

30

BIBLE ESSENTIALS IN TRACT FORM



GEORGE ROSS



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30 Bible Essentials in Tract Form

George Ross

2024

Contents

1 Can I be an Atheist?	1
2 Do you obey the Ten Commandments?	7
3 Did Jesus rise from the Dead?	15
4 Immanuel God with us	22
5 Evolution: Fact or Fiction?	29
6 Is the Bible trustworthy?	35
7 A New Beginning with a Health Programme	42
8 Sabbath Observance: The Fourth Commandment	48
9 The New Testament Sabbath - Is it valid?	55
10 The State of the Dead	62
11 Is Jesus your God?	70
12 Do you listen to God's Voice??	77
13 The Eight Habits of a Disciple	84
14 The Cell Phone Evangelist	90
15 The Sea of Galilee, or the Dead Sea?	96
16 What follows Death?	103
17 Questions for Seventh Day Adventists	110
18 How can I know God's Will for my life?	116
19 Will your Anchor hold in the storms of life?	123
20 Christ in the Old Testament	130
21 Tabernacle #1 - The Outer Court	138
22 Tabernacle #2 - The Holy Place	145
23 Tabernacle #3 - Most Holy Place	152
24 Daniel: The amazing truth of his Prophecies	159
25 Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	167
26 The Four Beasts of Daniel	174
27 Revelation 13: The Faithful Remnant	181
28 Daniel's 2,300 Year Prophecy	189
29 The Divine Intellect of Biblical Prophecy	196
30 The Investigative Judgement	203

#1

Can I be an Atheist?



As a Bible believer you have probably encountered the same problem as I have over the years:

**How to deal with rejection,
and how to answer an atheist.**

When approaching someone,
have you ever had the
response...

"You know I'm not religious!"



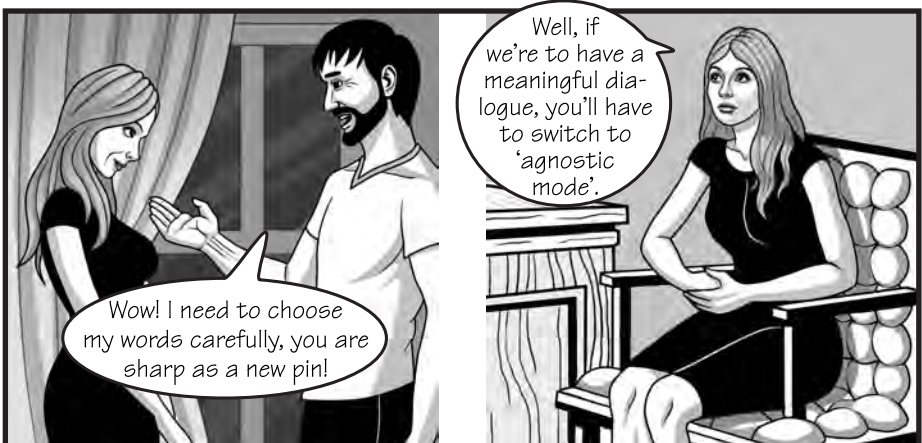
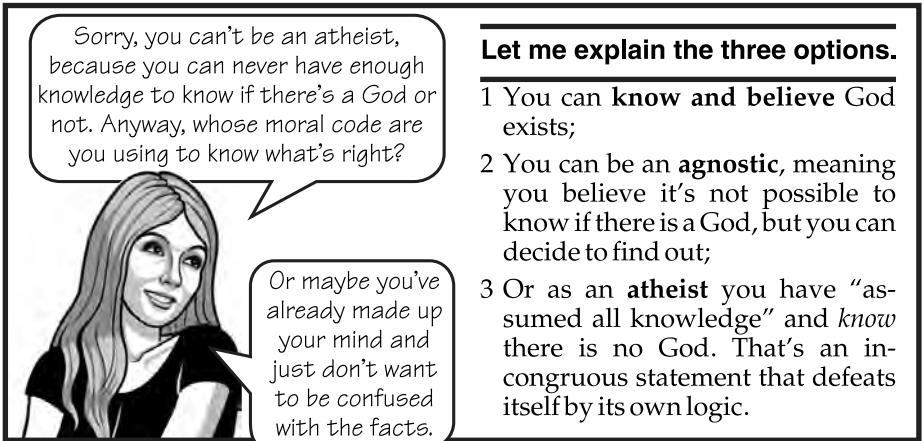
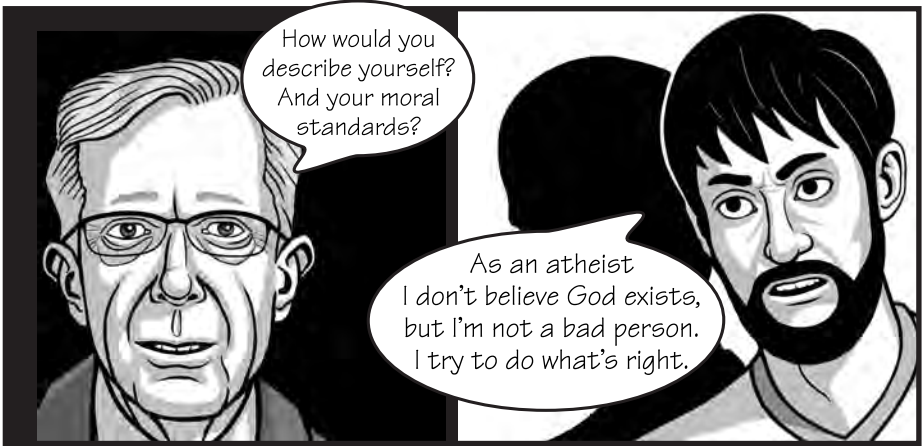
**In the beginning:
God's Word... or the Big Bang?
You choose!**

Are you sure that your 'god' really is GOD?

Anyway, your Bible says many people had many gods during the time that it was written. All of them probably believed that their 'god' was GOD. How do you know whether they were right or wrong?

In the time when Jesus lived there were more than 1 500 gods! So, if I must believe in a 'god', just which one should I choose?

Question from an atheist.



OK, let me change my position, just for the purposes of this discussion.

I said earlier there were many gods. How would I know who is the right and true God? That's if I wanted to believe in your God at all!



This is what the Bible says: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

(Hebrews 11:6-8, King James Version)

Why don't you try it? You stand to gain so much, and you can't lose anything!

There is an answer to your question, which has fundamental and serious implications relating to how we know our God is the true God.

The answer lies in the Sabbath. That is how we know who the Lord God is; it's a theme running throughout the Bible. We know that we worship the **Creator God**, because the Bible identifies the true God as the **Creator God**, and *Sabbath worship* and *seventh-day rest* recognises God as the **God of the creation**.



The Bible is **very clear** about these matters.

Exodus 31:13 (King James Version): "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that **I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.**"

Ezekiel 20:12 (KJV)

"Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that **I am the LORD that sanctify them.**"

Ezekiel 20:20 (KJV)

"And hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that **I am the LORD your God.**"



The Bible teaches us to know false gods from the true One by showing the true God as the **Creator God**.

The Bible states in **twenty-three** places that God is the God of the Creation, or that it was He Who created everything.

Revelation 14:7 teaches us: "Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Again referring to the 'Creator God'.

The answer to your question then is: **The true God is the 'Creator God'.**



But wait, my friend still has another question.

Well, if you guys are so adamant that the true God is the Creator God, you also need to be very sure of the Sabbath as being the true Sabbath! That's fair, isn't it? So what about the calendar changes in 46 BC or 1751 AD, when eleven days were removed from September? What does it help to be legally correct if the Sabbath day that you stick to is the wrong day?

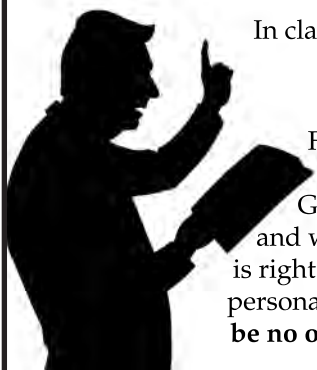
Those changes never altered the sequence of the weekdays - the order remained exactly the same. A good example is a leap year; it does not affect the days of the week.

We don't need dates for the Sabbath, just the regular order of the weekdays. Sabbath always occurs on the seventh day of the week, which is exactly what the Bible says.

To reiterate: the true God is the Creator God and the God of the Sabbath.



But now we move on to the **unavoidable** dilemma the atheist faces.



In claiming there is no god, the atheist has to answer some questions of his own.

The Atheist's Dilemma

From the atheist point of view it is tough to claim right and wrong exist. If there is no God to make laws, who decides what is right and wrong? You said earlier that you try to do what is right - but by whose rules? How can you be sure your personal sense of right and wrong is absolute? **There can be no objective morality if there is no given moral law.**

True Morality

Hence, if God does not exist, we don't have a sound foundation for morality as given in the Ten Commandments. What then? Do we make up our own moral rules?

What I am offering instead is a **sound foundation for good moral values.**

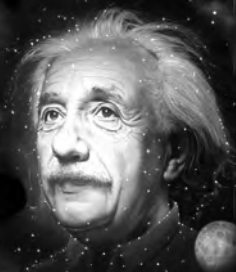
These values don't come from man; they are listed in the **true moral law** - the Ten Commandments - and live by our honouring the Creator God by observation of the Sabbath rest.



An orderly harmony of living!

*I believe in God
who reveals Himself
in the orderly harmony
of the Universe.*

Albert Einstein



Einstein, the greatest physicist of the 20th century, believed in God and said so many times.

So I summarise as follows:

- The **true God**, being identified as the **Creator God**.
- The **Moral Law** as expressed in the **Ten Commandments**.
- The **true Sabbath** is always identified as the **seventh day**, independent of the date.
- The **Bible believer** identified as observing the **seventh day as rest day for the Creator God**.



Psalm 32:8:
“I will instruct you
and teach you in
the way you should
go; I will guide you
with My eye.”
(KJV)

Please, Lord!

Inspire me that I may study Your Word, which is the source of all truth, and that I lean not on my own understanding, but in all my ways acknowledge You and that You will make my path straight.

- *I really don't see any point in being an atheist. It promises nothing and takes one nowhere.*

*Let each one of us, if we have done nothing
for Christ, begin to do something now.
The distribution of tracts is the first thing.*

C H Spurgeon

#2

DO YOU OBEY THE 10 COMMANDMENTS?

Please advise:

My church pastor claims the
Ten Commandments
are out of date and
don't belong
in the New Testament.
Is this true?

*A question from
Mr Good Guy.*



Jesus says:

"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

(Matthew 5:20, NIV version)

*Let me throw some light on
this crucial concept.*

**Meet Mr Good Guy! I'm sure if anyone
makes it to heaven, he's the one.**



So I ask him:
Do you keep the
Commandments?



Well, I try to
do the right thing
and keep them as
best I can!



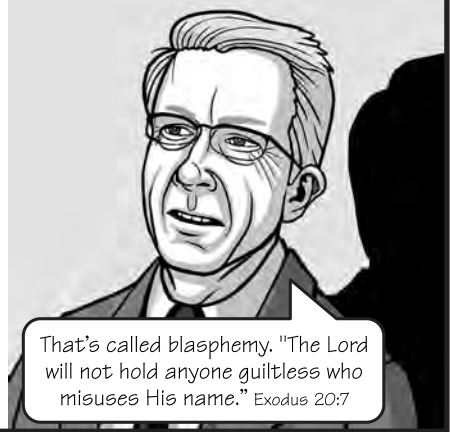


What do you call someone who *steals*?



A thief.

Have you ever used God's name to *curse*?



Have you ever looked at a woman with *lust*?



Jesus said:

"Whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her in his heart."

(Matthew 5:28)

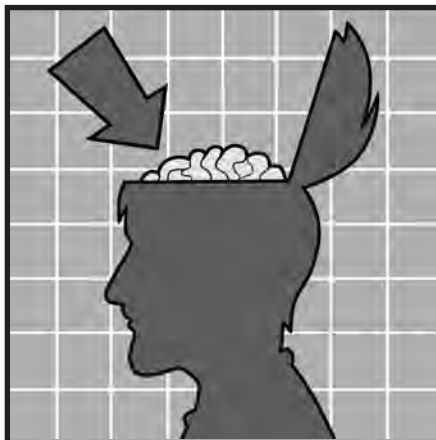
You have admitted to being a liar, a thief, a blasphemer and an adulterer at heart, and that's just *four* of the Ten Commandments.



Actually, it's *worse* than that!

Sin isn't just doing things we shouldn't.

**It's also
NOT DOING
the things we
should.**



But wait... There's more.

"Anyone who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." (James 4:17)

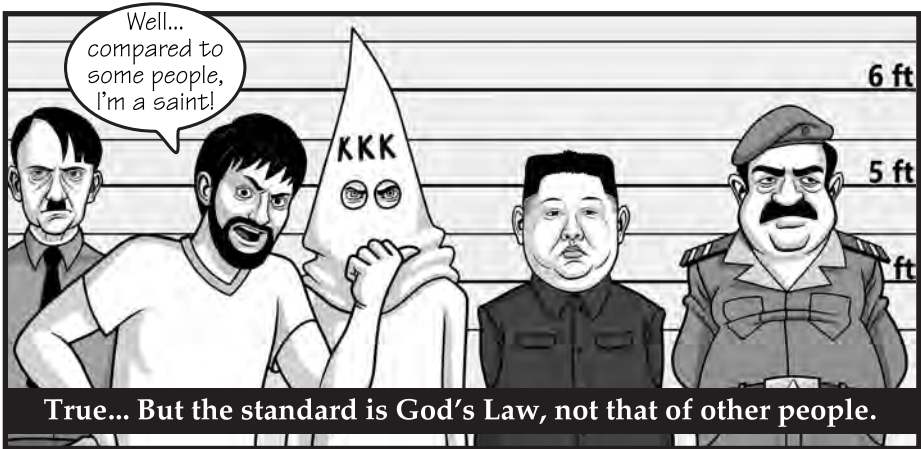
Suppose we could put a computer chip in your brain that would record all your personal and private thoughts for a month...

... and then play them on You Tube for your friends and family to see.

That'd be s-o-o embarrassing!



God knows the secrets of the heart.
Psalm 44:21

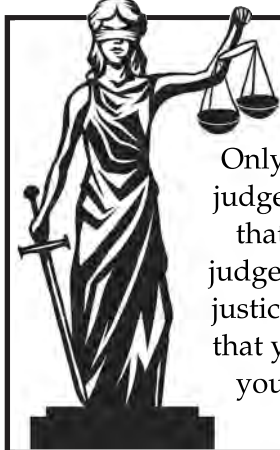


The Finger of God

You might be interested to know that all mainline Protestant and Pentecostal churches accept (on their Statements of Faith) that the **moral law**, the Ten Commandments, are irrefutable, as they were written by the 'Finger of God' and ratified by Jesus Himself.

- That is why we should obey the Ten Commandments.





Only a corrupt judge would do that. A good judge would say justice demands that you pay for your crimes.

God is a holy, righteous judge. He hates sin!

Jesus warned that God, in His wrath, will cast all who sin against Him into eternal fire, where "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth".

Matthew 13:42



There's only *one* way...

If a **sinless person** offered to take your punishment, then justice would be served and **you would go free!**



God loves you so much, He sent His Son Jesus to suffer and die for your sins.

The Son then rose from the grave - defeating death. The law is fulfilled, making it properly valid for the first time.



The **crucial message** of this tract can be summarised as follows:

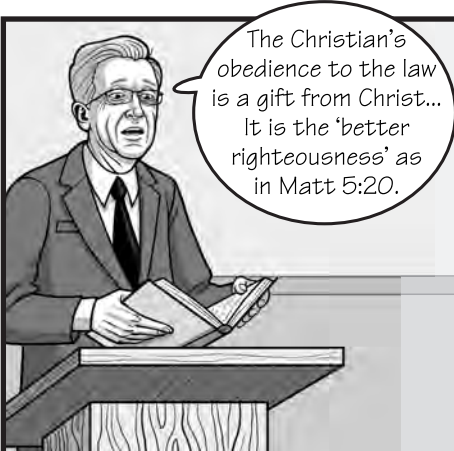
- 1 The Ten Commandments/moral law remain valid in the New Testament.
- 2 The demands of the law have been satisfied in Christ.
- 3 Salvation cannot be achieved by obeying the law. Obedience is always a gift, which we receive when we are called to follow Him. **It belongs only to those who endure their lot for the sake of Jesus.**



So how does this matter of the Ten Commandments (the moral law) relate to the born-again Christian?

Certainly the Pharisees never imagined that the law must be taught but not obeyed; they knew the Scriptures better than that! Their ideal was to model their behaviour exactly on the demands of the law.

Yet their obedience was imperfect; they knew there was an excess which needed forgiveness of sins to cover it. Sadly they had a law which was never fulfilled.



But the Christian has the advantage over the Pharisee in that his way of adhering to the law is in fact perfect. The righteousness it demands is already there, the righteousness of Jesus, which submits to the Cross, because that is what the law demands.

He is the righteousness of the disciples. By calling them He has

made them partakers of His righteousness in its fulness.

That is to say Jesus, and **He alone**, fulfils the Commandments, because He alone lives in **perfect communion with God**.

Yet a common mistake many good gospel preachers make, is to claim that men can be saved by His salvation and be free from the law and the Ten Commandments. Such teaching creates **enthusiasm**, yet neglects to address the **foundation of truth**.

- **The disciple of Jesus must instead learn that true salvation in Christ also means adherence to the Commandments of God.**



We must school and train ourselves to deal personally with the unconverted. We must not excuse ourselves, but force ourselves to the irksome task until it becomes easy.

C H Spurgeon

#3

DID JESUS RISE FROM THE DEAD?

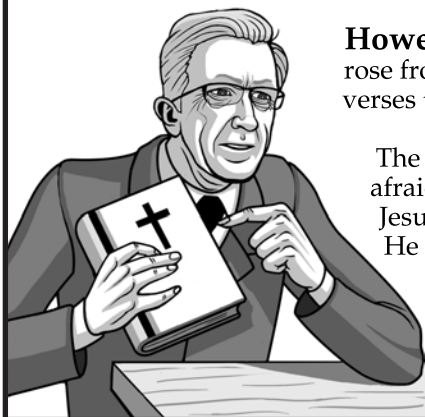
That question makes no sense - people don't just wake up from the dead and start walking about again. I know the Bible claims Jesus did this, but as a thinking person I would like to see a whole lot of evidence before swallowing such a tall tale!



That's an argument I've heard many times over the years... perhaps you have, too!

As you can probably imagine, such comments can only come from a non-churchgoer.

I can understand his comment - if you've never read the Bible or studied history around the time when the Bible was written, you'd certainly have difficulty in understanding or believing this fundamental truth.

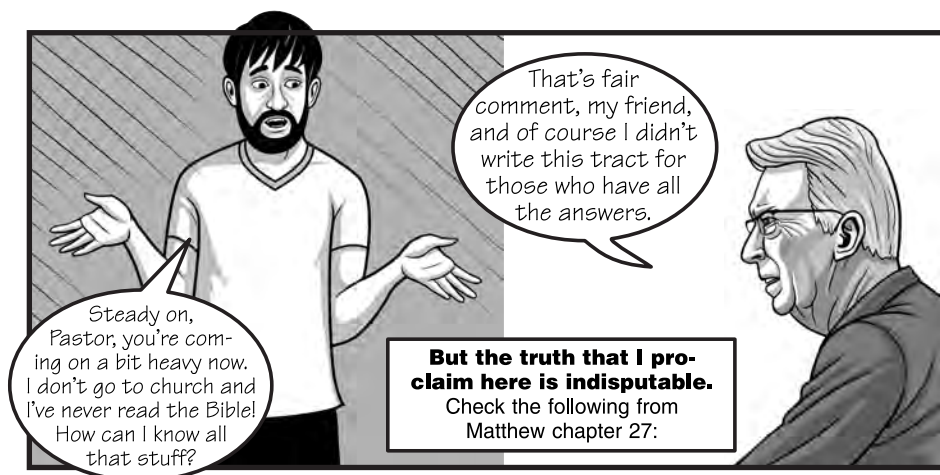


However, the Bible clearly states Jesus rose from the dead. I can quote **nineteen** Bible verses that confirm His resurrection as factual.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay."

(Matthew 28:5-6)

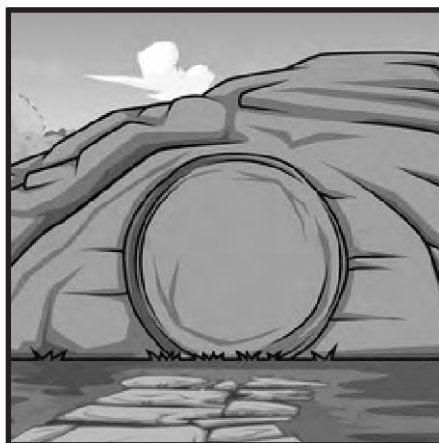




Pontius Pilate listening to the High Priests and Pharisees

"Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, 'Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while He was yet alive, *After three days I will rise again.* Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night, and steal Him away, and say unto the people, *He is risen from the dead:* so the last error shall be worse than the first.'

"Pilate said unto them, 'Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.'"



Matthew 27:66 further states: "So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard."

The sealing was done in the presence of the Roman guards, who were left in charge to protect this stamp of Roman authority and power.

Yet in the process they overreached themselves and provided additional witness to the fact of the empty tomb, and the resurrection of Jesus.

The Roman soldiers didn't have the slightest interest in the task to which they were assigned. Their sole purpose and obligation was to rigidly perform their duty as soldiers of the Roman Empire, to which they had dedicated their allegiance.



The Roman seal affixed to the stone before Joseph's tomb was far more sacred to them than all the philosophy of Israel.

Soldiers cold-blooded enough to gamble over a dying victim's cloak are not the kind of men to be hoodwinked by timid Galileans.

Despite the bravado of the Jewish leaders who, a day earlier, had Jesus put to death and stood to mock Him during His bitter agony on the cross, they still feared Him! What they now feared was Jesus rising again.

"There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it."

Matthew 28:2



The famous painting of this iconic scene by Mikhail Nesterov

In AD 56 Paul wrote that over 500 people had seen the risen Jesus and that most of them were still alive (1 Corinthians 15:6). It passes the bounds of credibility that the early Christians could have manufactured such a tale and then preached it among those who might easily have refuted it simply by producing the body of Jesus. (John Warwick Montgomery)

Note: When the disciples proclaimed Jesus's resurrection, they did so as eye witnesses, and they did so while people who had contact with the events they spoke of were still alive.



When Paul spoke to the Athenians about Christ, they had no answer for his claims: "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked." (Acts 17:32)

Why did Paul encounter such unbelief in Greece, and not in Jerusalem? Because in Jerusalem **the fact of the empty tomb was indisputable.**



Paul's hearers had not checked out the story for themselves, and rather than go to any trouble to investigate, they were happy to mock in ignorance.
Intellectual suicide best describes their stand!



C'mon!
There has to be an
explanation for the
empty tomb!

If the Jews had issued an official order to have the body moved, why, when the apostles were preaching the resurrection in Jerusalem, didn't they explain: "Wait! We moved the body - Christ didn't rise from the Grave."



But you could ask,
if the Pharisees denied the
resurrection, why didn't they
explain exactly where the
body was laid?





When the story of the resurrection of Christ came forth, as it immediately did; when it was publicly asserted by His disciples, and made the ground and basis of their preaching in His name, and collecting followers to His religion; the Jews could not produce the body.

Paley, VEC, 196-98



THERE ARE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE EMPTY TOMB



1 *Through human agency:*

Removed by Enemies -
NO MOTIVE
Removed by Friends -
NO POWER

2 *Through divine agency:*

The most LOGICAL
EXPLANATION

It would have been to the advantage of the authorities that the body should remain where it was; and the view that the disciples stole the body is untenable.

- **The Power that removed the body of the Saviour from the tomb must therefore have been divine.**



He is
RISEN

At that time, there were unfounded theories that the disciples had stolen the body.

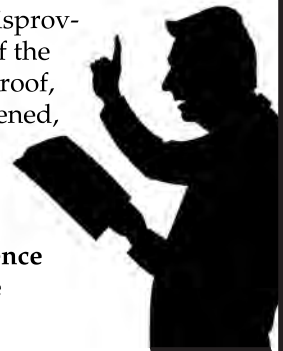
Each of the disciples, except John, died a martyr's death. They were persecuted because they tenaciously clung to their beliefs and statements. But Paul Little writes: "Men will die for what they *believe* to be true, though it may actually be false: They do not, however, die for what they *know* is a lie." If the disciples had stolen Jesus' body, they would have known their resurrection proclamation was false.

However, they constantly referred to the resurrection as the basis for their teaching, preaching, living, and - significantly - dying. **The theory that the disciples stole the body is absurd.** (Lewis & Short, LD, 62-64.)

Think about this one!

The church was founded on the resurrection, and disproving it would have totally destroyed the credibility of the New Testament. However, instead of any such disproof, throughout the first century, Christians were threatened, beaten, flogged and killed because of their faith. It would have been much simpler to silence them by producing Jesus' body, but this was never done.

- **As John R W Stott has so succinctly said, the silence of Christ's enemies "is as eloquent a proof of the resurrection as the apostles' witness".**



So the proof of the resurrection came from the enemies of Jesus!



Wow! Would you believe this incredible logic? Proof from the opposition itself!

For Caiaphas the very idea of Jesus rising from the dead was an anathema. He, together with Pilate, would have instructed the Roman soldiers and Jewish police to find the body. The intention would be to drag it through the streets to show that Jesus was an impostor.

Result: The Good News and the New Testament!

For comparison, here is the complete record, as compiled by G B Hardy:



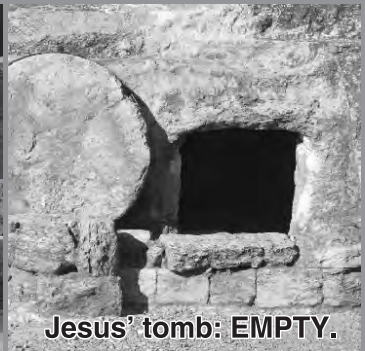
Confucius' tomb:
Occupied



Mohammed's tomb:
Occupied



Buddha's tomb:
Occupied



Jesus' tomb: **EMPTY.**

The verdict is in!
The evidence clearly speaks for itself:

**CHRIST IS RISEN
INDEED**

Christ changed everything

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus, called Immanuel (meaning *God with us*), changed the world. In that moment when 'the Word became flesh', the words of the Old Testament prophets unfolded into the New Testament, as a new Covenant had just been born. Jesus, our Immanuel, now provided a way to ensure that sin and death, on our confession of faith, couldn't win, and the new-born Christian wouldn't feel so painfully alone, but would have the promise of the Heavenly Life.



Pastor, please explain! I see in many churches a cloth hangs from the pulpit with the words '**Immanuel - God with us**'. I understand Jesus had been born in Bethlehem, but surely He's not there now?

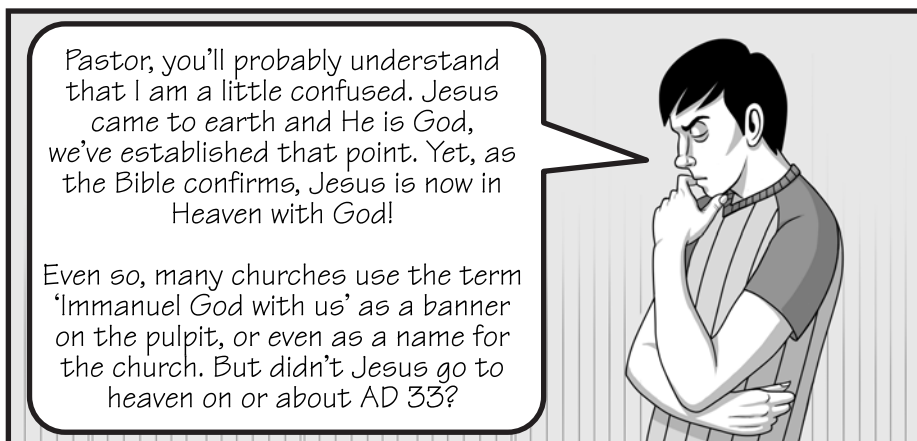
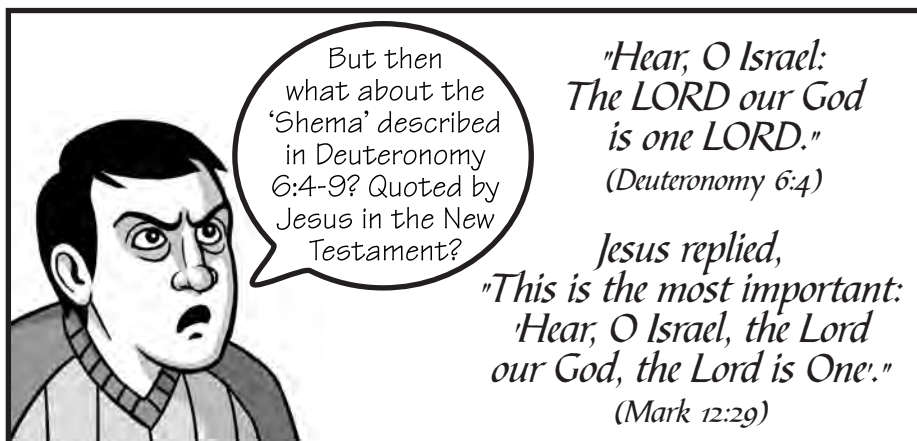
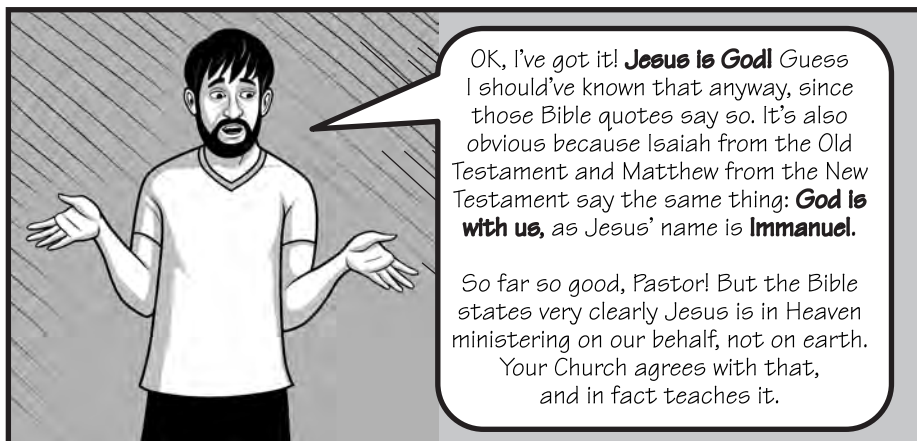
So how do you explain 'God with us'? I mean really, He was on earth for only 33 years! Then how can He still be with us?

