbly ask your forgiveness. I know Your crucifixion and shed blood broke the curse of evil in this world and allows me to live a new life as a vessel for You, here on earth. I trust in Your promises to restore me as I become a NEW Creature in You, and as You present me, to God Your Father in His Kingdom. I recognize God’s Holy Spirit will now dwell within me to teach, guide, and direct my life according to Your plan and purpose. I thank You for Your gracious and loving-kindness as I begin my new life, reborn in You, as You replace my old life and goals with Your purposes for my life. It is exciting to know You love me personally, and I am connected with the God of the universe as I surrender my efforts and rely on the power of God’s Holy Spirit to guide me. I desire to live my life for God’s purpose as You make me into Your image! The image of Jesus Christ, God’s Only Begotten Son. Amen.

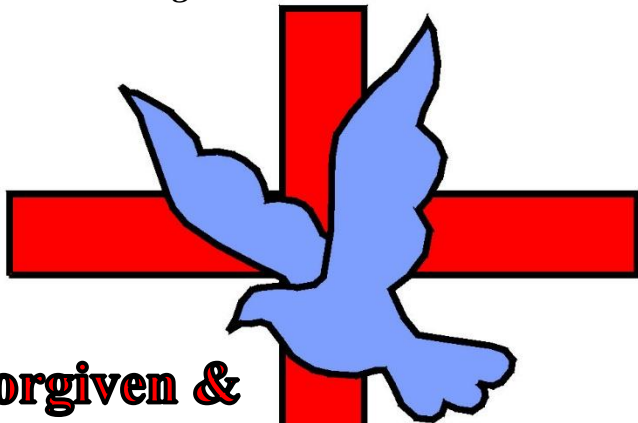
Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

A Daily Prayer of Surrender: Dear God, today in the power of Your Holy Spirit, please guide and teach me Your will and purpose, NOT what I think is Your will and purpose. That I become a vessel of Christ, who will wait, trust, and depend on Christ’s power to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to surrender the things I can change, and the wisdom to wait for Your clear direction and purpose in my life. Amen

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

God's Redeeming Love - An Invitation to All People



1. Forgiven & Redeemed by The Blood of Jesus Christ

2. Taught & Led in The Power of God's Holy Spirit

3. Received by Surrendering Your Self-will & Desires. Experiencing God through your Private & Personal Prayers.



John 10:27-30 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."