



HIS NAME IS

יהוה

“ANCIENT OF DAYS”



~

**Happy is the person who finds wisdom.  
And happy is the person who gets understanding.  
Wisdom is worth more than silver.  
It brings more profit than gold.  
Wisdom is more precious than rubies.  
Nothing you want is equal to it.  
With her right hand wisdom offers you a long life.  
With her left hand she gives you riches and honor.  
Wisdom will make your life pleasant.  
It will bring you peace.  
As a tree makes fruit, wisdom gives life to those who use it.  
Everyone who uses wisdom will be happy.**

~

**Proverbs 3:13–18**

***International Children's Bible***

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## About the Author

On February 12, 1999, shortly after my thirtieth birthday, I was seriously injured while racing arenacross—the injury left me paralyzed from the neck down. However, to say that I’ve lived an eventful life, both before and after my injury, would be an understatement. Before I was even two years old, I was backed over by a car while playing in my babysitter’s driveway. Fortunately, I escaped the incident more or less unscathed. My journey through life continued with the divorcing of my parents—right around my second birthday—after which, I lived with my mom and had very little contact with my biological father. After moving around for the next three years, my mom remarried, and we finally settled down in a small town in Saskatchewan—that’s where our family lived until I reached adulthood.

Despite having the valuable life experience of growing up in a small town, I dropped out of high school in grade eleven, became a three-time convicted criminal, and even did some time in prison. Then, after deciding it was time to clean up my act, I went on to enjoy a brief encounter with what I believed was the perfect life—only to have it vanish within the blink of an eye in a motorcycle accident that left me a quadriplegic. Since then, I have clawed my way through a dark forest of loss and adversity, but my journey has taken me further in self-discovery and brought me to a greater understanding of human existence than I could have ever imagined.

Although my life as a quadriplegic at times resembles what some would call a nightmare, I have come to realize it is a gift. And I am eternally grateful to have had the opportunity to experience this journey, simply because, without it, I never would have come to learn what I now know: a truth that I consider to be more valuable than any life I might have enjoyed as an able-bodied man. Quite honestly, I consider it both an honor and a privilege to share what I have learned with you. My only wish is that you take the time to read this book to the end. Afterward, what you do with this knowledge is up to you.

## Foreword

Throughout my adult life, I have often been regarded as a straightforward person who does not mince words. In that same breath, however, let me say that it's not my intention to offend anyone—I respect what other people believe and have never discriminated against anyone. My wish is that you will appreciate the straightforward approach in which this book is written. Furthermore, the information in this book is not based on conspiracy theories or religious propaganda. The evidence is presented using clear and simple logic to reveal the true answer to one very important question: What does the Bible really say about the future of mankind?

As you contemplate what you read in this book, please be inclined to verify everything that is written. Do not simply take my word for it. Prove it to yourself. I encourage you to challenge your intellect by connecting the dots yourself, and to fully absorb this information and understand how it affects you personally, please put aside tradition, what creation deniers have influenced you to believe, and the loyalty you might feel toward your religion to see this information for what it is: THE TRUTH!

Chapter one will begin with answering a question that for many years frequently consumed my own thoughts: is there a Creator/God? With the various calamities that befall individuals, families, cities, and even entire countries, I could not help but question the likelihood of a Creator. After all, if He exists and we are His creation, then why wouldn't He help us prevent the atrocities we see in this world? This mindset made it easy for me to equate the notion of God with fairy tales and fantasies invented long ago by unintelligent humans to explain many things they simply could not yet understand or make sense of. Take, for example, thunder and lightning. Every time the sky rumbled and lightning scorched the earth, many of our ancestors believed God was angry. For that reason, I even went so far as to conclude that believing in God was a sign of weakness or lack of intelligence, and I equated a person's faith with an inability to embrace mortality. I can distinctly recall arguing with my stepdad, Bill, that his belief in God was based on his need for hope. Out of fear, Bill simply needed to believe in something after death. And my general reasoning as to why the concept of God was invented in the first place was that it provided an ingenious way to control people. Believing in a higher power who watched what we did and judged us seemed like a logical method for keeping society stable, especially during times of crisis. Well, here I am, 49 years of age, 100% convinced that there is a Creator. The irony is that I am writing about it with a stick in my mouth, typing it out one keystroke at a time.

So, what finally convinced me that there is a Creator? Even though going to church would seem like the most likely place to start, I was, and continue to be, steadfastly opposed to religion—because of the widespread corruption found within her. My resolve in accepting that there is a Creator was first established through science. Then, after accepting that science undeniably proves there is a Creator, I felt compelled to proceed with an honest, unbiased, systematic evaluation of the Bible using multiple translations. That was when the answer became painfully obvious as to why our Creator has not yet stepped in to help us out. However, before we explore that answer, let's first establish—through the lens of modern science—that there is a Creator. Fair enough?

# — Chapter One —

## FACTS NOT THEORIES

How did everything come to exist? That's the big question that scientists have been trying to answer for millennia. The most common theory today is that all physical matter came into existence by way of a random event known as the "big bang." As for how life began on Earth, creation deniers believe that subsequent random events brought just the right chemicals together to trigger a spontaneous chain reaction that gave rise to every living thing we see today, including us. In other words, cosmologists and evolutionists alike believe the reason we are here is because of an accident, a fluke, or a one-in-a-trillion shot. But was it really just a fluke? Did something accidentally bump into another thing, causing more things to suddenly appear that later bumped into other things that triggered life to unexpectedly emerge, which, over time and after millions of unplanned transformations, led to human beings? Wow! Is that even possible? Well, that's the question we will answer in this first chapter.

In October of 2018, theoretical physicist/cosmologist and creation denier Stephen Hawking posthumously published his final book, *Brief Answers to the Big Questions*, in which he claims, "**There is no God. No one directs the universe.**"<sup>1</sup> While Hawking is considered "**the brightest star in the firmament of science,**"<sup>2</sup> by using biology, mathematics, and the power of conscious observation, we are going to prove him wrong—and his very own interpretation of the laws that govern our universe will support this evidence.

We will begin with recent evidence found in biology: DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). The National Human Genome Research Institute says, "**DNA contains the instructions needed for an organism to develop, survive and reproduce.**"<sup>1</sup> What many people don't realize is that within our DNA lies a microscopic instruction manual, and researchers have discovered that these instructions are written in a language we can decipher.

As many people already know, modern-day computer code—when broken down to its simplest form—is written with ones and zeros. Well, DNA code is similar except, instead of just two single characters, ones and zeros, DNA has four chemical units: (A)adenine, (T)thymine, (C)cytosine, and (G)guanine. Inside each individual cell of your body, these chemical units work together in pairs within a tiny command center similar to how a computer program operates. And each command center consists of roughly three billion pairs of chemical units. These command centers tell your cells what to do and when to replicate themselves.

Want to hazard a guess at how much space just one command center takes up inside an average human cell? Consisting of three billion pairs of chemical units, one command center fits inside a space that measures just six microns across—roughly one-fifteenth the thickness of an average human hair.<sup>3</sup> Think about that for a moment. Every single cell in your body comes with its own little command center for building and maintaining itself. In other words, with its four-letter language, DNA contains the necessary information to build your entire human body.

Considering human achievement in data storage and processing, an average-sized laptop can comfortably store and process roughly 256 gigabytes of data. When it comes to the storage capacity within our DNA, however, one gram could theoretically store 455 exabytes (over 488 billion gigabytes) of data.<sup>4</sup>

To help you understand more clearly how complex and efficient DNA really is, I'll use an example that the average person can relate to. An article published by the *Daily Star* in 2015 estimated that there were roughly 1.8 zettabytes of data in the world in 2011.<sup>5</sup> This means that all the information in the world, from every book ever written to every song ever recorded and every photo ever taken, could theoretically be stored on a DNA hard drive the size of a single teaspoon. Isn't that incredible? But creation deniers expect us to believe that something this complex and efficient came into existence because of unplanned random events. In other words, it was a fluke. Meanwhile, to store and process that same amount of information using planned and well-thought-out human technology would require a stack of laptops over 65,000 miles high or a football-field-size building one mile high.

Oxford Living Dictionaries defines the type of instructions within DNA as **“A code in a program which defines and carries out an operation.”** Obviously, guidance of this sort implies forethought and purpose, not to mention SOMEONE had to write the instructions for them to exist in the first place. To believe otherwise would reflect the possibility that a computer program could spontaneously write itself. Microsoft's Bill Gates even said, **“DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”**<sup>6</sup>

In terms of forethought and purpose, when you set your alarm clock to wake up in the morning, do you randomly select a time? Of course not! Plans you made for the next day cause you to consciously set the alarm to wake you up on time in order to fulfill those plans. Yet notice how Oxford Living Dictionaries defines random: **“Made, done, or happening without method or conscious decision.”**

Surely, we can agree that the act of making a conscious decision for the purpose of planning ahead is not done randomly. My point is that human beings make conscious decisions every day—a behavior opposite of random.

So, where am I going with this? Well, in order to believe the universe was not planned by a Creator, creation deniers are stuck with the theory that the universe came to exist unintentionally by random events. What creation deniers fail to acknowledge is the question that arises from their theory: could the universe have come to exist randomly and still produce human consciousness—an awareness that plans ahead? In other words, is it possible for something that was formed unintentionally to evolve into something that functions with intention? If we can prove that the answer is no, then we must conclude that humans were designed and intentionally created this way. It really is that simple. And all the science in the world can't get around this simple reasoning.

In 2016, Stephen Hawking produced a six-part PBS television series entitled *Genius*. During the “Why Are We Here?” episode, Hawking said, **“The laws of nature are always in control, and they don't vary. So, the start guarantees the outcome every time. When it comes to working out why we are here, this ideal has huge implications for mankind. If the whole universe is rigidly determined by the laws of nature, its future is already dictated by what happened before.”**

By Professor Hawking's very own definition of the laws that govern our universe, when something is random, it must forever remain random. But how do we prove that to ourselves? Through mathematics! As the Mathematics: Everywhere & Everyday exhibition in Singapore said, **“Mathematics is the language of science and engineering—describing our understanding of all that we observe.”**

Let's consider a simple illustration. If you were to roll a pair of dice over and over while recording the outcome each time, would you expect a reliable pattern to eventually occur? Let's take it one step further. What if you rolled those dice twenty-two trillion times? Do you think that a numerical language capable of conscious reasoning and planning ahead might eventually manifest itself? You would probably reason that it's highly unlikely. You might even say that it's impossible, that they are just dice, capable of nothing other than bouncing around until they come to a stop. But how do we know for sure? Fortunately, the answer to this query is solved for us by mathematics. If you recall junior high math, you may remember the mathematical equation known as pi: the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, which most people believe to be 3.14. But there is more to pi, a lot more, than meets the eye.

In 1882, Ferdinand von Lindemann proved that pi is an irrational number—the decimal numbers after 3.14159265359... go on into infinity. Even more interesting is that this infinitesimal set of numbers NEVER becomes anything except random. In 2016, the decimal representation of pi was calculated to over twenty-two trillion digits without finding a single repeating pattern! Why? Because, like Stephen Hawking said, **“The laws of nature are always in control, and they don't vary. So, the start guarantees the outcome every time.”** In other words, when something's beginning is random, it must forever remain random. This simple understanding in mathematics proves that it's not possible for something whose beginning was random to evolve into something that functions with intention. Therefore, if the universe truly began randomly, then human beings who consist of instructional DNA and a consciousness that functions with intention should not exist. Consequently, our very existence proves that we had to have been created. CASE CLOSED! And like I said, all the science in the world can't get around this simple reasoning.

Isn't it rather ironic that something as simple as the circle points to the undeniable fact that we were created? If you are interested in learning more about the events concerning the discovery of pi, you can read the article “The History of Pi” by Rutgers University's David Wilson.<sup>7</sup> Interestingly, Wilson cites a scripture from the Bible, 1 Kings 7:23, which introduced the most accurate representation of pi several hundred years before mathematicians were able to figure it out for themselves. Coincidence?

Of course, creation deniers will argue that a simple math equation can't be compared to the events that go on in our universe. Stars explode every day, each causing a multitude of scenarios we could never have predicted. However, I do not entirely disagree with the big bang theory. After all, the universe had to begin somehow. And I am a firm believer that everything can be explained. I'm simply making a solid case to prove one single fact: something that was created randomly inside a random environment can't cross the boundary to become something that functions with intention. And with a few simple observations and application of mathematics, that fact has been firmly established. As for the big bang theory itself, it could be fairly accurate except for one major issue: it most certainly WAS a planned event!

Understandably, because scientists can explain how various things happen in our universe, creation deniers have a tough time believing in a Creator. After all, a scientist's job is to explain how things occur—for them, there is no mystery that can't be solved. For instance, since many of our ancestors believed that thunder and lightning were a result of God's anger and since now we know what really causes thunder and lightning, somehow, that proves God doesn't exist? That mentality is comparable to watching a magician perform a trick and then, once you understand how it was executed, concluding that there is no such thing as magic. However, our Creator is NOT a magician! Everything He created could most certainly be explained if we possessed the intelligence to understand it. And in some cases, such as how and why thunder and lightning occur, we are now able to explain things that were once thought to be unexplainable. Just because our misguided ancestors believed our Creator was angry every time the sky rumbled and lightning scorched the earth, it's

not logical to conclude that He never existed in the first place. Since our Creator formulated the laws that govern our universe, it makes perfect sense that He used those laws when He created everything. I will say it again: our Creator is not a magician! He is, however, the ultimate Scientist with supreme intelligence.

To illustrate the depth of our Creator's intelligence, let's examine biomimicry for a moment. Cambridge Dictionary says: **"The idea behind biomimicry is that nature has already solved the challenges that we are trying to solve."** Truth is, many of the products that assist us in our day-to-day lives were either inspired by or made more efficient by studying nature. Here are a few examples: A man invented Velcro from observing the way plant burs stuck to his dog's hair. In the late 1990s, Japanese engineers modeled a bullet train after the beak of a kingfisher and found it to be 10–15% more aerodynamic than their previous design. By studying whale fins, engineers have been able to greatly increase the efficiency of wind turbine blades, cooling fans, airplane wings, and propellers. The most friction-resistant swimsuit ever made was created by studying the efficiency of sharkskin—the swimsuit is so advantageous that it is currently banned from use in major competitions. The aesthetics and shape of a bird skull inspired a lightweight, sculptural shoe design by Mariek Ratsma that offers more support using less material for optimal efficiency, strength, and elegance. Since spider silk is known to be one of nature's strongest materials—five times stronger than steel by weight—the U.S. military has invested into using harvested spider silk to build better body armor. And on account of their impressive ability to control and maintain temperature, an office complex in Harare, Zimbabwe, has an internal climate control system that was engineered after the structure of termite mounds.

These are just a few examples of how human technology has greatly benefitted from nature. Meanwhile, creation deniers continue to believe that all these highly innovative solutions simply came to exist from an accidental event thirteen billion years ago. In this context, Romans 1:20 is highly appropriate, **"Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So humans are without excuse."** (Common English Bible)

Nevertheless, because evolutionists can identify certain elements of animal DNA in humans, they conclude that humans naturally evolved from animals. To examine this theory, since DNA is comparable to a computer program, let's consider the history of the personal computer. Remember those first, primitive operating systems that took forever to start up and constantly froze your screen? Well, here we are a few decades later with far superior operating systems that run almost flawlessly. Although there is evidence of the old programming code found in these newer systems, does that mean they evolved—all by themselves—from older versions? Not at all! We already know that computer programmers developed the new software from older, more primitive computer code. Furthermore, when building the physical components of these new computer systems, manufacturers even use materials similar to what they used with the old computer systems: metals, plastics, and glass. Likewise, would it not be reasonable to believe that our Creator was efficient in using some of the same genetic code found in animals when He created the first man and woman? After all, like us, animals are also made of flesh and blood, and they breathe oxygen like us as well. Therefore, just as a modern-day computer program did not naturally evolve all by itself, but was created from previous technology, the human body was obviously created by using some of the same genetic code found in animals. To prove this isn't just speculation; American scientists have already created a living organism in their laboratory from pre-existing DNA.<sup>8</sup>

Fact is, when everything is said and done, we do not know for certain the exact science behind how we were created. And I doubt we ever will. Genesis 1:26, if you trust the Bible, simply says that we were designed and created in the image and likeness of our Creator. For whatever reason, that's all our Creator wants us to know.

In light of the evidence we have become witnesses to through biology, mathematics, and common sense, I will end this chapter with a simple undeniable conclusion: there is sufficient evidence to confidently believe that we were, in fact, created. Thanks to science, we do not have to rely on faith alone to accept this as fact, which means someone other than us knows that we are here: our Creator. And according to the law of cause and effect, there are inevitable consequences that come with this simple truth. This is a reality from which no one can exempt themselves.

# — Chapter Two —

## MANKIND'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL

When we create an intricate product, it's common sense to provide an instruction manual that explains how to properly use the device and get the most from it, is it not? Well, since our Creator designed and created us, wouldn't it make sense that He provided us with some sort of instruction manual as well?

So then, how do we go about identifying this instruction manual? Well, we know that humans have been roaming the Earth for thousands of years, therefore, the book we are looking for would most certainly be very old. And just as every instruction manual is created for the purpose of teaching the best way to get the most from a product, the instruction manual from our Creator should include information about how we can live the best life. Then, just as every human government has a book of laws for their citizens, the instruction manual from our Creator would likely contain a list of laws as well. I would also suspect that this book might explain some of the more complicated details concerning the world we live in, and perhaps even our universe, long before we were able to figure them out on our own. It's also conceivable that our Creator included an account of how everything began: the universe, planets, and life.