Dear Friend: Before we go further, we need to accept the Bible truth that **Jesus is God**. Immanuel means 'God with us'. This is confirmed in both the Old and New Testaments.

"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Matthew 1:23







Read what the prophet Jeremiah has to say in chapter 23 about God's Omnipresence. Or Proverbs 15! There are many texts; check for yourself!

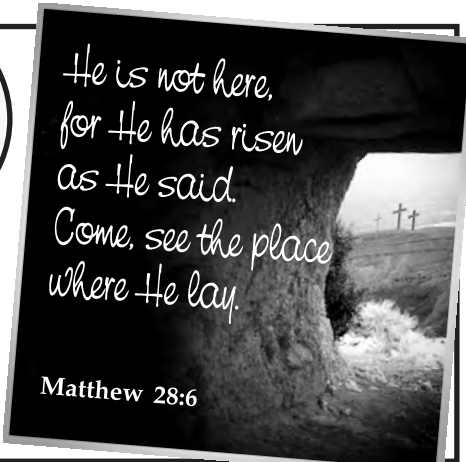
"Am I only a God nearby," declares the Lord, "and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill Heaven and earth?"

Jeremiah 23:23-24

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3

But, Pastor, I still challenge the statement of Immanuel God with us. The Bible says clearly: **The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us!** That text refers to Jesus; we agree Jesus is God... but He is not here.

He is not here,
for He has risen
as He said.
Come, see the place
where He lay.

Matthew 28:6

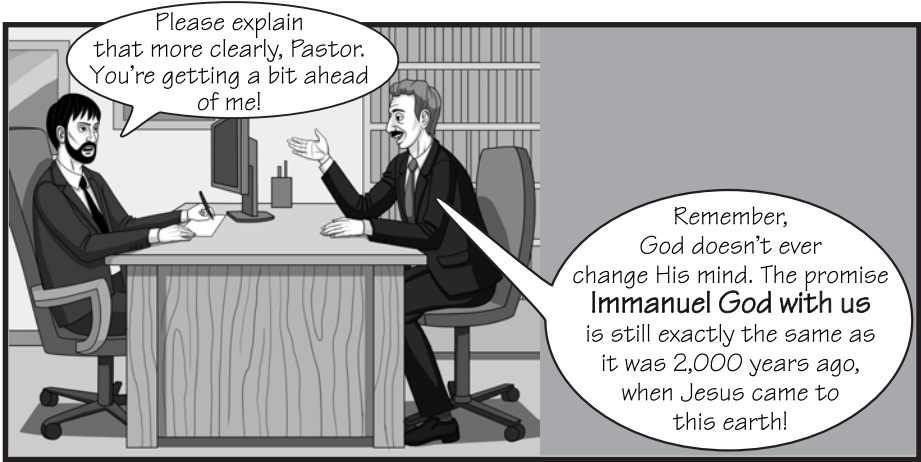


Jesus knew He would rise from the dead and told His disciples so many times:

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day "

Luke 9:22

The resurrection of Jesus was no surprise, it was part of God's Plan of Salvation.



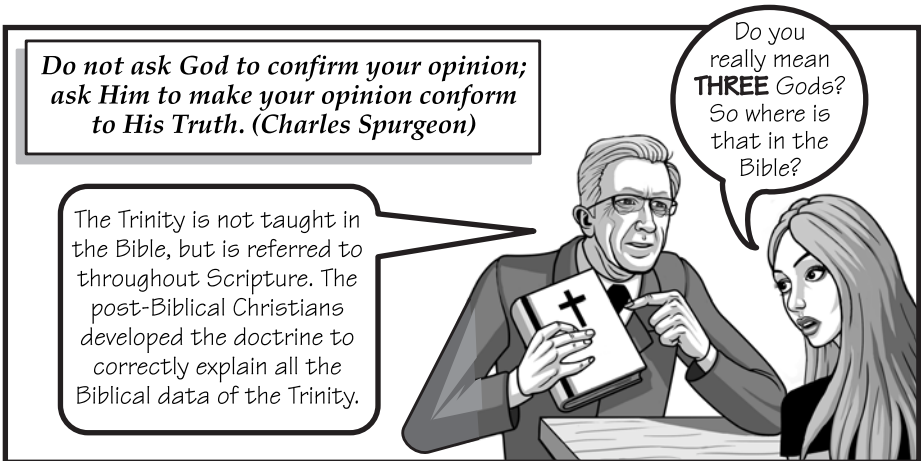
Before Jesus was crucified He said this to the disciples: "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever."

Another in the Greek original is *allos*, which literally translated means *another of the same kind*.



**The Comforter is the Holy Spirit.
God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.**





No, not three Gods!

Remember the *Shema* I quoted earlier:

"Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord."

(Deuteronomy 6:4 KJV.)

The Christian doctrine holds that God is one God, but three co-eternal and co-substantial Persons.

The Three Persons are distinct, yet are **one substance, essence or nature.**

Matthew 28:19 is very clear: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of **the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**"

According to Christian doctrine, each Person in the Godhead is truly God, since God is of one essence, but each Person has a unique role to play in redemptive history and beyond.

When the apostle Paul says that in Christ all the fulness of the Godhead dwells bodily, he is saying that Christ is of *one essence* with the Father and the Spirit.



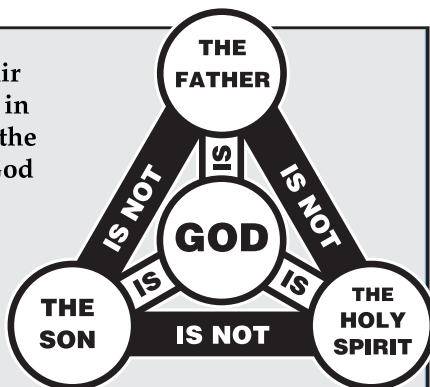
Dwight L. Moody, American evangelist

"The Scriptures are given not to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives."



The object of this tract is to be fair and truthful. When reading the Bible in its entirety, the believer will discover the truth of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

How do you resolve issues? Plain and simple: use the Bible to explain the Bible, then you will never make a mistake, or fall into misunderstanding!



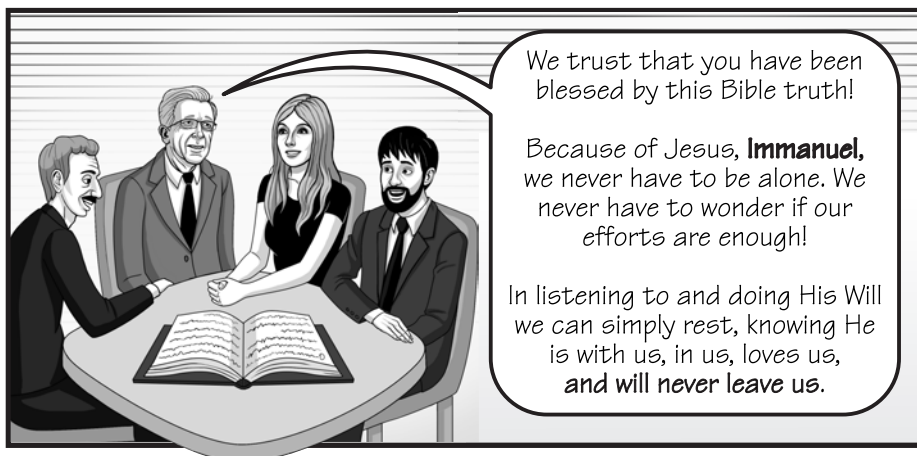
The fundamental truth of the Trinity.

In truth. God is and always has been with us.

He is omnipresent, which means He is everywhere all the time. Speaking of God, King David wrote in Psalms:

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your Presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your Hand will guide me, Your Right Hand will hold me fast."

Psalms 139:7-10 (NIV)



IMMANUEL

✦ ✦ **GOD WITH US** ✦ ✦

#5

EVOLUTION: **Fact or Fiction?**



Did Man evolve?

I believe we must examine all the evidence and facts before we can come to any conclusion on this question of evolution.

I ask the reader only one thing... that you examine the facts thoroughly and without prejudice.



OR

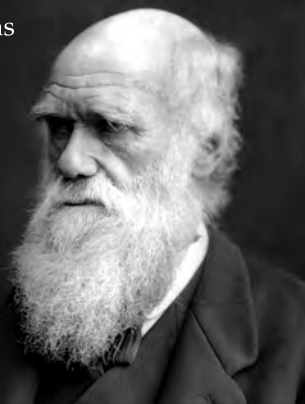


**In the beginning:
God's Word... or the Big Bang?
You choose!**

Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882) was a Victorian naturalist, geologist and biologist.

Educated at the University of Cambridge, he is known for originating the highly influential, **yet increasingly discredited**, theory of evolution.

His book *On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection* is considered by many to be the most important treatise on biology ever written. Another of his books expounding his theories is *The Descent of Man*.



"When the answer is simple, God is speaking!"

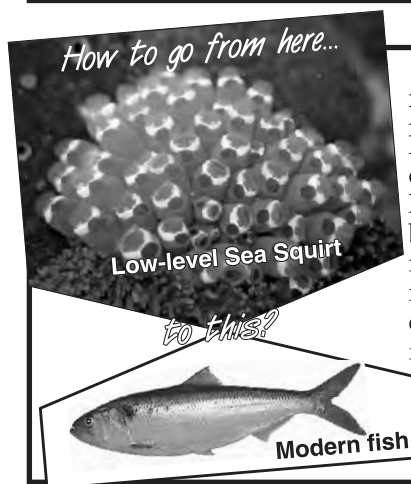
Albert Einstein, the greatest physicist of the 20th century

The refusal by many academics to consider creation as an explanation for the origin of all things is unjustified and unreasonable. The 'man in the street' is being indoctrinated without being given a balanced view of the evidence. We can remedy this by taking a closer look at both sides of the argument.

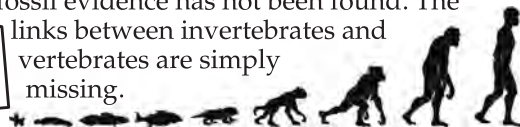
First: Let's examine the claims of each...

CREATIONISTS believe that life and our existence came by the acts of a creator.

EVOLUTIONISTS state that all life gradually evolved from a single cell, which in turn evolved from dead matter.



According to **evolutionists** it would have taken 100 million years for a fish to have evolved from an invertebrate. The evidence the evolutionist needs to establish his claims, is fossils showing a gradual step by step development of lower forms of life into ever more complex forms. The fossil record should consequently show a consistent series of transitional forms, but this fossil evidence has not been found. The links between invertebrates and vertebrates are simply missing.



The evidence needed to support CREATION is fossils showing complex life appearing **suddenly**... without any fossil evidence of lower forms developing into new and more complex forms of life. Not a single indisputable fossil has been found anywhere in the world that indicates transitional development. In fact, billions of highly complex animals, trilobites, brachiopods, corals, worms, jellyfish, etc., just suddenly appear, with no signs of gradual development from lower forms.

- According to evolutionists it would require 1.5 billion years for these animals to evolve.



1.5 BILLION YEARS OF MISSING FOSSIL EVIDENCE.



Graphic from Dr Duane T Gish: *Have you been Brainwashed?*



I believe what the Bible says. It's very clear in Mark 10:6.

Mark 10:6 says, "But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female."

From this passage, we see that Jesus clearly taught that the creation was young, for Adam and Eve existed "from the beginning", not billions of years after the universe and earth came into existence!

The evidence is God's Word.



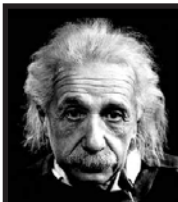
OK! But let's stick to facts!

I don't want to argue with you guys, but we need to be more scientific about this. I do go to church, but seriously, how can we believe that God created hundreds of millions of years' history in six days?

As a church-goer, you do believe in the miracles that Jesus did, don't you? After all, there were many miracles and many witnesses! Then you will remember Jesus changed water into wine at Cana in Galilee, but have you ever really thought about what happened here?

Jesus created wine in an instant, meaning that the whole life cycle of the vine, grapes, harvesting and pressing, happened in a moment.

- In other words, history was created in an instant of time!



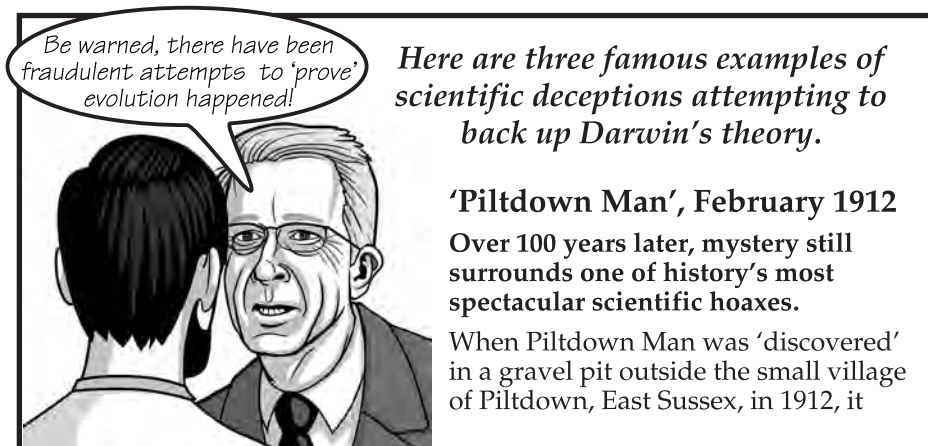
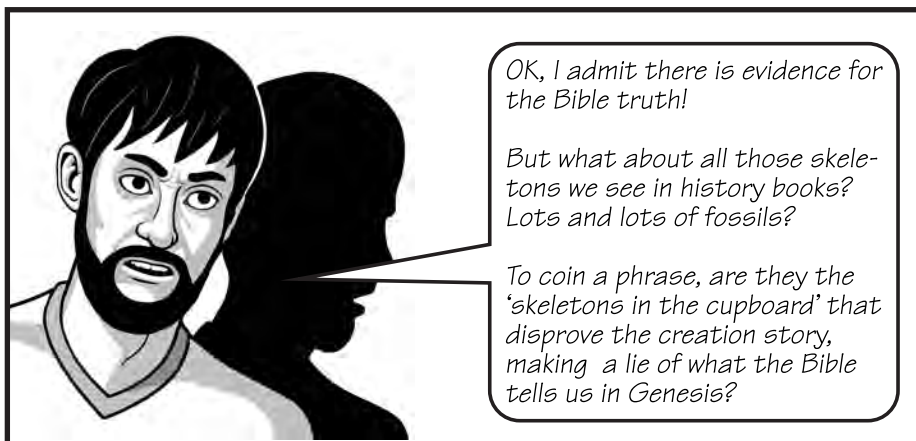
"The more I study science, the more I believe in God."

Albert Einstein, one of the greatest physicists of all time, believed in God, saying the laws of physics were the revelation of the nature of God. He famously observed: "God does not play dice with the universe."



As you can see, I am making the point that the creation was completed in six days. The seventh day is a logical follow on, that day being a day of rest as proclaimed many times in the Old and New Testaments.

- I am sure by now you must agree with this Bible truth.



was celebrated as a "missing link." The find grabbed the public's imagination and became

world-famous. The problem was that Piltdown Man was a complete fraud. The purported fossils were made up of modern human bones and an orangutan's jaw. A **spurious attempt to prove man evolved from the ape!**

Neanderthal Man Fraud

In the 1970s, Reiner Protsch von Zieten, a professor of anthropology, thrilled the scientific world by claiming the discovery of fossils



of a hominid that was the link between man and Neanderthal. Problem is, he had been forging and manipulating scientific facts about Neanderthals for over 30 years. The February 19, 2005 edition of *WorldNetDaily* covered the story. Professor Protsch dated a female skeleton at 21,300 years old, and another skull from Germany at 27,400 years old. **The skeletons were later revealed to be respectively 3,300 years and 260 years old.**

Disappearance of Peking Man

The Peking Man bones (of *homo erectus*) were hidden for safe-keeping after the Japanese invaded China in 1937.

In 1941, when Japan was winning the war in the Pacific, Chinese and American scientists decided to ship the bones to the United States, but they had vanished.

What happened to the bones, considered valuable evidence of

evolutionary transition, remains a mystery. The Chinese blame the Americans for the disappearance and the Americans blame the Japanese.

A Chinese professor told the New York Times, "I think the Japanese opened the boxes thinking they would find weapons or food and when they saw that it was only bones, they just kicked it over and threw them away."

A hoax conveniently covered up?

Evolution attempts to establish a connected ancestry between man and prehistoric apes.

However, there is no real evidence to show that man as we know ourselves existed more than 6,000 years ago, when Bible history started. Man is not linked to any predecessors, which is why fraudsters tried to create a missing link with modified skeletons. The truth is the link simply doesn't exist.

● **Rather believe what the Bible says!**



Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight."

The theory of evolution attempts to disprove Bible truth. But as Einstein says: "When the answer is simple, God is speaking."

So I claim that God created history and the whole earth in six days, just like the Bible says. **The Bible is the truth and evolution only a theory.**

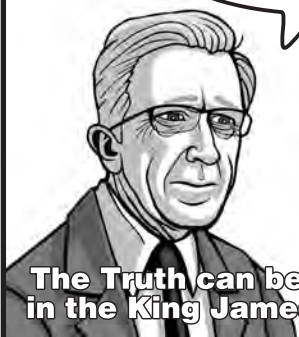
I really can't believe this evolution story anymore; it can't possibly be true, now that I've taken the time to look at it.

Why didn't I catch this earlier in my life? Now I see that the six-day creation ties up with the seventh day Sabbath.

Thank you for pointing me in the right direction!



I'm happy if I've been able to help you. Remember, truth can't change!



**The Truth can be found
in the King James Bible**

A Final Word...

This tract touches on the spiritual, metaphorical and factual considerations concerning evolution.

All such discussions are either an opportunity to grow, or an obstacle to keep you from growing.

You get to choose!

All over the world God is opening doors of opportunity, making it possible for us to take the Gospel to millions who have never heard of Christ.

Billy Graham

#6

Is the Bible TRUSTWORTHY?



I notice your church places a lot of emphasis on “the truth as written in the Bible.”

How do you know that you are in possession of this “truth”? As a non-SDA member I could ask you:

Is the Bible trustworthy?

And is it historically accurate?

And how would you know that?

If you can't demonstrate such an important matter, how would you then accept its inspirational message as the truth?

Question from a non-Adventist.



What I am demonstrating here is the *historical reliability* and *trustworthiness* of Scripture, **not its inspiration.**

(That is dealt with in a separate tract.)

- If you are an Adventist, you may find this tract useful in helping others, who may not be aware of this

Bible Truth.



I'm sure your churchgoers are great guys. Yet you like to claim “the truth” that is fundamental to your beliefs and doctrine.

So I ask, how do you define the truth?

The Bible that you use is between two and four thousand years old, and those people who wrote it weren't exactly educated or civilised like us! So please demonstrate that the Bible is credible and accurate before we talk about truth.



You are under a false impression concerning the folk in Bible times. Your perception is not accurate at all. I would even

state that many people in Bible times were intellectually more astute than folk of today. We might have mobile phones and PCs, but that has nothing to do with being intelligent or civilised.



Let me give you a few examples of intellectual and engineering capability that was demonstrated during the time when the Bible was written, over a period of 1,500 years or so before Christ. These show the exceptional abilities of the various groups of humans during that time.

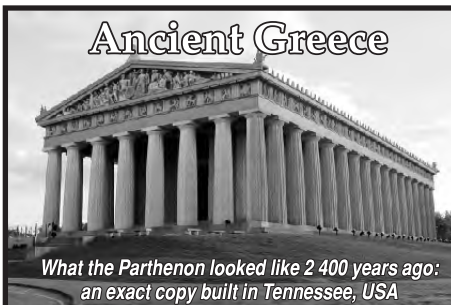
- **Please understand, in a society that enjoyed a high level of education, the Bible wouldn't last five minutes if it weren't accurate.**



The abacus was invented in the ancient empire of Mesopotamia some 3,000 years BC, but is so clever it still exists! The Babylonians used it for numerical calculations.

They used a base of 60 for their math, as opposed to our base ten - which meant they couldn't cheat by counting on their fingers! Base 60 math originated with the ancient Sumerians way back in the third millennium BC and was passed down through the ages, explaining why our minutes have 60 seconds, our hours 60 minutes and our circles 360 degrees. The abacus can calculate figures in excess of six billion, and a proficient user will beat a modern calculator!

- **Still think the old people were backward?**



What the Parthenon looked like 2 400 years ago: an exact copy built in Tennessee, USA

The Parthenon, an ancient Greek temple built around 447 BC, seems perfectly shaped to the eye - but that is an optical illusion. To compensate for perspective distortion due to

its enormous size, the pillars in fact slant slightly outwards to appear perfectly upright to a viewer on the ground, while the base is subtly curved to appear perfectly level. Is that clever, or what?

In the mid-20th century, we began launching satellites into space enabling us to determine the circumference of the Earth precisely: 40,030 km. But nearly 2,200 years earlier the Greek mathematician Eratosthenes came up with nearly the exact same figure, based on measuring a section of the earth's curvature!

- **Without satellites...**



Ancient Rome

The Roman Senate. Most modern states still base their government systems on the Roman model.

The Romans spoke Latin, and even though today it is considered a dead language, it's still taught in schools and universities. This is because Latin is a very precise language and hence is used extensively for legal and medical terminology. Latin is also the language on which theology, philosophy, logic, grammar, literature, chemistry and many other disciplines base their terminology. Many of our modern languages, like Italian, French and Spanish, are rooted in Latin, while even Germanic languages like English derive a significant part of their vocabulary from Latin.

● **A dead language?!**



Ancient Egypt

I can carry on forever, but let's mention just one more, the ancient Egyptians. Over 4,000 years ago they built the pyramids to an angular accuracy of 0.05% - which we would find hard to replicate today, even with

laser technology!

On average the core blocks of the Great Pyramid weigh about 1.5 tons each, and the granite blocks used to roof the burial chambers are estimated to weigh up to 80 tons each. Engineers still can't agree over the methods used to shape, lift and accurately position these massive stones. (Few cranes in the world today can handle that weight.) Some of these blocks were quarried in Aswan, nearly 700 km away. How did they transport them?

● **Yes, the ancients had their little (or rather big) secrets.**



I am sure you'll agree that it's a mistake to underestimate the intellectual capabilities of the ancients. Their engineering, cultural and intellectual capabilities are unsurpassed in many ways even today! That proves they were literate, fully capable of documenting any matter in sophisticated language.



The Via Appia, a Roman road still in use. It runs from Rome to Brindisi - and has done so for over 2,000 years.



Yes, I must agree with you after the examples you have shown me. I just remember now when I was at school we learnt about the roads the Romans made when they occupied England in the first century AD. They built them with different layers of drainage so that they wouldn't get potholes and many of those roads are still solid today.

● **Perhaps we should get them to build our roads!**



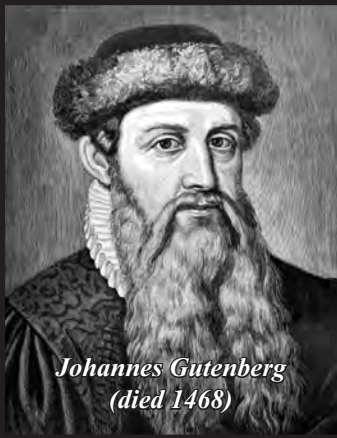
My first point established!

I really never thought people in Biblical times were so advanced. In all fairness I think we all need to be more respectful of the folk living at that time. But I have a second difficulty, not so easy to resolve.



Yes, that was a good answer!

Answer this one for me: **I know the Bible wasn't written in English.** So how can I be sure the Bible is accurate? **Considering that it is only a translation?**



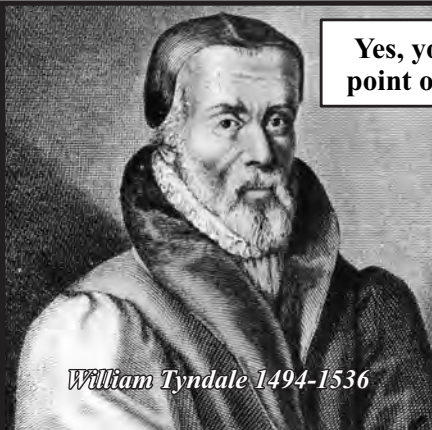
*Johannes Gutenberg
(died 1468)*



Up until the time of Gutenberg a Bible or any text would have to be written by hand. This type of writing always ran the risk of errors. Accuracy then became vastly improved with the printing press.

Gutenberg invented the printing press (above) around 1448 AD

Does that partly answer your question on accuracy?



William Tyndale 1494-1536

Yes, you've raised a lot of history in that point of yours concerning the translation.

William Tyndale was executed by the Church after he translated the Greek Bible into English, at the time against both Church and State law. Ironically, only a year after his death King Henry VIII opened the door for translating the Bible into English. This led to the classic King James Version, which drew heavily on Tyndale's work.



Two pages from Tyndale's Bible, the first English Bible to be printed. Tyndale was one of the leading Reformers of his time.

Before Gutenberg, scribes wrote texts by hand, mostly in monasteries. This was expensive and time-consuming: even the most proficient scribes could produce only a fraction of the copies a press could in a given time. Printing was considerably cheaper, too.

More important, movable type allowed for easy correction, meaning the texts could be edited and vetted by senior, knowledgeable persons, after which a large number of accurate copies could be printed.



There are now more than 5,686 known Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. If we include Latin and other versions, we have at least 25,000 manuscript copies! No other document of antiquity even begins to approach such numbers.

- **The importance of the sheer number of manuscript copies cannot be overstated. This abundance of copies makes it possible to reconstruct the original with virtually complete accuracy.**

Translation errors are not a factor. We have original manuscripts in Greek. The highly accurate Hebrew text is confirmed by the numerous cross checks made by the scribes at that time. There are easily 300 quotes from the Old Testament in the New Testament that verify its accuracy.



An example is this complete scroll of the Hebrew Bible manuscript of Isaiah, found in the Qumran caves in 1947. This copy, dated to the first century BC, is considered the earliest Old Testament manuscript still in existence.

Just to remind readers, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew with parts in Aramaic, which has similarities with Hebrew. The New Testament was written in Greek.

Moses is thought to have written Genesis and possibly Job, both around 1400 BC, some 3,400 years ago.

The Book of Revelations is the newest book of the Bible, completed around 90 AD.

Amazing! All those different writers over millennia! And they all agree with and complement each other.



To summarize the bibliographic test:

The Old and New Testament manuscripts enjoy far greater attestation in terms of quantity, quality and time span than any other ancient documents.

Given the intellectual, engineering and cultural quality of the ancients and the fact that there are far more Bible manuscripts than any other source, I justifiably claim the Bible has to be fully accurate and trustworthy.

However, I would recommend that readers study for themselves the wealth of information available concerning the truth of the Bible.





*The first King James Bible
in quarto size, published in 1612*

Looking for a reliable translation? I recommend the **King James Version**.

47 scholars participated in its translation; 37 had doctorates. They were organised into six companies, each with a separate section of the Bible assigned to it. They worked at Westminster, Oxford and Cambridge.

- Originally published in 1611, the **KJV** is recognised as the gold standard of Bible translations!

*Be faithful in small things,
because it is in them that your strength lies.*

Mother Teresa

*The Gospel offers the world
the Redemption of Jesus Christ,
a peaceful conscience
and every blessing.*

Martin Luther

#7

New Start

A health programme
by Dr Neil Nedley, MD





NEW START
is a recipe for a healthy lifestyle, but it's so much more than just a diet.

The NEW START Program is based on eight simple points, each contributing to complete health. Let's start with N.

N = Nutrition

Proper nutrition is the foundation of good health and recovery. Cooking classes, meals and cookbooks all demonstrate the variety, appeal and satisfaction of whole plant food vegetarian cuisine. In addition, physicians explain the issues that link nutrition with health or disease.

NEW START

E = Exercise.

Action is a law of life. Muscle tone and strength are lost without exertion, but exercise improves the health of body, mind and spirit, enhancing vitality and health. Exercise therapy includes outdoor exercise, treadmill evaluations and Stretchercise. Our lovely countrysides invite you to walk, walk, walk. However, indoor exercise equipment is also available.

NEW START



EXERCISE! Please
no! I'm overweight - I'm sweating already.

W = Water

Because the body is 70% water, you need to keep well-hydrated. Important: knowing what, how much and when to drink is essential to health. Hydrotherapy (water applied externally to the body), followed by massage, enhances the circulation & immune system in wonderful ways.

NEW START



All cultures support this one.
Not negotiable.

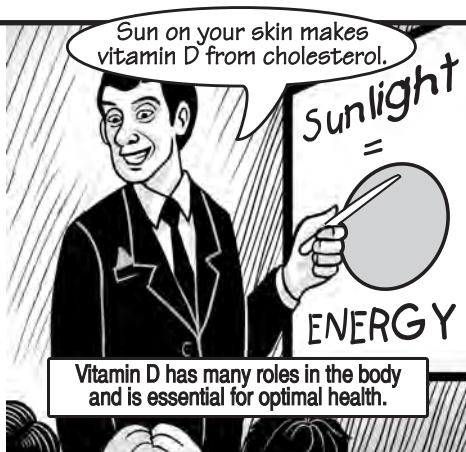
This means pure water. Nothing added.

S=SUNLIGHT

The sun is the established energy source ordained by God to sustain the cycle of life for plants and animals.

So go outside - sunlight is supremely important for the body's metabolism and hormonal balance.

NEW START



T=TEMPERANCE

Using good things moderately and avoiding the bad is obviously wise, yet often hard to practice. Temperance can neither be bought nor earned, but is rather an important gift from God, a "fruit of the spirit" (Galatians 5:22, 23). **Moderation in all things is a thread woven throughout the fabric of NEW START Lifestyle programmes.**

NEW START



A=AIR

The body's most essential resource is air. More important than food or water, proper breathing and pure air are fundamental to good health.

Again, we are blessed with an abundance of fresh air opportunities.

NEW START



Listen to this!
A solid night's sleep is
essential.



The recommended amount of sleep for a healthy adult is at least seven hours.

R=REST

Restoration requires rest because sleep allows the body to renew itself. Many types of rest are important for health, but the sweetest rest follows labour.

"Early to bed and early to rise" is a vital NEW START principle, and a healthy lifestyle makes this principle easier to maintain.

NEW START

T=TRUST IN DIVINE POWER.

Trust in divine power is directly linked to physical health (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Trust in God is a gift leading to the right choices.

NEW START



Trust in God brings peace of mind, which helps maintain metabolic balance.

You do your children no favour if you raise them to expect sweet, refined foods all the time!



The American Heart Association recommends that children shouldn't have more than three teaspoons of sugar a day. A 350 ml fizzy drink contains up to ten teaspoons or 40g of added sugar; milkshakes and smoothies may have even more. Added sugar can also be hidden in bread, canned soups and vegetables, frozen dinners and fast food. **In fact, 75% of packaged food contains added sugar.**

However, don't ban sweets entirely. Having a no sweets rule is an invitation for cravings and overindulging when given the chance. Also, don't replace healthy sources of saturated fat with refined carbs or sugary snacks. For example, instead of letting our kids eat whole-fat yogurt, we feed them the low fat version, which is often packed with added sugar to make up for the loss of taste. Or we swap breakfast eggs for a pastry or muffin.



"Behold," He said, "I have given you every herb yielding seed... and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed. To you it shall be for food." Gen. 1:29

Our Health Message

The Adventist Church has been preaching the Health Message for the past 120 years. This message is the truth about what we should eat. In order to discover the food that is best for us, we should consult God's original plan for the human diet.

He Who created us knows our needs, showed Adam what to eat. The diet the Creator chose for us includes grains, fruit, nuts and vegetables.



We should be careful of who prepares our food. For example, overused cooking oil may contain carcinogens. **NEW START** shows us how to maintain our body the way God our Maker intended.



Here are three excellent books I gladly recommend:

Proof Positive

by Dr Nedley, MD

The Ministry of Healing

by E G White

Eat to Live

by Joel Fuhrman, MD

A comic strip panel showing a man and a woman in profile, facing each other. The woman is speaking, and the man is listening. A speech bubble from the woman says, "Check these contacts for more info on NEW START." A speech bubble from the man says, "Well, after all I'm responsible for myself!".

Your Next Step:
Web Contacts:
<https://nedleyhealthsolutions.com>
<https://www.newstart.com>

You Tube:
Neil Nedley - New Start
Dr Neil Nedley
Pastor Doug Bachelor

You're on your way!



*Mens sana
in corpore sano:*



A healthy mind in a healthy body.



Introduction

This short tract is an attempt to answer questions addressed to me by non-Adventists, concerning the Sabbath. **The questions have been many.** This time I address only one of them, but it is an important one. If you are an Adventist, you may find this useful in addressing others that may be of a different persuasion.

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.”

Is Sabbath Keeping a salvation requirement?

Question from a non-Adventist:

Adventists believe that the Old Testament gives two distinct types of law, namely the Ten Commandments (the Law of God or moral law) and the ceremonial law (Law of Moses).

This is an attempt to maintain Sabbath observance (as required by the Ten Commandments) as a New Testament requirement, and thus a salvation requirement.

The Bible says the entire law is fulfilled in Christ and the law cannot save. Can you please name a text in the Old or New Testament that cites the two types of law?



How to interpret the Bible:

The way to interpret the Bible is to use the Bible itself. “The Word”, in other words “The Bible”, is the only way to understand the truth, as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

This tract explains some of the Biblical facts concerning the Sabbath.

- These are facts that are often overlooked by many good people.



The Adventist Church does not believe that Sabbath observance is a method of salvation. Just like any Bible believer, we believe there is only one way to salvation and that is through belief in and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

- **Salvation cannot be earned. I trust that no one would mislead you on this very important and fundamental matter!**

But we need to start at the foundation of Christianity.



The Bible says the entire law is fulfilled in Christ, so quote me a text on two different types of law!

There are in fact more than two distinct types of law in the Old Testament!

You have alluded to the two moral and ceremonial laws.

In addition, there are also civil and health laws.

Read

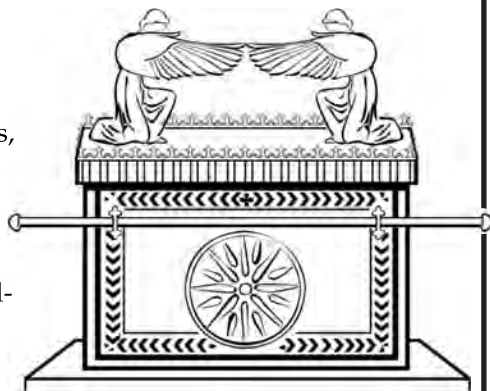
Deuteronomy 31 verses 24 to 27.

This text describes a different law from the Ten Commandments, being outside the Ark.

Then read

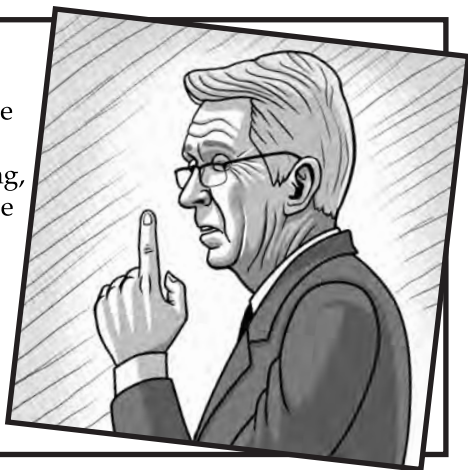
Deuteronomy 10 verses 1 and 2.

These describe the Ten Commandments that are inside the Ark.



Think a little about what you are saying concerning the Sabbath: If there is no law, then we have done nothing wrong. If we have done nothing wrong, why then would we need grace? Grace inherently means that we have done wrong and that's why we need grace.

- **How can we do wrong if there is nothing wrong to do? It is the law that stipulates what is wrong.**



We need to be careful, and not just believe in the New Testament. Romans 7-12: "So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good."

There is no argument that the New Testament does not believe in the Old Testament. Jesus Himself believes in the Old Testament and He quoted from it many times.

Luke's gospel makes it even clearer: "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail."

Luke 16:17

"Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations for a perpetual covenant." Exodus 31:16

Who are the children of Israel in the New Testament?

Galatians 6:16 NIV: "Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule - to the Israel of God."

(Note: The Book of Galatians is not only addressed to Jews. Gentiles who believe are called the *Israel of God*.)

Gal. 4:28 NIV: "Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise."



Your next question may well be: So who are the children of Israel?

Matthew 5:19: Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 5:18: For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

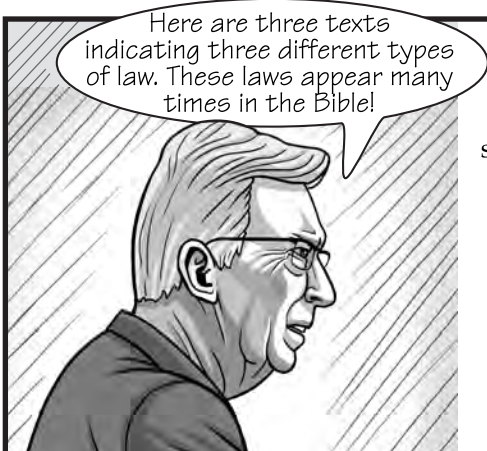


The KJV or NIV is a good start.



Galatians 3:26-29: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

"Therefore the Law is holy, and the Commandment holy and just and good." Romans 7:12

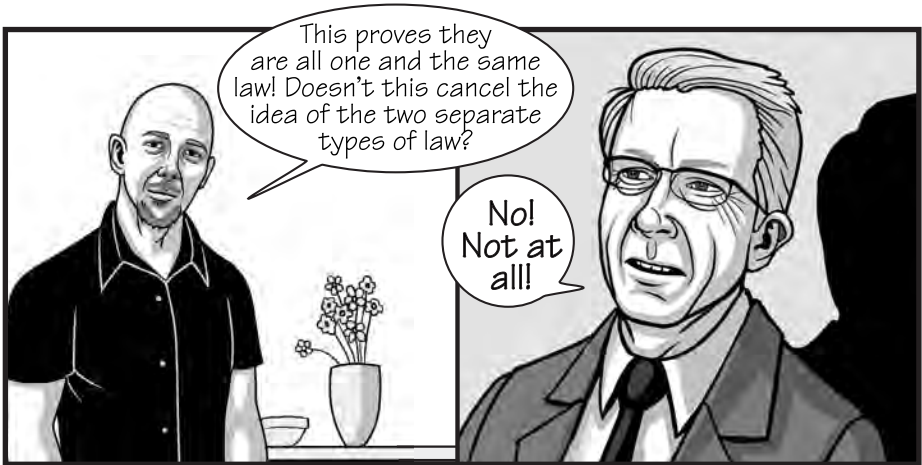
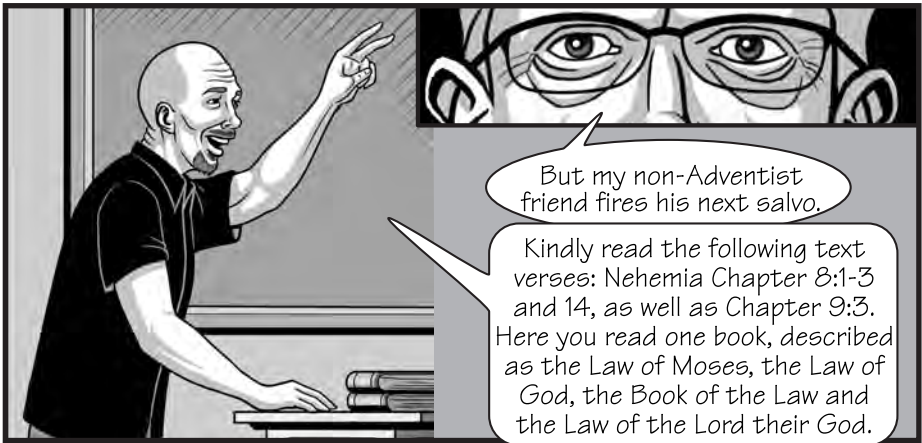


Psalm 119

Verse 5: "Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!"

Verse 6: "Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands."

Verse 7: "I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws."



Why do you challenge us as Adventists concerning different types of law, whilst you even in the Ten Commandments separate the fourth from all the others? Why is it that that particular one of the Ten is in your view no longer valid?



The word "law" is used daily, as applicable, to apply a specific law.

If you go to court for a parking offence you would have broken a specific law. Yet the court would not apply the same law for someone who committed murder.

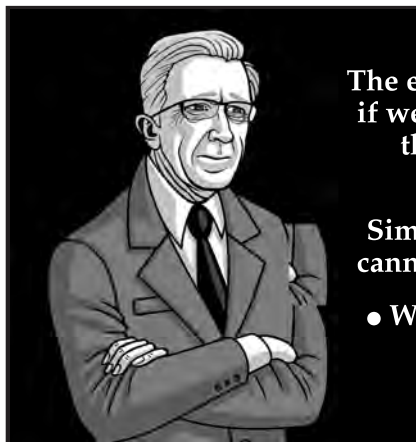
That does not mean that a *misdemeanour* is the same as a *crime*, even when the same word, *law*, is used



It is not possible and certainly not scriptural to nullify or modify Scripture to suit our own opinions.

If the Law is not valid, we are not guilty, and if we are not guilty, why do we need Forgiveness or Grace?

★ **The Law, Forgiveness and Grace are integrated concepts.** ★



The entire concept of Grace cannot exist if we don't do wrong. In that event, all the texts about Grace need to be nullified.

Similarly, the concept of Forgiveness cannot exist if there is no wrongdoing.

- **What will be left of the Bible when you are done?**



Make sure your Bible is God's Word!

Be careful of the Bible you use as reference. Some bibles are corrupt Alexandrian and Roman Catholic versions in disguise. Many modern Bibles use Alexandrian texts, miss words, phrases, even verses in hundreds of places. If the modern versions have caused you to doubt God's Words, there is one English Bible you can trust: the

King James Version.

Let us be very clear about one thing:



We are saved by God's Grace
and His Righteousness, not
our own works.

But then again, how we live is
a product of our connection
with Jesus.

**John 14:15: "If ye love Me,
keep My Commandments."**



You might be interested to
know that all the mainline Protestant
churches understand and accept that
there are both moral and ceremonial
laws. Furthermore, the acceptance of
the Ten Commandments is
irrefutable, as they were written "by
the Finger of God."

*CH Spurgeon, the famed Baptist preacher, strongly supported the observance of the Sabbath.
In other words, he understood the difference between the ceremonial and the moral laws.*

*You are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read,
and your life is under scrutiny every day.
What do others learn from you?*

Do they see an accurate picture of your God?

John MacArthur



Introduction

This tract addresses questions from non-Adventists concerning Sabbath observance by non-Jews, Greeks and Christians in the New Testament.

It's a valid matter to address, as most churches have been observing Sunday as a day of rest, as well as for church attendance.

- **However 'non-Jews' did in fact observe the Sabbath in the New Testament.**

George Ross

Question from a non-Adventist:

Please explain when or where Jesus, or any Bible writer, indicated that non-Jews or Christians observed the Jewish Sabbath in the New Testament.

We don't want to argue, just chapter and verse, please!

OK! Quote me any Bible text that shows non-Jews observed the Sabbath!



Mark 2:27, KJV: "And He said unto them, the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

Jesus clearly stated that the Sabbath was made for man. Do you claim that 'man' as mentioned here refers to Jews only and gentiles are excluded?

If so, how would you arrive at such a conclusion? The word 'man' after all is a general word for humankind!



Exodus 20:10: "But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates."

- Surely a *stranger* in this context could be a human being of any persuasion?

This Jesus is the Messiah!



Acts 18:4: And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded **both Jews and Greeks**.



"Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did many God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women." (Acts 17:4)

Acts 17 verses 2-4:
As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said.



The word 'synagogue' is Greek for 'Beit K'nesset', meaning 'place of assembly'. It's related to 'synod'.



I notice that in your opening address you referred to the 'Jewish Sabbath'.

The term 'the Jewish...' is used when referring to 'their' land or other possessions.

However, the term 'Jewish Sabbath' or 'Sabbath of the Jews' does not appear in the Bible.

● READ ACTS 13:42-45 IN THE NEXT PANEL.

As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the Word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

According to this text there appears to be little doubt that the Sabbath was used in these early times for assembling the Christian church. Of course, the Bible and the truth have never changed, only man's ideas!



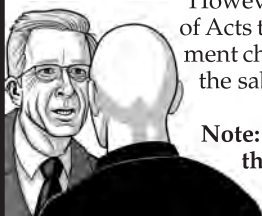
If the Sabbath observance and church assembly were so important, why did the apostles and elders hold church and breaking bread on the first day of the week? (Acts 20:7) Church history does not agree with your standpoint.



Do you really believe that? On what basis? Where are the texts?

Let's have a good look. Firstly, 'breaking bread' does not always refer to Holy Communion; it was often used simply to mean eating. However, in the Book of Acts the New Testament church observed the sabbath 84 times!

Note: This was after the resurrection!





The Sabbath was so strictly managed that it was actually policed! The Pharisees employed people to warn anyone guilty of breaking their rules... They charged even Jesus for this!

I state categorically that there is not a single text in the Bible that indicates or states that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday, and there is also no text that indicates or states that Christians worshipped or used Sunday as a sabbath replacement during these early times.

That's why it was not necessary to emphasise what was standard practice

Your church claims the Sabbath was changed in Constantine's time, in the fourth Century. How do you explain that the Church Fathers, in the first three centuries after the Crucifixion, refer to the first day of the week as the day when Christians gathered, following the example of the Apostles?

Again church history disagrees with your standpoint!

I don't know where you get your information as to what we do or don't believe, but what you say we believe, is not what we believe at all. We don't dispute that Sunday was maintained by Christians after the New Testament time. This was because the Jews were persecuted, anyone that kept the Sabbath was considered Jewish. To save their lives, the Christians started keeping both Sabbath and Sunday as holy. Persecution later worsened, so they continued with Sunday worship just to stay alive.



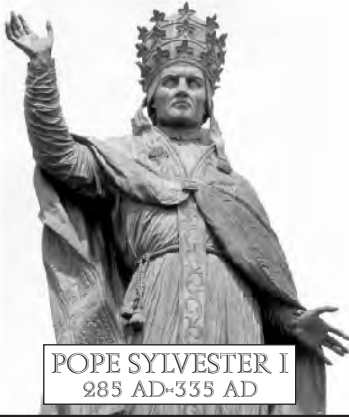


EMPEROR CONSTANTINE
AD 280-337

From the foregoing we understand that Christian folk after the NT period observed Sunday worship.

However, here comes the crunch!

History tells us that the change from Sabbath to Sunday came in the fourth century. Many Romans worshipped the sun (this is in fact the origin of the name Sunday), so when Emperor Constantine became a Christian in 321 AD, on 7 March, he declared Sunday the official day of worship, as a compromise.



POPE SYLVESTER I
285 AD-335 AD

Four years later, in the year 325, Sylvester, the Bishop of Rome, enacted a law concerning the observance of Sunday as the sabbath. He changed the name of Sunday, calling it 'the Lord's Day'.

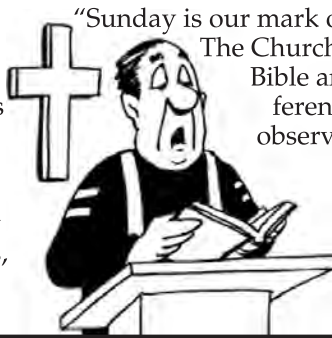
In doing so, he took a stand against what the Bible teaches!

- Sylvester was the 33rd Pope of the Catholic Church.

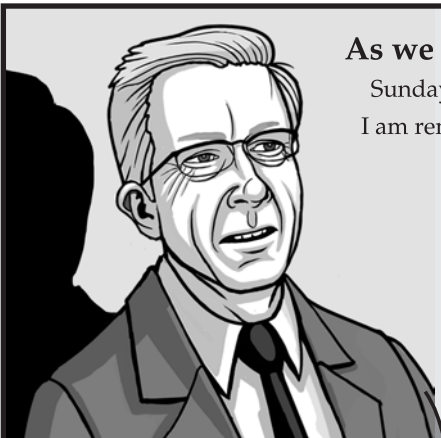
COUNCIL OF LAODICEA 363-364 AD

On 7 March 321, Emperor Constantine issued a civil decree making Sunday a day of rest from labour, stating: "Christians shall not Judaize (keep sabbath) and be idle on Saturday... but shall work on that day. But the Lord's Day they shall especially honour, and, as being Christians, do no work on that day."

CATHOLIC RECORD 1 SEPTEMBER 1923

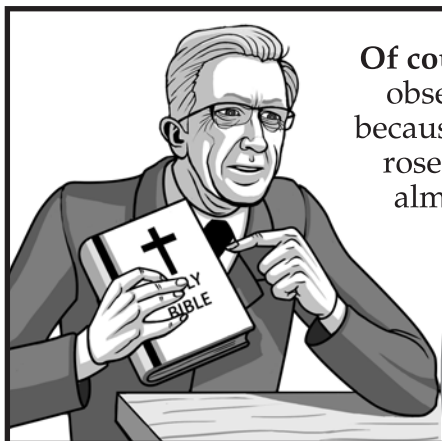


"Sunday is our mark of authority... The Church is above the Bible and this transference of sabbath observance is proof of that fact."



As we know, most churches keep the Sunday as a day of rest and worship. I am reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 15:3:

"But He answered and said unto them, why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"

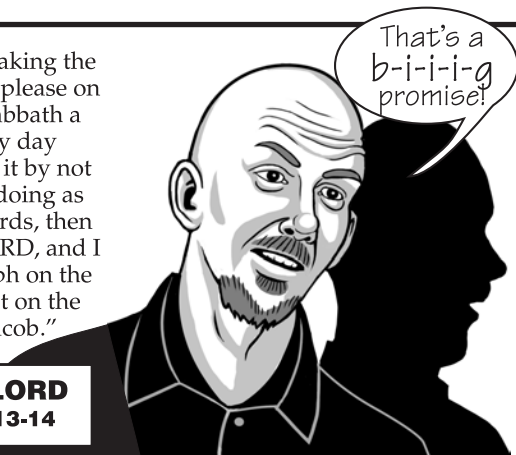


Of course, many believe that they observe Sunday as the sabbath because that was the day that Jesus rose from the dead. (Moreover, almost the whole world does, so it can't be wrong!)

Just because it was so for centuries, doesn't make it the truth!

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Isaiah 58:13-14



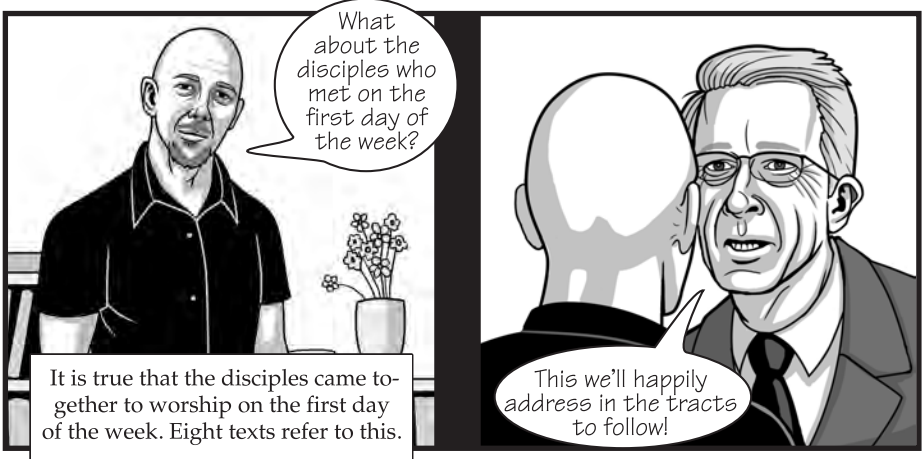
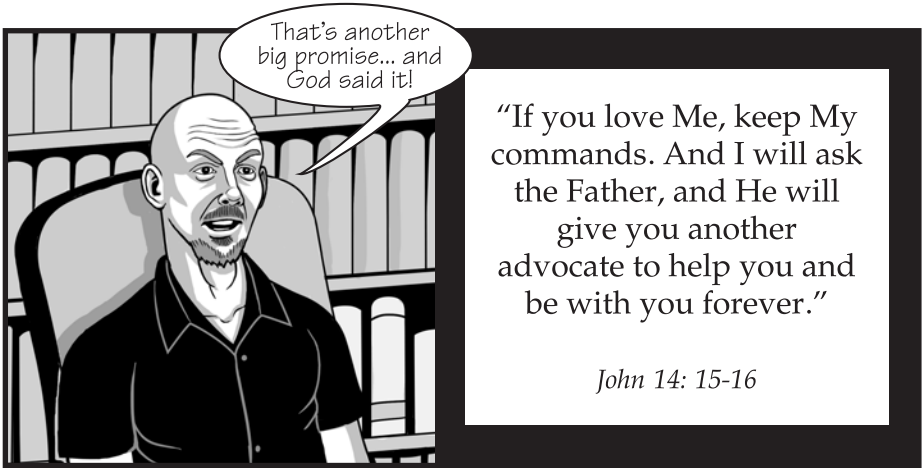
"As the new heaven and the new earth that I make, will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before Me," says the LORD.

Isaiah 66:22

Not my words, but God's Word, and it explains itself.

Why don't you start now, while you are on this earth?





His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice.

John Stott



'The state of the dead'

This is a matter that is generally misunderstood by many Bible believers.

Even church ministers of many denominations seem unaware of the truth as stated in the Bible!

If you are an Adventist, you may find this tract useful in helping those who may not be aware of this 'Bible truth'.

A funeral is a sad moment, as I am sure many of us understand. Nevertheless, there is Good News for the believer!



As a church-goer all my life, I have been led to understand that if I have been a good person, I go to heaven when I die, and if bad, then I burn in hell.

(Statement from a non-Adventist)

Let us be clear: the Bible is the only handbook we have concerning 'the state of the dead'. No human being can know the truth without reference to the Bible, which is the Holy Word of God.



This question of the 'state of the dead' has already become a problematic discussion, and as time goes on it will become more so. Many church pastors and ministers give a completely inaccurate impression of this matter, particularly at funerals.

Yet even worse, there are those that claim they can speak to the dead (this is not possible).

If we could ask Jesus what happens to us
when we die, what would He say to us?
And if He couldn't answer, whom should we ask?

Yet He says in Revelations 1:18:
"I am He that liveth, and was dead;
and, behold, I am alive for evermore,
Amen; and have the keys of hell and
of death."

Now in
Revelation 1:17
Jesus says: "Do
not be afraid; I am
the First and
the Last."



So let's go back to the beginning as explained in the book of Genesis.

Yet to answer the question,
What happens to us when we die?,
we first need to ask,
Who and what is mankind?



Genesis 2:7 says: "And the LORD
God formed man of the dust of the
ground and breathed into his nostrils
the breath of life; and man became a
living being."

So, what happened at the creation?
Only when God breathed into his
nostrils 'the breath of life' did man
become a living being. **Only then did
that body become a living soul.**

Plain logic tells
us, take away the
'breath of life' and all
that's left is a dead body.
Now the Hebrew word used
here for soul is
nephesh.



In the original Hebrew text,
nephesh is used 745 times; 473 times
it is translated with the word 'soul'
and 120 times with the word 'life'.

These translations indicate that
nephesh never describes something
that the person **receives** or is **outside**
the person. It only refers to what the
human person is.

Man is a living soul.

The question remains: *What happens when we die?*

Leviticus 17:11 says: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood."

The word *nephesh* is used here.

Ecclesiastes 12: 7 provides the answer:

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

In other words, a precise reversal of the creation.



The word 'spirit' describes what goes back to God. The Hebrew word that is here translated as 'spirit' is the word 'ruach'. It means breath, spirit, wind, breath of life. So, the ruach goes back to God and the body back to earth.

In the Greek New Testament, the equivalent word is 'pneuma'.

So when Stephen said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit", he could have said, "Take my breath, my life". (Acts 7:59)

What 'breath' goes back to God? It's Stephen's breath! The person's breath! *Pneuma* in Greek, *ruach* in Hebrew."



So if that is the case, where does the soul or spirit go when the person dies? We have just seen the breath (spirit) goes back to God; the body goes back to earth.