Finally, it makes sense that our instruction manual would also tell us about who our Creator is and how we fit into His grand scheme of things. Perhaps our instruction manual might even explain why this world is in such a mess and answer the burning question that everyone is wondering about: if He exists, then why isn't our Creator helping us out?

Given the context of its subject matter and the unprecedented history surrounding it, it's quite evident that there is only one book that stands head and shoulders above any other in this regard: The Bible. After all, the Bible itself claims to be from our Creator. In 2 Timothy 3:16, the apostle Paul said, "**The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true.**" (The Living Bible) And, it effectively contains an accurate history of some early humans that merges with our own record of history. Nevertheless, without the influence of religion, let's dig further and see for ourselves if there is any real evidence to conclude that the Bible truly is mankind's Instruction Manual from our Creator.

Before continuing, I ask that you please verify each scripture for yourself by looking it up in your own copy of the Bible. Believe it or not, the Bible is actually very simple to understand. The first requirement in understanding what the Bible really says is to forget what religion has taught you. Religion does not own the rights to the Bible. In fact, religion is nothing more than someone's biased opinion of what the Bible says. When you were a kid and your mother said to you, "Let the dog outside right now!" was there any debate as to when you should let the dog outside? Of course not. She said, "right now!" Was there any debate as to whether she meant the cat? Obviously not. If you can interpret those simple instructions, then you don't need religion to tell you what the Bible says. At this point in human history, it would be unwise to trust anyone but yourself when it comes to interpreting what the Bible says. The Bible itself, in 1 John 4:1, even warns, "**Dearly loved**

**friends, don't always believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God: test it first to see if it really is. For there are many false teachers around.”** (The Living Bible)

Of course, there are some people who debate about which translation of the scriptures is most accurate. For this reason, and to eliminate religious bias, every quotation from the Bible in this book is from an assortment of different notable translations. That's why the Bible truly is a remarkable book. Even though its original manuscripts have been copied and translated several times to and from different languages over a period of multiple centuries, the Bible's message about our Creator's purpose for mankind remains the same—regardless of which translation you read. Some Bibles, with their old-fashioned dialect and unfamiliar syntax, are simply more difficult to understand.

Let's begin with a few interesting facts about Earth's oldest mechanically printed book. In English, the word *bible* is from the Latin word *biblia*, which means *holy book*. In case you are a person who can't help associating the word *holy* with religion, according to the Cambridge Dictionary the definition of *holy* is *pure*. The Bible itself even confirms this in Psalm 12:6: **“The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.”** (English Standard Version)

The reason I point this out is because there are many words and phrases used in the Bible that may make it difficult to disassociate it from religion, thus preventing you from taking this information seriously. Words such as *Lord*, *righteous*, *angels*, *demons*, *heaven*, *hell*, and so forth can make this important book sound religious, far-fetched, and even fictional to some people. I was one of those people, so I know the feeling. What you must remember, however, is that the Bible was written during a period of time much different than our own. But if you're willing to take the initiative, you can find accurate, modern-day definitions to these terms within the scriptures themselves, and even in our own dictionaries. As an example, in John 8:23, Jesus gives us a simple interpretation of *heaven* when he says, **“You are of this world; I am not of this world.”** (Modern English Version) In other words, *heaven* simply means a place different from Earth. Then, Merriam-Webster Dictionary uses these synonyms to define *righteous*: **“all right, decent, ethical, good, honest, honorable, just, moral, nice, right, right-minded, straight, upright, and virtuous.”** Therefore, as you read through this information, try to look beyond the analogies that many Bible writers used and see them for what they mean to us in reality.

This next fact about the Bible is really quite astonishing. This incredible book has an estimated total distribution of over five billion copies, with an annual circulation of one hundred million, indisputably establishing it as the most distributed book of all time. It currently holds two records with Guinness World Records: oldest mechanically printed book (Gutenberg Bible) and best-selling book of all time (all versions combined). Over the course of human history, this record-setting publication has been translated into roughly two thousand different languages, making it the most widely translated piece of literature in history.

While the Bible itself is but one book, inside, it contains sixty-six smaller books that were written by forty different individuals from all walks of life, fishermen, doctors, lawyers, politicians, judges, shepherds, carpenters, farmers, and even kings, over a period of 1,600 years—1,500 BCE to 100 CE. The Old Testament, Genesis to Malachi, was written before the birth of Jesus Christ. And the New Testament, Matthew to Revelation, covers Jesus's time on Earth, events during our day, and beyond.

Another notable fact about the Bible is that it contains actual quotes from our Creator. Anyone who recognizes the Bible as authentic trusts that our Creator inspired various individuals during early human history to write down His words for mankind to learn from. As a result, the Bible contains more than three thousand direct quotes from our Creator. Hebrews

1:1 explains, **“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways.”** (New International Version)

As you can imagine, however, the Bible has had to endure the test of time. If you examine its past, you will find many well-documented examples of how this book faced several attempts to have it completely wiped out of existence, many of which were by the Roman Empire, which, depending on the emperor in power, outlawed even owning a Bible. The worst of these periods began shortly after Christ died, and continued—again, depending on which emperor was in power—for nearly three hundred years, into the fourth century. During this period, Bibles were searched out and destroyed.<sup>1</sup> Anyone found to have a copy and who did not surrender it to be destroyed would be thrown in prison, tortured, and sometimes even killed.<sup>2</sup>

When it comes to the physical survival of the Bible, it's rare for any book to survive more than a century—being exposed to the elements tends to destroy them. Meanwhile, the Bible and its contents have remained completely intact for multiple centuries. Today, it remains the most widely read book of all time, proving that no matter how powerful or coordinated, any future attempt to eliminate the Bible will also fail. Accordingly, the prophet Isaiah was inspired to record these words in Isaiah 40:8: **“The word of our God [the Bible] stands forever.”** (New American Bible) If the Bible truly is mankind's Instruction Manual from our Creator, it does make sense that He would protect and preserve it. Does it not?

There's no doubt that the Bible certainly has a remarkable history behind it, but how can we further strengthen our resolve that this book really is from our Creator? After all, the ancient scrolls from which the text is derived were penned by imperfect humans, causing many non-believers to conclude that the Bible is simply a collection of unsubstantiated myths and legends written during an extinct era by well-intentioned people. Non-believers further conclude that any predictions the Bible has made that have come true are nothing more than best guesses and coincidences. So, let's do some investigating to see for ourselves. After all, the Bible itself speaks of coincidences. Luke 10:31 says, **“Now by coincidence a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.”** (Lexham English Bible)

We will begin by examining this question: is the Bible scientifically accurate? Surely, we can all agree that the Earth is a sphere. Accordingly, more than 2,700 years ago—two centuries before the earliest documented mention of a spherical Earth ever appeared—the prophet Isaiah wrote that the Earth was indeed circular.<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 40:22 reads, **“It is he that sitteth above the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.”** (American Standard Version) Meanwhile, just a few hundred years ago, history tells us that many people still believed the world was flat and that if you traveled too far, you would inevitably fall off the edge. It was not until Christopher Columbus sailed the Atlantic in 1492 that this myth was finally put to rest for the masses of society—2,200 years after the prophet Isaiah penned those words.

Next, we can also agree that the Earth is suspended in space by a force the naked eye cannot see, which we now understand to be the gravitational pull from our sun—gravity. Notice what Job 26:7 says: **“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”** (King James Version) It's noteworthy to mention that this passage was written by Moses more than 3,500 years ago, during a time when his contemporaries believed that our planet rested on the backs of animals or floated on water.

So, were Moses and Isaiah simply exceptionally intelligent in regard to their perception of reality? Perhaps they were just presenting a theory and got lucky that it was correct. Let's keep digging further.

Take Isaiah 55:10, where part of our water cycle is quite accurately explained: **“For as the shower and the snowstorm come down out of the sky and do not go back without having watered the earth and set it to hatching and sprouting, and it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater.”** (Byington Bible) And Ecclesiastes 1:7 accurately explains another part of our water cycle, despite the fact that King Solomon wrote these words more than three thousand years ago: **“All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.”** (New International Version)

Now consider this modern definition of our water cycle from Oxford Living Dictionaries: **“The cycle of processes by which water circulates between the earth's oceans, atmosphere, and land, involving precipitation as rain and snow, drainage in streams and rivers, and return to the atmosphere by evaporation and transpiration.”** Seems to me the Bible writers had it correct. It is interesting to note that the first documented literature—other than the Bible—to assert that rainfall and snowfall were sufficient for the maintenance of our rivers was by Bernard Palissy in 1580 CE. Thus, Palissy is often credited as the discoverer of the modern concept of the water cycle. It was not until the early nineteenth century, however, that these beliefs were even accepted into mainstream science.<sup>4</sup>

Remember when, in the previous chapter, we discussed the miraculous discoveries within DNA? Interestingly, Jesus hinted about the existence of DNA in Matthew 10:30 nearly two thousand years ago when he said, **“But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”** (Jubilee Bible 2000) Regarding the existence of molten lava beneath Earth's crust, Moses wrote 3,500 years ago, in Job 28:5, that below the soil was churning fire: **“As for the earth, out of it cometh bread, and under it is turned up as it were fire.”** (21st Century King James Version) And the idea that each star in our universe is different from the next is described in 1 Corinthians 15:41: **“There is a splendor of the sun, another of the moon, and another of the stars; in fact, one star differs from another star in splendor.”** (Christian Standard Bible)

Another fascinating scientific fact that is revealed in the Bible is found in Jeremiah 31:35, where the author, though he wrote it 2,600 years ago, describes how the moon affects our oceans: **“Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar.”** (King James Version) Would you like to hazard a guess at how long it took the rest of us to finally figure out that our moon was responsible for tidal movement? Seleucus of Seleucia, an astronomer and philosopher from Mesopotamia, first came up with the theory that Earth's moon was responsible for our oceans' tidal movement 430 years after Jeremiah wrote those words.<sup>5</sup> Perhaps Seleucus read his Bible.

And these are just a handful of scientific truths mentioned in the Bible. Meanwhile, evolutionists continue poking fun at the Genesis account of creation, that everything was created in six days and the Earth is only six thousand years old, which, by itself, proves how their arrogance walks hand in hand with their ignorance. If they bothered to actually read the Bible instead of purposely taking scriptures out of context for their own amusement, they would understand that the timeline depicting creation in Genesis is not literal. Psalm 90:4 explains, **“Because in your perspective a thousand years are like yesterday past, like a short period during the night watch.”** (Common English Bible) Notice how the Psalmist compared two different periods of time—yesterday past and a night watch—to a thousand years from our perspective. He's not equating one day for our Creator to a thousand years for us; he is simply saying that our Creator experiences time much differently than we do. Therefore, instead of measuring the events of creation in terms of millions or billions of years—measures of time that would have been incomprehensible back in biblical times—our Creator rightfully chose to simplify things by using figurative days. For this reason, it is important that you consider creation as it is explained in the Bible from the perspective in which it was written.

The fact remains that not a single scripture ever contradicts verified science. And once we consider that the information contained within the Bible was written during a time when very few people even knew how to read and write—by forty different writers who lived centuries apart from one another, no less—we can clearly see that the Bible is a highly underestimated phenomenon. After all, since when can you put forty different people in the same room and get them all to agree on one single detail, never mind people from sixteen different centuries agreeing on an entire book of details?

So then, how did these men flawlessly predict such unknown truths hundreds, and even thousands, of years before we figured them out? Consider the example of a secretary drafting a letter for their employer. The boss dictates what to say, and the secretary types out the letter, often in their own words. Accordingly, men like Solomon, Isaiah, Moses, and the thirty-seven other Bible writers were simply secretaries to our Creator. In Romans 15:4, the apostle Paul clearly explains the purpose of the scriptures: **“For whatever was previously written was written for our instruction.”** (Modern English Version)

Once a person looks beyond the biblical analogy that many Bible writers used, it becomes quite clear how this book is not about religion. Rather, it is a unified teaching instrument that everyone can benefit from. And if you follow its instructions and live accordingly, you will see that it is a way of life—not a religion.

But what are we to believe when archeological discoveries and interpretations contradict the Bible? Well, let’s consider an example where the study of ancient physical evidence failed not once but three times and it was later revealed that the Bible had been historically accurate all along.

Scripture records that King Sennacherib of Assyria was killed by his two sons, Adrammelech and Sharezer, after which he was succeeded to the throne by another son, Esar-haddon. (2 Kings 19:36–37) However, according to a Babylonian document, Sennacherib was killed by only one of his sons,<sup>6</sup> and Berossus, the Babylonian priest of the third century BCE, and Nabonidus, Babylonian king of the sixth century BCE, each gave the same account, that Sennacherib was assassinated by only one of his sons, leading many to believe the Bible was inaccurate.<sup>7:8</sup> That is, until a more recently discovered fragment of the Prism of Esar-haddon proved otherwise. (Prism S, Col. 1) On the column, Esar-haddon, the son who succeeded Sennacherib, wrote that his brothers (plural) killed their father and then fled.<sup>9</sup>

Notably, Philip Biberfeld, who wrote *Universal Jewish History*, had this to say about the discrepancy: **“The Babylonian Chronicle, Nabonid, and Berossus were mistaken; only the Biblical account proved to be correct. It was confirmed in all the minor details by the inscription of Esar-haddon and proved to be more accurate regarding this event of Babylonian-Assyrian history than the Babylonian sources themselves. This is a fact of utmost importance for the evaluation of even contemporary sources not in accord with Biblical tradition.”**<sup>10</sup>

In light of this information, it’s important to recognize that archeology is not a sound foundation for discounting one’s trust in the Bible. Even in modern times, detectives who investigate a crime can produce convincing evidence that supports their case against an alleged suspect, only to learn years later they were dead wrong. Therefore, how much more difficult would an investigation be with hundreds of thousands or millions of years between the investigators and the actual event? Furthermore, when taking into account that many archeological discoveries rely on carbon dating techniques, which are highly controversial in terms of accuracy, it would be unfair to consider such arguments as reasons to doubt the Bible. Until we can travel back in time to verify the accuracy of any dating technique that consists of hundreds of thousands or millions of years, carbon dating remains nothing more than an unproven, imperfect human theory. The Bible itself even warns of this. Colossians 2:8 says, **“Don’t let anyone fool you by using senseless arguments. These arguments may sound**

**wise, but they are only human teachings.**” (Contemporary English Version) Unfortunately, misinterpreted or inaccurate archeological discoveries have provided a convenient argument for those who criticize the historical accuracy of the Bible, thus helping them persuade the minds of sincere people away from trusting the written word of our Creator.

Fact is, there are plenty of written, non-biblical, sources that do authenticate the historical accuracy of the Bible. Therefore, let’s take a brief look at what could be considered the most important chronicled event recorded in scripture, one that remains most commonly undisputed by even the harshest of Bible critics: the account of Jesus Christ’s time on Earth.

First, we have first-century Roman historian Flavius Josephus, who wrote *Antiquities of the Jews* around 93–94 CE. In his book, the accredited historian mentions the biblical Jesus twice and further reveals details about Christ’s life and death that agree with what scripture records about him. An excerpt from *Antiquities of the Jews* reads, **“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him... those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”**<sup>12</sup> And another excerpt reads, **“So he assembled the sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James.”**<sup>12</sup> Josephus also gives an account concerning the death of John the Baptist that agrees with what is written about him in Matthew 14:1–12.<sup>13</sup>

Next, we have second-century historian and Roman senator Cornelius Tacitus, who wrote *Annals* around 116 CE. An excerpt from *Annals* reads, **“Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate.”**<sup>14</sup> Again, everything the senator records in his account of history mirrors what the Bible says about Jesus. Jesus’s existence is also confirmed by Suetonius (first century) and Pliny the Younger, governor of Bithynia (second century).

What is most noteworthy about these four sources is that they confirm precisely the portrayal of Jesus in scripture: he was a teacher, was reputed to have performed miracles, was believed by many people to be the Christ, had a brother named James, was executed by Pontius Pilate, and was seen alive by hundreds of witnesses three days after his execution.

Upon observing the accurate details in the Bible concerning science, prophecy, and early human history—including the accurate genealogical record from Adam to Jesus—and then taking into account that each Bible writer established a harmonious description of these events, it’s difficult not to conclude that these men were influenced by a higher power. This should lead anyone who possesses the power of unbiased reasoning to conclude that the Bible really is from our Creator. How else could forty different individuals—who lived centuries apart from one another—have accomplished such an overwhelming task?

Truth is, there are countless reasons to believe in the legitimacy of the Bible, but when is enough, enough? After it is all said and done, an undeniable fact remains: the scriptures were not simply written by well-intentioned people from a bygone era. The Bible is our Instruction Manual from our Creator, not science-fiction nonsense, a collection of fairy tales, or a book of religious propaganda. All that remains is acceptance. For those who refuse to accept that the Bible is authentic, Jesus said in Matthew 13:14–15, **“You will listen and listen, but you will not understand. You will look and look, but you will not learn. For these people have become stubborn.”** (International Children’s Bible)

## — Chapter Three —

### A NAME NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

Unfortunately, some people, when they read the Bible, have a difficult time making sense of certain scriptures. Instead of grasping their meaning, they see an illusion of inconsistencies and contradictions. That's because the Bible is written in such a way that only those who, first of all, trust our Creator, and secondly, read and study the Bible in its entirety will get the gist of what certain scriptures mean. In 2 Corinthians 3:15–16, Paul verifies this fact: **“When the Law of Moses [the Bible] is read, they have their minds covered over with a covering that is removed only for those who turn to the Lord.”** (Contemporary English Version) To illustrate, imagine that you were reading a book about someone you deeply trusted and, while reading their book, you come across several instances where the wording could be misinterpreted. However, because you trust the person, you're not inclined to misinterpret what's written in their book. Well, the Bible is from our Creator. And if you trust Him, you won't be inclined to misinterpreting what's written in His book, the Bible, either.