Now if the body goes back to earth and the breath back to God, where are the dead people?

Perhaps you need to sit for a moment in my office and have a chat; I have an idea that this tract may represent a different viewpoint from what you have heard.

What is left? Nothing. So what happened? A simple analogy: when a light bulb is disconnected from the power, the light goes out. The light can work only when it's connected to the power.



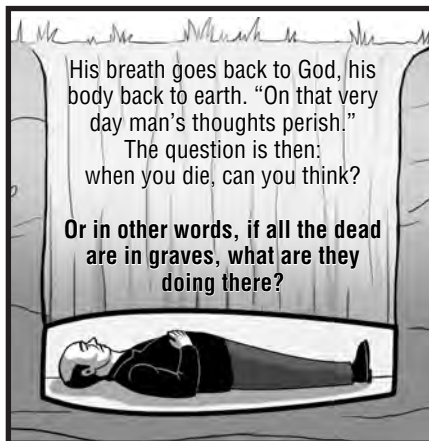


The matter is quite clear as you read the next block and Bible passages.

So where are the dead?

Let Jesus tell us. He assures us that everyone in the grave will hear His voice.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice." (John 5:28)



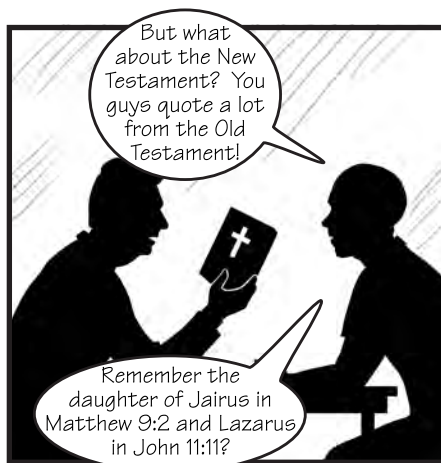
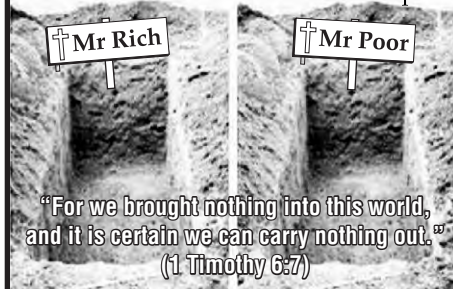
The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 9:5: "But the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten."

The Bible again: "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."

(Psalm 146: 3-4)



In other words, when you die there is no love, work, knowledge, wisdom. No rich, no poor. That is the 'state of the dead' where we will all end up.

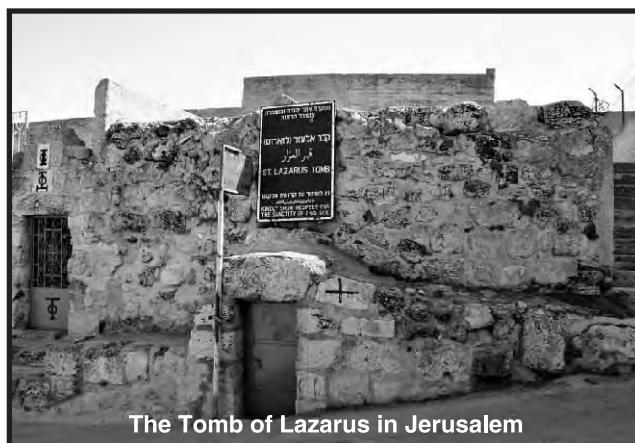


Check Matthew 9:24:

"He said unto them, give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed Him to scorn."

Then John 11:11:

"These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep."



The Tomb of Lazarus in Jerusalem

Why did Jesus use the word 'sleep' to describe the dead? If you think about it, it may be the best word you can use. The *death* is a total rest.

The original meaning is 'a state of unconsciousness'.



Jesus said: "Lazarus, come out!"

Why did Jesus call him by name?
If Jesus had just said 'come out', then
all the graves would have opened.

Because Jesus the Giver of Life was
'the One' standing before the grave.

So what did Lazarus say about being dead? Some preachers would have us believe he was in heaven for four days! What did he have to say about those four days?

NOTHING! Because he wasn't there. He was sleeping in the grave. Think about it! The moment you open your eyes, there is your Saviour.

This is a **comforting** message that the devil has changed into a **scare** message.




THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE CANNOT BE CHANGED.



But the Bible said that the thief on the cross would be in heaven **that same day**. Please explain!

Could Jesus have said to the thief he would be with Him in Paradise on that Sunday morning while He Himself had not yet gone to heaven?

The ancient Greeks didn't use commas, yet the translators put one in where it didn't belong! The comma was put in the wrong place. Put it where it should be, and the verse reads:

And Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you **today**, you shall be with Me in paradise."

And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom."

And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in paradise."
(Luke 23:42-43)

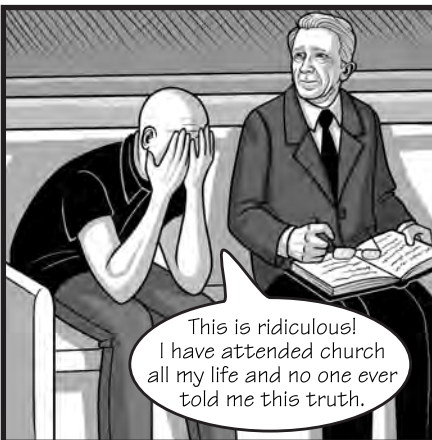
Good News!
There **is** life after death!



But this life comes at the resurrection, at the call of Jesus.

“And for the believer it will feel as though you had a good night’s rest. In a moment you will hear His voice.”

Job 14:12: “So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.”



This is ridiculous!
I have attended church
all my life and no one ever
told me this truth.

The whole Bible is full of this truth.

Daniel knew it: “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”
(Daniel 12:2)

The New Testament (Acts 2:29) agrees with Daniel and Job.

Daniel is not in Heaven - he is still in the grave here on earth.



1 Thessalonians 4:16:

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

I think the following text sums up the kernel of this tract's message:



Jesus saith unto her, "Thy brother shall rise again."

Martha saith unto Him, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said unto her, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"

(John 11:23-25)

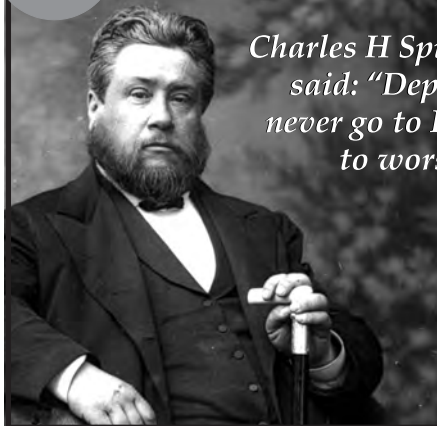
*Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection,
and the life: he that believeth in Me,
though he were dead, yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me
shall never die.*

*Make sure of your commitment to
Jesus Christ and seek to follow Him
every day. Don't be swayed by the false values
and goals of this world, but put Christ
and His will first in everything you do.*

Billy Graham

#11

IS JESUS YOUR GOD?

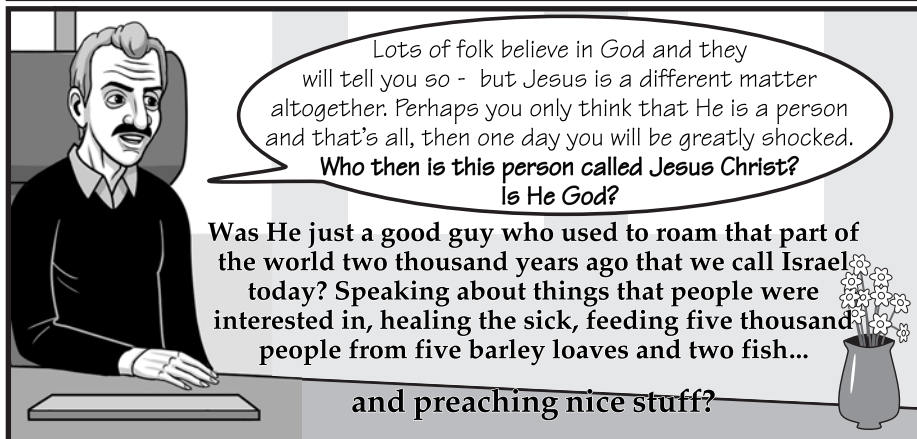


Charles H Spurgeon, the 'Prince of Preachers', said: "Depend on it, my hearer, you will never go to Heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God."

So, I start this tract with a question from a young enquirer.



NO ONE READING
THIS TRACT CAN
DISPUTE THAT THIS
QUESTION LEADS
TO THE MOST
CRUCIAL ANSWER
EVER GIVEN!





Maybe she has a point. Wasn't He perhaps just a prophet?

Life has shown me that's often what the man in the street thinks.

Yet the true and straightforward answer is that Jesus Christ is God.

"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 16:16-17 (KJV)



If you check in John's gospel, the apostle gives us a picture of Jesus; that picture is unlike any other citation in Scripture. If you ever had any doubt about Jesus being God, that gospel sets the matter straight.

**The question is:
What do you really and truly believe is the truth about Jesus?
Yet my young enquirer's question remains and demands an answer.**



The answer you need is in the Bible!

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth."

John 1:11-14 (KJV)

God is triune: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.



Yet there is a default conclusion woven into this tract: the **Trinity**. There is only one God, yet He is Three in Person!

**Jesus came into this world,
yet He is God.**

Fortunately, we do not have to answer all questions to know that the Trinity exists.

So I'm going to ask four questions that will give us some answers. The first is: Who did Jesus say He was?

Who did He say He was?

Jesus said in John 10:4: "I am the good shepherd and I know My own and My own know Me."

Jesus said, "I am the door of the sheep." John 10:9: "I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved."

Jesus said, "The Father and I are one." How about that! John 12:44: "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me."

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." John 14:6: I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me."

The above quotes are precisely what Jesus said about Himself.

Answer #1: Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Answer #2: Whoever enters through Jesus will be saved.

Answer #3: Jesus is God.



Thanks for those quotes -
they say a lot about Jesus
being God.

But many people have said to me:
"Well, if I believe in God and I try
to live a good life, then everything
should be OK. Anyway, I'm better
than so and so."

What's your answer to that?



That
may well
be true!

Yet if a person does not believe in Jesus, but they have a god, it's likely a god they made up themselves to suit their own preferences and lifestyle.

Such a person would have a problem with Jesus, because there is **something about Jesus** that interferes with their behaviour, **something about Jesus** that bothers their conscience...



You'll die with your god and be eternally sorry that you rejected Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

Something about Jesus that demands of them something they don't want to give. **Something about Jesus** that sort of cramps their style, and so they decide: I do believe in God, just don't ask me to define Him, don't ask me to describe Him, its none of your business! I do believe in God; it's only that you have your God and I have mine.



But for them He's so distant, so foreign, so unimaginable and so terribly indescribable.

In the mind of the world, there is a god; in the mind of the believer, we *know* there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

So, when you talk to your friends about God, they probably say: I believe God exists, and in their minds there is a God out there somewhere.

If you ask the average person: So, what kind of God is He? Their answer will probably be something like: Well, He's just God.

You see, if He's simply an invisible entity out there, a 'something' they believe exists but cannot describe, then He is an impersonal God. Yet people pray to Him when they are in trouble.

**When people are afraid,
they cry out to God.**



**It is said of the airmen flying over
Germany in the Second World War,
there wasn't a single one who didn't
believe in God.**



And so one of the reasons people don't want to believe in Jesus is that it makes Him too personal for them. There are just too many verses about Jesus: The Father and I are one, He said. Also: If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father.

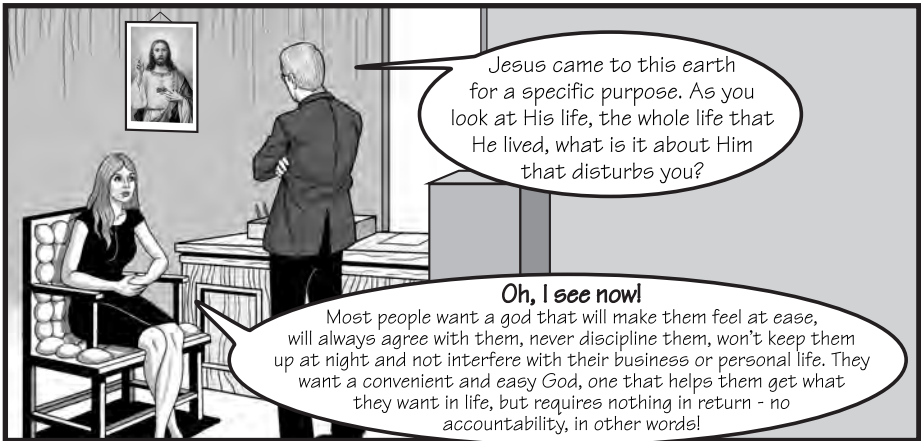
Think what happens to your unfocused, indescribable, invisible god, who has been in the background of your life, and now you're getting ready to die. **At that moment, your past creeps up on you, and you hope to just disappear, but no, you won't!**

Yet if you ask them whether they believe in God, they will answer, Yes, I believe in God! Describe Him? Well, you know, I can't actually describe Him, but I do believe in Him. So, when you think about what the world thinks about God, there's sort of this big unknown God somewhere out there, but they just don't want God to be too personal.

Take note here: they want a God who is impersonal and distant enough that they can sin and not feel bad about it... so they wouldn't have to give an account of their behaviour.

**There is a common,
WORLDLY
kind of 'Christianity' in this
day, which many have; a
CHEAP
Christianity which
OFFENDS NOBODY
and requires no
SACRIFICE -
which costs
NOTHING,
and is worth
NOTHING.**

J C Ryle



If you don't have Jesus, what do you have? You may say, well, I have my god! Let me ask you this: describe 'your god' to me. I'll tell you how to describe him: you describe him in a way that suits what you want, what you are hoping for, but if you can't describe him in accordance with Biblical facts, or the truth, your god is a false god. Your god is an empty god, if your god is not Jesus Christ our Saviour, Lord and God. It's the time-tested truth from the Bible. You get to choose! I trust that you are being honest with yourself. I'm not being critical, I'm just saying here's the truth, you can't deny the truth, everything we've said here is *the truth*.

So, if you have your own god, a god who doesn't mess with your conscience, doesn't bother you when you commit adultery, living in sin, and all the things that go on in a person's life, if that doesn't bother you:

That's your god.

The clearest truth of the Trinity lies in the fact that if people will not accept Jesus as God in the flesh, then they cannot be saved.

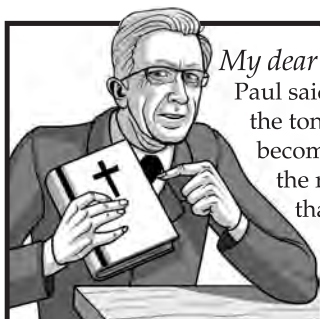
Jesus said: "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins."

John 8:24 KJV

Yes, now I can see the Bible puts it all into its true perspective!



The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



My dear reader, even if we have all of this Bible knowledge, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:1 (KJV): "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." Love is the root of all things we consider good, and it's out of that love that the Father had for the Son that He creates people in the Son's image to populate this world. He sends us into this world to love this world as the Son loved this world, to be willing even to die for the sake of those who are hurting and suffering.

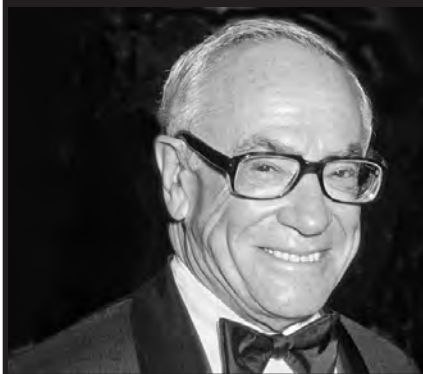
- **That is what the Christian message is: Love is at the heart of mankind and this is because we have been made in the image of a loving God.**

When a man is filled with the Word of God, you cannot keep him still. If a man has got the Word, he must speak or die.

Dwight L Moody

#12

Do you **listen** to God's voice?



"The secret of
conversation is to
listen."

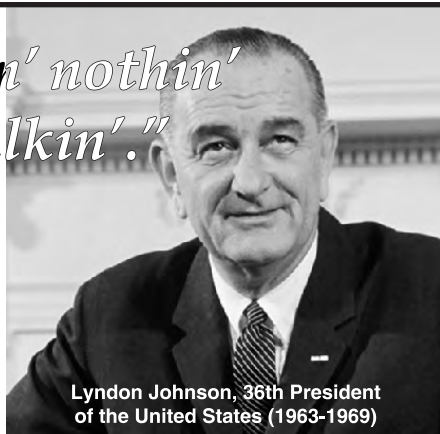
Malcolm Forbes

PUBLISHER OF FORBES MAGAZINE

*"You ain't learnin' nothin'
when you're talkin'."*

These winged words are often
attributed to the late Pres. Johnson
(among others).

But whether he originally said
them or not, they still ring true!



Lyndon Johnson, 36th President
of the United States (1963-1969)



"Those who are quick in
talking are not always
so quick in listening."

G K Chesterton

CREATOR OF FATHER BROWN,
THE BELOVED DETECTIVE PRIEST

And then there is
the inimitable Churchill:
"Courage is what it takes
to stand up and speak.
Courage is also what it takes
to sit down and listen."

*So there you have it...
Forbes, Johnson,
Chesterton and Churchill
share the same view!*



Winston Churchill (British politician)
From the painting by Frank Owen Salisbury

Rearrange **SILENT**
and you get **LISTEN**



My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:
"Everyone should be
quick to listen, slow to speak
and slow to become angry."

James 1:19

In other words, we need to be silent so we can listen!



But God has a plan, and I ask you before we go further: do you stop talking sometimes, and listen to God, so He can share with you His plan for your life? Have you ever asked Him if you are following His Will and His Purpose for your life? Or do you just carry on, thinking: 'I'll do what comes next, or I'll do what's the most convenient'?



If you have never asked God: *Show me Your will for my life, tell me what is Your plan for my life* - if you've never thought about it, **you need to think about it now.**



So I'm going to ask you a question: Has God spoken to you lately? Should you be sitting down quietly so God can speak to you in a straightforward manner, or perhaps God has been speaking and you haven't been **listening?** God's guidance is of no value if you're not **LISTENING**, and no one else can **LISTEN** for you!

All of us need divine guidance in every area and He is ready, willing and committed to showing us, and telling us. So in this tract we talk about listening to God.



So I ask you: In your prayer time, how much time do you give to **listening to God?** Or do you do *all the talking?*

When you kneel down to pray, do you say, *Heavenly Father, I just want to thank You today*, and you just go on and on, then you say, *In Jesus' Name, Amen*, and then you get up and do whatever you want to do?

● **That's not the way to listen to God!**

It's important for the believer to **listen to God**; you need to give God time to speak! Because God has a Plan for you, and He wants to show you what the Plan is, He wants to guide you in His Plan. When God speaks, He speaks to you about your life and it's always good. It may be a warning sometimes, but that's also good.

God speaks through your reading His Word, or maybe through prayer, or maybe circumstances, or through your listening to the preacher, and of course your quiet time. **God will speak through all those things.**



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1

This is a good time in this tract to think about this Bible verse, since God has already done that. He has a Plan for you **personally**. The point is, as He has a plan, and is willing to guide you in that plan, why not do your part and listen to the preacher?



Listen to these beautiful **promises** that God makes to you **personally**!

Promise #1:

"I will teach you and instruct you in the way which you should go, I will guide you with My eye upon you."

Psalm 32:8

Promise #2:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

The first service one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them. Just as love of God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for our brothers and sisters is learning to listen to them.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



So that's what we're talking about! The very idea is that God would guide our life, but in order for Him to do that there is something that we often don't think about, and that is if He's going to be my guide...

I've got to be willing to listen to what He says.

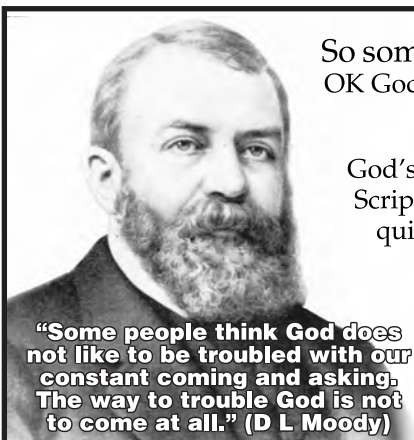


He who is wise, listens.
Proverbs 12:15



You may well ask, how does God speak? His primary way of speaking to us is through His Word, the Bible. Sometimes people ask, why do you hold up that Bible? **It's because I'm not the authority, the Bible is.**

If you run your life with your own rules, and you don't use a Bible (it doesn't have to look like mine), but if you never read a Bible, you should ask yourself: why is it that this, **the ultimate authority**, is not being read?

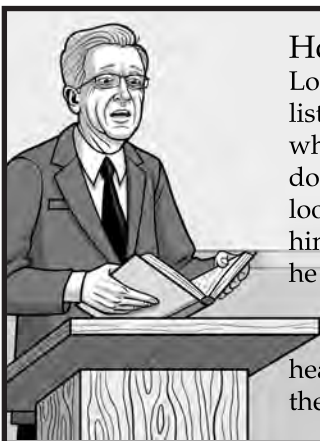


"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all." (D L Moody)

So sometimes we must ask some questions: OK God, how are You going to do this? Or how am I going to do that?

God's answers will always be consistent with Scripture, though sometimes He speaks very quietly. But when He speaks to us, it will always be clear.

So God doesn't waste words, He gets straight to the issue and says, Here's what I want you to do.



However, there are terms and conditions. Look at what James has to say: "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word, but does not do what it says, is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect Law that gives freedom, and continues in it — not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it — they will be blessed in what they do." James 1, 22-25

And of course He speaks to us...

through prayer, He gives us guidance often, and when somebody says to me, Well, I've never heard God speak, I would answer, it's because you're not listening, or you didn't ask His advice.

Unfortunately some brush it off and move on. But God is always willing to speak to any and all of us, if we will only listen.

But if I'm not listening and paying attention, I'm not going to follow the Will of God.



Dear Friend!

My encouragement to you is to make it your practice every day to get along with God, and before you start doing all the talking, be still and let Him speak, so you can hear the wonderful Plan He has **just for you!**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD. "Plans to prosper you and not harm you. plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

Jesus is looking for help, for He cannot do the work alone.

So who will come and help Him do the work? He sees the fields waving with corn and ripe for the kingdom of God, and the labourers are few.

Yet no one dare presume to come forward and offer himself on his own initiative, it is only those **who listen to God's voice.**



It is those who share the love of his heart that have been given eyes to see. It is only they who can be called to enter the harvest field.



I return to the title of this tract: "Do you listen to God's voice?" It's right here in the Bible!

One day a lady criticised D L Moody for his methods of Evangelism in attempting to win people for the Lord.

Moody's reply was: "I agree with you. I don't like the way I do it either. Tell me, how do you do it?" She replied: "Oh, I don't do it."

Moody responded: "I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."

#13

The Eight Habits of a Disciple



Pastor, please help!
I need assurance that I am
a true disciple of the Lord. I read
the Bible, attend Bible church and
accept the Gospel. So I ask: what
is the evidence that my life is
right with God?

Friend, the answer is in
God's Word! Let's see
what the Bible says.

"By their fruit
you will recog-
nise them. Are
grapes gathered
from thorn-
bushes, or figs
from thistles?
Likewise, every
good tree bears
good fruit, but a
bad tree bears
bad fruit."

Matthew 7:16,17



I'm going to introduce you to
Eight Godly Habits
that a disciple of Jesus would
practice, as a part of their
commitment to God's Word,
and as members in good
standing of Christ's church.

**So the fruit that you bear as a
true disciple of the Lord would be
seen in the habits of your daily life.
Let's have a look...**

#1

The first habit is this: Immanuel God with us



What does that mean?

It means that I surrender
my life to the indwelling
presence of God with us,
the Holy Spirit.

Let's check. Ephesians 5:18:
"And be not drunk with wine,
wherein is excess; but be filled
with the Spirit."



When the Word says 'be ye filled with the Holy Spirit', the original Greek actually says, *be ye being filled*, meaning it's a **continuous** thing.

The truth is you and I are not ready each day of our life to live apart from the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, who indwells in each one of us.

#2 Do the work of an Evangelist



"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."

2 Timothy 4:5 (NIV)

- **The Apostle Paul wrote these bracing words while he was imprisoned in the Mamertine prison in Rome.**

Paul wrote this letter to Timothy from a dark and dank prison cell, just before his death in AD 67.

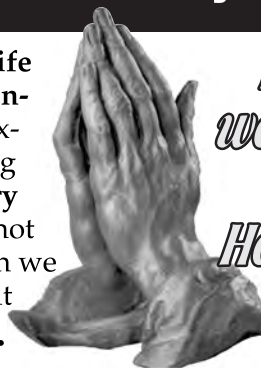
Emperor Nero had been slowly descending into madness since his ascent to the throne in AD 54, a process exacerbated by the great fire of Rome in AD 64 that destroyed half the city. With the residents of Rome in uproar, Christians became convenient scapegoats and targets for Nero. Paul was beheaded by Roman officials soon after writing these words.



So what's stopping you and me from being evangelists?

#3 Habit Three is a Prayerful Life

So, when we consider this **life of prayer**, it doesn't mean **only sometimes**. We should experience the joy and blessing of talking to the Father **every day**; it ought to be a **habit**, not something we do only when we are in trouble or in need, but **because we love God**.



*Because...
we're grateful
for what
He's doing in
our life.*

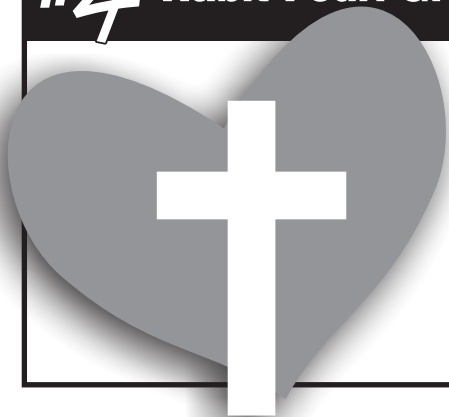
You can't live a godly life unless you have a good prayer life, because a regular prayer life keeps you connected to Almighty God's Plan for your life.

Let's get it clear: if you don't pray, you won't live a godly life.

That, my brother and sister, is the most important part of our Christian life.

Remember, whatever you accomplish in life, you will have to accomplish on your knees.

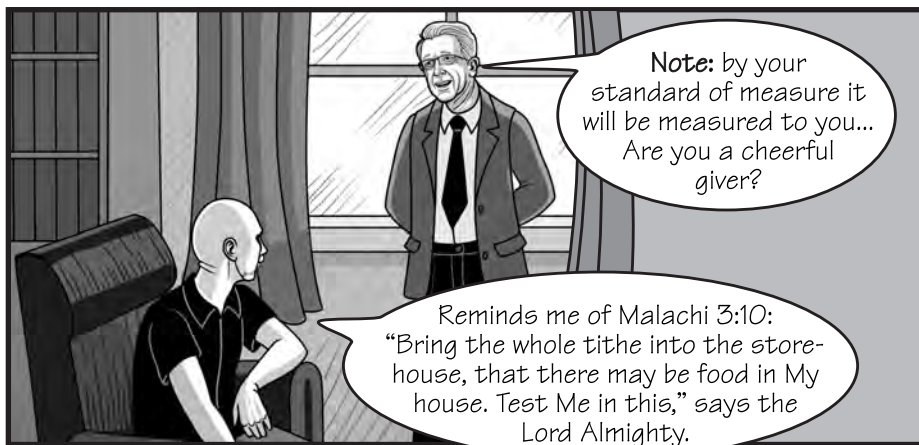
#4 Habit Four: Giving to God and others



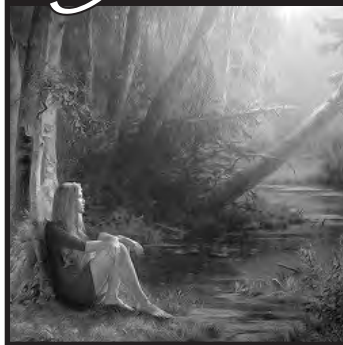
In the very well-known chapter Luke says:

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:38



#5 Habit Five... My quiet time with God



For want of a better phrase I used the term 'my quiet time', but it should also be 'my listening time'.

The Psalmist says in the 63rd chapter, verses 6 to 8: "When I remember Thee upon my bed I meditate on Thee in the night watches. Because Thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after Thee: Thy right hand upholdeth me."

What does it mean to have a quiet time with God?

It means that I **read** His Word, it means that I **think** about it, I **listen** to what God is saying, I **ask** Him whatever questions I have on my mind, I **surrender** myself to His Plan for my life.

Quiet time with God keeps us fresh and alert and sensitive to whatever God wants to do in our life.



#6

Habit Six: Obey God

Let's look at the book of Deuteronomy, all the way back in the Old Testament.