Then, of course, there are people who compare the concept of God with words such as domination and enslavement. They purposely misinterpret what's written in the Bible to invent inaccurate philosophies that paint our Creator as a harsh God. Unfortunately, these kinds of slanderous attacks have convinced unsuspecting people from accepting our Instruction Manual, the Bible, as beneficial. For this reason, let's examine what the Bible writers themselves have to say about who our Creator truly is. After all, what better source is there than people who have had personal dealings—in one way or another—with our Creator?

One thing we, as people, all have in common is that we have personal names. According to our Instruction Manual, our Creator also has a personal name. In Psalm 83:18, the psalmist Asaph reveals it to us: **“That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.”** (King James Version)

What most people don't know is that our Creator's name, in the form of the tetragrammaton, appears in the neighborhood of seven thousand times in the original manuscripts from which the Bible was composed. The tetragrammaton, when translated to modern Hebrew, is יהוה. Or, in English, is YHWH. The tetragrammaton appears with no vowel points, since vowels did not come into use in Hebrew until the second half of the first millennium CE. The most widely accepted pronunciation of the tetragrammaton is YAHWEH, which, when translated to English, is JEHOVAH. Unfortunately, in nearly all seven thousand instances, most translators chose to replace our Creator's name with either GOD or LORD. The preface to the Revised Standard Version (1971) explains, **“A major departure from the practice of the American Standard Version is the rendering of the Divine Name, the ‘Tetragrammaton.’ The American Standard Version used the term ‘Jehovah’; the King James Version had employed this in four places, but everywhere else,**

except in three cases where it was employed as part of a proper name, used the English word Lord (or in certain cases God) printed in capitals.”

And the Good News Bible writes this in its preface: **"Following an ancient tradition, begun by the first translation of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Septuagint) and followed by the vast majority of English translations, the distinctive Hebrew name for God (usually transliterated Jehovah or Yahweh), is in this translation represented by 'LORD.' When Adonai, normally translated 'Lord,' is followed by Yahweh, the combination is rendered by the phrase 'Sovereign LORD.'"** As you can see for yourself, translators willingly admit to removing our Creator's name.

Unfortunately, many religions teach that it is disrespectful to say our Creator's name out loud. Meanwhile, nowhere in the Bible does it teach such a thing. In fact, Psalm 100:4 clearly tells us to **"praise His name."** (Holman Christian Standard Bible) How can you praise a name if you can't say it? Exodus 3:15 further explains, **"And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."** (American Standard Version) Seems to me our Creator wanted everyone to know and use His name.

Even though the Bible makes it very clear that our Creator definitely wanted everyone to know Him as JEHOVAH, many religions choose to ignore this fact. As a consequence of removing His name and replacing it with a title, people are not getting an accurate account of the scriptures. A perfect example of this is found in Psalm 33:12: **"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance."** (New International Version) This is like saying, "Blessed is the nation whose king is the boss." Doesn't tell you much, does it? In light of the fact that there are many different so-called gods and lords that people believe in, this translation doesn't give us the proper information. But let's re-read that verse again without removing our Creator's name: **"Blessed is the nation whose God is Jehovah."** (American Standard Version) Doesn't that make more sense?

As you can see for yourself, removing our Creator's name creates confusion—especially in the New Testament—about who the writer is talking about. Is it God, Jesus, or someone else? Quite frankly, translators who remove our Creator's name from the Bible should be utterly ashamed of themselves! In a sense, they are saying, *"Excuse me, Jehovah, when you inspired Bible writers to use your name, you did so in error. But not to worry. We have corrected your mistake."* And that is extremely disrespectful! Words such as LORD or GOD are nothing more than titles, so instead of addressing you by your name, how would you like it if all your friends referred to you as "human" or "person"? Wouldn't you be hurt and even offended? And how would you know whom they were addressing? Since there is only one God whose name is JEHOVAH, using His name should be just good common sense.

Unfortunately, because of religion removing our Creator's name from the Bible, many people don't even know that He has a name. Jeremiah 23:26–27 reads, **"How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal?"** (English Standard Version) For the same reason that people who worshipped the false god, Baal, during Noah's day, most religions today would prefer if everyone forgot that our Creator has a name. That way, the term *god* becomes less definable and allows people with alternative beliefs about who God is to be accepted into their church.

In a June 2008 letter from the Vatican to the bishops, Francis Cardinal wrote, **"In liturgical celebrations, in songs and prayers the name of God in the form of the tetragrammaton YHWH is neither to be used nor pronounced."**<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, Malachi 1:6 says, **“A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I am a father, where is mine honor? and if I am a master, where is my fear? saith Jehovah of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name.”** (American Standard Version) Makes you wonder where the pope is getting his instructions from, doesn't it?

Malachi 2:1–2 delivers a stern warning to priests who ignore what the Bible teaches: **“Listen, you priests, to this warning from the Lord Almighty: ‘If you don't change your ways and give glory to my name, then I will send terrible punishment upon you, and instead of giving you blessings as I would like to, I will turn on you with curses. Indeed, I have cursed you already because you haven't taken seriously the things that are most important to me.’”** (The Living Bible) This example, all by itself, proves what a disservice religion has done for mankind.

Before we continue our examination of what the Bible has to say about our Creator, JEHOVAH, it's important that you grasp a realistic understanding of Him. Genesis 1:26 states, **“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.’”** (Christian Standard Bible) Therefore, just as you have features and characteristics, it seems reasonable to conclude that JEHOVAH does as well—even a personality. Furthermore, since He created our universe, it would also be reasonable to conclude that JEHOVAH exists outside of our universe.

Consider an illustration. Imagine you assembled a closed environment in which you supplied the necessary materials to build an ant farm. We will call that environment the ant's universe. Just as you existed before creating the ant's universe, so did our Creator exist before creating our universe. Compared to an ant, you would be considered a higher form of intelligence, perhaps even a supreme being. The comparison between mankind and JEHOVAH is not all that dissimilar. According to Job 37:16, JEHOVAH is **“perfect in knowledge.”** (King James Version) Therefore, just as  $2 + 2 = 4$  is a simple math equation to you, so is everything to Him. And since He created every element on the periodic table, it stands to reason that He also knows precisely what each element does, how they work, and how they interact with each other. Considering how everything in our known universe is made of these elements, it's reasonable to conclude that JEHOVAH truly is perfect in knowledge.

To put it simply, JEHOVAH is a higher form of life than us, one whose definition we do not completely understand. But Romans 1:20 gives us this sound reasoning: **“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.”** (New International Version) In other words, by taking notice of how beautifully created the Earth is, we can appreciate the divine nature of JEHOVAH. Furthermore, after examining the necessary precision in which our planet and universe are harmoniously constructed in order for everything to co-exist, we have no excuse for denying that it was designed that way. For instance, if the Earth were 1% closer to the sun, it would be uninhabitable. And if the law of gravity were 1% stronger, the universe would collapse in on itself; if it were 1% weaker, the universe would fly apart. These are facts, not opinions.

Interestingly, regarding the meaning of the name JEHOVAH, Encyclopaedia Britannica says, **“Many scholars believe that the most proper meaning may be ‘He Brings into Existence Whatever Exists.’”** This is a fitting description and reason enough for you to accept that JEHOVAH truly is GOD, wouldn't you agree? Revelation 4:11 says, **“Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.”** (Christian Standard Bible)

Although we may not fully comprehend the existence of our GOD, JEHOVAH, the written guide He left for everyone certainly contributes to constructing a complete understanding of His personality, His original purpose for mankind, and what He promises for the future.

First, let's begin with His personality. Since JEHOVAH created mankind in His likeness, it makes sense that He would also have feelings. Because of how violent the majority of mankind had become in Noah's day, Genesis 6:6 explains that JEHOVAH's heart was **"filled with pain."** (International Children's Bible) Alternatively, Proverbs 27:11 shows us that our actions can also cause our Creator to feel happy: **"My child, show good sense! Then I will be happy."** (Contemporary English Version) Then, fortunately for us, Psalm 86:15 explains how patient and compassionate our Creator is: **"But you, my Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy; you are very patient and full of faithful love."** (Common English Bible) And 1 John 4:8 tells us JEHOVAH's most dominant characteristic: **"God is love."** (Modern English Version)

What else does the Bible tell us about our Creator's personality? Psalm 5:6 explains that He **"despises violent and deceitful people."** (New English Translation) And Isaiah 61:8 says, **"I, the LORD, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will faithfully reward my people's work."** (GOD's WORD Translation)

One of my favorite characteristics about JEHOVAH is clearly identified by the words King Solomon was inspired to record. The following verses illustrate our Creator's desire for mankind to experience pleasure. Proverbs 5:18–19 reads, **"May your own fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice with the wife of your youth, a loving doe, a graceful mountain goat. Let her breasts satisfy you at all times. May you be captivated by her love constantly."** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition)

There is also another way you can truly get to know who JEHOVAH is, and that is by reading about everything His son, Jesus Christ, did while he was on Earth. Jesus himself said, **"If you have come to know Me, you will know My Father also."** (John 14:7 Tree of Life Version) The first four books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, contain a clear and accurate account of what Jesus did and said while he was on Earth. I encourage you to read them.

An ever-popular question that everyone seems to have an opinion about is: why are we here? Perhaps a more appropriate question would be: what was mankind's original purpose? Genesis 2:15 reads, **"The LORD God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it."** (New Century Version) In other words, He wanted us to care for the Earth. Sadly, that is an assignment that mankind has—because of greed and ignorance—miserably failed at. Then, in Genesis 1:28, JEHOVAH instructed the first two humans to **"be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it."** (New International Version) Likewise, Genesis 1:26 says, **"Let them [human beings] have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth."** (New American Bible) Furthermore, in accordance with having dominion over all plants and animals, JEHOVAH gave mankind the authority to name them. Genesis 2:19 reads, **"Whatever the man called every living creature became its name."** (World English Bible) In a nutshell, mankind's original purpose was to look after and enjoy the Earth and to joyfully fill it with people.

Now that you have a clearer understanding of who our Creator is and why He created us, does it sound to you like He wants to dominate and enslave mankind? Clearly, JEHOVAH is not the cold-hearted, domineering deity that many philosophers have made Him out to be. Since humans are the centerpiece of His earthly creation, it makes sense that He would love and care deeply about us. Often times, though, when someone dies at a young age, people blame God for not intervening. Which makes it hard not to wonder, since JEHOVAH is such a loving god, why He allows the horrible atrocities

happening around the world to continue. Why doesn't He step in and help us out? Interestingly, the Bible writer Habakkuk asked that very same question: **"How long, LORD, must I call for help and you do not listen or cry out to you about violence and you do not save? Why do you force me to look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?"** (Habakkuk 1:2-3 Christian Standard Bible) To help you get a better understanding of the deeper issue behind the answer to that question, let's consider a real-life scenario.

Imagine you spent your entire life building and planning your very own business. And because of gradual expansion over the years, you are now the CEO of a global corporation that employs thousands and thousands of people who work in various divisions within your company. Finally, after all the hard work that went in to this endeavor, business is thriving. Everything is running smoothly, just as you knew it would. Then something disastrous happens. One of your most trusted managers begins to question the way you are running things. Believing he can run your company better than you, he begins to disregard your instructions. Moreover, he convinces some of the other managers to agree with him. As a result, they also begin to reject your authority. Furthermore, this manager even reaches down in the ranks to one of your newest employees and, by using deception, convinces them to reject your authority as well, which, over time, leads many more of your employees to follow in their footsteps.

After several failed attempts at trying to get everyone onboard with accepting your way of running things, you send your son to try and reason with everyone. Unsurprisingly, they reject him as well. Furthermore, they even have him assassinated!

Now, you could just fire the whole bunch of them and start over with new managers and new employees, but what would prevent them from eventually rejecting your authority as well? Then you'd be back at square one all over again. Therefore, with the understanding that your vacancy will teach everyone a much-needed lesson, as well as set a precedent for the future, you decide to let everyone have their way. Even though it is YOUR company, you step aside, exercise patience, and leave them to their demise. Before leaving, however, you send a letter out to everyone with instructions on how they SHOULD conduct themselves while you are away. Within the letter, you also make a series of very generous promises to anyone who is found following your instructions when you return. And to those who are found not following your instructions, you leave them with the stern warning that they will be fired!

Just as you expect, within a few years of your absence, nearly everything you worked so hard to build is being either misused, damaged, or completely destroyed. As a consequence, several good-hearted, honest, hard-working people are suffering. Unfortunately, you can't interfere until it's clearly proven that the company won't survive unless you step in to save it. You can't step in until a precedent has been firmly established, in order that this may never happen again.

If you consider the underlying theme of the Bible, starting with the account between Eve and Satan in the Garden of Eden, you will find that it's a similar scenario to this illustration. What most people fail to realize about the account in the Garden of Eden is that it has very little to do with eating fruit. The purpose of that account was to explain how our very first ancestors made the choice to reject our Creator's authority. Genesis 3:1-5, says, **"And the serpent (Satan) said to the woman, 'Can it really be that God has said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God said, 'You shall not eat from it nor touch it, otherwise you will die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, 'You certainly will not die! For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened [that is,**

**you will have greater and awareness], you will be like God, knowing [the difference between] good and evil.”**

(Amplified Bible)

By this conversation, we learn that Satan, once one of our Creator’s most trusted managers, claimed that Adam and Eve—and by extension, all mankind—didn’t need our Creator to make the rules. Instead, they could make their own rules. Furthermore, Satan inferred that JEHOVAH’s way of ruling was actually withholding a better way of life from them. In fact, Satan openly told a bald-faced lie when he said that if Eve made the choice to ignore JEHOVAH’s instructions, she would not die, but instead would be just like God. By appealing to Eve’s selfish tendencies, Satan convinced Eve—who later convinced her husband—to believe this lie. The Bible goes on to validate how their choice led to devastating consequences for them and their descendants: pain, murder, injustice, hatred, war, racism, and finally, death. Unfortunately, we have inherited those consequences. Encyclopaedia Britannica says, **“Satan is identified as the entity (a serpent in the Genesis account) that tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden and was thus the catalyst for the fall of humankind.”**

According to the Bible, Satan was an angel (a guardian cherub) who became the chief adversary of JEHOVAH. His name before his rebellion against JEHOVAH is not revealed to us. However, the prophet Ezekiel gives us some insight as to who Satan was before his fall from grace in a prophecy given to him by JEHOVAH—in the form of a dirge—concerning the king of Tyre. I suspect JEHOVAH revealed these details about Satan in this way because He did not want any extra attention given to him. Ezekiel 28:12–15 reads, **“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every kind of precious stone covered you: carnelian, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and emerald. Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold; they were prepared on the day you were created. You were an anointed guardian cherub, for I had appointed you. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the fiery stones. From the day you were created you were blameless in your ways until wickedness was found in you.”** (Christian Standard Bible) Although written in poetic fashion, it’s clear that Satan once had an important position with our Creator.

Unfortunately, because of inaccurate myths and legends, most people have a distorted view of who or what Satan really is. As he is often pictured as a scary-looking, red-colored creature with horns protruding from his forehead and holding a pitchfork, many people are skeptical that he even exists. Others believe that he is simply a metaphor for everything that is evil. According to scripture, however, Satan is described with the characteristics of a person. Job 2:2–5 gives us an account of a conversation between JEHOVAH and Satan: **“The LORD said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the LORD, ‘I have been wandering around the earth, going back and forth in it.’ Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you noticed my servant Job? No one else on earth is like him. He is an honest and innocent man, honoring God and staying away from evil. You caused me to ruin him for no good reason, but he continues to be without blame.’ ‘One skin for another!’ Satan answered. ‘A man will give all he has to save his own life. But reach out your hand and destroy his flesh and bones, and he will curse you to your face.’”** (New Century Version) From this conversation, and the one in the Garden of Eden with Eve, it’s clear that Satan is an actual being and not a metaphor for all that is evil. And because of his once-high position as an angel, we must understand that he is far superior to and considerably more intelligent than humans.

Getting back to the question of why JEHOVAH allows human suffering to continue, remember when you were a child touching something hot for the first time and it burned your finger? For me, it was our stove. I was helping my mom bake a cake—she always let me lick the bowl. While watching the cake bake through the glass window of the oven door,

Mom specifically warned me, “Don’t touch the glass, Monte. It’s hot!” Did I listen? Of course not! I had to check and see for myself. It was hot all right. I burned my finger, and Mom had to put salve on it. After that, however, I learned my lesson. Accordingly, mankind carelessly chose to learn the hard way as well. Jeremiah recognized this important lesson in his prayer to JEHOVAH when he said that **“we’re not able to direct our paths.”** (Jeremiah 10:23 Common English Bible) And in Ecclesiastes chapter eight, King Solomon made the keen observation that when mankind is ruling, even with good intentions, there will always be unavoidable casualties.