God makes it crystal clear in the 27th chapter, 10th verse, speaking through Moses to His people. Here's what He said:

"Therefore, you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His Commandments and His Statutes, which I command you today."



Then to chapter 28 verse 1:

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His Commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth."

- *OK, God was speaking to Israel in that verse. Yet when you and I obey Him, we're walking on a higher level. Think about how the world lives: they live with all kinds of evil thoughts, and are busy, so busy there's no time for God.*

Yet you have chosen to follow Jesus, and to follow Him means you live on a higher level.

#7

Habit Seven: Forgiving Others



Forgiving is not easy, no one is suggesting it is. It's hard sometimes to be forgiving to people who have done certain things to you. *And then Jesus says in Ephesians 4:30: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*

Betrayers are still out there, yet we **have to be willing to forgive** and to trust God to take care of that, no matter what happens. If I love the Lord, I will forgive, *unconditionally.*

And the Scripture says further in Ephesians 4: "Be angry, yet do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your anger, do not give the devil an opportunity."



#8 Habit Eight is... Trust and Faith



Proverbs 3: 5,6:
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

This is a basic verse of Scripture

Psalm 103:19:

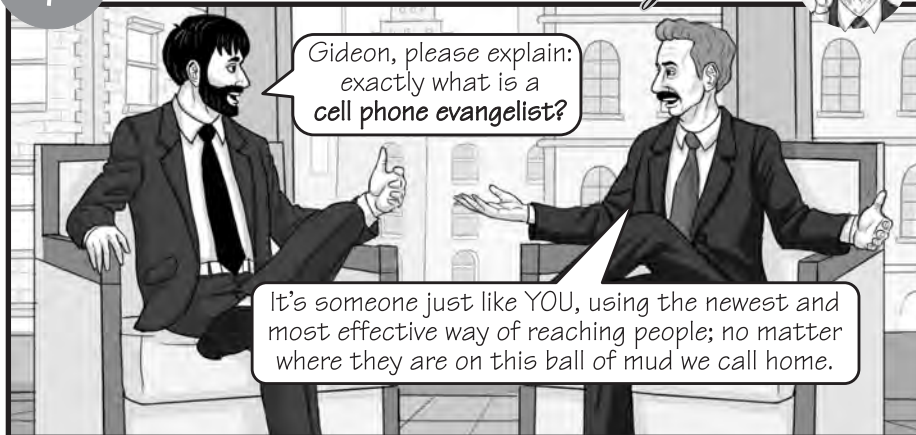
"The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules overall."



So, give that verse some thought: If God Almighty has established His throne in the heavens and His supernatural and divine power rules over everything, then what does that do? That gives me an awesome motivation to be in Him, knowing that He is in charge, and it doesn't make any difference what happens, how it happens or whatever, I know that God is in control, and **I can trust Him for whatever He allows in my life.**

#14

The Cell Phone Evangelist



My brother, Marius Pelser, started as a cell phone evangelist on 29 September 2017, with a small WhatsApp group of only nine participants.

The following week he received some requests: "Please add my brother, my mother, my colleague," as more people wanted to take part in this course. However, since his first group had already received the first study it wouldn't have been practical simply to add new participants, as they will then have missed the first study.

So he started a second group!

The third week the same thing happened and he started a third group.

The fourth week there were still more applicants, and when I interviewed him for AWR, five weeks later at the end of October 2017, **he had five groups with a total of 192 participants!**



So let's fast forward to July 2021:
Marius has up till end July 2021 –
that is in the last 46 months –
sent out **319,814** studies.

That is an average of **6,952** studies
per month.

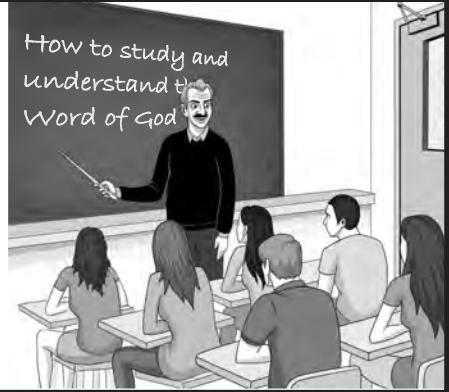
Which is **348** studies per day
(that is, five days per week)!

Note: Marius has no theological degree and is not an ordained minister.

EXAMPLE #1

Assumption: 1 pastor gives 1 study per day for 6 working days per week for 48 weeks per year = 288 studies. Now divide Marius's 319,814 studies by the pastor's 288 studies.

Conclusion: That pastor would require **1,110 years** to do what Marius did in just under **4 years** (46 months) from the comfort of his home!



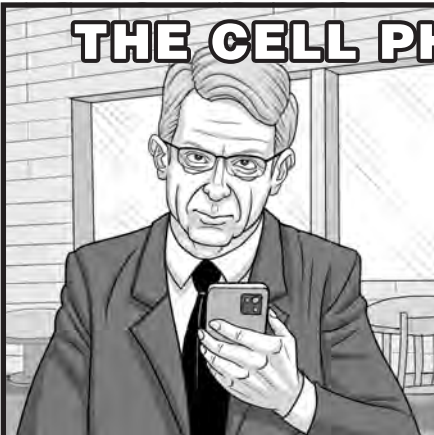
EXAMPLE #2

Assumption: 69 pastors in a conference present 1 study per day each for 48 weeks = 19,872 studies. Now divide Marius's 319,814 studies by the pastors' 19,872 studies.

Conclusion: That conference would take around **16 years** to do what Marius has done in **46 months** (under 4 years)!



THE CELL PHONE IS KING!



We do most things on our cell phones these days!
Banking, Internet, Phone to chat,
GPS, Messaging, WhatsApps,
YouTube, Facebook...

Did I forget something?

*How we do business has changed!
We now use WhatsApp for
communication worldwide!*



Do you realise that the 'smartphones' we get today are far more powerful than a desktop PC of ten years ago?

The cell phone is in fact a kind of computer - that's why we find them irresistibly useful. If you want to reach someone, there is no more effective way than calling them on their cellphone.

You phone someone on the other side of the globe - and they answer almost immediately!

There are no more walls, no more borders, no more limits!

This is because 2,700 satellites are orbiting 100 – 140 km above the earth's surface, forming a communications network all around the planet. This digital blanket has made it possible for most of the over eight billion people on this globe to communicate with ease.



As a pastor's kid, I would hear that Christ is coming soon, and I could never understand how the work may be finished in time.

What is a CPE even?

*CPE is short for **Cell Phone Evangelist**, and it can be you in just a few weeks, evangelising to thousands from your own phone!*

Even at the Seminary I could not figure this one out.

Yet if you take 69 pastors doing one-on-one Bible studies - that will take them 16 years to do! – will it be possible for you to do this on your own, and that in 46 months?

THE ANSWER IS YES!



*We joyfully invite you to get involved in
Cell Phone Evangelism!
Contact Gideon Pelser directly
on: +27 82 444 8189.
(That's his
WhatsApp/Signal/Telegram
contact number.)*

● **Your WhatsApp will even couple to your internet-connected PC!**

In the last 2,000 years – from the time Jesus walked on this earth till today – you and I have had the unique privilege to be part of the first generation that is in a position to finish this work.

The whole world is now digitally connected. If you embrace this, the work will literally be finished within a very short period.

● **After the initial four-hour training, you will be a full member of a dynamic Cell Phone Evangelising team.**



The Three Angels Message! Won't you respond to the call?



Matthew 28:19 & 20 reads:
 “Go therefore and make
 disciples of all the nations,
 baptising them in the name of
 THE FATHER and of THE SON
 and of THE HOLY SPIRIT,
 teaching them to observe all things
 that I have commanded you.”

**My Friend – There is NO BETTER WAY to empower your
 entire congregation than with CELL PHONE EVANGELISM!**

*Dear Friend and Fellow Believer! I am sure you have many questions that are
 not answered in this short tract. Gideon will be only too happy to explain.*



Your Commission Mandate in Matt 28
 instructs that you are:

- > entrusted with this truth;
- > equipped with this knowledge;
- > commissioned to be active in service.

● In a word, you are to evangelise!

*A wise woman said:
 “GOD will move upon men in
 humble positions to declare the
 message of present truth.”*

Two more quotes...

Testimonies 9, p 117: The work of GOD in this earth can never be finished
 until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the
 work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.
 (The context here is Matthew 28.)

Acts of the Apostles, p 110: Not upon the ordained minister only rests the
 responsibility of going forth to fulfil this commission... It is a fatal mistake
 to suppose that the work of soul-saving depends alone upon the
 ORDAINED (ministry)... GOD will send forth into HIS vineyard many
 who have not been dedicated to the ministry by the laying on of hands.



**To paraphrase James 1:22:
*Get busy for the Lord!***

Marius has since had hundreds of baptisms worldwide. **You are a potential 'Marius' as you read here!** You need training and a support group within which to operate as a CPE.

Gideon Pelser will teach you to:

GO AND DO LIKEWISE!

Gideon can train your whole congregation on a Sunday of your choice.

Send GIDEON PELSER
a WhatsApp for the invitation link to
the next training session.

Training on selected Sundays:
09:00 – 13:00 Johannesburg time,
or he will adjust to your time!

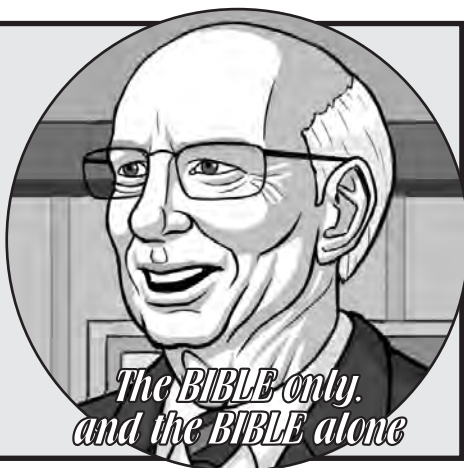
+ 27 82 444 81 89

WhatsApp/Signal/Telegram

Gideon Pelser

AWR Evangelism Trainer

gideon@awr.org



*God has given believers the responsibility
of spreading the Gospel to all the world,
and we need to use all at our disposal
to accomplish this task.*

Theodore Epp

#15

The Sea of Galilee or the Dead Sea?



Pastor, why do people call the Dead Sea 'dead'?

It's because the Dead Sea is constantly being supplied with water from nearby streams and the river Jordan, but the Dead Sea itself has nowhere to drain. The only way water can escape from the Dead Sea is through evaporation. As water evaporates, dissolved salts are left behind and remain within the Dead Sea.

With no outlets, the only way water can escape from the Dead Sea is through evaporation. As the water evaporates, dissolved mineral salts remain behind. Over the millennia, the mineral content of the Dead Sea grew higher and higher, making it impossible for anything but fungi and bacteria to live in it. Massive inflow with no outlet equals a dead sea!

Here are some interesting facts about this odd stretch of water:

The Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth, at nearly 426 metres below sea level and at 377 metres deep, making it the deepest hypersaline lake in the world. The water level is reportedly decreasing by approximately one metre per year, due to water from the Jordan River being diverted for irrigation and drinking purposes upstream.

Water temperatures in the Dead Sea can exceed an amazing 32°C in summer, and average as much as 20° in winter.

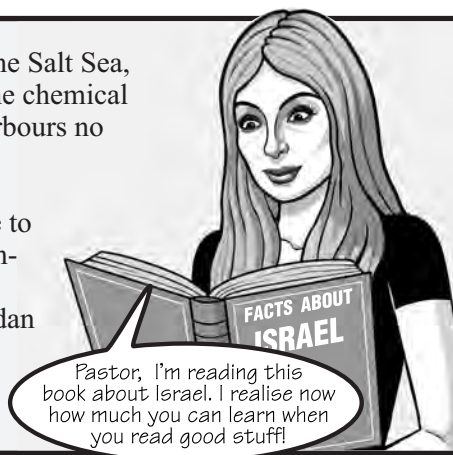


You're right, Pastor, there are some amazing facts about the Dead Sea on the Web!



The Dead Sea is also known as the Salt Sea, since it is 33.7% sodium chloride (the chemical name for salt). It's so salty that it harbours no fish or plant life.

The smaller, beautiful Sea of Galilee to the north in contrast teems with fresh-water fish, as it receives water from the north and then feeds into the Jordan River to the south, before the water gets to the Dead Sea.



Herod the Great, Jesus and John the Baptist were closely linked with the Dead Sea and its surroundings.



In Roman times, the Essenes (Jesus's tribe) settled in Qumran on the Dead Sea's northern shore. There, in the soft sandstone, they carved out storage caves for their precious library. 2,000 years later this library was found and named the 'Dead Sea Scrolls'.

Left: Some of the Qumran caves
Inset: Jars the scrolls were kept in
Right: The great Isaiah scroll





Dear Friend

This background is interesting, so I've used it as an analogy. The Dead Sea receives water, yet gives nothing in return; it is like a selfish Christian who is always on the take, but gives nothing back.

Where there is a body of water with no outlet, like the Dead Sea, we find a lack of life in and around it. This law of nature may also be applied to the child of God, and it explains why many believers are so unfruitful and lacking in spiritual vitality.

It's possible for some people to study the Scriptures continually, taking in the Word as it is preached from the pulpit, and yet seem lifeless and unproductive in their Christian lives. Such individuals are like the Dead Sea. They have 'inlets', but no 'outlets'.

To be vibrant and useful believers, we must not only 'take in' all we can, but we must also 'give out' in service to others!

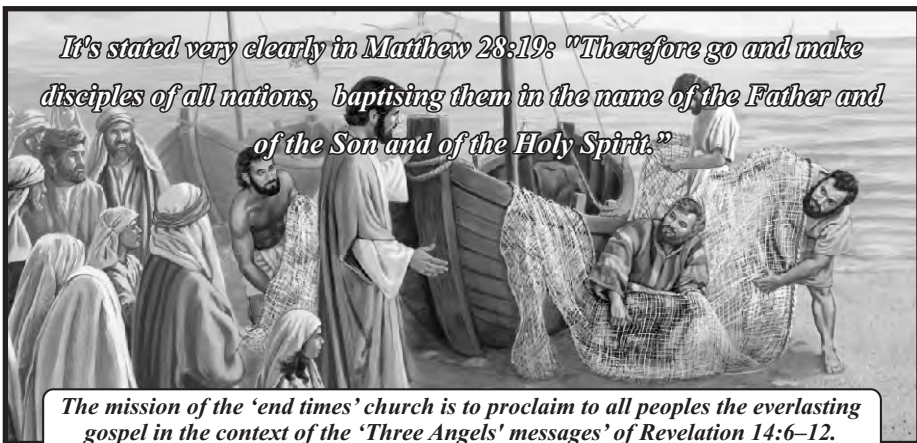
As you've guessed by now, this tract is about evangelising with God's Word.

So how can we become people who have 'springs of living water' bursting from us?

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

Matthew 4:19, NIV

It's stated very clearly in Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



The mission of the 'end times' church is to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the 'Three Angels' messages' of Revelation 14:6–12.



If we truly love...

If we truly love, we will be **giving**, we will **share** and **serve**. We will come alongside one another in times of joy and sorrow, we will put others first, we will share life, and most importantly: **We will share Christ.**

- Is there someone you know who needs your support, whom only you can help? Will you make that effort?

Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Acts 20:35



An important characteristic of the *Born-again Christian* is a **generous spirit** and a **kind heart**.

- In simple terms that means while we are being fed with *The Word* we simultaneously feed others.

There is no opportunity for our lives to become stagnant when we are following the instructions that Christ gave to us. Love will flow out from our reservoir of living water and will flow freely out into all areas of our lives.

"Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38 NIV

Jesus says we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind.



Jesus said to him: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **Love your neighbour as yourself.** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40

Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

You know the problem with some Christians? They always want to be on the receiving end and not the giving end. They are like the Dead Sea. They have an **inlet** but no **outlet**.

- **Why does this happen when we've been given so much?**

My hope with this tract is to challenge you to become a more generous person. To become more like a river than a 'dead sea'. Rivers take the water from upstream and channel it downstream. **I'm going to challenge you to take the blessings you receive from God, and channel them downstream into the lives of other people!**



**"The Word of God, the Bible, is the bread of life."
John 6:48**



Our *spiritual cravings* are *being fulfilled* while we offer others the Bread of Life, our *thirsts* are *quenched* while we freely supply the Water of Life to others to drink.

The Lord offers us 'living water' (John 4:10) that wells up to 'eternal life'. John 4:14

So what is the point of this Tract?

It's message is plain and straightforward:
Let's not be 'Dead Sea Christians'!
Christians often are like the Dead Sea. We read the Bible, have an active prayer life, attend amazing worship services, and hear life-changing Bible teaching, and it all flows into us and changes us and we feel so spiritual.

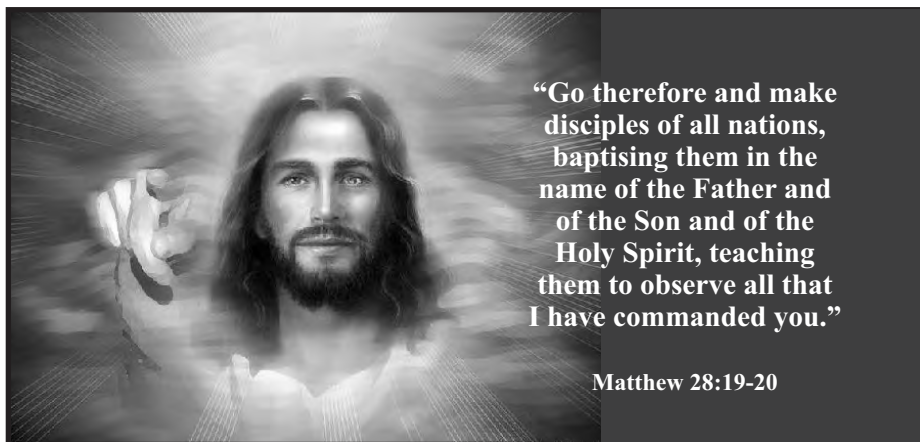
- **But if none of this ever flows out of us and into others... then we are 'Dead Sea Christians'.**



However, that is ***not*** the life that God has in mind for His disciples.

The life that God has in mind for us is that we become **conduits of His love**, which flows through us and into others, so that they can know and experience God themselves.

In fact, this is one of the very last things Jesus told us while He was here in His earthly ministry:



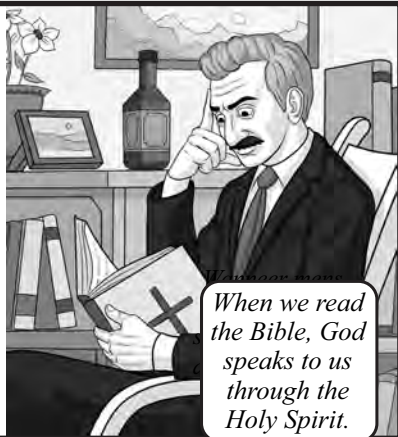
“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Remember the message of the Dead Sea!
To stay fresh, we need to give as well as receive.

Take a look at 2 Corinthians 8:7-9. **The source of generosity is God.** Our role model for generosity is Jesus Christ. So, my question to you, dear reader, is this: Do you just read the Bible as a story, or do you hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you as you read?

- **James 1:22 says it all: “Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”**



*Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions.
The more you express gratitude for what you have,
the more likely you will have even more
to express gratitude for.*

Zig Ziglar



Are you **AFRAID** to ask?

Today I'm going to ask some pastors from my church what happens to us **when we die**.

It's a question everyone of us has to address at some point in our lives. If you don't have clarity in your mind about this important matter, I trust this short tract will help to give you some insight.

The ancient Egyptians built the 'everlasting' pyramids because they believed their Pharaohs were divine and enjoyed everlasting life after death. They went to a lot of effort to prepare mummies for the afterlife. When Greek mystics visited Egypt, they elaborated on this concept, so Greek mystery religions invented the idea that man has some part of him that is immortal, that can never die. They called it the *immortal soul*.

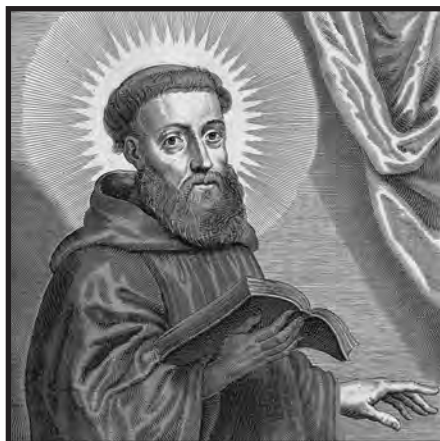


Pharaoh Tutankhamun

But these people knew nothing about the Resurrection.

The chief teachers of this philosophy of the immortal soul were Plato and his mentor Socrates. The first Christian church rejected this false doctrine. They believed in the Second Coming of Jesus, and with Him Judgement Day and the Resurrection. Greek philosophy attempted to nullify all the clear teachings of the Bible concerning the Second Coming of Jesus, which, by the way, is mentioned once in every thirty verses of the New Testament. Judgement Day is mentioned about a thousand times in the Bible, and the Resurrection many times over and over.

But by the third century the Church was weakening and many believers had begun to accept the idea of an immortal soul.



Even St Augustine (left) subscribed to this false theory, and it reigned for over a thousand years, until the emergence of the Anabaptists in the sixteenth century. They correctly taught that death is a form of sleep.

- **The word *immortal*, by the way, occurs *only once* in the Bible and is there applied *only to God*.**

1 Timothy 1:17 states that God is immortal. The Bible however **never** says that about human beings. While the word *soul* occurs hundreds of times in the Bible, it is used with the meaning 'a breathing creature'. The word is applied even to the animals: all the lower forms of life are called breathing souls. They are however never called *undying*, *immortal* or *eternal*.

We are told in Ezekiel 18:4: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Revelation 16:3 says during the seven last plagues 'every living soul died in the sea'.



Joshua 11:11 talks about souls that were 'smitten with the edges of swords and died'. Nowhere does the Bible teach that we have an immortal soul; instead, man is called mortal over and over again. Read the book of Job, read 1 Corinthians 15, read the book of Romans; repeatedly it is shown that we are mortal.

- **Our hope is the Resurrection in Jesus Christ, a historical fact witnessed by over 500 people who saw the risen Christ.**



Our only hope is the Resurrection.



Now let me tell you something odd, something very tragic that crept into the Church's teachings: it's actually terrible. Once those folk had (wrongly) decided there was an everlasting soul, they had a problem. They had to decide what to do with the wicked; so what did they come up with? **They invented hell, eternal hellfire!**

- It's true that the word 'hell' occurs in the Bible, but it usually means the grave.

Yet in a few places in the New Testament the word 'hell' is a translation of the Greek name *Gehenna*, which was a rubbish dump outside Jerusalem where corpses were burnt to ashes, where rubbish was destroyed: a picture evoking the destruction of the wicked at the end of the world.

Hieronymus Bosch's famous portrayal of Hell



Malachi 4 says: "The day will come when all that do wickedly shall become ashes."

The wicked are not going to suffer for eternity, dear friend. They will be destroyed. The Bible confirms this over and over.

Only a single verse in the Bible seems to support the concept of eternal hellfire: The words 'everlasting fire' appear in Revelation 14.

Revelation is a vision God gave John the Apostle on the island of Patmos, revealing His plan for the last days. Chapter 20 talks about death being destroyed when the earth becomes a lake of fire, before the establishment of a new earth. In the next chapter, however, you will find there is no more curses, no more death, no more sighing, no more tears.

That's the world we Christians look forward to.



Martin Luther

Dear Friend, the theory of the eternally burning hell is scary. Another of Augustine's teachings, it held sway for over a thousand years, until the arrival of the Anabaptists and Luther in the sixteenth century, who taught that death was only a sleep.

William Tyndale, Bible translator, likewise believed death was a sleep.



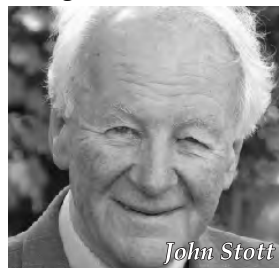
William Tyndale

The seventh verse of the book of Jude says the wicked will be destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah, namely by 'everlasting fire'. This is symbolic; Sodom and Gomorrah are clearly not still burning!

The terms *forever* and *everlasting* must always be explained in context. Jonah said he was in the big fish forever... but it was for a mere three days! Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar: "Live forever!" Nice thought, but good old Neb probably lasted no more than another decade or three. **So forever and everlasting in the Bible don't have the dire meaning hellfire theorists love to give them.**

John Stott was one of the most trusted pastors in Christendom. What did he say about this theory of everlasting hellfire that people cling to? *The theory that man has an eternal, immortal, imperishable soul?* He said you can't think of eternal hellfire for more than fifteen minutes without going mad.

● **Stott was right - you try it!**

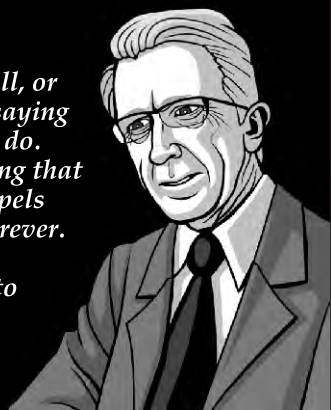


John Stott

God told us to love our enemies.

Those who teach the existence of an eternal Hell, or an everlasting burning and torture, are really saying that God will be doing what He tells us not to do. You cannot read the four Gospels without seeing that God is a God of love. You cannot read the Gospels and believe that God will burn us in hellfire forever.

- *Reverence Him, give Him the awe that's due to Him. Love Him, dear friend, because He loves you. And always will!*



But if you believe in the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:28:

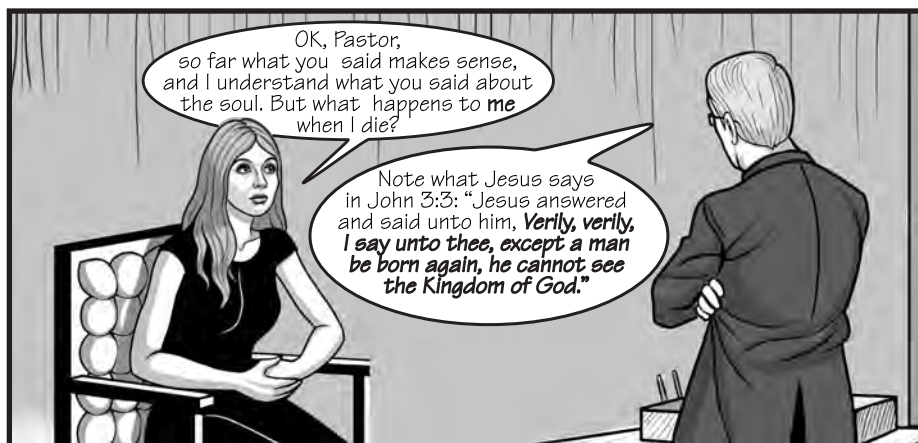
"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in Hell."

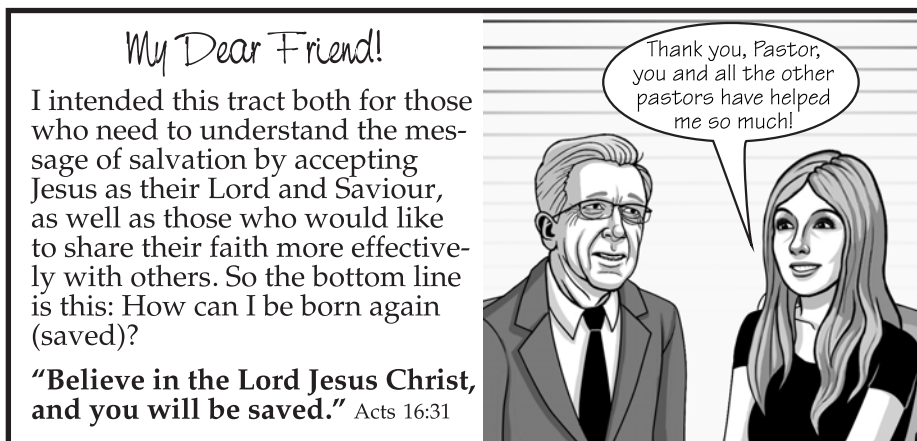
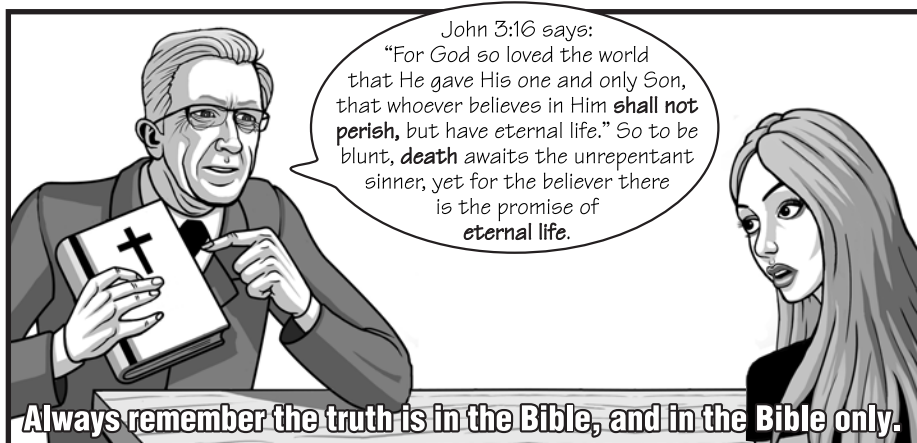
Note: The Bible often translates *soul* as *life*.