But why do terrible things happen to good, honest-hearted people and innocent children? Because, let’s face it, when a young child gets abused or dies, that seems highly unfair—no matter what the circumstances are. The problem is, if our Creator stepped in every time someone was innocent and didn’t deserve the situation they found themselves in, wouldn’t He be interfering with mankind’s attempt at ruling itself? Likewise, so that everyone feels the pangs of distress from living independent of JEHOVAH’s authority, a precedent will have been established for all future generations to observe so that it never happens again. Ezekiel 36:31–32 explains, **“Then you will remember your past sins and despise yourselves for all the detestable things you did. But remember, says the Sovereign LORD, I am not doing this because you deserve it.”** (New Living Translation) Notice that our Creator said, **“I am not doing this because you deserve it.”** The terrible things that happen to people are not because of something they may have done wrong; JEHOVAH is not punishing anyone. John 9:1–3 explains, **“As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God’s works might be revealed in connection with him.’”** (Evangelical Heritage Version) In other words, this man’s blindness was simply a casualty of living independent of JEHOVAH’s authority. And Jesus restored the man’s sight to prove that only JEHOVAH has the ability to reverse the unfortunate condition of this world.

Unfortunately, there are many people in this failing world who still believe that mankind will, eventually, be just fine without JEHOVAH’s authority. In the March 31, 2008, issue of *Maclean’s Magazine*, in an article entitled “The Jesus Problem,” Pastor Gretta Vosper of West Hill United Church in suburban Toronto, a leading Canadian voice in progressive Christianity, said, **“Why do we need a ‘revolutionary’ voice from two millennia ago to guide us? We have fabulous ideas of our own, that are constantly weakened by having to tie them back to Jesus and Scripture.”** Vosper also stated, **“If we say we follow Jesus without clarification, we allow the assumption that we agree with all of his ideas, including the bad ones... Being a Christian is about taking out of my faith tradition those things that are of value in my effort to live right with myself, with my relationships and with my planet, and removing those things that are toxic.”**

Regarding the future of humanity, in 2006, Stephen Hawking posted this open question on Yahoo Answers: **“In a world that is in chaos politically, socially and environmentally, how can the human race sustain another 100 years?”** And later, he added, **“I don’t know the answer. That is why I asked the question, to get people to think about it, and to be aware of the dangers we now face.”** Here we are, more than a decade after Hawking posed that question, in far worse shape than we were in 2006.

At this point, regarding the situation between mankind and JEHOVAH, you might be thinking, *It’s just not fair! If Satan hadn’t interfered by persuading Eve in the Garden of Eden, perhaps our ancestors wouldn’t have rejected our Creator’s authority and this world wouldn’t be in the state of chaos it is today. Moreover, this sounds like an issue between JEHOVAH and Satan, with humans caught in the middle.* And you know what, you wouldn’t be entirely wrong to feel that

way. That's one reason why our Creator sacrificed His very own precious son for the world. It was His way of demonstrating the extraordinary love He feels for mankind, His way of saying that He personally understands the pain of watching someone dear to Him suffer to their death. However, if we trust and abide by His authority, He promises to rectify any injustice we may have suffered—once His government takes over. This means that the life you are living right now is not the real life. Instead, this life can be likened to a test that reveals who will accept His authority and weed out those who won't. Those who do live according to JEHOVAH's laws despite the sufferings of this world are also helping to prove that Satan truly is a liar! If you recall the conversation between JEHOVAH and Satan in the book of Job, Satan argued that those living according to JEHOVAH's laws would surely give them up to avoid unnecessary suffering or death. Since Satan is the main reason for all the suffering in this world, don't you want to be a part of proving him a liar? Our Creator promises that you will be greatly rewarded for your effort. In 1 Timothy 6:19, the apostle Paul said, **“That way, they will treasure up for themselves a good foundation for the future, and thereby come to possess the life which really is life.”** (New Testament for Everyone)

Besides, from the events described throughout the Bible and the incidents within society concerning human rebellion, it's clear that many people would have eventually struggled to accept a higher authority—regardless of what happened in the Garden of Eden. Therefore, a precedent needed to be established. And as a tutorial for all mankind concerning the day when JEHOVAH puts an end to human rule, our Instruction Manual includes several accounts of how powerful nations were either wiped out or brought to their knees for opposing Him or His people. That is a lesson that everyone in this world needs to come to terms with.

In simplest terms, our reality can be closely associated to the CEO illustration I described. JEHOVAH is the CEO of the universe, and we are His employees, but because we rejected His authority and executed His son in the process, JEHOVAH has stepped away and left us to our demise. The Bible, therefore, contains the instructions for those who wish to remain loyal and stand up for His sovereign right to rule mankind. Each of us has the choice to either follow His instructions or join those in opposition of Him. It really doesn't get any simpler than that. Ezekiel 18:32 explains how JEHOVAH personally feels about your decision: **“I do not want anyone to die. So change your hearts and lives so you may live.”** (International Children's Bible) And 1 Timothy 2:4 further says, **“God wants all people to be saved. And he wants everyone to know the truth.”** (International Children's Bible) As these verses point out, our Creator is a loving God who cares about every single person on this planet. But, just as a loving father expects obedience from his children, JEHOVAH is strict in that respect as well.

Fact is, mankind has had every opportunity to try every type of rulership and government imaginable. The distressing record of human suffering and global catastrophes from the past century alone is a testament that it's impossible for humans to thrive as a healthy civilization without the guidance of our Creator, JEHOVAH God. Without our Creator's intervention, the human race is destined to destroy itself. Mankind needs to accept that JEHOVAH is the One and only Way for us to achieve true peace and security. In other words, it's time to start taking the Bible seriously!

I will end this chapter with my favorite quote from our Creator, Isaiah 48:17–18: **“I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself, the One guiding you in the way you should walk. If only you would pay attention to my commandments! Then your peace would become just like a river and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.”** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition)

# — Chapter Four —

## PROMISES FROM YHWH

If you recall the CEO illustration in the previous chapter, more specifically the part about promises to the employees found following the CEO's instructions once he returned, mankind faces a similar scenario. JEHOVAH has made several remarkably generous promises to those who are obeying His instructions when He returns to assume His rightful position as mankind's sovereign ruler. In this chapter, we will examine the Bible to reveal what those promises are. Therefore, it's important that you take the time to look up each scripture in your own Bible. Then you can decide for yourself if what is being revealed to you is in harmony with what is written in your Bible as well. After all, this is YOUR life! Please don't rely on your religion to tell you what the Bible says. Decide that for yourself.

Before we get to those promises, however, we will examine what the Bible has to say about an ever-popular question that many philosophers, religions, and even scientists claim to have an answer to: what happens to us after we die? Psalm 146:4 specifically says, **“His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”** (King James Version) And Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10 concurs: **“Because the living know that they will die. But the dead know nothing at all... Whatever you are capable of doing, do with all your might because there's no work, thought, knowledge, or wisdom in the grave.”** (Common English Bible) As you can see for yourself, the Bible is clearly teaching that after we die, that's it! There is no afterlife. We learn further, in James 2:26, that our spirit (life force) is, in fact, separate from our fleshly body: **“The body without spirit is dead.”** (King James Version)

To put this in terms you can relate to, consider your personal computer, tablet, or smartphone: the music, pictures, video, and phone numbers are stored on a physical hard drive inside the device. In this sense, our body can be likened to a device, and our brain can be compared to the hard drive that stores information for the device. Our life force, therefore, is similar to the electricity that enables a device to function. Correspondingly, just as a **“body apart from the spirit is dead,”** (James 2:26 English Standard Version) a device without power is also dead. And Ecclesiastes 12:7 explains exactly what happens to our life force and our body after we die: **“Then the dust [out of which God made man's body] will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”** (Amplified Bible)

To summarize, the Bible is explaining that after you die, your body will eventually become soil, and the spirit that enabled your body to function will return to JEHOVAH. However, while your spirit does return to JEHOVAH, Ecclesiastes 9:5 reminds us, **“The dead know not anything.”** (King James Version) And Psalm 146:4 concurs with this fact by saying—after someone dies—this, **“In that very day his thoughts perish.”** (King James Version) In other words, you will not experience anything after you die. In this sense, anyone who believes they go to heaven after they die is not entirely wrong. After all, their spirit does go back to JEHOVAH, who is in heaven. However, contrary to what many people are taught, after they die, they will not experience any consciousness in heaven.

Unfortunately, many religions falsely teach that everyone who does good will go on to live in heaven after they die and those who do bad will go to hell. But as you can clearly discern from what is written in your Bible, that is not accurate. Besides, if you recall the account of when Jesus resurrected Lazarus from the dead, how could he have done that if Lazarus had already gone to heaven? (John 11:43–44) Although it is true that some people—after they die—will be transformed and join Jesus Christ in heaven, that number is very small in comparison to the billions of people who have lived since the beginning of creation. Revelation 14:1 clarifies this for us: **“I looked, and there in front of me was the Lamb [Jesus]. He was standing on Mount Zion. With him were 144,000 people. Written on their foreheads were his name and his Father’s name.”** (New International Reader's Version)

Furthermore, Revelation 14:3 reveals how the few who will go to live on in heaven are distinguishable from other people: **“They sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.”** (Modern English Bible)

In light of the fact that **“there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom”** after we die, this renders Hell, Hades, Gehenna, and Sheol as nothing more than expressions that simply refer to the common grave. (Ecclesiastes 9:10 New International Version) Besides, a loving and just God would never condemn any imperfect human to such a horrible existence. Furthermore, if Adam and Eve were headed to purgatory, don't you think JEHOVAH would have warned them of this? He specifically explained how they would simply return to the dust. Genesis 3:19 says, **“You were made out of soil, and you will once again turn into soil.”** (Contemporary English Version)

Unfortunately, many religions have perpetuated the lie that people who did bad deeds will pay for their sins in the afterlife by going to Hell—unless they counter their sins by rendering the appropriate sacrifice to their church. Why would religions do such a horrible thing? It's quite simple, really: they do this to capitalize on donations, and wow, has it ever proven to be successful for them! Imagine the millions and millions of dollars that have been paid over the centuries by well-intentioned people who were tricked into believing they were buying themselves or deceased loved ones protection from purgatory. Now, of course, most religions say, “We don't do that anymore.” Well, then how about giving all that money back?

Understandably, this information may cause confusion for some people. If there is no afterlife, then who are all these spirit mediums communicating with? After all, they claim to be in contact with people who passed away, and they can often reveal intricate details about such people in the process, details that only the deceased could seemingly know. Unfortunately, since it is quite alarming, many people will not like what the Bible reveals about this. In 1 Timothy 4:1, the apostle Paul explains, **“The Holy Spirit clearly says that in the last days some people will leave the faith. They will follow spirits that will fool them. They will believe things that demons will teach them.”** (New International Reader's Version)

The Bible gives us many examples of people who were influenced by these spirits, spirits who most certainly were NOT with JEHOVAH. One of these instances is recorded in Acts 16:16: **“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.”** (New International Version)

If you reason honestly with yourself, it's easy to conclude that if our Creator and His angels know intricate details about us and the world we live in, then Satan and those who chose to follow him possess some of that knowledge as well. And what better way to deceive us than by convincing grieving families that they are communicating with their deceased

loved ones? What's even more convincing about these spirits is they pretend to be helpful. In reality, though, they are JEHOVAH's enemies. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, Paul said, **"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."** (Evangelical Heritage Version) This is why our Instruction Manual gives strict warning to stay clear of sorcery, magic, divination, fortune tellers, spirit mediums, and any other related practices. Deuteronomy 18:10–12 is as clear as it can be: **"No one among you is to sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, interpret omens, practice sorcery, cast spells, consult a medium or a spiritist, or inquire of the dead. Everyone who does these acts is detestable to the LORD."** (Christian Standard Bible) As you can clearly see, these are very simple yet important instructions.

The Bible provides us with the account of King Manasseh, who ignored these instructions, and reveals how it made our Creator feel. In 2 Chronicles 33:6, Ezra wrote, **"He [Manasseh] observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."** (King James Version) If you participate in similar practices, you would do well to ask yourself: do I want my Creator angry with me?

Since the Bible reveals that only a small number of people go to heaven, you might be wondering why exactly these individuals are selected. Doesn't God have enough angels? Revelation 20:6 answers this question: **"They [144,000] shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him..."** (J.B. Phillips New Testament) In other words, our Instruction Manual is telling us that our Creator has chosen a select few worthy individuals from the Earth to assist in ruling over mankind. Why would our Creator do this? Well, just like Jesus, these individuals have had the experience of living on Earth as humans. Therefore, they understand what it's like and how difficult it can be when facing unfavorable circumstances. In this light, choosing them makes perfect sense. After all, who better to assist in ruling us than someone who has already walked in our footsteps? Regarding Jesus, Hebrews 4:15 makes this clear: **"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way."** (New American Bible)

This is where our Creator's promises become relevant. The first and most important promise that our Creator has established throughout the Bible is found in Zechariah 14:9: **"Jehovah shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall Jehovah be one, and his name one."** (American Standard Version) As you can read for yourself in any Bible, a day is coming when human rule will end. From that day forward, the world will be governed by a single government, JEHOVAH's government. Revelation 19:6 confirms this: **"Then I heard what seemed to be a large crowd that sounded like a roaring flood and loud thunder all mixed together. They were saying, 'Praise the Lord! Our Lord God All-Powerful now rules as king.'" (Contemporary English Version) And Acts 10:35 says, "God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right, no matter what nation they come from."** (Contemporary English Version) In other words, under JEHOVAH's administration, favoritism, prejudice, racism, walls, and borders will no longer exist.

Then, in Isaiah 33:24, JEHOVAH promises that **"no inhabitant will say, 'I am sick.'" (Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) And Revelation 21:4 goes on to promise that JEHOVAH will "wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away."** (American Standard Version)

As amazing as it sounds, our Creator is promising that when his government takes over, there will be an end to death and sickness. Isaiah 25:8 confirms this: **“He will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away every tear from every face.”** (New Century Version)

In regard to anyone who is currently suffering from physical or mental impairments, Isaiah 35:5–6 says, **“And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!”** (New Living Translation) In essence, similar to how anti-virus software cleans and fixes your computer, our Creator is reassuring us that He has the technology to filter out any genetic defects from our DNA and repair any cellular damage that may have resulted from injury, thus allowing our physical bodies to function perfectly.

With our Creator’s government in power, we are also promised an end to all wars. Isaiah 2:4 explains, **“Then he will judge disputes between nations and settle arguments between many people. They will hammer their swords into plowblades and their spears into pruning shears. Nations will never fight against each other, and they will never train for war again.”** (Names of God Bible) In his book *Einstein on Peace*, Albert Einstein wrote that he believed the only way for our world to experience true peace is if we are governed by a single worldwide government.<sup>1</sup> Einstein certainly was a smart man!

In regard to the world’s current poverty problem, Revelation 7:16 says, **“They will never go hungry or be thirsty again.”** (New English Translation) And Psalm 72:16 concurs: **“Bless us with abundant crops throughout the land, even on the highland plains; may there be fruit like that of Lebanon; may the cities be as full of people as the fields are of grass.”** (The Living Bible) As for the world’s shortage of clean drinking water, Isaiah 35:6 says, **“For in the wilderness waters shall break out and streams in the desert.”** (Modern English Version)

The best of JEHOVAH’s promises is that, for as long as we accept His authority, we will receive eternal life without ever growing old. The fountain of youth, as it were. Matthew 19:29 explains, **“And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.”** (New American Bible) And Job 33:25 clearly states, **“Let his flesh become young again. Let him return to the days when he was young and strong.”** (New Life Version)

How would you feel about living as a twenty-five-year-old version of yourself for thousands and thousands of years while never feeling the effects of aging? As amazing as it all sounds, that’s the promise JEHOVAH is making to everyone who accepts His authority. With His government in power, the world will be freed from war, racism, famine, sickness, death, old age, drought, natural disasters, and all other calamities that befall mankind today. And that’s not all. The promise that I’m eagerly looking forward to is welcoming back those who have previously passed away in death. John 5:28–29 clearly states, **“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”** (English Standard Version) The fulfillment of this promise will see many surviving families filled with tears of joy as they are reunited with loved ones who’ve died. And Acts 24:15 reassures us that **“there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.”** (English Standard Version)

With these promises comes the answer to a long-debated human mystery, a subject on which many books have been written, songs have been recorded, poems have been composed, and movies have been made: the secret of life! Meanwhile, the true answer to that mystery is right there in our Instruction Manual, the Bible. Paul wrote in Colossians 1:26–

27, **“This message is the secret that was hidden from everyone since the beginning of time, but now it is made known to God’s holy people. God decided to let his people know this rich and glorious secret which he has for all people.”** (New Century Version) As you can see, this message is meant for all people! And now it’s being revealed to you.

And to prove that He can deliver on His promises, JEHOVAH sent His very own precious son, Jesus, to the Earth and allowed him to show mankind that what He is promising is real. Hebrews 6:17–18 explains, **“God wanted to prove that his promise was true to those who would get what he promised. And he wanted them to understand clearly that his purposes never change, so he made an oath. These two things cannot change: God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath. These things encourage us who came to God for safety. They give us strength to hold on to the hope we have been given.”** (New Century Version) Isn’t that a powerful scripture?

While Jesus was on Earth, the Bible confirms that he healed the sick, controlled the weather, and fed the hungry. These accounts can be found in Matthew 8:1–4, Matthew 8:23–27, and Matthew 14:13–21. There are three resurrections by Jesus that are recorded in the Bible as well. These can be found in Luke 7:11–15, Luke 8:49–55, and John 11:38–44. To strengthen your trust in JEHOVAH, I encourage you to read these accounts in your own Bible. If you truly believe in God and want to live according to His laws in the Bible, these promises are available to you and your family.

Understandably, many people, because they have an unrealistic understanding of what a perfectly organized world might be like, believe that such a life is not possible. After all, how can anyone appreciate happiness without ever experiencing sadness? And how can a person appreciate success without ever risking failure? What you need to realize is that being in perfect health and living in a perfectly organized environment will not exclude you from making mistakes—or from stubbing your toe on your way to the bathroom when you first get out of bed in the morning. As we’ve already learned from reading Job 37:16, only JEHOVAH is perfect in knowledge. Ecclesiastes 9:11 explains, **“I also observed under the sun that the race doesn’t always go to the swift, nor the battle to the mighty, nor food to the wise, nor wealth to the intelligent, nor favor to the knowledgeable, because accidents can happen to anyone.”** (Common English Bible)

However, because your mind will be functioning properly, any setbacks you do face will not turn into long-lasting depression. You will easily accept the temporary setback and move on while learning from the experience—without the fear of growing old, dying, or running out of time. As for your social and economic well-being, because you will be governed by a perfectly functioning worldwide government that has everyone’s best interest and overall happiness in mind, you will have every opportunity to live the best life possible. How you choose to live that life will be up to you.

There are some people, of course, who will read this and laugh and say in their hearts, “This guy is delusional if he actually believes all this stuff.” The Bible, in fact, predicts that many people will have this attitude. In 2 Peter 3:3–4, Peter said, **“Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, ‘Where is this “coming” he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’”** (New International Version) Therefore, considering the oath that our Creator made to mankind in Hebrews 6:17–18, it would be JEHOVAH they are mocking, not me.

For the sake of logical reasoning and practicality, however, let’s examine these promises through the eyes of science. Is it reasonable to believe that living a life without end while never feeling the effects of aging could actually be possible? Or that the dead can actually be brought back to life? Well, considering how our bodies are designed to constantly replace deteriorating and damaged cells, it certainly is possible—if we were in perfect health.

Okay, what about living forever? That seems unbelievable, doesn't it? Again, since we are all made of atoms, which are primarily made of energy, the same energy that science has proven to be eternal, then it's logical to conclude that life without end is possible.<sup>2</sup>

But how can a person who was cremated into a pile of ashes be brought back to life? Well, as we have learned through science, each person consists of a very complex combination of molecules with a distinct biological signature, a very long and complicated code. Luke 12:7 confirms this: **"But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."** (King James Version) Within that code exists your behavioral patterns, physical features, precise eye color, and even the shape of your belly button. That information, along with our memories, is retained by our Creator in His infinite memory bank, after we die. Psalm 139:16 explains, **"Your eyes saw my embryo, and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me, before any one of them had yet happened."** (Common English Bible)

When we consider the fact that through human achievement alone, we can literally re-create any inanimate object by using 3D printing technology, given the scope of our Creator's intelligence, it certainly is more than conceivable that JEHOVAH has the technology to re-create a human body. Wouldn't you agree?

The question is, do you trust JEHOVAH to fulfill His promises? The Bible gives you countless reasons why you should. After all, everything JEHOVAH has said so far has happened. Consider the example of the great metropolis of ancient Babylon. Because of her idolatrous ways (affiliation with false deities) and moral decay, JEHOVAH promised that Babylon, a once powerful city—believed impenetrable by outside forces—would become nothing more than a pile of stones and, furthermore, would never again be inhabited. Isaiah 13:19–20 contains the prophecy: **"Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the pride and glory of the Babylonians, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations."** (New International Version)

Coincidentally, not that long ago, Saddam Hussein, believing he was a descendant of King Nebuchadnezzar, attempted to rebuild the ancient ruins of Babylon. The result? The site remains uninhabited and desolate—just as JEHOVAH said it would.

Concerning our Creator's history with making promises, Joshua 23:14 reads, **"The LORD your God has kept all the good promises he gave you. Every one of them has come true. Not one has failed to come true. And you know that with all your heart and soul."** (New International Readers Version) Since our Creator's track record is impeccably trustworthy, quite frankly, we have no reason whatsoever to doubt that He will keep His promises.

Can you imagine living in a world governed by a single worldwide government that you can actually trust? Or having perfect health, vision, hearing, and memory? Just think of the endless possibilities. Take our universe, for example. It's doubtful that JEHOVAH created myriads upon myriads of awe-inspiring planets, stars, and galaxies to simply sit there for nothing. Therefore, it's not unreasonable to believe that He designed such a vast universe for us to explore and, who knows, maybe someday inhabit. The words in 1 Corinthians 2:9 gives us every reason to let our imaginations run wild: **"But this is precisely what is written: God has prepared things for those who love him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven't crossed the mind of any human being."** (Common English Bible) The question is, are you willing to take advantage of this opportunity of a lifetime?

# — Chapter Five —

## INSTRUCTIONS FROM YHWH

Now that you know what our Creator is promising, let's cut straight to the chase and get to the billion-dollar question: what exactly is necessary in order to receive those promises? Well, guess what? More than once, Jesus was asked that same question. One of those times is recorded in Luke 10:25–28: **“Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, ‘Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’”** Jesus answered, **“What is written in the law?... How do you read it?”** In return, the man replied, **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”** After which, Jesus said to the man, **“You’ve answered correctly... do this and you will live.”** (Christian Standard Bible)

Jesus confirms this again in Matthew 22:37–38 when answering which of the commandments is most important: **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, this is the greatest commandment, the first.”** (The Bible in Living English)

But what exactly does it mean to love God? After all, how can you love someone you've never met and can't even see? Fortunately, the apostle John gives us a straight answer to this important question. In 1 John 5:3, he wrote, **“For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands.”** (Christian Standard Bible) As you can clearly understand for yourself, love for God is different from the kind of love you would have for a spouse. Instead, it is similar to the love you feel for a parent. The Bible refers to this type of love as *agape*—an unselfish love that is guided more by principle than emotion. Understandably, when your parents love and care for you, it's natural for you to love and respect them in return. And because you love and respect your parents, you develop a genuine willingness to obey them with a healthy fear of disappointing them. Furthermore, because your parents care about your well-being, they set up rules for you: what you can and can't eat, when to go to bed, what movies you're allowed to watch, and so on. In this same context, JEHOVAH shows His love for us by setting up beneficial rules for US to live by. We return that love by taking the time to read the Bible and learn about what His rules are, and then live in accordance with those rules even when they conflict with our own personal opinions. By doing this, we are fulfilling the command that Jesus established, and that proves that we respect JEHOVAH's authority. Moreover, when we truly respect JEHOVAH, we develop that same healthy fear of disappointing Him, as well.

The second aspect of love for God is Faith! The Bible describes faith as **“the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”** (Hebrews 11:1 21st Century King James Version) Similarly, when someone who has always kept his promises in the past, makes you a promise to do something in the future, wouldn't you trust or have faith that he will keep his promise? Of course you would! Well, faith in JEHOVAH works the same way. Considering that this is God making the promises, quite frankly, there is nothing in this universe that can stop Him from keeping His promises.

Unfortunately, many people believe—because Jesus died to forgive our sins—that as long as we have faith, all sins will be forgiven. But that’s not true. Romans 6:15-16 explains this for us, **“Does it mean we are free to sin, because we are ruled by God’s wonderful kindness and not by the Law? Certainly not! Don’t you know that you are slaves of anyone you obey? You can be slaves of sin and die, or you can be obedient slaves of God and be acceptable to him.”** (Contemporary English Version) Just to clarify, the Bible equates sin with any action or behavior that is contrary to the laws that our Creator established for us, so please don’t mistaken this term for religious propaganda. In 1 John 3:4, the apostle explains, **“When a person sins, he breaks God’s law. Yes, sinning is the same as living against God’s law.”** (International Children’s Bible) Furthermore, the account of Adam and Eve reveals that sin originates from living independent of and disobedient to our Creator’s authority.

In Matthew 22:39–40, Jesus reveals our second law: **“The second [law] is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”** (Holman Christian Standard Bible) In order that we might grasp the full meaning of this law, Jesus used an illustration that we can all relate to, it’s recorded in the book of Luke. Jesus begins his illustration in Luke 10:30: **“A man was going down the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Some robbers attacked him. They tore off his clothes and beat him. Then they left him lying there, almost dead.”** (International Children’s Bible) Then, Luke 10:33–35 illustrates how a person obeying the law to love your neighbor should respond: **“Then a Samaritan traveling down the road came to where the hurt man was lying. He saw the man and felt very sorry for him. The Samaritan went to him and poured olive oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. He put the hurt man on his own donkey and took him to an inn. At the inn, the Samaritan took care of him. The next day, the Samaritan brought out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. The Samaritan said, ‘Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.’”** (International Children’s Bible) In case you didn’t already know, this illustration is where the phrase “good Samaritan” came from.

From Jesus’s illustration, it’s clear that our Creator wants us to show love to all mankind, not just people we know. He wants us to help one another and treat each other as we would want to be treated—also known as *the golden rule*. Luke 6:31 says, **“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”** (New International Version) Just imagine what our world would be like if everyone obeyed this law.

Interestingly, the Samaritan Counseling Center writes, **“Researchers have consistently found that people report a significant happiness boost after doing kind deeds for others. Some studies suggest giving to others makes people feel happier than spending money on themselves; this has even been found among kids. These good feelings are reflected in our biology: Giving to charity activates brain regions associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust. Scientists also believe that altruism may trigger the release of endorphins in the brain, giving us a ‘helper’s high.’”**<sup>1</sup> This information, of course, is of no surprise to anyone who already trusts the Bible. In contrast, 1 John 4:20 highlights the consequence of disregarding the command to love your neighbor: **“But if we say we love God and don’t love each other, we are liars.”** (Contemporary English Version)

To further prove the value and importance of laws and their relation to a unified world, let’s consider the law of gravity for a moment. Thankfully, this law remains consistent everywhere on Earth and never changes. Even though the majority of us do not completely understand how or why gravity works the way it does, we still rely on it to remain consistent, and we use that consistency to our advantage. We fly airplanes, helicopters, and hot-air balloons based on that consistency. But what would happen if gravity suddenly became inconsistent? At any moment, airplanes would drop out of the sky, or float uncontrollably into space. Life on Earth as we know it would become extremely chaotic. In the same way that consistent

gravity is vital to the physical order of every single thing on earth, so too are the laws that our Creator established for mankind. When everyone abides by the same laws and principles, it instills unity throughout the entire human race. A perfect example of what happens when laws are not consistent for everyone is demonstrated by what is currently going on in the world today: war, division, violence, greed, starvation, corruption, racism, hatred, and the list goes on.

There is, however, one requirement in order to accept the simple truth that we need JEHOVAH's laws: humility! A person must wholeheartedly acknowledge that they are not capable of consistently making good decisions without our Creator's guidance. And because of the imperfection that mankind has inherited from Adam and Eve, JEHOVAH warns us to be aware of our imperfect tendencies. In Romans 7:22–23, the apostle Paul gives us a great example of how even a good-hearted and well-intentioned person still needs to rely on JEHOVAH's laws, writing of himself, **“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity under the law of sin which is in my members.”** (American Standard Version)

If you happen to be someone who believes the Bible was written too long ago to be up to speed with today's society, Psalm 119:151–152 clears that up: **“But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever.”** (English Standard Version) In other words, until our Creator says otherwise, His laws stand as they are.

The fact remains that regardless of which decade or century we are living, the Bible has a moral code that is beyond reproach. Its resources include trustworthy direction on such matters as family life, employment, morality, spirituality, and nearly everything that life throws at us. James 1:25 says, **“But the truly happy person is the one who carefully studies God's perfect law that makes people free. He continues to study it. He listens to God's teaching and does not forget what he heard. Then he obeys what God's teaching says. When he does this, it makes him happy.”** (International Children's Bible)

But what do you do if you're having a hard time adjusting your life to be in accordance with JEHOVAH's laws? Or perhaps you're having a hard time understanding why certain laws even matter? For instance, one important law that our Creator established for mankind is found in Exodus 20:3, which says, **“Do not have other gods besides me.”** (Christian Standard Bible) Does that imply there are other gods out there in the universe? Maybe they all get together on Wednesday evenings and go bowling? Not at all! The scriptures remind us countless times that JEHOVAH is, in fact, the ONLY God. Isaiah 43:10 clarifies this: **“Before Me no god was formed, nor will there be one after Me.”** (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

If we are not to have any other gods besides JEHOVAH, then celebrating pagan holidays is a violation of His law. Deuteronomy 5:9 says, **“I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.”** (New Living Translation) Furthermore, Deuteronomy 6:14 instructs, **“Don't have anything to do with gods that are worshiped by the nations around you.”** (Contemporary English Version)

Sadly, many people celebrate pagan holidays simply because they feel obligated to. It's written on the calendar, and everyone else does it, so they do it too. Furthermore, commercialism manipulates your emotions, romanticizing these holidays with television commercials that portray an unrealistic picture-perfect holiday setting. In reality, the only reason retailers heavily promote these holidays is because their bottom line depends on it—profit!

Besides, since JEHOVAH is the only God, who do you suppose is behind the veil of those pagan gods? Deuteronomy 32:17 clearly answers, **“You offered sacrifices to demons, those useless gods that never helped you, new gods that your ancestors never worshiped.”** (Contemporary English Version)

In light of how the Bible describes Satan as the “father of the lie,” ask yourself: what was the first lie I was ever told? (John 8:44) I don’t know about you, but the first lie I was ever told was that Santa Claus is real. Think about that for a moment because, whether we realize it or not, when we tell children that Santa Claus is real—as innocent as it may seem—they are being taught that deception is acceptable. Christmas is teaching children—during their most formative years, no less—that it’s okay to lie. Not unlike what happened in the Garden of Eden, JEHOVAH’s adversary disguises himself in a big red suit, pretends to hand out presents, promises goodwill to all, and the majority of us fall for it hook, line, and sinker. Satan lied to our first human parents, and he continues to deceive—with our help—our children to this very day. Satan was and continues to be the “father of the lie.”

Understandably, giving up certain lifelong traditions can be difficult for some people. Moreover, this information may even seem restrictive, leading you to conclude that living under our Creator’s law seems to take all the fun out of life. After all, what good is living forever if you can’t have any fun? But ask yourself, do I need a specific holiday to have fun? Or do I need a holiday to buy someone that I care about a gift, get together with loved ones for dinner, or throw a party? The Bible provides many examples that encourage weddings, anniversaries, and get-togethers—which include the drinking of alcohol. Besides, wouldn’t you prefer to decide for yourself when to buy someone you care about a present? When you give a gift to someone who isn’t expecting it, then it actually means something. Don’t you agree?

Making these changes might seem overwhelming, but don’t expect to make them in one day. The key is getting to a point where you WANT to make them. But how do you get to that point? Well, it’s quite simple, really. Every day, you are constantly bombarded with decisions: what to eat, what to wear, what to watch on television, and the list goes on. Fact is, your entire life revolves around making decisions. Accordingly, each path you choose leads to another choice. All these seemingly inconsequential decisions that you face each day are similar to links in a chain because they connect you to life-altering consequences. The question: what helps you make decisions? Answer: that little voice in the back of your mind, your conscience. Your conscience helps you make decisions and rationalize actions, and after you get out of bed in the morning, that little voice even helps you decide what to wear. The problem with that little voice is that it’s influenced by the world you live in, which is governed by mankind’s law and manipulated by JEHOVAH’s adversary: Satan. The Amplified Bible, in 1 John 5:19 explains, **“We know [for a fact] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] lies in the power of the evil one [opposing God and His precepts].”**

In other words, Satan wields a powerful influence over the world you live in. This includes the entertainment you watch, the video games you might play, the music you listen to, and the marketing strategies you are exposed to. All these elements of society are continually training and molding your conscience and how you make decisions. You have heard the saying “You are what you eat.” Well, that statement is true. Your body is constantly replacing cells from the nutrients you consume. Likewise, your mind becomes a product of what you feed it, making each and every one of us a product of our environment. As an example, consider serial killers, rapists, child molesters, terrorists, and school shooters. These criminals are products of the same society that you are currently living in and that humanity has become accustomed to for centuries.

So then, how can you re-train that little voice, your conscience, to disregard the negative influences of the world around you? This is where life’s Instruction Manual comes into play. By studying the Bible and thinking about what each

story and illustration means, you are training your conscience to be more in tune with our Creator's way of thinking. Consequently, you will get to know our Creator and become increasingly more familiar with His principles, and your conscience will synchronize with those principles. That's when you will begin to want to make the changes that you once struggled with. I know this with certainty because it worked for me, and I'm a tough nut to crack. Romans 12:2 really says it perfectly: **"Do not be shaped by this world. Instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you. And you will be able to know what is good and pleasing to God and what is perfect."** (International Children's Bible)

Fact is, when you take the time to contemplate the full meaning behind each law our Creator set in place, it's easy to see that they are not there to dominate us or keep us from a better way of life. For instance, think about how much stress and anxiety you would eliminate from your life, as well as the financial burden, if you quit celebrating all those unnecessary pagan holidays. Plain and simple, our Creator's laws are for our own good. Just as loving parents who want nothing but the best for their children must set up rules for them to live by, our Creator—who feels the same about us—has set up rules for us to live by. Psalm 19:7 puts our Creator's rules in perspective: **"The law of the LORD is perfect and preserves one's life. The rules set down by the LORD are reliable and impart wisdom to the inexperienced."** (New English Translation) Once you realize and accept this fact, you will also realize that our Creator's laws are not about religion; they are a way of life!