Before you read further: This tract is simply saying you have a choice before you die on this earth, either eternal life in Heaven or eternal death.

It's your choice.

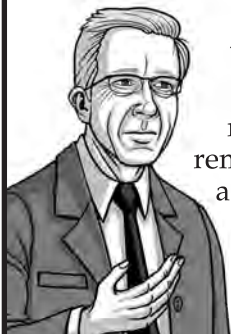




Two Brief Notes for clarification:

William Tyndale (1494-1536) was an English scholar who became a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation during the sixteenth century. Believing Christians should be able to read the Bible in their own language, he had to flee England, since in the reign of King Henry VIII people were burnt at the stake for owning an English Bible. Working in Germany, Tyndale published an English translation of the New Testament in 1525. This ultimately resulted in his execution. Tyndale's excellent translation was based on the original Hebrew and Greek texts and formed the basis of the renowned King James Version, published in 1611.

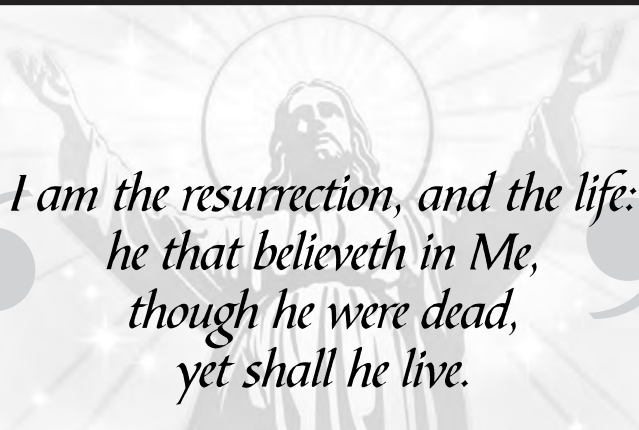
The Anabaptists emerged in the sixteenth century and believe one should not baptise infants. This is because baptism is a decision made by an adult, to enact in ritual form the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, by immersion in the waters and rising up. The Anabaptists taught correctly that death is a form of sleep.



We trust you found this short tract useful in that it discusses a basic Bible truth. A truth that represents an accurate interpretation of the Bible, removing the doubts and claims of an everlasting Hell as taught by many churches for almost 2,000 years.

Truth that becomes obvious, plain and clear when you read the Bible!

What is *reliable* may be defined as *that which has never changed*. That, my friend, can be found *only* in the Bible, the Word of God!



*I am the resurrection, and the life:
he that believeth in Me,
though he were dead,
yet shall he live.*



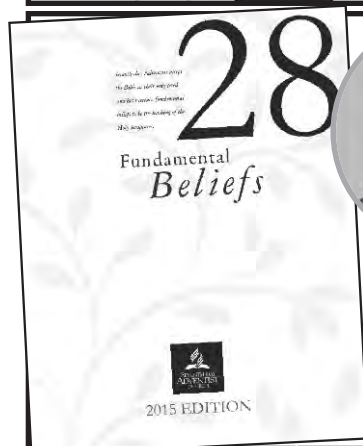
*The Great Commission is not
an option to be considered;
it is a command to be obeyed.*



Hudson Taylor

#17

Questions for Seventh Day Adventists



This book explains in detail the **28 fundamental beliefs** of the Adventist Church, so they can be compared to God's Word. You can download it from the web!

The answers given in this tract are shortened due to space available, but are representative of the Adventist Church. Still, it's always a good idea to ask us directly and not listen to what others have to say about us.

So let's begin...

Question 1

Do Seventh Day Adventists believe the Bible is **authoritative**, being **accurate**, **true** and **reliable**?



Yes, absolutely! Seventh Day Adventists believe the Bible is **the only source** of faith and practice. **All scripture is given by inspiration of God.**

This authority comes from 2 Timothy 3:16-17. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We believe the Bible is the Living Word of God.

As the prophets spoke, they revealed God's will to humanity. We as Seventh Day Adventists believe that.

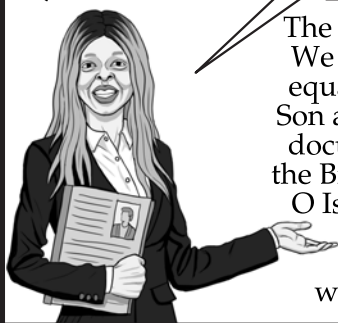
Contrary to what some people may say, we don't have any additional source that has authority over the Bible.

The Bible is our *only* source of authority. The Bible teaches that scripture is the *very foundation* of our faith.

THE BIBLE RIGHTLY CLAIMS IT IS INSPIRED BY GOD.

Question 2

Do Adventists accept the truth of the Holy Trinity?

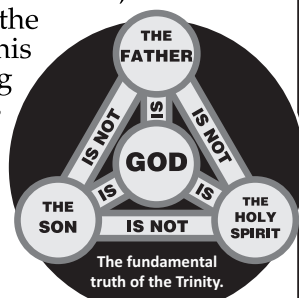


The Trinity is one of our **fundamental beliefs**. We believe that there are three co-eternal, co-equal persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. That statement is well-documented in the Bible. In Deuteronomy 6:4 the Bible uses the plural to describe God: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Yet the word for God here is *Elohim*, which is the **plural** form of the word *God*.

Although the word *Trinity* does not appear in the Bible, we use it to describe the **Godhead**. When we read that the Lord is one, the word used for *one* is *echad*. This word signifies the fusion of equals. So evening and morning were the first day, two elements of time giving one day, a single or *echad* day.

Another example: When a man and woman become husband and wife, they become one, *echad*; they are two separate beings, but there is a **oneness of mind and purpose**.



Echad is the Hebrew word for ONE, but more precisely it means a single entity made up of more than one part.

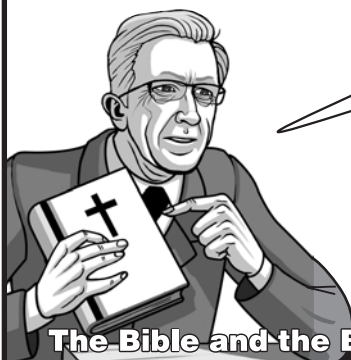
Question 3



How would you answer the assertion by some that Adventists believe in **salvation by works**, and that they are **Old Testament believers**?

Seventh Day Adventists do not believe in salvation by works, they do not believe they are saved by what they eat or what day they keep or the external works they perform. Seventh Day Adventists are solidly committed to the Bible teaching of righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ. They are solidly committed to the fact that we are saved by grace alone. 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Adventists do not believe that good works save us.



Let me quote Ephesians 2:8:
"For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith - and this is not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God."

Many critics of the Adventists claim that we are 'legalists'. I will get to that shortly. But let me suggest that you read the whole chapter of Ephesians 2. **This chapter clearly sums up what we believe.**

The Bible and the Bible alone is the source of truth.

Question 4



Do Seventh Day Adventists insist that **sabbath observance** is a legal requirement? After all, the 7th day is your church name!

This was a mistake the Pharisees made. Their legal obedience was excessive and imperfect, since they believed it was required for the forgiveness of sins. As Adventists we have the advantage, in that our adhering to the law is in fact perfect. The righteousness it demands is already there - the righteousness of Jesus, which submits to the Cross, as that is what the law demands.

We as Adventists do not teach salvation by legal obedience.

Nevertheless, let us be clear: We DO teach that the disciple of Jesus must learn that true salvation in Christ implies adherence to God's commandments.

We base this teaching on the words of Jesus as found in John 14:21: "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him." We do not accept the commonly held gospel that claims folk can be saved, yet be free from the law and the Ten Commandments. Such teaching creates enthusiasm, but neglects the foundation of truth.

Question 5

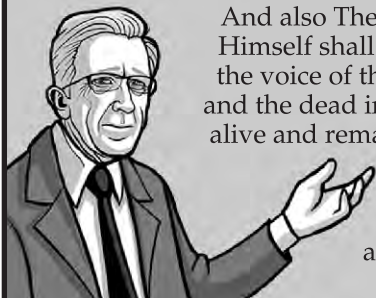
So, Pastor, what is there to look forward to?
I want to be happy!
And you always sound so serious.



Seventh Day Adventists believe in hope. We hold onto the truth that Jesus said He was coming again. John 14: 1-3: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

We firmly believe that the signs of the times mean Jesus is coming soon.

We base this hope on the Bible verse Titus 2:13:
"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."



And also Thessalonians 4:16, 17 and 18: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore we comfort one another with these words."

Question 6



I see you guys are **big on diet!** How does **that** help me in my relationship with God?

Wrong! Take a look at what we are in fact saying. Most good folk would agree with us that using good things moderately and avoiding the bad is obviously wise, yet often hard to practice. Temperance can neither be bought nor earned, but is rather **an important gift from God**, a "fruit of the spirit" (Galatians 5:22, 23).

Temperance is moderation in action, thought and feeling. Always a good thing...

Question 7



What does your church say about the **source of good and evil?**

There was a massive heavenly conflict in the distant past... we don't actually know when it occurred. We call it 'the Great Controversy' (see Revelation 12:7-9).

Satan had misrepresented the character of God and wished to usurp God's throne. It was war in Heaven! War between the legions of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit on the one side, led by Michael, and the great Dragon and his dark angels on the other. But the Dragon was weak and God ultimately prevailed.

God hurled the Dragon, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one who leads the whole world astray, to the earth, and his fallen angels along with him. They lost their place in Heaven.

The war was over, but the battle between good and evil continued, right here on earth.

As a 'Remnant' church we recognise that there is a conflict between good and evil in the universe, a conflict that is still raging between God and the forces of evil.

This struggle affects us as human beings every day. The Bible says: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

War in Heaven
Unknown artist

Question 8



So just how **big** is your Church?

Let me answer you this way: Seventh Day Adventists, keepers of the Fourth Commandment, have a membership of just over 22 million people. In addition, we have the largest network of radio transmitters broadcasting the gospel worldwide.

But it's not about numbers - it's about truth, right and obedience to God. However, since you ask the question, let me give you a few stats that show the true significance and value of our Church.

Take a look at some statistics:



- ◆ We have 92,186 churches and approximately 70,000 home groups worldwide, with 19,700 pastors. You can find us with no trouble!
- ◆ The Seventh Day Adventist Church is currently one of the world's fastest growing and most widespread churches.
- ◆ Worldwide, 516 languages are used in Seventh Day Adventist publications and oral work.

The following Seventh Day Adventist Work is done in 212 countries:

Education

Secondary Schools	2,713
Primary Schools	6,621
Total Enrolment	2,044,709

Medical

Hospitals & Sanitariums	227
Nursing Homes & Retirement Centers	133
In-patient Visits	Over 1½ million
Out-patient Visits	Over 20 million

★
**Feel free to visit
your local
pastor to find
out more!**

**We have over
90,000
churches and
20,000 pastors
worldwide.**





This tract focuses on the meaning of the term WILL OF GOD and how we understand it.



Yes, my dear, you are right to take this matter seriously! And of course I understand your concern.

Yet I am sure from what you say that you have been prompted by hearing God's Word, meaning that God has spoken to you. 2 Peter 3:9 says: "*The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*"

So, when we choose to read and believe God's Word, I mean really **believe** the Word of God, we move from uncertainty, confusion and unbelief into a place where He desires us to live: in a consistent victory. John 20:29: "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."



Matthews 9:29: "According to your faith be it unto you."



What I am saying in this tract amounts to this: **If Christ is the Living Lord of my life, my encounter with Him will show me *His Will* for my life.** Our belief in God is what will govern our actions, and ultimately enable us to reach the heavenly destiny that God has for you and me. We then become what we believe, by focusing our belief on God's Word. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is: His good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

Not all do the will of our Father. He says so. "Not everyone will enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Why? Because not all do the Will of God.

Yes, Pastor, that's well and good, but my problem is, how can I **know the Will of God?** I want to go to heaven! I **really** want to know Christ and believe in Him, but I have no means of knowing His Will. So please, what does the Bible say about the Will of God?



My dear, that's exactly what I would like to talk about in this tract! So there are **five basics** that we need to get right to know the will of God.

Basic #1: Become a clean vessel

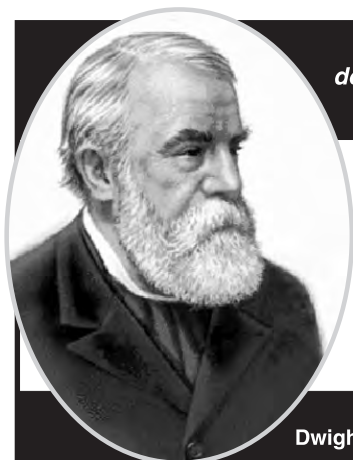
God has to get us ready to hear His Word, which is His clear direction for our life!

And so, when I say become a clean vessel, that's what we need to have, when we're asking to know His Will. So when I ask for God's Will in my life, I can't be messing around, tolerating any wilful sin in my life.

- **We can't ask God for Holy Direction with a sinful attitude!**



Remember: When you choose the behaviour, you have already chosen the consequences.



D L Moody, the famous evangelist, said: *“God doesn’t seek for golden vessels, and does not ask for silver ones, but He must have clean ones.”*

So when we are looking for God’s Will in our life, the **first thing** we have to deal with is this issue of sin!

If it’s not compatible with who we are in Christ Jesus, for Whom we are as children of God, it has to go, it has to be dealt with. Because here’s what sin does: **sin confuses our thinking.**

Dwight Lyman Moody (1837-99)

Basic #2: Deal with powerful feelings of want



We all experience natural, powerful feelings and wants. These don’t have to be sinful wants; every one of us has a natural desire for things in life, something that you want, a dream that you cherish, goals that you aspire to... And it may well be that what we want, forms part of God’s plan for us.

- So instead of rushing ahead, I need to give God time and space to work in my life!

More important, we must have clear guidance as to how to go about it. Maybe God has a beautiful goal for your life, perhaps God’s Will intends something for your life that you also truly desire, something you have been working towards, and you want to know from God: How do I achieve this?



I must learn to bring those strong *want feelings* to a place of submission to God.

So, Pastor, you are saying that I need to bring my **want feelings** to the point that I'm willing to say: Lord, not what I want, but what You want. God, this is what I want, this is my desire. But Lord, I want to be able to submit to that, yield to that thing, whatever it is, and become neutral in my thinking, **because** I really want what You want, more than what I want.



Lord, I need to learn that what You want for me is better for me than what I want. And I need to remember patience says I'm willing to wait until I know that I've heard from God, until I know that this is his choice.

Basic #3: Be alert to pressure



Be alert to pressure, particularly when you seek God's Will. There are two primary sources of pressure you and I have to deal with.

The first is **exterior pressure**: people telling you what you *ought* to do and how you *ought* to think. They will also give you advice, and they will always assure you: *This is exactly what I would do if I were you.*

● Just how reliable do you think that is?

Of course, this is not to say that 'Godly advice' should be ignored!

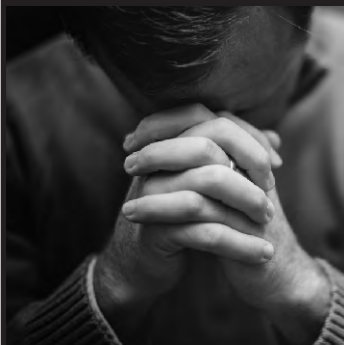
People are so eager to give advice, to tell you what to do, but how much do they *really* know about scriptural principles? You'll often hear them say: *This is what God says, here's what you ought to do.*

Well, the question is: what **in fact** is the Will of God? You want clear direction, you have to be sensitive and keep alert to pressure, because it's going to be out there.

● And then, too, there are the **internal pressures**: fears and anxieties over fear of loss, fear of failure, fear of rejection, fear of disapproval.



Basic #4: Persistence in Prayer



Not just praying - praying persistently!

You remember what Paul said in 1
Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing."

When you *really* desire the Will of God
to be active in your life and you're
praying about it, don't let go
of it, don't let go of what you are praying
for, of what you are seeking.

Remember to rest in God's promises!

THE HEART AND CORE: PRAYER

Remember! God's Will gives you clear direction for your life!
Praying to God by humbling yourself and spending serious time
on your knees are the heart and core to find His Will.

If you insist on doing things your own way without making
the effort to find the Will of God, by choosing the wrong
behaviour, then you have also chosen the consequences.

You are living **your will** and not **His Will**.

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY! PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

THE AWESOME MIRACLE OF GOD'S WORD



You know what's so amazing? God works
gradually through prayer, gradually
through your reading His Word. That's
why we have quiet time, time to meditate
on God's Word.

What does that do? It fills your mind with
the Truth, and shows you His Will for your
life.

- That is the awesome miracle of
God's Word, it shows you His
Direction and His Will.

Basic #5: Wait for the Peace

The word **peace** speaks of harmony and oneness, not of disharmony, not disorder, not unrest, not frustration, not anxiety. To **make peace** means to weave together, to be bound in harmony.

- So what are we talking about?

This: We've come from getting rid of sin, being a clean vessel, backing off from pressure to waiting upon the Lord, waiting for His divine Peace.



We get down on our knees before Him, and now what can we expect? **That the peace will follow.** Bound together, let's look at Colossians 3:15-16 to see what happens: **"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body: and be ye thankful."**

Yet as I get to the end of this tract, I ask: *Has my mind and God's mind been woven together, so that we are on the same page?* Let peace rule, the disturbance is over, the turmoil is over, the upheaval is over, the uncertainty is over. **Peace is ruling. Now I can clearly see God's Will for me.** My circumstances may not have changed, people's attitudes may not have changed, pressures may still be there, but deep down inside, He, God Almighty, has told me exactly what to do, **and so I am committed to His Will, no matter what.**



Church attendance is good and is to be encouraged, yet one hour a week is not sufficient. The message of this tract is: **do the Will of God.** Can I be any clearer than the five basics I have explained? I am sure somewhere in your house you have the ultimate, eternal, infallible, inerrant resource to know God: how He thinks, how He acts, how He works, what His ways are, His Will, His Plan, His Direction - **the Bible, the Word of God.**

I was glad when they said to me, **"Let us go into the house of the LORD."**

Psalms 122:1



I trust these basic guidelines will help you find God's Will for your life and direct you to God's promise of eternal life with Him! Romans 4:21: **"And being fully persuaded, that what He had promised, He was able also to perform."**

I remind you of the five basic points:

- 1) *Become a clean vessel and remove sin from my life*
- 2) *Deal with powerful want feelings*
- 3) *Be alert to pressure*
- 4) *Persist in prayer*
- 5) *Wait for the Peace.*

Work is love made visible. And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy.

Khalil Gibran

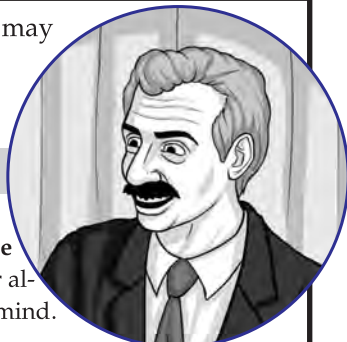
*Success is not final,
failure is not fatal,
it is the courage to continue
that counts.*

Winston Churchill

I am sure many of you who are reading this tract may ask, *Why would God send storms in a person's life?* Or if He didn't send them, why would He allow them? **Isn't He a God of love?**

Yes, He is!

Yet the reason I'm bringing this up is because God is always in control, **therefore, God always has a purpose** in whatever He does, or allows. So, when God starts or allows a storm in your life, He has a specific purpose in mind.



- **What, then, is God's purpose?** Always remember: **He can send a storm or He can allow one at any time He chooses!**

Yet what is encouraging, and important to remember, is this: **When you're one of His children, nothing can touch you without His express Will. But back to the million-dollar question, which is: What is God's purpose in all of this? What does God have in mind for you and me?**

Well, firstly, why did I use the word *anchor* in the title? I used it simply because I want you to have an intelligent, logical and truthful answer to God's purpose for you and me - as found in the Bible! Put another way, what is it about the Bible that reveals this? And then, what is the Bible anyway? And how is it that the Bible anchors you in times of storms?

In simple terms, the Bible is the **written record of God's unfolding revelation of Himself**, through His Word, in nature, in history, by the prophets, and ultimately through the coming of His Son Jesus Christ into the world. This anchor in the life of the believer is the Bible, the Word of God.

I trust that this short tract will help you to understand what the Bible really is. It's not just paper printed with black ink. So, what is this book we call the Bible? **What is this anchor?**

- **And how does this anchor help you and me walk through the storms in life, that, like it or not, we are going to meet?**





A tunnel in the catacombs.

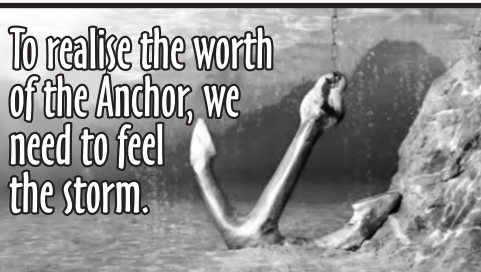
Heard of the catacombs? Yes, they are a maze of burial tunnels beneath the streets and buildings of Rome, some of which have only been discovered in recent decades. The early Christians were persecuted by the Romans. To evade the soldiers, they held their church meetings secretly in the catacombs.

And here's the interesting thing: there are **66 pictures of anchors** carved into the rock walls! One picture shows a ship. You can tell a storm is raging, but the ship is safe, kept so by its solid anchor.

A carving of an anchor found in the catacombs.



To realise the worth of the Anchor, we need to feel the storm.



What does God have in mind for you and me when storms enter our life? Well, here are some example:



#1 He wants to get our attention

That is, everything can be humming along just fine. Let's say that you're a member in good standing in a Bible-believing church, and you're just sort of drifting along and everything's hunky-dory. Yet God has a purpose for your life, and so what does He do? He either sends a storm or allows a storm in your life, because what gets our attention? **Heartache, troubles, trials, dread disease... you name it!**

Remember Jonah? He didn't want to listen when God told him to go to Nineveh, so God sent a storm and Jonah ended up in a fish, which spat him out three days later on the beach at Nineveh, right where God wanted him to be. That's one of the reasons God allows storms in our life. He gets us to listen, or maybe like Jonah He puts us right where we can do what He has in mind. Another big way that God gets our attention is through our passions, the very things we love. The Word says, in Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The beauty of passion is that it's visible to us. When our passion is inflamed, it can influence the people around us and help us do His Will using the talents He gave us.



#2 Because God wants to address some sin in our life

You've allowed something to develop in your life... You know it doesn't belong there, you know it's not pleasing to God, you know it doesn't fit who you are, and so what happens? He sends a storm to get you to listen, to look at your life, and to recognise what's going on in your life that shouldn't be there.

"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." (Romans 8:5)

So!

Is God speaking to you about something in your life?

Remember: you can't run from God! Jonah tried that one and it didn't work.

If God has given you a reminder, He wants you to deal with it. And remember, the longer you hang onto whatever He wants you to get rid of, the stronger the storm is going to become. It may begin with a minor ripple, but it just may end up as a tsunami, for the simple reason that you refuse to acknowledge that God is up to something in your life.



Some people experience their storms deep in themselves, without telling anyone. It's not so much that it's a secret, it's just that there are some things you simply don't talk about. People face those storms, and they face them privately and silently. And yet they're suffering, whether they tell anybody or not.

Some storms last for a brief moment; some just go on and on. The question is: how do you respond? How do you ride through the storms in your life?

● **Just hear what God is saying to you!**

*You must be
DIVORCED
from your sin,
or you cannot be
MARRIED
to Christ.*

Charles H Spurgeon

#3

God wants you to surrender something

He wants you to get rid of something. He wants you to take your hand off something that you're gripping, and gripping very tightly. And He wants you to loosen your grip on it simply because He's got something better for you.

And so, what happens? He sends a storm to get you thinking. He wants you to look at that thing within you and recognise that you're holding on to something He doesn't want you to hold on to.



"Do not desire to be the **PRINCIPAL MAN** in the church. Be lowly. Be humble. The best man in the church is the one who is willing to be the **DOORMAT FOR ALL** to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as **GOD IS GLORIFIED.**"

Charles H Spurgeon

ALL OF US HAVE BEEN THERE. So you can sit there and think that doesn't really apply to me. YES, IT DOES.

We've all been there. The sin of pride for example is an excessive preoccupation with the self and one's own importance, achievements, status or possessions. This sin is considered rebellion against God, because it attributes to oneself the honour and glory that only God is due.

● What are you holding onto that God doesn't approve of?



He wants to conform us to His image

In Romans 12:2 God tells us to stop being conformed to the likeness of the world: "And be ye transformed by the renewing of your heart that you may prove what is the good and perfect will of God".

That is God's ultimate goal: to shape us in the image of His Son.

In his letter to Roman Christians, Paul writes: "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son." (Romans 8:29)
In 1 Timothy 1:5, Paul adds: "The goal of our instruction is love from a **pure heart** and a **good conscience** and a **sincere faith.**"

Divine Guidance will never come to those whose primary goal is not first and foremost to conform to the image of God.



So what does God do?

One **He gets our attention.**

Two **He deals with our sin.**

Three **He brings us to surrender.**

Four **He inspires us to conform to His Image.**

#5 He has a Purpose: He wants to equip us to serve Him



So, I ask, what storms are you going through in life? What is giving you a real hard time right now? What is it that you'd like to change if you could? What is bringing you pain, heartache, suffering and disappointment? And maybe even anger? **Maybe you're even angry at God about something that He has allowed in your life.**

Then ask God: If these are Your Purposes, are You trying to get my attention? **If so, You've got it, I'm all ears!** Is there sin in my life? Show me exactly what it is. What is it You want me to surrender? Or maybe: What do You need to change in my life? God, are You trying to equip me for Your Purpose, to serve You?

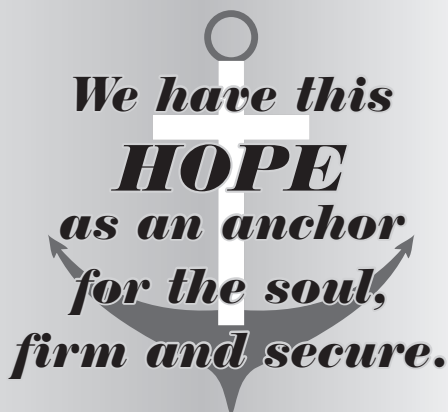


Usually, we don't have to ask Him to show us. We usually know what is the matter. Humble yourself before God, talk less and give God time to speak to you. God wants to speak to you personally, just give Him a chance - and listen!

My dear friend! God has created us for a reason, and there is a meaning and purpose for your life. And because we believe that, there is nothing more important for you than finding out what that purpose is! God's purpose is one and the same, whether He revealed it during His earthly life, speaking to the paralysed or the disciples, or whether He is speaking to us today. Get busy for the Lord! (I'm paraphrasing James 1:22.) Life is about letting God use you for His Purposes, not you using Him for your purpose.



*Here is some gentle
encouragement from
God's Word.
It is from
Hebrews 6:19:*



The Conclusion



You've read this tract and hopefully understood it aright, because Jesus does not allow His hearers to make of His Words what they will, picking and choosing from them whatever they find helpful, and testing them to see if they work. Jesus knows only one possibility: **simple surrender and obedience**. Not interpreting it or applying it, but **doing and obeying** it. That is the only way to hear His Word.

- The storm can rage over the house, yet our Anchor will hold in the storms of life which His Word have created.

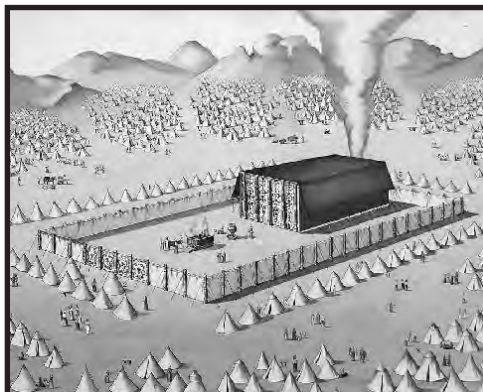
Jesus has spoken, His is the Word, ours is the obedience.

#20

Christ in the Old Testament



A Reconstruction of the Tabernacle



The Tabernacle was the one and only place where God witnessed and testified to Israel their duty and responsibility to Him. It was a place set up by Moses under God's direction to house the system of law and sacrifice that was in place at the time of the Old Testament.