In consideration of the fact that JEHOVAH designed our bodies and emotions, would it not be reasonable to conclude that He knows what works best for us? And Matthew 10:24 tells us that **"a student is not above his teacher."** (New International Version) Therefore, just as a child doesn't decide which rules from their parents to follow and which rules to ignore, neither should mankind decide which rules from JEHOVAH to follow and which to ignore.

If you still believe that some of our Creator's laws are unnecessarily restrictive, ask yourself, would a God who inspired Bible authors to write what they did in scriptures like Proverbs 5:18–19 or Psalm 145:16 actually withhold something that is good for me? If you think so, then I'd say you need to have a little more faith in your Creator. Because, and I say this with experience, once you begin to make changes in your life that align with our Creator's laws, you will experience rich rewards that affect your overall attitude and demeanor in a tremendously positive way. As a result, your heart will naturally grow to love and appreciate our Creator and his laws. Furthermore, following our Creator's laws proves that you respect His authority.

Of course, when everything is said and done, you must choose for yourself whether or not you want to follow JEHOVAH's laws. That is the free will that JEHOVAH gave to each one of us. Deuteronomy 30:19 says, **"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."** (New International Version)

Considering the weighty consequences that surround this decision, I'd say it's definitely worthy of your attention.

# — Chapter Six —

## THE HARVEST

We will begin this chapter by quoting one sentence from Matthew 13:39. And to get a comprehensive view of this verse, I've quoted it from an assortment of different Bible translations.

New International Version: **“The harvest is the end of the age.”**

King James Version: **“The harvest is the end of the world.”**

New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition: **“The harvest is the end of the age.”**

Contemporary English Version: **“The harvest is the end of time.”**

Darby Translation: **“The harvest is [the] completion of [the] age.”**

Greek Orthodox Revised Standard Version: **“The harvest is the close of the age.”**

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition: **“The harvest is a conclusion of a system of things.”**

As you can clearly see, this scripture is referring to the end of something. But what exactly does it mean? Well, let's take a look at what the Bible reveals about this event. After all, what better source is there to explain what the Bible says than the Bible itself?

First of all, Psalm 104:5 says that God **“laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.”** (King James Version) And Ecclesiastes 1:4 says, **“A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.”** (English Standard Version) The Bible is affirming that the Earth is here to stay. Therefore, **“the harvest”** can't refer to the end or complete destruction of the Earth.

Thankfully, to aid us in understanding the true meaning of the harvest, Jesus used a brilliant illustration. It begins in Matthew 13:24–30: **“A man planted good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came. The enemy planted weeds among the wheat and then went away. The wheat began to grow and form grain. At the same time, weeds appeared. The owner's slaves came to him. They said, ‘Sir, didn't you plant good seed in your field?**

**Then where did the weeds come from?’ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. The slaves asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?’ ‘No,’ the owner answered. ‘While you are pulling up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the workers what to do. Here is what I will say to them. First collect the weeds. Tie them in bundles to be burned. Then gather the wheat. Bring it into my storeroom.’” (New International Readers Version)**

Ok, so what and who is that illustration referring to? Well, right after giving it, Jesus was asked that same question. His answer is recorded for us in Matthew 13:37–39: **“The one who scattered the good seed is the Son of Man [Jesus]. The field is the world, and the good seeds are the people who belong to the kingdom. The weed seeds are those who belong to the evil one, and the one who scattered them is the devil.”** (Contemporary English Version)

In these verses, Jesus explained that he came to Earth to teach the truth about what his Father, JEHOVAH, has planned for mankind. John 18:37 quotes Jesus as saying, **“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”** (New King James Version) Then, in Matthew 13:39, Jesus goes on to explain that the weed seeds are scattered by JEHOVAH’s adversary, Satan. In the same way that he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, Satan came along after Jesus was executed and perpetuated lies (planted weed seeds) to dissuade people away from following JEHOVAH’s laws and distort the truth concerning what Jesus was actually preaching and teaching about—JEHOVAH’s Kingdom on Earth.

One way that Satan planted weed seeds is explained in Acts 20:30: **“Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them.”** (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) A perfect example of what the Bible writer Luke is talking about in this verse can be found in the New Catholic Encyclopedia, where it talks about the doctrine of Mary’s immaculate conception: **“The immaculate conception is not taught explicitly in scripture...[it] is a judgement that the church has made.”**<sup>1</sup> As you can see for yourself, the Catholic Church is openly admitting how they created their own teaching. From this example, we can see how Satan used counterfeit religion to plant weed seeds (false teachings). As a result, people wrongly bow their heads to statues of the Virgin Mary as a form of worship. Perhaps the pope never read Matthew 15:9, where it says, **“In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”** (Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

This information is why Romans 16:17–18 is important: **“Brothers and sisters, I urge you to watch out for those people who create divisions and who make others fall away from the Christian faith by teaching doctrine that is not the same as you have learned. Stay away from them. People like these are not serving Christ our Lord. They are serving their own desires. By their smooth talk and flattering words they deceive unsuspecting people.”** (Names of God Bible)

As a result of false teachings like “immaculate conception” and people using the Bible to justify their own desires, just as the scripture predicted, people departed from the early congregation and created their own religion. Instead of staying in strict accordance with what Jesus was teaching, they twisted his words to mean what they wanted them to mean, while others chose to reject Jesus completely. John 9:16 gives us an example of this: **“Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others asked, ‘How can a sinner perform such signs?’ So they were divided.”** (New International Version)

Unfortunately, instances like these are why we have thousands of different religions today. With so many religions teaching different instructions, it’s no wonder this world is in such a mess. Counterfeit religion has stolen the Bible from

humanity and turned it into a debate when, in reality, there is only one version: THE TRUTH! And as you can see for yourself from what we've covered in this book so far, the information in the Bible really isn't that difficult to understand—if you take the time to actually read it and reason it out in your mind. Consider the instruction manual that comes with your automobile. If it tells you to change the engine oil every 5000 kilometers (3107 miles), is there any debate as to when you should change the engine oil? Of course not! What happens if you ignore or alter those instructions? You risk engine failure. In other words, there are consequences. Well, the Bible works in the same way. If you ignore or alter the Bible's instructions, there are consequences.

Considering how we are all children of one Creator, imagine yourself as a son or daughter within a large family of several brothers and sisters. It certainly wouldn't make sense for your parents to establish slightly different variations of conduct between each child, would it? What is acceptable and not acceptable must be consistent among each sibling. Otherwise, there is division, jealousy, envy, and even hatred, precisely what we see in the world today.

Furthermore, if we look at this from a mathematical standpoint, it truly is quite simple: one Creator equals one set of rules for everyone. Likewise, would an impartial and fair Creator believe it is acceptable for his children to be divided by different beliefs and principles? Of course not! In 1 Corinthians 1:10, Paul clearly says, **“Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don't be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose.”** (Common English Bible)

At one point or another, you have probably heard Christianity described as a house with many doors and windows. This analogy implies that every Christian religion leads to God's Kingdom. If you believe that, you might be surprised by what Jesus himself says in Matthew 7:21–23: **“Not everyone who calls me Lord will enter God's kingdom. The only people who will enter are those who do what my Father in heaven wants. On that last Day many will call me Lord. They will say, ‘Lord, Lord, by the power of your name we spoke for God. And by your name we forced out demons and did many miracles.’ Then I will tell those people clearly, ‘Get away from me, you people who do wrong. I never knew you.’”** (Easy-to-Read Version) And in Matthew 15:8–9, Jesus was speaking directly to religious leaders when he quoted from the prophet Isaiah and said, **“These people honor me by what they say. But their hearts are far away from me. Their worship doesn't mean anything to me. They teach nothing but human rules.”** (New International Reader's Version)

So, what does all this mean? The Bible is affirming that unless you live in accordance with JEHOVAH's laws to the best of your ability, even if you are the pope in Rome, you will be categorized as a **“weed.”** It's right there in black and white! **“Not everyone who calls me Lord will enter God's kingdom. The only people who will enter are those who do what my Father in heaven wants.”** Sadly, Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:13–14 that the majority of mankind will choose to disregard the Bible's instructions: **“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”** (New International Version)

In Matthew 13:40–41, Jesus connects his illustration of the harvest to our day and paints a vivid picture of what will happen once JEHOVAH decides to intervene: **“Therefore, just as the weeds are collected and burned with fire, so it will be in the conclusion of the system of things. The Son of man will send his angels, and they will collect out from his Kingdom all things that cause stumbling and people who practice lawlessness.”** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition) In these verses, Jesus is explaining what his first order of business will be when he comes,

under the authority of JEHOVAH, to reclaim the Earth: He will send his angels (spirit beings) to collect from his earthly Kingdom anything that doesn't measure up to the Bible's laws and anyone who is knowingly disobeying those laws. Acts 17:31 confirms this: **"Because he [God] has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man [Jesus] whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead."** (Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) Again, because this information is of utmost importance, I implore you to verify it in your own copy of the Bible.

With over 4,200 different religions and roughly 33,000 versions of Christianity alone, however, how exactly do you identify which religions are **"weeds"**? After all, every religion claims to love and serve God. You can determine the answer to that question the same way you would determine whether or not the money in your wallet is counterfeit: by comparing it to the original. In this case, you would compare what a religion does and teaches to what the Bible teaches. Any religion whose teachings disagree with, ignore, or disobey what is written in the Bible is a counterfeit. Seems simple enough, doesn't it?

To help you get started, let's take a moment to examine a tradition that many religions participate in. This tradition alone will mark 99% of Earth's religions as weeds. I encourage you to look these verses up in your own copy of the Bible. In Deuteronomy 5:8–9, God himself says, **"You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God."** (Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) This particular scripture is as clear and straightforward as it is ever going to get. JEHOVAH himself is instructing us not to bow down to or worship any physical object, being, or deity other than Him.

Next, Deuteronomy 4:15–19 says, **"Therefore take good heed to yourselves. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, beware lest you act corruptly by making a graven image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. And beware lest you lift up your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and worship them and serve them."** (Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) In these verses, Moses is referring to when JEHOVAH spoke to His people at the base of Mount Horeb and how there was no form or image of God present, just a voice. Therefore, he is urging us NOT to possess any images or physical objects that are meant as a means to honor or worship even God.

Then, Jeremiah 10:14–15 reads, **"Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them. They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish."** (New King James Version) Here, the prophet Jeremiah is explaining that any physical object, no matter what it represents, is nothing more than a physical object. There is no consciousness in it. Therefore, to consider any physical object as sacred or as an emblem of honor is a serious offense to our Creator. And in Isaiah 42:8, JEHOVAH says that since He Himself gives no praise to any physical object, neither should we: **"I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images."** (New King James Version) It's important to note that in this verse, Bible translators replaced the name JEHOVAH with **"the LORD."**

In light of what these scriptures are clearly saying, the question must be asked: why do so many religions promote bowing to and venerating crosses, statues, and other objects? Is it because the law changed after Jesus's sacrifice? Well, let's examine what the New Testament has to say about this matter. Acts 17:29 explains, "**Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man.**" (Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) This scripture is even more direct in saying that we are not to have any object—no matter what it's made of or stands for—to represent God.

How about one more scripture from the New Testament just to make sure, 1 John 5:20–21 reads, "**But we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us insight so that we may gain the knowledge of the one who is true. And we are in union with the one who is true, by means of his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and life everlasting. Little children, guard yourselves from idols.**" (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition) In these two verses, John explains that since Jesus came to Earth, we now have proof that God is real. And notice what the last sentence says: "**Guard yourselves from idols.**" Evidently, that law hasn't changed.

Therefore, according to the Bible, any church that has a cross in it or on it is considered by JEHOVAH as defiled. Furthermore, any church that has any image, statue, or emblem that is considered sacred is also defiled—this includes statues of the Virgin Mary. Jeremiah 32:34 makes this very clear: "**They put their detestable things (idols) in the house which is called by My Name, to defile it.**" (Amplified Bible)

As you can clearly discern for yourself from reading these scriptures, it's not necessarily the people inside these churches that God is condemning, it's the people who knowingly teach these falsehoods that He is truly angry with. Therefore, in terms of anyone who sincerely loves God but might be affiliated with a religion that contradicts the Bible's laws, these words in Revelation 18:4–5 are quite important: "**Come out of her, my people, so that you may have no part in her sins and in her punishments. For her sins have gone up even to heaven, and God has taken note of her evil-doing.**" (The Bible in Basic English)

Since we can't see God, then how exactly do we bow our heads to Him? Ephesians 6:18 answers this question: "**Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time.**" (Common English Bible) JEHOVAH is allowing you the privilege to speak to Him through prayer no matter where you are or what you are doing. He is freeing you of all those crosses, statues, and religious rituals. Instead, JEHOVAH wants you to have Him and His laws in your heart. And to talk to Him, all you have to do is bow your head and pray. If you're not sure how to pray, Jesus left instructions in Matthew 6:6–14. I encourage you to read them.

Unfortunately, to promote the tradition of worshipping a cross, many religions purposely take the words in Matthew 10:38 out of context. The Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition of that verse reads, "**He who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.**" However, since the Bible makes it perfectly clear that physical objects should never be considered sacred or as having any connection to God, it becomes obvious that Jesus was speaking symbolically. In other words, Jesus was asking his followers to follow in his footsteps and do what he was doing. In 1 Peter 2:21, the apostle Peter explains this clearly: "**For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his footsteps.**" (Lexham English Bible)

The first fact that everyone needs to realize is that the word *cross* never once appears in the original manuscripts of the Bible. What does appear—in reference to the object Jesus was nailed to—is the Greek word *stauros*...over seventy times! What is a *stauros*? The general definition, according to both classical Greek and Koine definitions, carries no thought

of two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always one piece alone—an upright pole or a stake. If the cross doesn't originate from the Bible, then where does it come from?

In his book *The Cross in Ritual, Architecture and Art*, Geo S Tyack wrote, **“It is strange, yet unquestionably a fact, that in ages long before the birth of Christ, and since then in lands untouched by the teaching of the Church, the Cross has been used as a sacred symbol.”** Tyack goes on to explain how the cross was found to be sacred to Aryan tribes—ancestors to most European nations. Furthermore, Tyack explains that the cross is even found in ancient Egyptian inscriptions: **“To the Egyptians it spoke of a future life; to the Aryans of fire, itself emblematic of life; the Mongolians lay it, drawn on paper, on the breasts of their dead; and the Buddhists of Thibet see in it a mark of the foot-print of Buddha.”** The Greek god Bacchus, the Chaldean god Bel, and the Norse god Odin were also symbolized by a cross of some form as well.<sup>2</sup>

Similarly, over 2,600 years before Christ's birth, ancient Babylonians used crosses in the worship of their god Tammuz. The Bible even verifies the validity of this false god by recording an account of when JEHOVAH's people adulterated their worship with that very same false god. Ezekiel 8:13–14 captures this occurrence for us: **“Again he said to me, ‘You will see even more detestable acts that they are committing.’ Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the LORD's house, and I saw women sitting there weeping for Tammuz.”** (Christian Standard Bible)

Further investigation reveals how it was customary of the Babylonians to mark their foreheads with a cross as a sign of being a worshiper of Tammuz—a ritual that some Christian religions still partake in even to this day. Author Ralph Woodrow wrote, **“Centuries before the Christian era, the cross was honored as a religious symbol by the people of Babylon. It is seen on their oldest monuments. Historians say that it was a symbol associated with Tammuz.”**<sup>3</sup>

The online Encyclopaedia Britannica refers to Tammuz as the Mesopotamian fertility god, dating back to 2600 BCE, and even shows a photo of an ancient stone carving of Tammuz holding a cross in each of his hands and with two other crosses behind him. Woodrow explains, **“It was not until Christianity began to be paganized that the cross came to be thought of as a Christian symbol. It was in 431 A.D. that crosses in churches and chambers were introduced, while the use of crosses on steeples did not come until about 586 A.D.”**<sup>4</sup>

This information uncovers a clear example of another weed seed mentioned in Jesus's illustration. If you think about why Jesus chose seeds to represent what people are taught, it really was quite brilliant. The false teaching that the cross is sacred and has special power is the perfect example in that it spread like dandelion seeds blown across a field. And we all know how difficult it is to get rid of dandelions once they get in your yard. Likewise, inaccurate and false teachings can be equally as difficult to eradicate once they take root in a person's heart and mind.

Sadly, this particular seed—the cross—has really taken root, spreading clear across the entire world. Because of previous longstanding traditions regarding the cross, Satan used religion to adopt the idol into doctrine by sterilizing it with the belief that it is in honor of Christ's sacrifice—even though the Bible strictly forbids this type of worship. Unfortunately, I suspect many people will have a difficult time accepting this simple yet very important Bible truth. After all, to believe that the cross—an object held dear to their hearts—is, in reality, an instrument of Satan may be a difficult truth to accept. In movies, the cross is depicted as having the power to ward off evil spirits or vampires; in reality, though, it has the opposite effect. Concerning the cross, Roman Catholic writer and archeologist Adolphe-Napoleon Didron stated, **“Hence a legend has arisen concerning it, as if it were a living being.”**<sup>5</sup>

The point is, regardless of our intention, there is no disputing that the Bible strictly forbids worshiping or honoring any object whatsoever, whether in service to God, country, or anything else. And Deuteronomy 12:32 clearly explains how there are no exceptions to our Creator's laws: **"You must be careful to do everything I am commanding you. Do not add to it or subtract from it!"** (New English Translation) In the end, the fact that Jesus died to give us a future is what really matters—not the object he was nailed to.

Meanwhile, notice what Pope Francis said on April 14, 2017, as he presided over the Stations of the Cross ceremony in the Colosseum in Rome: **"O Christ, we ask you to teach us to never be ashamed of your Cross, not to exploit it, but to honor and worship it."**<sup>6</sup> Sadly, the pope learned nothing from the example of what happened when God's people were caught worshipping the golden calf when Moses came down off the mountain. (Exodus 32:1–10) This particular instance—of the Pope teaching people to worship the cross—is another perfect example of what Romans 16:17–18 is referring to: **"Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them, because such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words."** (Christian Standard Bible)

Okay, but how does the Pope serve his own appetite by encouraging people to worship the cross? Well, check out the Vatican's online gift shop and see for yourself the multitude of expensive crosses, as well as many other idols for worship they have for sale. In Acts 19:25, a silversmith named Demetrius, who also profited from idolatry during the apostle Paul's day, said these words, **"Men, you well know that from this business comes our prosperity."** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition) Therefore, it's no surprise that most religions today encourage people to worship the cross. The Contemporary English Version of Jeremiah 10:14-15 says it perfectly, **"People who make idols are so stupid! ...When the time is right, they will be destroyed."** If you truly want to honor what Jesus and JEHOVAH sacrificed for mankind, the best way is by living in accordance with the laws He left for you.

Besides, doesn't the entire concept of giving any amount of gratitude toward the object that our Creator's son was nailed to seem somewhat morbid? Imagine for a moment if your son or daughter were killed by a terrorist—a reality that many families don't have to imagine. Would you hang the weapon that killed them on your living room wall in honor of their sacrifice? Or have it made into a necklace and wear it around your neck? Or have a picture of it tattooed on your body? People would likely question your sanity if you did, which paints a whole new perspective of the cross, wouldn't you agree?

When you read these next words from Jesus, keep in mind the ongoing issue of sexual abuse that surrounds the Catholic Church. Matthew 23:25 says, **"How horrible it will be for you, experts in Moses' Teachings and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You clean the outside of cups and dishes. But inside they are full of greed and uncontrolled desires."** (GOD'S WORD Translation) To think that men who claim to be agents of God are guilty of molesting young girls and boys makes most people feel sick to their stomach. Can you imagine how JEHOVAH must feel? There is no question, there WILL be a reckoning! Ezekiel 5:11 says, **"Therefore, as I live,' says the LORD God, 'surely, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations—therefore I will cut you down; my eye will not spare, and I will have no pity.'" (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) And in 2 Corinthians 11:13–15, the apostle Paul said, "For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve." (New International Version)**

All the more disheartening is the fact that most priests themselves don't even bother to follow the simplest and most basic instructions in the Bible. Perhaps they just don't care about God's laws. If they did, they certainly wouldn't allow anyone to call them Father. Jesus's own words in Matthew 23:9 clearly warn, **“And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven.”** (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) Obviously, the context of that verse doesn't apply to a biological father. Please don't misinterpret this as self-righteous grandstanding on my part. Being far from perfect, I do not claim to hold any advanced position with JEHOVAH. In fact, considering the mistakes I've made and the wrongs I've committed toward others in my past, I wholeheartedly acknowledge that I am among those least worthy to receive JEHOVAH's promises.

Of course, Satan used other methods to spread false teachings (weed seeds) around the world as well. Matthew 24:11 says, **“Many false prophets will rise and will deceive many.”** (Modern English Version) What most people don't realize is that Islam originated during the seventh century from a single man named Muhammad, who claimed he was a prophet. Born approximately 570 CE, Muhammad is acknowledged by Muslims as a holy prophet and founder of the Islamic faith. The Encyclopedia Britannica reveals how Muslims acquired their Bible: **“According to conventional Islamic belief, the Qur'ān was revealed by the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad in the West Arabian towns Mecca and Medina beginning in 610 and ending with Muhammad's death in 632 CE.”**

Since Islam accepts Jesus as a prophet, however, there is a major issue that Muslims are overlooking: Jesus Christ marked the end of the Bible. In Romans 10:2-4 the apostle Paul explains, **“For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”** (English Standard Version) In this verse, Paul is saying that the teachings of Jesus Christ rendered the Bible complete. In other words, other than the eight remaining writers that Jesus handpicked to finish the Bible, mankind's Instruction Manual was complete. And the scriptures make no mention of any prophet authorized to create a future Bible. In Matthew 5:17-18 Jesus himself says, **“Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished.”** (Christian Standard Bible)

This information teaches us that any religion whose origin is tied to anything other than the Bible is a counterfeit, and so is any so-called prophet who wrote or perpetuated any teaching other than what is written in the Bible. This, by extension, forces anyone who believes that Muhammad was a prophet to ask themselves why an angel of God would go against what the Bible says and tell Muhammad to write an entirely new bible—the Qur'ān? The answer is simple: a true angel of God would never do such a thing. Considering how one single man lead over two billion people away from the truth is a perfect and dangerous example of how Satan scattered weed seeds (false teachings) around the world.

In Matthew 7:16–20, Jesus gives sound advice about how to identify false prophets, **“You will fully recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit [worthy of admiration], but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit. A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit [worthy of admiration]. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire. Therefore, you will fully know them by their fruits.”** (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

Whether you are Muslim or not, ask yourself: what fruit did Islam bear to the world? Since Islam is most certainly religiously connected to groups such as ISIS, who have the entire world in their grip with terrorism, it is difficult not to conclude that Muhammad's teaching most certainly produced some rotten fruit. Of course, many people will argue that we can't blame the behavior of terrorist groups such as ISIS on an entire religion. After all, terrorism is murder, and murder is condemned in every Bible. What people fail to realize is that terrorists are committing these atrocities based on what Muhammad wrote in the Qur'an. They believe that what they are doing is the will of Allah, their Islamic god, and that they will be greatly rewarded in the so-called afterlife for their sacrifice. John 16:2 reminds us, **"The hour will even come when whosoever kills you will think that he does God service."** (Jubilee Bible 2000)

Notice what our Creator has to say about men like Muhammad. Jeremiah 23:30–32 reads, **"Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another. Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the LORD.' Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them."** (English Standard Version) To clarify, I don't hate Muslims, nor do I believe Muslims are bad people, but I do hate that they have been deceived. Furthermore, in no way am I condoning violence, even against terrorists.

Truth is, counterfeit religion has made a mockery of what the Bible really teaches. And because of that, her fate has been sealed! In Matthew 13:42, Jesus promises that all counterfeit religions will be thrown into **"the furnace of fire."** (New American Standard Bible) In other words, a day is coming when religion as we know it will be completely abolished. And notice what the last sentence of Matthew 13:43 says: **"If you have ears, pay attention!"** (Contemporary English Version)

There is no denying that with governments, courts, organizations and activists alike trying to accommodate every religion under the sun, this world is being torn apart. The Middle East is the perfect example; cut religion from that equation, and suddenly, terrorists have no religious motivation to fight. Furthermore, without 4,200 different religions, the entire world would have a whole lot less to fight about. Imagine how peaceful this world would be if everyone lived according to the one set of rules and principles that are laid out for us in the Bible.

To summarize, the harvest refers to the day when our Creator decides that mankind's reign is finally over. Matthew 16:27 explains, **"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will render to everyone according to his deeds."** (World English Bible)

Due to the importance of this information, again, I implore you to please verify these scriptures in your own Bible. Consequently, with utmost sincerity, I do sympathize with anyone who has been let down and betrayed by their religion. In the end, it comes down to a simple choice: trust your religion or trust the Bible. Malachi 3:16 explains the value of making the correct choice: **"Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another; the Lord heeded and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and thought on his name."** (Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) Concerning God's book, Revelation 20:15 says, **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** (King James Version) Suffice it to say, you definitely want your name written in JEHOVAH's book.

# — Chapter Seven —

## A PEOPLE FOR HIS NAME

When I began to study the Bible seriously, I was surprised by what it actually said and even more surprised by what it promised. When everything was said and done, I had a decision to make: did I believe in God or not? If I believed in God, then I had to trust and accept what His book, the Bible, says. In other words, I had to put up or shut up.

The first thing I noticed, after realizing what the scriptures were really saying, was how far-off most religions are from actually following the Bible's instructions. That made me angry. *Surely, there has to be at least one religion out there that actually takes the Bible seriously*, I thought. After all, Jesus spoke of such people when he said, **"The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom."** (Matthew 13:38 New King James Version) Furthermore, Revelation 12:13–17 tells us that Satan, because he was angry for being kicked out of heaven, would wage war against God's people on the Earth. In other words, the Bible is saying that there is a group of people on Earth in our present day who truly are God's people. The question is; who are they? Matthew 24:45 says, **"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?"** (New International Version) After searching through the scriptures to pinpoint exactly who that is, I would have never imagined where the evidence would eventually lead. I hope you will follow along with me as I present this evidence to you.

If you open your Bible and read through Revelation 12:13–17, you will see that verse 17 describes God's people as those **"who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."** (New King James Version) What did Jesus primarily teach about? Matthew 9:35 says, **"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom."** (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition) Furthermore, what did Jesus teach his followers to do? Matthew 28:19–20 explains, **"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you."** (Common English Bible)

From these verses, we learn that God's true people will understand the truth about what Jesus taught, live according to JEHOVAH's laws, teach others about the good news of the kingdom, and baptize people in the name of the son and the Father, Jesus Christ and JEHOVAH God.

So, who on Earth today are known for striving to live in accordance with the Bible's commandments? And who are the people going from door to door teaching what Jesus taught? Furthermore, who on Earth today recognize the Father's name, call Him their God, and baptize people in His name? The Merriam-Webster Dictionary says this of JEHOVAH God: **"A supreme deity recognized and the only deity worshiped by Jehovah's Witnesses."** And the New Catholic Encyclopedia says this about Jehovah's Witnesses: **"The fundamental obligation of each member of the sect is to give witness to Jehovah by announcing His approaching Kingdom... They regard the Bible as their only source of belief and rule of conduct... To be a true Witness one must preach effectively in one way or another."**<sup>1</sup>

In regard to what God's people would be called, Acts 15:14 says, "**Simeon [Peter] has reported how God first visited the nations, to take out of them a people for his name.**" (World English Bible) This verse explains how God, for the first time, would choose from all nations a people to call His own, "**a people for his NAME.**" And what is God's name? **JEHOVAH!**

You probably don't know this, but each week, two times per week, Jehovah's Witnesses congregate at places they call Kingdom Halls. What do they do there? They study what's written in the Bible and practice effective ways that might get people to listen to the message about God's Kingdom—the same message Jesus was preaching about. Concerning the preaching work, Jehovah's Witnesses are currently active in 240 of the 265 known countries and territories around the world, and in some of these places, they are forced to operate covertly due to governmental ban.

In their willingness to preach the message of JEHOVAH's Kingdom, Jehovah's Witnesses are not only obeying the command Jesus gave, but they are also fulfilling the prophecy found in Matthew 24:14, where Jesus said, "**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**" (King James Version) Notice that he said, "**for a witness unto all nations.**" Even though most people are uninterested when Jehovah's Witnesses knock on their door, the very fact that they are preaching the message of God's Kingdom on a worldwide scale is testimony in itself.

In Matthew 10:16–18, Jesus further prophesied, "**Look, I'm sending you as sheep among wolves. Therefore, be wise as snakes and innocent as doves. Watch out for people—because they will hand you over to councils and they will beat you in their synagogues. They will haul you in front of governors and even kings because of me so that you may give your testimony to them and to the Gentiles [nations].**" (Common English Bible)

Ever since Jehovah's Witnesses—known as Bible Students prior to 1931—first appeared on the world's stage, they have often been forced to battle in court for their right to preach. In fact, at the time of writing this book, there are several hundred Jehovah's Witnesses imprisoned around the world because of their faith. And during WWI and WWII, many Witnesses were imprisoned because of their preaching work.<sup>2</sup> Revelation 2:10 prophesied this: "**Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested.**" (Greek Orthodox Bible)

Moreover, during WWII, many Jehovah's Witnesses were killed in Nazi Germany because of their faith. Mathew Schmalz, associate professor of religion at the College of the Holy Cross, wrote, "**In Nazi Germany, Jehovah's Witnesses were killed in concentration camps; a purple triangle was used by the Nazis to mark them. In the 1960s and '70s, scores of African Jehovah's Witnesses were slaughtered by members of The Youth League of the Malawi Congress Party for refusing to support dictator Hastings Banda.**"<sup>3</sup>

As for the effect the Nazi movement had on Jehovah's Witnesses during WWII, in her book *The Nazi State and the New Religions: Five Case Studies in Non-Conformity*, Christine Elizabeth King wrote, "**Only against the Witnesses was the [Nazi] government unsuccessful, for although they had killed thousands, the work went on and in May 1945 the Jehovah's Witness movement was still alive, whilst National Socialism was not. The Witnesses' numbers had increased and no compromises had been made.**"<sup>4</sup>

More recently, on April 20, 2017, Russia's Supreme Court ruled to criminalize the activity of Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia, and the government seized all their buildings and properties in the process. As a result of this ruling, Rachel Denber, deputy director of the Europe and Central Asia division at Human Rights Watch, had this to say: "**Jehovah's**

**Witnesses in Russia are now given the heartrending choice of either abandoning their faith or facing punishment for practicing it.”<sup>5</sup>**

I wonder if President Vladimir Putin—if he even believes in God—realizes that he is, in fact, becoming an integral part of Bible prophecy. What is most disturbing is the side in which Putin is assisting. Remember what Revelation 2:10 said? **“The devil is about to throw some of you into prison.”** (Greek Orthodox Bible)

In light of this information, may I humbly encourage President Putin and the leaders of every other government that currently restricts or imprisons Jehovah’s Witnesses because of their faith to **“leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”** (Acts 5:38–39 New International Version) For those who refuse, notice what JEHOVAH once said about what He would do to anyone who harms His people: **“For thus said the Lord of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them.”** (Zechariah 2:8–9 Greek Orthodox Bible) In other words, anyone who messes with God’s people is actually messing with God himself! **“Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.”** (Psalm 2:10 New International Version) It would be extremely unwise to ignore the Bible’s warning.

If Jehovah’s Witnesses really are harmless, you might be wondering, then why do governments consider them a threat? John 15:25 answers that question: **“But this happened so that what has been written in their Law might be fulfilled: ‘They hated me for no reason.’”** (International Standard Version) Fact is, Jehovah’s Witnesses are not extremists; the Bible forbids them from being involved in any sort of conflict with anyone. They are a kind and peaceful people who obey the law of the land—except when it conflicts with JEHOVAH’s law. Their number one goal is to preach about JEHOVAH’s Kingdom that is coming to Earth while striving to live in accordance with the Bible’s instructions.

After considering all the evidence and how mankind’s very own dictionaries—including the Catholic Church’s encyclopedia—define Jehovah’s Witnesses as people who exclusively follow our Creator’s commandments, spread the good news about His Kingdom, make His name known, and baptize people in His name, there really is no debate as to whether or not Jehovah’s Witnesses are God’s people. Fact is, no other organization on the planet even comes close to fitting their hand into the glove that identifies God’s true people, that is, if you trust what the Bible says. Many Witnesses have dedicated their entire lives to obeying Jesus’s command to spread the good news about God’s Kingdom, giving up lucrative careers and passing on gainful employment opportunities. Some have sold every possession they had to preach the message about God’s Kingdom. Once you consider the punishing circumstances that many Jehovah’s Witnesses have endured to fulfill Jesus’s command—persecution, prison, and even death—no reasonable person can deny that they are, in fact, JEHOVAH’s true earthly representatives.

Perhaps you have never considered the preaching work from the perspective of a Jehovah’s Witness, but it takes a great deal of courage to approach a total stranger and talk about the Bible. Jehovah’s Witnesses are simply obeying the command Jesus gave to spread the good news about the sacred secret: JEHOVAH’s Kingdom on Earth. Sadly, for obeying this command, they are continually made fun of. Even late-night talk show hosts take cheap shots at them. Therefore, may I please remind anyone who feels the need to make jokes about Jehovah’s Witnesses that it’s actually Jesus Christ and JEHOVAH God you are making fun of.

Jehovah's Witnesses go through these painstaking efforts to preach about God's Kingdom for the same reason I wrote this book: because they care about people. Furthermore, they recognize our Creator's authority and obey His commands. One of those commands is to tell people about His Kingdom. Does that mean that Jehovah's Witnesses follow the only true religion? Ephesians 4:5–6 says there is only **“one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.”** (New King James Version) But this isn't about debating which religion is correct; this is about doing what's right and showing the Creator of our universe the respect He deserves.

Quite simply, Jehovah's Witnesses choose to live the way they do because that is what it takes to be one of JEHOVAH's people. And if you open your Bible to Deuteronomy 30:19–20, you will learn that anyone has the choice to be one of His people: **“Today I am giving you a choice of two ways. And I ask heaven and earth to be witnesses of your choice. You can choose life or death. The first choice will bring a blessing. The other choice will bring a curse. So choose life! Then you and your children will live. You must love the LORD your God and obey him. Never leave him, because he is your life. And he will give you a long life in the land that he, the LORD, promised to give to your ancestors—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”** (Easy-to-Read Version) As the scripture points out, to be one of God's people and receive the promises He made, you must choose to live in accordance with the Bible. Jehovah's Witnesses have simply made that choice, and you can too.