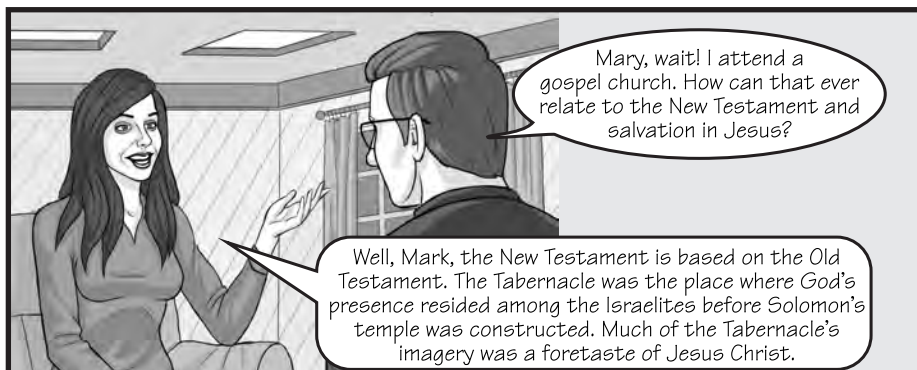
- This is where God promised to live among his people.

*** We trust this tract will motivate you to study this beautiful subject further!**

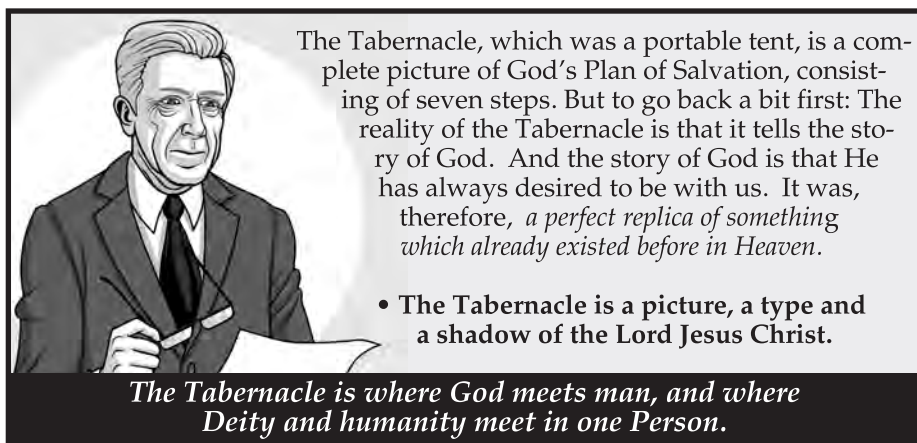
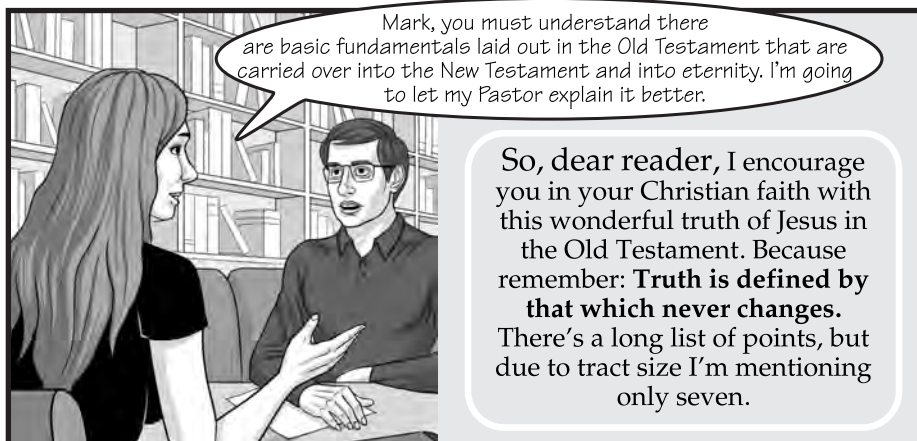


Mary, I see your church teaches that the **Tabernacle** forms part of Christian beliefs. Please explain!

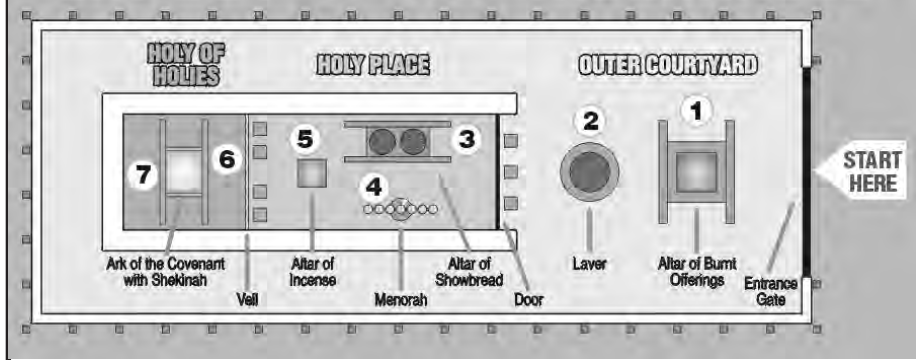
Yes, Mark, that's true. The Tabernacle is a fundamental tenet of the Christian faith. All mainline churches believe it (though they may not teach it). The Bible says the Tabernacle is connected all the way to the most Holy Place in Heaven!



The Tabernacle was full of symbols of Jesus in the New Testament. From the fence surrounding it to what went on inside, every element of the Tabernacle was there for a reason.



LAY-OUT OF THE TABERNACLE



1

First we see the Altar of Burnt Offering.



As *Sinners outside*, we begin by entering through the door. We stop at the altar. The altar is the Cross, the starting point of our experience of Salvation. As we enter, bear in mind the Tabernacle was a *temporary means* to establish God as the true God, while the *eternal purpose* was to establish Jesus as the **ultimate sacrifice**.

Every detail of the Tabernacle, therefore, points to some aspect of the Person and work of our Saviour.

The Altar of Burnt Offering was one of the most prominent features in the courtyard of the Tabernacle.

Its central location is significant, for it reminded Israelite worshippers that access to God depended on the efficacy of the various kinds of sacrifices offered on it. These sacrifices were vital for ensuring that sinful, defiled people could approach God's holy Presence in safety.

The altar was situated between the entrance to the courtyard and the doorway that led into the Holy Place of the Sanctuary. *No one could come into God's Presence without first encountering this important altar.*

It follows we can approach God only through Jesus.

2

Next: Separation and daily cleansing at the Laver.



The priests washed in the **Laver of Bronze** before entering the Holy Place. The Laver was a wash basin used by priests in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, as a place where they cleansed their hands and feet.

- **Moses had received these instructions from God. The New Testament says in Acts 2:46: "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the Temple..."**



The Christian life is a daily matter.



Deeper Meaning of the Laver of Bronze

Throughout the Bible, water represents cleansing. Believers today continue to enter the Waters of Baptism to identify with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection, and as a symbol of the inner cleansing and newness of life wrought by the Blood of Jesus at Calvary.

- **The washing at the Laver of Bronze foreshadowed the New Testament act of baptism and speaks of new birth and new life.**

John the Baptist baptised in the Baptism of Repentance.



3

Entering into the Fellowship of the Word at the Table



The **Altar of Showbread** is the outer, the visible part of our personality. The body corresponds to the court of the Tabernacle (Romans 12:1-2). It is the place of sacrifice.

"Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

The soul answers to the Holy Place, the place of worship, and enjoys fellowship with other believers, feeding about the table, walking in the light, interceding for others.

The Holy Place is the place of **worship** and **fellowship** with other believers. Today Christians observe communion, partaking of consecrated bread to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross. The Table of Showbread in Israel's worship pointed forward to the future Messiah and His fulfilment of the Covenant. The practice of communion in fellowship/ worship today points back in remembrance of Christ's victory over death on the cross. This is the symbolic meaning of the Showbread when Jesus said in John 6:35: "I am the bread of life."

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's Will is - His good, pleasing and perfect Will.
(Romans 12:1&2)

4

Walk in the Light of the Golden Candlestick



The Golden Candlestick (Menorah):

Our next stop is where we learn to walk in the light.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.
(1 John 1:7)

Symbolism of the Golden Candlestick or Menorah

In the courtyard outside the tabernacle tent, all items were made of common bronze, but inside the tent, close to God, they were of pure and precious gold, symbolising deity and holiness. God let the Menorah resemble almond branches for a reason. The almond tree blooms very early in the Middle East, in late January or February. Its Hebrew root word, *shaked*, means to *hasten*, telling the Israelites that God is quick to fulfil His promises.

Jesus also compared His followers to light: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV)

5

Power in Prayer at the Altar of Incense



Only now comes Power in Prayer at the Incense Altar

The burning of the incense was symbolic of the prayer of the people rising up to God (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4). The offering of incense had to take place after the sacrifice, because only after the atonement could communion with God take place.

*** *The same applies in the life of a Christian.* ***



For we may draw near in the name of Christ, our Great High Priest. He is not merely our advocate, however; He Himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 2:2). Although incense was an essential part of the worship at the Tabernacle and Temple, it is no longer required for new covenant worship.

In the new Temple, the church, the old priestly ritual has been replaced by what it symbolised, the prayers of the saints. (Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4)

May our thankful prayers rise daily before God, like incense.

6

Now we are ready to enter the Holy of Holies



At last we are ready to enter the **Holy of Holies** - the highest service of the Tabernacle - personal power and communion in our innermost life.

The Holy of Holies was the innermost chamber in the wilderness Tabernacle, a room so sacred only one person could enter it, and then on only one day out of the entire year.

The Veil: the Rent Curtain

The veil in the temple was a constant reminder that sin renders humanity unfit for the presence of God.

The fact that the sin offering was offered annually while countless other sacrifices were repeated daily, showed graphically that sin could not truly be atoned for or erased by mere animal sacrifices. Jesus Christ, through His death, has removed the barriers between God and man, and now we may approach Him with confidence and boldness. (Hebrews 4, 14-16)



7

We reach perfect Rest and Peace

Thus we reach **perfect rest and peace** at the blood-sprinkled mercy seat in the shadow of the Cherubim.

- **Perfect Rest** means freedom from whatever worries you may have, or whatever disturbs you.
- **Perfect Rest does not mean** freedom from all nuisances and hassles; it means freedom from being so easily bothered by them.



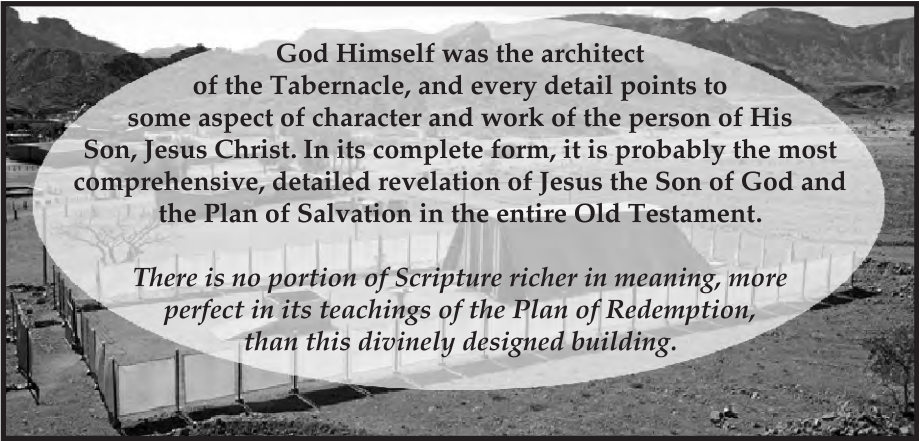
To enter God's Perfect Rest means to be at peace with God, to possess the perfect peace He gives us. **It means to be free** from guilt and even unnecessary feelings of guilt.

It means freedom from worry about sin, **because your sin is forgiven.**

God's rest is the end of legalistic works and the experience of peace in the total forgiveness of God.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)





God Himself was the architect of the Tabernacle, and every detail points to some aspect of character and work of the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. In its complete form, it is probably the most comprehensive, detailed revelation of Jesus the Son of God and the Plan of Salvation in the entire Old Testament.

There is no portion of Scripture richer in meaning, more perfect in its teachings of the Plan of Redemption, than this divinely designed building.



You see, Mark, God loves you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to suffer and die for your sins. The Son then rose from the grave - defeating Death.

The Law is fulfilled, making it properly valid for the first time.

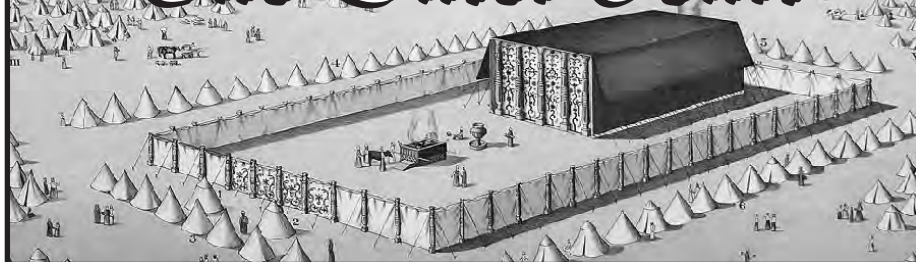
So, Mark, the message of the Tabernacle is the good news of Christ crucified, buried and risen again for our redemption. Put more clearly: **The Tabernacle is actually a picture of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament.**

*All the riches of the world
are not of sufficient value to
redeem one perishing soul.*

E G White

#21

THE TABERNACLE #1: The Outer Court



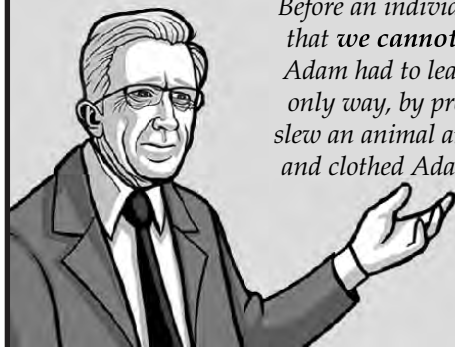
Mary, you remember that first tract on the Tabernacle?



Yes, Mark, I remember it very well! You were a bit unsure then about the whole matter, so I spoke to the pastors and they agreed to do another three tracts to explain this beautiful subject in more detail.

This is the first of the Tabernacle Tracts. It expands on the introduction and especially the Tabernacle's outer court. I assure you everything in these tracts is Bible-based and all facts stated here can easily be verified by reading the book of Exodus and by reference to the New Testament.

So let's begin with the basics



Before an individual can be saved, he/she must learn that we cannot save ourselves. In the beginning Adam had to learn this lesson. God showed him the only way, by providing His own remedy, when He slew an animal and took the skin of the bloody victim and clothed Adam and his wife, Eve (Genesis 3:21).

- A blood sacrifice has always been God's requirement for the forgiveness of sin.

This same order is followed in the giving of the Tabernacle to Israel in the wilderness.



The record of its construction is found in Exodus 35-40. However, this was preceded by the giving of the Law of God; also by a repetition of the story of the giving of the Law. Then follows the sad record of Israel's miserable failure in the worship of the golden calf. **Before Moses brought down the Two**

Tablets of the Law, Israel had already broken God's holy law and they were under the judgement of God.

Realising that Israel could be saved not by keeping the Law, but only by the blood of a sacrifice, Moses built an altar "and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the Lord" (Exodus 24:5-7).

So that's our introduction. Had Moses brought only the law when he came down from the mountain, we would all have ended right there in total destruction. Yet here's the Good News: In addition to the Law, Moses brought back something else: **the instructions to build the Tabernacle.**

The Tabernacle: God's answer to the broken law, God's answer to the judgement of deserving sinners, God's wonderful plan of salvation! **And that is exactly what we're talking about in these tracts.**



*God gave to Israel through Moses in the mountain two things: **The Law and the Tabernacle.***

- 1 The Law to show the dreadfulness of sin.*
- 2 The Tabernacle to show God's way out for the guilty who have broken God's Law.*

The Law is first, to show us how far short we have come, and to convince us of our total corruption. And then, and then only, are we ready for the message of grace as clearly laid out in the Tabernacle.

- *Paul explains this in his letter to Titus.*





"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin: He condemned sin in the flesh." (Romans 8:3)

The Tabernacle was surrounded by a white linen fence, the purpose being to keep man out. **The pure white linen speaks of God's perfect righteousness.** This fence bars the sinner from coming to God until the matter of sin has been taken care of. The fence separated the camp of Israel from the presence of the Lord. It represented the law. In other words, it said:



But in His love and mercy God provided a way for the sinner, a door, whereby he could approach from the outside and enter into communion and fellowship with God. **This door is the Gospel.**



The Door

At the eastern end of this linen enclosure was a wide gate, which gave admission to the Tabernacle, where God dwelt.

The curtain for the entrance to the courtyard was made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn on finely twisted white linen - the work of an embroiderer. It was twenty cubits long and, like the curtains of the courtyard, five cubits high. (Exodus 38:18)

- **In today's measurements, the curtain was just under ten metres long and about two and a half metres high.**

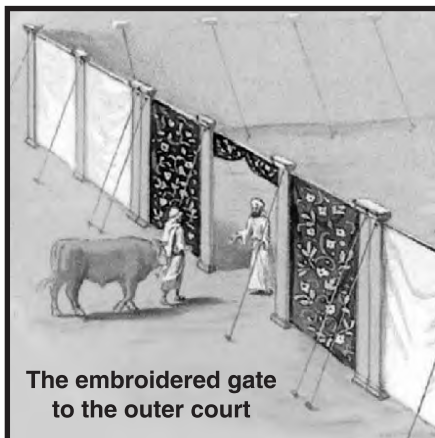
I have gone into some detail before we enter the outer court (which is the subject of this tract). The point here is to illustrate the setting and background in which the Tabernacle was given to Israel, the Tabernacle being God's revelation of His plan of salvation by grace.

God must first convince the sinner of his or her total corruption. Only then is the sinner ready for the message of grace, and may he or she enter via the gospel gate.

Before we enter the Gospel gate, we must realise our sinful state and come to terms with it.



CONVICTION * CONVERSION * CONSECRATION



The embroidered gate to the outer court

So now we enter the gate to the outer court. This was the only opening in the linen fence, and the only way of approach to the Tabernacle.

The door points to Jesus Christ, who many years later said: "I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

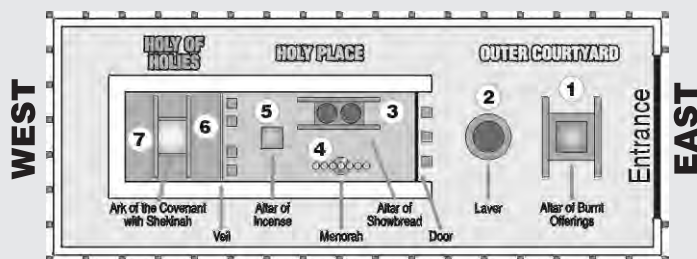
- **Then in John 14:6 He says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."**

The first of the seven items of furnishing in the Tabernacle: the altar of burnt offering



The Tabernacle gate of the court was easy to find and open to any repentant Israelite who wanted to enter and seek forgiveness for his sin.

Today, Christ is the Gate to eternal life, welcoming all who seek heaven through Him. And when the sinner enters that door, he is firstly faced with the altar of burnt offering, symbol of the cross where the Lord Jesus made atonement for our sin.



Like all the other elements of the Tabernacle, this east gate of the court was rich with meaning.

God ordered that, when the Tabernacle was set up, the gate was always to be on the east end, opening to the west. **Going west symbolises moving toward God.** Going east symbolises going away from God. The gate on the Garden of Eden was also on the east side (Genesis 3:24).

The Tabernacle excluded all those who refused to enter by the one and only door. The linen fence barred access to the sinner as long as he had one single sin upon him. As long as there was a single spot of imperfection in his being, he was prohibited from approaching the Tabernacle; he was barred by the perfect demand of God's holy righteousness and God's holy law.

Access could only be gained by coming by faith through the door and appropriating the blood of the substitute slain upon the altar. Then the sinner could be truly be said to be "in Christ".

Symbolically, in the outer court, where the Jewish people were allowed, all of the elements were made of brass or bronze; in the holy areas the elements were made of pure gold.

Next, the sinner visits the brass laver of cleansing. The laver symbolises separation from sin by washing, that is cleansing through the water of the Word.

The seven items of furniture in the Tabernacle speak of God's perfect provision for believers who are *in Christ*. (Seven is the number of perfection.)

The second item of furnishing: the laver



I trust therefore that you get the picture which God seeks to provide through these symbols and passages: the **Law** to show the awfulness of sin and man's desperate failure; the **Tabernacle** to show God's way out for the guilty ones who had broken His holy law.

God first gave the Law, which speaks of God's justice, holiness, condemnation of sin and penalty of death. "For by the law is the knowledge of sin." But the Lord knew in advance of Israel's failure. He foresaw their need of the blood. He knew they could not keep the holy law, and so He gave them the Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle speaks of mercy, pardon, redemption and salvation for all who admit they could not save themselves by their own efforts, but only by keeping the law.

One Gospel, One Door, Four Authors



You remember earlier we spoke of the Gospel Door with needlework of purple, scarlet and blue on a background of white linen? God in His wisdom presented us with this one Gospel penned by four human authors:

Matthew, being a Jew, wrote particularly to Israel concerning the King of Israel. *Purple*, the colour of royalty, represents this message. **Mark** was a Roman and wrote for the Romans concerning the suffering servant, hence the *scarlet*, the colour of imperial Rome. **Luke** was a Greek and wrote to the rational Greek mind, in the most beautiful, perfect Greek: represented by pure *white*. **John**, as the representative of the Christian church, wrote of the heavenly character of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God. *Blue* represents the Gospel.

So I ask you, Dear Friend:

Have you come by the way of the one and only door? The Gospel! We remind you again that there are many false doors that may appear good and attractive, and may well be appealing to the flesh, but they are only the way of death.

In these last days of much deception, with many appealing voices, we need to come only with the *Thus saith the Lord*, and remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:4: "Take heed that no man deceive you."

**Come to Jesus, come today, He will take your sins away;
Come, o come, why do you wait?**

Therefore we again point out that there is only one Door - the Door of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King, the Servant, the Man, the God of the universe.

There is no other way to God than by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus says Himself: "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber." (John 10:1)

In ending this first of the three tracts concerning the Tabernacle, I quote from Hebrews 9:19-22: "When Moses had proclaimed every command of the Law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. He said, 'This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep.' In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the Tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies."

- In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.



*“A fool thinks himself to be wise,
but a wise man knows himself
to be a fool.”*

William Shakespeare

#22

THE TABERNACLE #2:

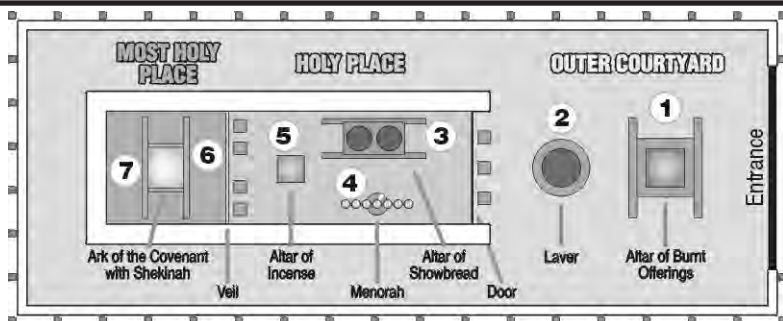
The Holy Place

The Holy Place

The **Holy Place**, the middle part of the Tabernacle tent, was a room where priests conducted rituals to honour God.

The Holy Place measured 9 m long, 4.5 m wide and 4.5 m high. It was separated from the Most Holy Place by a beautiful veil made of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, hanging from five golden pillars.

LAYOUT OF THE TABERNACLE



Of the Tabernacle's seven pieces of furniture, two were in the Outer Court, three in the Holy Place and two in the Most Holy Place, or Holy of Holies (the subject of Tract #3). In the Bible, seven is the number of perfection.



As described in the previous tract, as we enter the Tabernacle we first encounter the Altar of Burnt Offerings, immediately within the gate. This altar points to the Cross, symbol of our Saviour's sacrifice on our behalf.



Then we come to the brass Laver or wash basin. The Laver symbolises separation from the world and from the flesh, and from the things that defile us, by cleansing through the water of the Word. (*Baptism in the New Covenant.*)

NOW WE ENTER THE HOLY PLACE

1 First we approach the Table of Showbread, the place of *fellowship*. In John 6:35 Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty." Later, in verse 51, He adds, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this Bread will live forever. This Bread is My Flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." On the table of showbread (on pure gold plates), Aaron and his sons placed twelve loaves of bread made from fine flour. Also called *bread of the presence*, the loaves were arranged in two stacks of six, with frankincense sprinkled on each stack.



2 “*Ye are the light of the world*”

Jesus said: "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

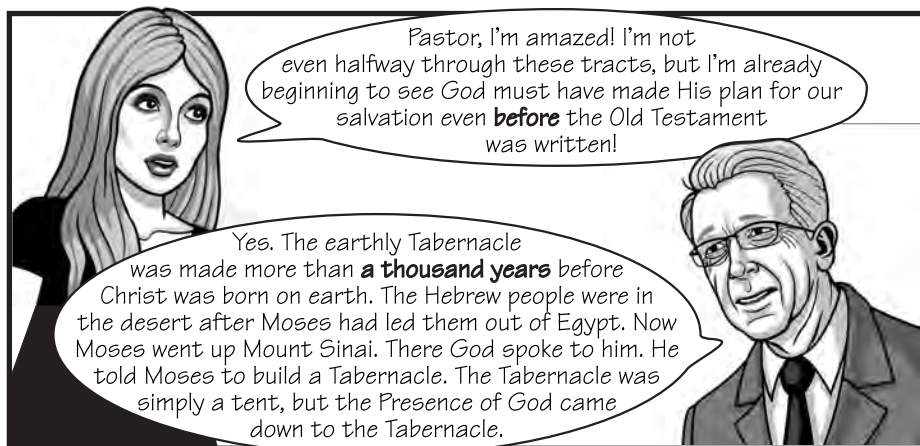
After the Showbread, we arrive at the candlestick, the Candelabra, fed by the oil of the Holy Spirit and representing *testimony*. We who have been **saved** by the



blood at the Altar of Offerings, **washed** by the Word at the Laver, **brought into fellowship** at the Table, **nourished** by the Word of God, **are now ready to let our light shine as a testimony.**

Next we arrive at the golden Incense Altar, standing directly in front of the veil closing off the Most Holy Place. This altar is the symbol of *prayer and intercession*. Sweet-smelling smoke from the incense represented the people's prayers ascending to God. Burning this incense was a *continuous* act, just as we are to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

- Fundamentally, this altar speaks of our Saviour constantly interceding with God on our behalf as our High Priest in heaven.



The greatest artist who ever lived could create a wonderful painting of Mount Everest that beautifully captures the grandeur and towering majesty of this tremendous mountain. Even so, despite the artist's best efforts, the painting would never be as overwhelming as the original.

However, this doesn't mean we should ignore the painting - it can still teach and inspire us. So, too, the Tabernacle: it is a copy and shadow of the heavenly original, but still gives us a complete picture of God's plan of salvation. (Yet some good preachers ignore the teaching of the Tabernacle!) While still living on this physical plane, there is nothing more important and nothing that will more provide a life of abundance and fulfilment than obeying God's laws, His Teachings as He has given them to us in His Word. Teaching that is laid out in seven steps in the Tabernacle!

Mount Everest



The very fact that the teachings of the Tabernacle are a reflection of God's Mind and the truth as it exists in the heavens, should be more than enough motivational fuel to spur us on to obedience.

Another reason the physical world is inferior to the spiritual world is that the physical world is forced to operate under the constraints of space, time and the laws of physics.

God's heaven knows no such limitations!

So please let's be clear and avoid any misunderstanding!

THE TABERNACLE TEACHING CONNECTS TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

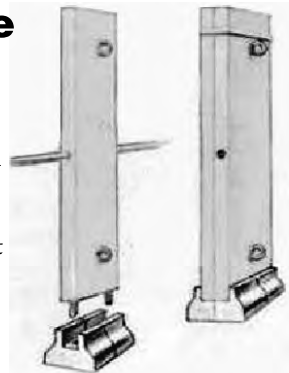
"But what they are serving is only a copy and a shadow of the heavenly original; for when Moses was about to erect the Tabernacle, God warned him: 'See to it that you make everything according to the pattern you were shown on the mountain'." (Hebrews 8:5)



Now Back to the Tabernacle

The Foundation of Blood

The sections comprising the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place had a foundation of 100 blocks of silver, each block weighing about 45 kg, a total foundation of silver weighing about 4.5 tons! These 100 blocks of silver were arranged in a rectangle. In each silver block was a socket into which was fitted an upright acacia board, to form the walls of the Tabernacle. **Everything depends upon this foundation - all of it rests on this one base.** The silver for this foundation was furnished by the children of Israel, who carried it out of the land of Egypt.



The gold-plated acacia wall panels fitting into their silver sockets.

The Most Costly Building ever!

Exodus 30 explains how this vast amount of silver was to be procured. Verse 11-13 and 15: Then the Lord said to Moses, *"When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the Lord a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. Each one who crosses over to those already counted, is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the Lord. The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the Lord to atone for your lives."*



A Note on the Atonement Money

Silver in this context is *atonement money*, which was required of every Israelite, no exceptions. Failure to pay the silver required for the foundation of the Tabernacle meant death and cutting off from the assembly of Israel. However, it was a purely nominal amount, within the reach of all, and, significantly, rich and poor paid exactly the same price! Despite the sum being so small, ultimately it amounted to nearly five tons of silver.