Malachi 3:17–18 explains how JEHOVAH feels about His people: **“You people are precious to me, and when I come to bring justice, I will protect you, just as parents protect an obedient child. Then everyone will once again see the difference between those who obey me by doing right and those who reject me by doing wrong.”** (Contemporary English Version)

Does that mean only Jehovah's Witnesses will receive God's promises? Again, by Jesus's own words, **“Only those who do the will of my Father”** will have their name written in God's book. And James 1:12 guarantees, **“Those who stand firm during testing are blessed. They are tried and true. They will receive the life God has promised to those who love him as their reward.”** (Common English Bible)

Regarding the importance of having your name in God's book, Daniel 12:1 says, **“At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people, will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.”** (Christian Standard Bible)

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In the name of full disclosure, during the course of writing this book, I became a baptized Jehovah's Witness myself—I was baptized Catholic as a baby. And this is my second attempt at writing this book. I initially began writing in late 2014; however, because I was so excited about sharing this information, I was admittedly overzealous in my first attempt. I tried to fit every fascinating thing about the Bible into one book and got way off track from what needed to be said. After much cutting, rephrasing, and clarifying, however, I finally arrived at what you are reading today.

# — Chapter Eight —



## FREE WILL

We've arrived at the final chapter, which is appropriately titled "Free Will." Now that you know what our Creator is promising and what He expects from you, you get to exercise the free will that He gave you and decide what to do about it. A perfect example that compares to the world's current situation is accurately portrayed by the story of Noah. Not unlike today, people before the flood were warned. What happened? As the story goes, a flood came and wiped out everyone who didn't heed the warning. Why did the majority of mankind receive such a horrible fate? Because they exercised their free will and chose to reject JEHOVAH's authority. For this reason, Jesus referred to Noah's day when he left mankind this warning in Matthew 24:37–39: **"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be."** (New American Standard Bible)

Maybe you think that is a harsh consequence, especially from a God who claims to care about us. Well, notice what our Creator says in Ezekiel 33:11: **"I swear that I don't enjoy seeing people die—not even evil people! I don't want them to die. I want them to come back to me. I want them to change their lives so that they can really live. So come back to me! Stop doing bad things!"** (Easy-to-Read Version) Then, in Jeremiah 29:11, our Creator says, **"For I well know the thoughts that I am thinking toward you,' declares Jehovah, 'thoughts of peace, and not of calamity, to give you a future and a hope.'"** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition) That hope is to live in God's Kingdom on Earth. By these verses we are able to understand that anyone, no matter how bad their crime might have been—even priests who taught things the Bible forbids—can still change their lives to live according to JEHOVAH's laws and He will mercifully forgive them.

In regard to the past experiences recorded in the Bible—such as the flood in Noah's day—1 Corinthians 10:11 says, **"Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come."** (English Standard Version) Therefore, please contemplate what has been written in this book. Reread, research, and study each scripture thoroughly to test for yourself its accuracy because, unfortunately, counterfeit religion has misrepresented the Bible for centuries. The Word of our Creator is not about religion; it's about one single unified way of life.

When you get up in the morning, brush your teeth, eat breakfast, and head off to work, why do you do those things? Well, it's a proven fact that brushing your teeth prevents tooth decay—and freshens your breath. Eating breakfast is necessary to sustain your body. Furthermore, your employer—if you do what is asked of you and don't get fired—provides you with income to live. These are all common-sense practices...a way of life. Would you consider that a religion? Of course not! Since we already follow laws that human governments put in place, does following those laws feel like a religion? Of

course not! Now, what if your boss asked you to study a course for a few hours per week that would help improve your life skills and increase your income. Would you say no to him? Well, following JEHOVAH's law is no different. Instead of bowing your head to an object and following sacred rituals, our Creator's law teaches practical solutions to everyday life situations. And by studying our Creator's law, you'll gain a more in-depth understanding of who our Creator truly is, how He thinks, and what His future plans are. Psalm 19:7 says, **"The Lord's teachings are perfect. They give new strength. The Lord's rules can be trusted. They make plain people wise."** (International Children's Bible)

Remember my illustration about starting your own business and dealing with disobedient employees? Whether you like it or not, JEHOVAH is the CEO of the entire universe, and He requires that you do as He asks in order to stay employed by Him. Jesus used a great illustration that describes quite perfectly the fate of someone who chooses to follow JEHOVAH's law and the fate of someone who chooses not to. Matthew 13:47–49 records it for us: **"God's kingdom is like a net that was put into the lake. The net caught many different kinds of fish. It was full, so the fishermen pulled it to the shore. They sat down and put all the good fish in baskets. Then they threw away the bad fish. It will be the same at the end of time. The angels will come and separate the evil people from the godly people."** (Easy-to-Read Version)

Although Jesus died to cover the sin that Adam and Eve created, as we learned in chapter five, there are certain conditions. Luke 17:1–3 gives us another understanding of this: **"There will always be something that causes people to sin. But anyone who causes them to sin is in for trouble. A person who causes even one of my little followers to sin would be better off thrown into the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their neck. So be careful what you do. Correct any followers of mine who sin, and forgive the ones who say they are sorry."** (Contemporary English Version) In these verses, Jesus is explaining that because we are all imperfect and currently live in an imperfect world, people will make mistakes. But if they are truly sorry for what they did, their mistakes will be wiped away—forgiven. Of course, simply saying, "I'm sorry," doesn't work when you are intentionally breaking JEHOVAH's laws. Hebrews 10:26 clarifies this: **"If we make the decision to sin after we receive the knowledge of the truth, there isn't a sacrifice for sins left any longer."** (Common English Bible) And notice the warning Jesus gave to people who knowingly cause others to break JEHOVAH's laws. He says they **"would be better off thrown into the ocean with a heavy stone tied around their neck."** This is why counterfeit religion is in such big trouble!

Another question you may be wondering about is, why get baptized? Isn't what's in a person's heart all that matters? Furthermore, why is it important to get baptized in the name of our Creator and His son? The answers to these questions originate with Adam and Eve. Because they were perfect yet failed to accept JEHOVAH's authority, their offspring were cast into a state of imperfectness. In a sense, because he succeeded in convincing the first two perfect humans to reject JEHOVAH's authority, it could be said that Satan was holding mankind hostage. For that reason, a ransom needed to be paid. What exactly was that ransom? First, proof was needed that a perfect physical man—just like Adam—could navigate through life without rejecting JEHOVAH's authority even if meant dying, which Jesus accomplished. Hebrews 4:15 reads, **"We have one who has been tested in all respects as we have, but without sin."** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition) Therefore, to complete the ransom, Jesus had to give his life as a propitiatory sacrifice in order to compensate for the fatal error Adam and Eve made. Matthew 20:28 explains, **"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."** (New International Version)

By giving his life, Jesus paved the way for everyone—who accepts the terms—to have a second chance. That second chance means getting the same opportunity Adam and Eve had: to live under JEHOVAH's authority in a perfect physical body and in ideal conditions for you to thrive. The terms, therefore, are to give physical evidence of your personal

acceptance of JEHOVAH's authority—like signing a contract. You do that by being fully immersed in water—by someone authorized to perform water baptism—in the name of the one who paid your ransom, Jesus Christ, and in the name of the One who created you and who's law you agree to follow, JEHOVAH God. Getting baptized signifies that you humble yourself before JEHOVAH, repent of your mistakes, and agree to live in accordance with His law to the best of your ability. In return, JEHOVAH himself promises, **“I will forgive them for the wicked things they did, and I will not remember their sins anymore.”** (Hebrews 8:12 New Century Version)

What exactly does it mean to repent? Cambridge Dictionary says, **“To be very sorry for something bad you have done in the past and wish that you had not done it.”** In other words, a person who genuinely repents, deeply regrets his wrong course of action and is determined not to repeat his mistakes—true repentance indicates a change in thinking. With JEHOVAH, repentance involves correcting the way in which a person might be living to be in line with the Bible's laws and principles. That means you must have some basic knowledge of what the scriptures say before getting baptized. It should also be noted that since Christian baptism requires an understanding of JEHOVAH's laws, the individual choosing to get baptized must be old enough to consciously make the decision.

The truth is, after experiencing the benefits from abiding by JEHOVAH's laws, a person soon realizes that they really are for our own benefit and protection. And wholeheartedly endeavoring to abide by those laws to the best of your ability is all that JEHOVAH requires of you. Psalm 103:11–14 explains, **“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So great is his loyal love toward those who fear him. As far off as the sunrise is from the sunset, So far off from us he has put our transgressions. As a father shows mercy to his sons, Jehovah has shown mercy to those who fear him. For he well knows how we are formed, Remembering that we are dust.”** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition) In other words, JEHOVAH does not expect perfection from you; He just wants you to try your best. It's like running a marathon that you know you have no chance in winning, but you try your best nonetheless.

And don't be fooled into thinking that you can simply wait around until our Creator reveals himself and then start obeying His laws. Our Instruction Manual makes it crystal clear that a time will come when it is too late. The illustration that Jesus used in Luke 13:24–25 outlines this fact: **“Do all you can to go in by the narrow door! A lot of people will try to get in, but will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and locks the door, you will be left standing outside. You will knock on the door and say, ‘Sir, open the door for us!’ But the owner will answer, ‘I don't know a thing about you!’”** (Contemporary English Version)

Does that mean you must choose to become a Jehovah's Witness? Fact is, if you decide to live in accordance with the laws our Creator established for mankind, you will find yourself living the same way that Jehovah's Witnesses try to live. For that reason, I invite you to take advantage of their open invitation to attend a thirty-minute public discourse at any local Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in your area on any given Sunday. In addition to the practical, heartfelt, Bible-based guidance they teach from the Bible, I guarantee you will also be amazed by their warm, loving, inviting, and happy attitude. Witness for yourself whether or not they live up to John 13:35, which says, **“By this all will know that you are my disciples—if you have love among yourselves.”** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition) One thing you will never see at a Kingdom Hall is a collection plate being passed around for donations. Everything, including their Bibles and Bible-based publications, is free of charge.

Feel free to visit the Jehovah's Witness website, [jw.org](http://jw.org), and take part in their online Bible study program, which you can use at your own convenience with no obligation whatsoever and with complete anonymity. Recognize firsthand the

wealth of valuable information contained in the Bible that can benefit you and your entire family. Amazingly enough, [jw.org](http://jw.org) is available in over 950 different languages. See for yourself the encouraging and practical scriptural information their website offers to help cope with everyday life, as well as a variety of inspiring videos; from animated lessons for children to full feature movies for teenagers and adults.

A word of caution, however: please don't allow anyone's opinion, or false information found on the internet, deter you from personally checking into Jehovah's Witnesses and deciding for yourself what they are about. If you have any inclination whatsoever that Satan is real, rest assured he is doing everything within his power to divert you away from the truth that's found in the Bible. To give you crystal-clear proof that Satan truly is controlling this world, notice what he said to Jesus in Luke 4:5–6: **“Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place and quickly showed him all the nations on earth. The devil said, “I will give all this power and glory to you. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.”** (Contemporary English Version)

Therefore, if you are at all interested in receiving JEHOVAH's promises, let us liken your future to your favorite meal. There it is, sitting right in front of you on the table, delicious as ever! But someone across the table whom you don't even know says to you, “Don't eat it! It tastes horrible!” Would you not be inclined to at least try one bite and decide for yourself how it tastes? Psalm 34:8 says, **“Taste and see that Jehovah is good.”** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition)

If your circumstances permit, book a tour to see the brand-new world headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses, which opened April 3, 2017, in Warwick, New York. You will observe firsthand the eco-friendly, world-class facility they built, mostly with volunteers. While there, I encourage you to visit their museum, which is located on the premises and which features exhibits that are quite remarkable.

If you feel inclined to learn further truths revealed in the scriptures, one of Jehovah's Witnesses would be happy to study the Bible with you. Meanwhile, you are never under any obligation whatsoever. As difficult as it may be to believe, they have no hidden agenda. Their agenda is to help people clearly understand what the Bible really teaches and promises. Afterward, what you do with that knowledge is up to you. The truth is, once you witness firsthand what Jehovah's Witnesses are accomplishing, it's hard not to want to be a part of it. Considering that our Creator is offering infinite life with perfect health, a promise no earthly government or politician can even come close to matching, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. At the very least, I encourage you to take the time and read the twenty-eight chapters contained in the book of Matthew. See for yourself the message our Creator sent His son to tell the world.

If you believe that you already are a true Christian, you will want to read what Revelation 3:1–3 says: **“These are the words of the one who holds God's seven spirits and the seven stars: I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, and you are in fact dead. Wake up and strengthen whatever you have left, teetering on the brink of death, for I've found that your works are far from complete in the eyes of my God. So remember what you received and heard. Hold on to it and change your hearts and lives. If you don't wake up, I will come like a thief, and you won't know what time I will come upon you.”** (Common English Bible) As you can see, the Bible is urging anyone who believes they are a Christian to make sure they truly are living in accordance with God's laws. And notice what Proverbs 28:9 says: **“If anyone turns a deaf ear to my instruction, even their prayers are detestable.”** (New International Version) It's not too late; there is still time to remove the bridle that your religion has fitted you with. I'll say it again: this is not a debate

about which religion is correct; this is about your very own life. Please do not allow pride, tradition, and an adulterated church decide which everlasting fate you choose.

With respect to struggling families, aren't you tired of working nearly every day just to make ends meet? I'm sure you would agree that a life devoid of sickness, death, war, unemployment, famine, and so on would be far more preferable. Well, that is what JEHOVAH is promising you if you accept His authority and choose to live according to His laws. In Romans 16:25–26, the apostle Paul explains, **“God is the One who can make you strong in faith by the Good News that I tell people and by the message about Jesus Christ. The message about Christ is the secret truth that was hidden for long ages past, but is now made known. It has been made clear through the writings of the prophets. And by the command of the eternal God it is made known to all nations, that they might believe and obey.”** (International Children's Bible) In these verses, Paul is asserting that by reading the Bible, your faith in JEHOVAH's promises will be strengthened. He goes on to explain how the secret truth (JEHOVAH's promises) have long been concealed from mankind's understanding, but because of our Creator's son having come to Earth and the New Testament (writings of the prophets), you and I can now fully understand what JEHOVAH has planned. Finally, Paul describes how this knowledge is made known to the entire world: by the willingness of those who obey **“the command of the eternal God”** to spread **“the message about Jesus Christ.”** Want to take a guess at who is doing that today? Jehovah's Witnesses!

As for the hardships that you may face in this corrupt and defective world, in Matthew 11:28–29 Jesus says, **“Come to me, all you who are toiling [struggling hard] and loaded down, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me [become my disciples], for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for yourselves.”** (New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Study Edition)

In the end, after examining the evidence, it's impossible to refute that someone other than us knows we are here. And the evidence points to someone far superior to us. To some, He is God. Others, though, because they've watched too many science fiction movies, will likely choose to believe He is an alien who wants to enslave mankind. Those who don't trust JEHOVAH will be with the ones the Bible says will fight to rule themselves. Psalm 2:2–3 explains, **“The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and his Anointed One: ‘Let's tear off their chains and throw their ropes off of us.’”** (Christian Standard Bible) However, Psalm 2:12 declares that **“they will perish in their rebellion.”**

Accordingly, each person reading this book has an important choice to make, and like the writing on this page, that choice is as distinct as black and white. When it comes to our Creator, you are either with Him or you are against Him. There is no in between. Jesus gives us a firm understanding of this in Luke 11:23: **“If anyone is not with me, he is against me. He who does not work with me is working against me.”** (International Children's Bible) And since Matthew 6:24 tells us that you cannot successfully serve two authorities, this means you cannot be both a patriot and a follower of JEHOVAH's laws. How can you when the laws of human government often conflict with JEHOVAH's laws? Your allegiance is either with God or with your country. Who am I to tell you how to live your life? I'm not telling you how to live your life, that is for you to decide. I'm simply showing you what the Bible really says. The rest is up to you. Again, Deuteronomy 30:19–20 says, **“I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore, you shall choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding closely to Him; for He is your life [your good life, your abundant life, your fulfillment] and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord promised (swore) to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”** (Amplified Bible)

Therefore, I urge you to please contemplate this decision carefully. Either way, the Bible affirms that mankind will be liberated from ruling itself. Daniel 2:44 says, **“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.”** (New International Version) And Daniel 7:14 explains who will manage God’s earthly government: **“He [Jesus] was given the ruling power and glory over all the nations of the world, so that all people of every language must obey him. His power is eternal—it will never end; his government shall never fall.”** (The Living Bible)

Unfortunately, the Bible warns that the transformation from human government to JEHOVAH’s government will not be a smooth transition. However, those who have their names written in JEHOVAH’s book will escape much of the distress that the rest of the world will experience. Daniel 12:1 reveals this fact: **“At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people, will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.”** (Christian Standard Bible) As you can clearly see, obeying JEHOVAH’s commands right now and having your name written in His book are of utmost importance! The big question is, when is this going to happen? In Matthew 24:36, Jesus says, **“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”** (New King James Version)

In Revelation 22:6–7, this inspiring message was forwarded through the apostle John as an assurance to all people who are giving their best effort to abide by our Creator’s laws: **“Then the angel said to me, ‘These words can be trusted. They are true. The Lord God who gave his Spirit to the prophets has sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon.’ ‘Look! I will come soon!’ God will bless the person who obeys the words in this book [the Bible].”** (Worldwide English New Testament)

For those who make the decision to join the nations in resisting this transformation, the apostle Paul penned these words in 2 Corinthians 4:3–4: **“But if our good news is veiled, it is veiled from those who are on the way to destruction: Because the god of this world has made blind the minds of those who have not faith, so that the light of the good news of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, might not be shining on them.”** (The Bible in Basic English)

As the perfect ending to this book, I will quote the words of wise king Solomon: **“Here is my final conclusion: fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the entire duty of man.”** (The Living Bible)

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This publication was not written as a source of spiritual food for Jehovah's Witnesses.

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