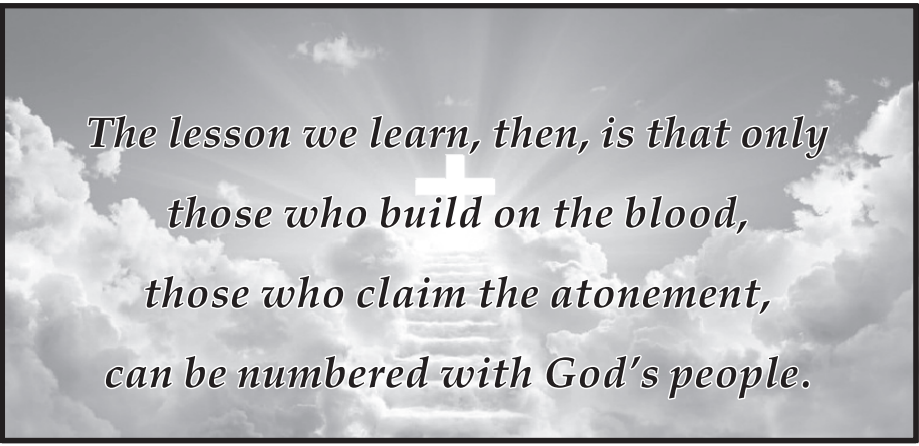
Silver in the Bible speaks of atonement, and this atonement is always to be by blood. And so we find that the silver foundation upon which the Tabernacle rested, meant that it was built upon the atoning blood of a Substitute, the blood of the Lamb.

The coins collected by Moses from all the adult males in Israel was used to make 100 sockets of silver. This is recorded in Exodus 38:25 and 27: "The silver obtained from those of the community who were counted in the census was 100 talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel - one *beka* per person, that is, half a shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, from everyone who had crossed over to those counted, twenty years old or more, a total of 603,550 men. [...] The 100 talents of silver were used to cast the bases for the sanctuary and for the curtain - 100 bases from the 100 talents, one talent for each base."



So the Tabernacle rested entirely upon a foundation of silver collected from the children of Israel. Silver, therefore, becomes in the Bible a symbol and a figure of the price of atonement. As there is no atonement without blood, this silver points to the blood, the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silver as atonement money is a recurring theme in the Bible. Many years after the Tabernacle in the wilderness, King David was painfully reminded that there can be no numbering of the people without the atonement money. In 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 we have the record of David's great sin. He commanded the people to be numbered and over the objection of Joab ordered a census; but the failure to collect the half shekel of silver resulted in the death of 70,000 of the men of Israel.



*The lesson we learn, then, is that only
those who build on the blood,
those who claim the atonement,
can be numbered with God's people.*



*People don't like the idea of consequences.
They want to be able to live their life freely
and do what they want to do without
any consequences. And we know that's
just not the way life is.*



Dr Charles Stanley



*Where you are today is no accident.
God is using the situation you are in right now
to shape you and prepare you for the place
He wants to bring you into tomorrow.
Trust Him with His plan even if
you don't understand it.*

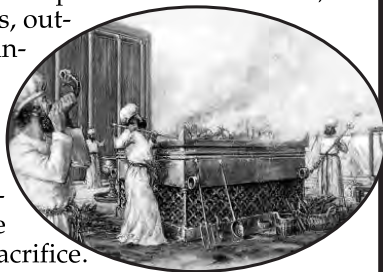


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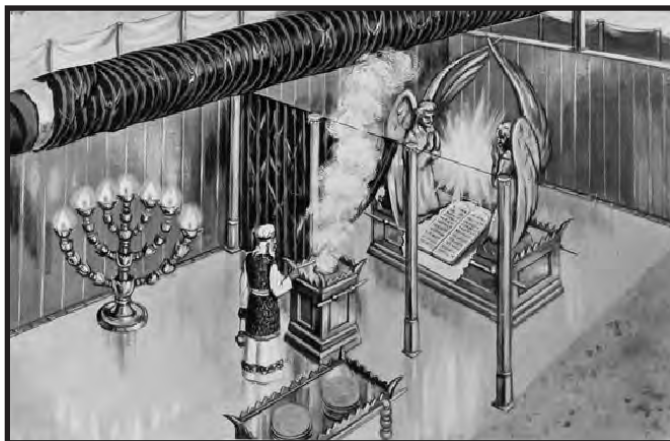
#23



Now our journey has taken us to the Most Holy Place, also called the Holy of Holies in scripture when it was in use in the Old Covenant. It is the innermost of the Tabernacle's three compartments. Remember, we started outside the Tabernacle as sinners, outside of the Lord Jesus Christ, faced by the unappealing rectangular tent, which is all the unbeliever can see in Christ. He recognises Him as the white linen fence, a good man, but no more. He may even admire Christ, but he does not know Him. But then we entered the door by faith, and came before the altar, and on it a bleeding, slain animal of sacrifice.



● **It was the Cross, and there salvation became ours.**



The Most Holy Place was separated from the Holy Place by the Veil, a heavy, embroidered curtain barring the entrance to the Holy of Holies.



The Ark of the Covenant, a gold-plated, oblong box, stood behind the Veil in the Tabernacle's innermost room, the Most Holy Place, the Holy of Holies. The room was a perfect cube 4.5 m high, wide and long. In the Ark were the Tables of the Law - the Law which Israel had broken. The Broken Law demanded judgement and death for the transgressors.

The Law could not *save*, it could only *condemn*, it could only *reveal sin*.

The Ark of the Covenant was one of the most instrumental symbols of faith and God's Presence. It contained the Tablets of the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna and the rod of Aaron.

- Deut. 10:1-2 describes the Tablets of the Ten Commandments that are inside the Ark. Then read Deut. 31:24-27, which describes other laws that are specifically outside the Ark.



"Have them make an ark of acacia wood - two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold moulding around it. Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you." (Exodus 25:10, 11, 16)

- A provision must be made whereby sin can be removed before man can escape the condemnation of death and the judgement of a broken law. This would be fulfilled in the *Mercy Seat*, a perfect picture of Jesus Christ as our Redeemer.

What does the Mercy Seat look like?

According to the biblical account (Exodus 25:19; 37:6), the Mercy Seat was the lid of the Ark, covering its contents. It was made of pure gold with the same dimensions as the ark beneath it, 2.5 cubits long and 1.5 cubits wide.

And it was 'crowned' with two cherubim or angels, their wings outstretched, symbols of God's holiness.



The Mercy Seat: God's merciful provision for us

God instructed the Mercy Seat to be made to provide for the removal of our sin, so we escape the condemnation of death and the judgement of the broken Law. The Mercy Seat was placed over the Ark, covering the broken Law, interposing between it and God. It becomes, therefore, a perfect picture of the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Redeemer...

"... Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His Blood." Romans 3:25

A reminder: After meeting the Christ of Calvary at the altar of Burnt Offering, we came to the Laver of Cleansing and Separation by the Word of God.

And now, having been cleansed by the Blood of Christ and thus separated by the Word of the living God, we are ready to enter into fellowship with other believers, as we enter into the Holy Place. Here we see the priests assembled together for worship, representing the assembly of the saints of God, to feed upon Christ the Living Word, and to offer the incense of our prayers in Christ's Name.

At this point of our journey into the Tabernacle we are ready for the next and final step. Yet before we can enter the Most Holy Place, we are faced by a problem: the way is barred completely by a heavy curtain. Only the priest may enter once a year on the day of atonement with the precious shed blood taken from the altar of Burnt Offering. For him to enter at any other time or without blood meant immediate death.



- The Tabernacle had three compartments: the place of sacrifice (the outer court), the place of worship (the Holy Place), and the Holy of Holies, the place of communion with God and victory in Christ.

Here we have a tremendous statement that shines light on the purpose of the Tabernacle service. Note the New Covenant meaning of the Veil which hung between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies: It speaks of the divine humility of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was perfect and kept God's law in every detail. God will not and cannot admit anyone into His Presence who is not absolutely perfect. The Veil, representing the body of Christ in His perfect humanity according to Hebrews, hung between us and God as a sign saying **NO ADMITTANCE**.

"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His Spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split." (Matthew 27:50, 51)

Yes, the Veil, strongly woven as it was, was completely torn, from the top to the bottom, *not* from the bottom to the top. It was not the work of man, but the work of Almighty God. The Lord Himself was satisfied with the offering which Christ made of Himself upon the Cross of Calvary, and when He cried, "It is finished!", God was completely reconciled. With the Veil rent through Christ's Sacrifice, the Way is open, and we now have full and free access to the very Presence of God.

- The question of sin is forever settled.





Let us us be clear about the rent veil and its meaning.

The entire concept of grace can't exist if we don't do wrong. In that event all the texts about grace are nullified. Similarly, the concept of forgiveness cannot exist if there is no wrongdoing .

We are saved by God's grace as clearly outlined in the Tabernacle teaching.

But then again, how we live is a product of our connection with Jesus.



“Without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

(Hebrews 9:22)

Our redemption has been bought at a precious price.

The price was the blood of the Son of God, for the Tabernacle's silver foundation was merely a **type** of the blood of Jesus our Saviour.

- **Paul tells us: “You are bought with a price.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)**

So how does this matter of the Old Testament relate in practical terms to the gospel preacher?

I mean, many gospel preachers totally ignore the teaching of God's law, so how do we relate to that teaching? Well, a common mistake made by many good Bible preachers is to claim we can be saved by Christ's Salvation and so be free from the Law and the teachings of the Tabernacle.

- **Such teaching creates enthusiasm, yet neglects to address the foundation of truth found in this wonderful treasure of the Tabernacle.**



So what are the symbols of the New Testament church relating to the Tabernacle?

The Tabernacle is a picture of three things: 1 Christ
2 Salvation
3 The Church

The blood of Christ obtained eternal redemption for us. The services in the Tabernacle needed to be repeated continually, from day to day, and from year to year. The priest entering into the Tabernacle by the blood at the altar points to the Lord Jesus as He entered the heavenly Tabernacle.

In Hebrews 9:11 & 12 we read...

“But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, He went through the greater and more perfect Tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.”

The Tabernacle in the old covenant fully relates to the heavenly, more perfect Tabernacle.

Hebrews 10:4, 11, 12, 14:

“It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, for by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”

In conclusion—

Let's gather up the teaching of this important fact of the silver foundation of the Tabernacle. **Remember that it was made from the atonement money received from the children of Israel.**

This was a shadow of the price of redemption,
the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.



But this atonement of one half shekel had to be given individually. Each man had to bring his own half shekel, the rich and the poor alike.

It was an *individual* responsibility.

And salvation, my friend, is also a personal, individual matter.

The crucial message of these three Tabernacle tracts can be summarised as follows:

- #1** God's Law and the Ten Commandments remain valid in the New Testament and apply to us today.
- #2** The Tabernacle in the Old Testament is a picture of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- #3** The demands of the Law have been met in the Rent Veil and the Blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- #4** Salvation cannot be achieved by obeying the Law - obedience is always a gift, which we receive when we are called to follow Him.

*When you are enthusiastic
about what you do,
you feel this positive energy.
It's very simple.*

Paulo Coelho

#24

Daniel: The amazing truth of his prophecies

If you are not a Christian or a Bible believer, I challenge you to read this tract, as it provides truths about Daniel's prophecies which are impossible to deny or disprove.



This tract is based on four verses from Daniel 9.

If you are sceptical, I am sure that the logical truth presented here will fully dispel any doubts you may have! These Bible verses reveal three things:

- 1 **The Bible is the truth;**
- 2 **Christ is Divine; and**
- 3 **Daniel's prophecy is reliable.**

OK, so let's start with Daniel 9:24. What we will demonstrate is that Jesus is the Messiah of the world, and that the Bible is trustworthy.

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins.

DANIEL 9:24

Who were these people? They were Daniel's people, the Jewish nation, and the city was Jerusalem. The Jewish nation were captives in Babylon and Daniel wanted his people to go free and rebuild the city of Jerusalem, and this is what he was praying for.

**70 Prophetic (Symbolic) Weeks x 7 (days per week) =
490 Prophetic (Symbolic) Days = 490 Literal Years**

Daniel 8:14 prophesies an event which will take place 2,300 years later. The 70 prophetic weeks of Daniel 9:24 were cut off from this prophecy and applies specifically to the Jewish nation.

In biblical prophecy a day represents a year, so the 70 prophetic weeks, or 490 prophetic days, in fact means 490 actual years.

What is the evidence that a *prophetic day* means a *prophetic year*? We find that in Ezekiel 4:6: "I have laid on you a day for each year."



In Bible prophecy one prophetic day equals one literal year, a formula we find throughout Scripture, not only in the book of Ezekiel. A good example occurs in Numbers 14, when the children of Israel spied out the land and came back with a negative report. God made us a prediction (Numbers 14:34): "According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection."

When do these 490 literal years begin? Is there a mathematical proof that Christ is the Messiah? And is there proof that this prophecy was fulfilled exactly as the Bible said it would be?

- **There is! Just look at the 490 years that's cut off from the 2,300 years of Daniel 8:14.**

**Time Period prophesied (Daniel 8:14):
2,300 days, equalling 2,300 years.**

Divided between Jews and Gentiles:

Part 1: Jews = 490 years

Part 2: Gentiles = 1,810 years

Part one applies to the Jews, **part two** to the Gentiles or 'God's people'.

So how do we know the principle that a biblical day equals a literal year applies to this prophecy?

There are two ways:

- 1 The events that the prophecy envisages are exact.
- 2 When prophetic symbolism is embedded in Bible prophecy, the days are not *literal* days, but *prophetic* days; yet when the Bible mentions a day, a day is a day - the seven days of creation are seven literal days.

- **However, in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation the day-equals-a-year principle applies.**

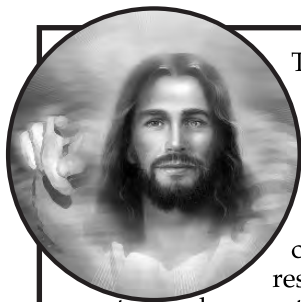
Let's check Daniel 9:24 again: "Seventy weeks (that is, 490 years) are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins."

In other words, God was giving the Jewish nation a 490 year period of probation, where they would come to repentance as a nation. And then it says *to make an end of sins*, meaning to end their rebellion against God.

*"If My people,
who are called by My
name, will humble them-
selves and pray and seek My
face and turn from their wick-
ed ways, then I will hear from
heaven and I will forgive
their sin and will heal
their land."*

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

**And if during that time an event
were to happen, what would it be?**



The Messiah would come to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring an everlasting righteousness, to confirm the vision in prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy.

So when Jesus came to usher in everlasting righteousness, as the prophecy says, He confirmed the covenant with His blood. And after His death and resurrection He ascended into heaven to enter into the sanctuary above as the high priest did on the inauguration of the earthly sanctuary (the Tabernacle), to begin His work in the holy place.



So Daniel outlines this fact - that the Messiah would come - and that He would come in accordance with this 490 year time line.



2,300 Years Prophecy

490 YEARS

2,300 YEARS

WHEN DOES THIS PROPHECY COMMENCE?

As shown here, 70 weeks out of the 2,300 years are cut off for Daniel's people - this period of probation is for the Jewish nation as a whole to repent. And during this time the Messiah will come.

So when does this prophecy begin? In verse 25 Daniel assures us: **"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks..."**

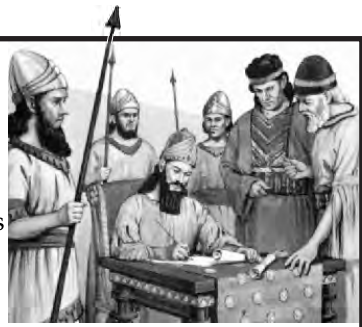


PIETER LASTMAN
(DETAIL)

This explanation was given to Daniel by an angel. When an angel tells one to know something, or to understand something, it must be incredibly important. This crucial prophecy begins at a command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. The Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar had attacked Jerusalem in 605 BC and again in 587 BC. The city was devastated and the temple destroyed. And so here the prophecy says: "Know therefore from the going forth to restore and build Jerusalem..."

- From the day that command goes forth, that's when this prophecy begins.

History tells us three commands or decrees were issued, the first by Cyrus, the second by Darius and the third by Artaxerxes. The first and second decree did not restore Israel as a nation, they merely allowed some of the Jews to go back. Many, though, didn't. It was the decree of Artaxerxes that would enable the Jewish nation to be restored as a nation and to allow worship to take place. Funding was provided so that the temple and city could be rebuilt. The temple wasn't totally ruined, but it needed extensive repairs. Artaxerxes also provided safe passage for the Jews.



We find Artaxerxes's decree in Ezra 7:11-26. I quote Ezra 11-17:

This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the Lord for Israel: Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, teacher of the Law of the God of heaven:

Greetings.

Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who volunteer to go to Jerusalem with you, may go. You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem. With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem. You and your fellow Israelites may then do whatever seems best with the rest of the silver and gold, in accordance with the will of your God.

*So what year was this, does the Bible tell us?
Yes, it says 'in the seventh year of Artaxerxes'.*



Historical records enable us to determine this year precisely.

Artaxerxes I was the fifth king of kings of the Achaemenid Empire, from 465 to December 424 BC. He was the third son of Xerxes I.

● **So the seventh year of his reign was 457 BC.**

Relief of Artaxerxes I at his tomb at Naqsh-e Rostam (Wikipedia)

The prophecy thus begins in 457 BC. Sixty-nine prophetic weeks from that time the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come. (*Messiah* means 'the anointed one'.) It is the answer to Daniel's prayer.

Let's look at Daniel 9:25 again:

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks..."

2,300 Years Prophecy (457 BC):

490 YEARS

2,300 YEARS

Let's do the math!

70 WEEKS:

69 PROPHETIC WEEKS

x7 DAYS PER WEEK

= 483 PROPHETIC DAYS

● *We'll explain the missing week later.*

483

-26

457

69 weeks/483 years of the 70 weeks from 457 BC forward on the time line would take us to the coming of the Messiah. In fact, it takes us from when Artaxerxes issued his decree to restore and build Jerusalem not to the Messiah's birth, but to His anointing or His baptism. This is because in history, when moving from BC to AD, there is no year nil (-1 BC to 1 AD is only one year), so we end up with the year 27 AD. The Bible tells us clearly what happened in that year.

Luke 3:1: "Now in the fifteenth year in the reign of Tiberius Caesar..."
Roman historians tell us that was 27 AD, exactly as per the prophecy.

- **But you might ask: if Jesus was 30 when He was baptised, how then could that be in the year 27 AD?**

Luke 3:21: "When all the people were baptised, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptised." *Just when was this?*

We know Jesus was 30 years old at His baptism, which happened in 27 AD. Jesus was not born in the year zero - He was born about 4 BC. How do we know that? Matthew tells us (Matthew 2) that Herod consulted with the wise men, so he must still have been alive when Jesus was born.

Herod, history tells us, died in 4 BC. So we know Jesus was born around 4 BC - and 27 years later, when Jesus was 30 years old, He is baptised... **exactly as the Bible predicted 483 years before!**





**Jesus said:
"The time is fulfilled."**

MARK 1:15

That is, the time appointed for sending the Messiah, and particularly the time specified by Daniel (see Daniel 9:24-27).

Yet the prophecy becomes even more amazing. Daniel 9 once again:

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off..."

Consider: the 483 years (i.e. $7 + 62 = 69$; $69 \times 7 = 483$) take us to 27 AD, as predicted. After this period the Messiah, the Prince (Jesus), will be 'cut off'.

- What does this mean? **It means the Messiah, our Redeemer, will be crucified.**



"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself. And the people of the prince who is to come, shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." DANIEL 9:26

Was Jerusalem destroyed? Yes. When was that? Historical fact: it happened in AD 70, after the crucifixion (the 'cut off') of Christ. The general who destroyed the city was Titus, future emperor of Rome. Exactly as foreseen by Daniel!

To be 'cut off', but not for Himself - **for you and me**. Jesus died for *your* sins. Forgiveness and pardon are yours. **Bible prophecy makes it clear that Jesus is the Messiah.**



David Roberts: Siege and Destruction of Jerusalem (detail)

"Then shall He confirm a covenant with many for one week... but in the midst of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." DANIEL 9:27

Now here's where many good folk get confused; they have the idea that it is the Antichrist who will confirm the covenant. Let me show why that is impossible and is an invention of Satan to destroy the very truth of this prophecy. Who is the main subject of verse 24? Who is going to make reconciliation for iniquity? Who is going to bring everlasting righteousness? Who is going to seal up the covenant? Who is going to anoint the Most Holy?



**Jesus Christ. He is the only One who
can bring reconciliation for iniquity.**



What is the main theme of verse 25? Who is 'Messiah the Prince'? It is Jesus Christ, the theme of verse 26. The *Messiah who will be cut off* is Jesus. So, when the prophecy has Christ as the focal point of verses 24, 25 and 26, would it not be just like Satan to try to confuse the issue?

Secondly, there is no indication anywhere else in the Bible that the Antichrist makes the covenant. Jesus Christ is the author of the Eternal, Everlasting Covenant: He sheds His blood to confirm it. Now notice how precisely the Bible states what will happen: *He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week in the middle of the week; He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.*

Who brings an end to sacrifice and offering? Who brings an end to the lamb sacrifices?

It is Jesus Christ, our Saviour!

Thus far the 69 weeks, **but there is one week of the prophecy's 70 left.** Seven symbolic days equal seven literal years. So what does the Bible say in Daniel chapter 9:27? "Then He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week." So this covenant at the end of the seven years would be confirmed, the days of probation for the Jewish nation would be over. Remember, the prophecy says, "Seventy weeks are determined upon your people" (verse 24).

The Jewish nation's covenant with God would be over at the end of that last week with the rejection by the Sanhedrin of the gospel message (Acts 6:8-7:60), but in the *middle of that last week* (verse 27) Jesus shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. Half of seven is three and a half; added to 27 AD takes us to the time when the sacrifice and offering would cease: 31 AD, when Jesus was crucified at age 33.

Once again, the math checks out!

Jesus was baptised and crucified at the prophesied time.

Daniel 9 shows with mathematical proof that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah, leaving no doubt that the prophetic Word, the Bible, is true. How could Daniel have known this hundreds of years before the birth of Christ?

Jesus said: "For this is the blood of the new covenant." MATTHEW 26:28



So the words of Jesus confirm the new covenant.

*For this is My blood of the covenant,
which is shed for many
for the remission of sins.*

Matthew 26:28

*Things do not always happen the way
I would have wanted, and it's best
that I get used to that.*

Paulo Coelho

#25 Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel was a master interpreter of dreams. His book is included in the canon of sacred Jewish writings and is part of all mainline Bible church teaching.

Daniel's prophecies are a picture of the future and his status as a prophet is in fact affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 24:15. Yet as most of Nebuchadnezzar's dream has already come true, we understand that we are indeed in **the last days**, when the final stages of Daniel's prophecies are about to be fulfilled. In this short tract we have Daniel's response to the king of Babylon's demand to recall and interpret a dream which the king had forgotten.

- An unreasonable demand in human terms, yet answered by God, through Daniel!



Despite many philosophies and opinions,
there is such a thing as

ABSOLUTE TRUTH.

Jesus Himself endorses Daniel: "Therefore when you see 'the abomination of desolation', spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand)."

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)



OK, Pastor, but be realistic, do you really think anyone would believe a prophecy about current times by a prophet who lived **2,600 years** ago?

My answer to your challenge is in this tract, which clearly states what the Bible reveals about future events. Revelations which to date have been shown to be accurate!



Let's have a closer look at Nebuchadnezzar's dream and what God says through Daniel the prophet. (Read about it in Daniel 2.)

Two years after rising to the throne of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had a terrible dream; this dream disturbed him so much that he couldn't sleep.

Ironically, next morning he couldn't remember the dream. Desperate to find out what it meant, he summoned his wise men and demanded that they tell him what he dreamt and interpret the dream, **on pain of death**.

The wise men came before king Nebuchadnezzar and asked him to tell them about his dream, but the king refused, demanding that the wise men first tell him what he had dreamt and then explain what the dream meant. The king declared: "If you can do this, I will give you great rewards; if not, I will have you put to death."

- **The shocked wise men replied: "Sire, what you ask is impossible, no one but a god can do that." This made the king so angry that he ordered all his wise men to be put to death, including Daniel and his three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.**



When the captain of Nebuchadnezzar's guards, Arioch, arrived to arrest Daniel, the latter wanted to know the reason. Arioch explained about the king's dream.

Daniel went to Nebuchadnezzar and asked for time to interpret the dream. The king agreed and Daniel hurried back and held a prayer meeting together with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to ask God for help.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24





That night God revealed to Daniel the King's dream and its meaning. The next morning Daniel went to Arioch and said he would interpret the King's dream. When Arioch brought Daniel before Nebuchadnezzar, the troubled King asked Daniel: "Can you tell me what I saw in my dream?"

Daniel replied: "No one can tell you this, but there is a God in Heaven Who reveals mysteries; He showed me your dream and what it means."

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Daniel told the King: "God has shown you the future through your dream. In your dream you saw a statue with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet of iron mixed with clay."



Gold: Babylon (605 to 539 BC)

Silver: Persia (539 to 331 BC)

Brass: Greece (331 to 168 BC)

Iron: Rome (168 BC to 476 AD)

**Iron and Clay:
2nd Roman Empire, European
Union (476 AD to present day)**



"Then," Daniel continued, "a rock smashed the statue. The rock became a mountain that filled the whole earth. You, King, are the head of gold, and the other parts of the statue are the kingdoms that will come after you. The rock represents the kingdom that God will establish that will last forever."

● **Remember, this dream is still valid as we are awaiting the last part to be fulfilled!**

While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. Daniel 2: 34-35

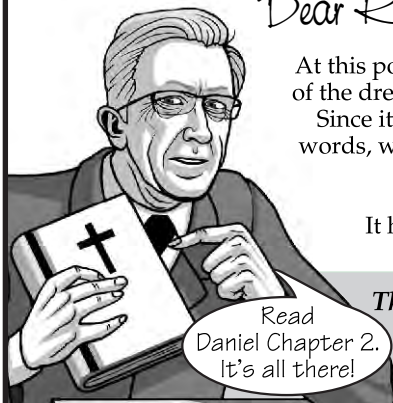
The deeply moved king said: "Surely your God is the God of gods!" For his service Nebuchadnezzar promoted Daniel, placing him in charge of all the wise men. At Daniel's request the king also appointed Shadrach, Mishach and Abed-nego to rule over all the provinces of Babylon.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honour and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

Daniel 2:46-47



Dear Reader!



At this point we need to consider the 'prophetic aspect of the dream - Daniel's divinely-inspired interpretation.

Since it's now 2,600 years since Daniel spoke those words, we can turn to history to check the accuracy of his answer to the king.

It has been affirmed in the following text, which quotes Daniel directly:

The great God hath made known to the King what shall come to pass hereafter.

Daniel 2:45

It is important to note that Daniel's overall message is that God alone knows the future and holds our future in His hands, that God's kingdom is the Kingdom of all kingdoms, and that the King of kings, the ruler of this Kingdom, is Jesus Christ.

For these messages to be valid, we **MUST** accept/believe firstly that Daniel was an actual historical figure, and secondly that he wrote the book in the sixth century BC. Moreover, we must accept that the prophecies in his book are *real* prophecies, that is, *prophecies made before the event*.

Also note that when Nebuchadnezzar fell down before Daniel, he didn't worship Daniel, but the great God of Daniel (Daniel 2:46-47). He worshipped the "God of gods and the Lord of lords" (Daniel 2:47).

- This is a practical illustration of what it means to be Christian, as Jesus said in Matthew 5:18.

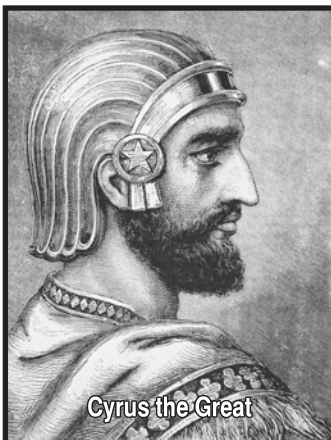
Daniel was a righteous man of princely lineage and lived about 620–538 BC.



Nebuchadnezzar was a warrior king of the Chaldean dynasty of Babylonia (modern Iraq). He conquered Syria and Palestine and rebuilt Babylon as a city of immense riches and splendour, and an economic and cultural hub. Under him, Babylon dominated the then known world. He destroyed the Temple of Jerusalem and forced the Israelites into exile (the 'Babylonian Captivity'). As was the standard practice of invading rulers, Nebuchadnezzar took the Jewish intelligentsia to Babylon, 800 km from Jerusalem. This happened in 605 BC.

So let's get to the prophecy, and the passage of Daniel 2:37-45. This passage we can call the ABC of prophecy; by the same token we can call the book of Revelation the XYZ of prophecy. *Remember, in Daniel's time the events were still in the future, as he was speaking from Babylon, the head of gold in his prophecy.*

*Thou art the
head of gold. And
after thee shall
arise another
kingdom inferior
to thee, and a
third kingdom
which is the
brass, which
shall have
dominion over
all the earth.
Daniel 2:39*



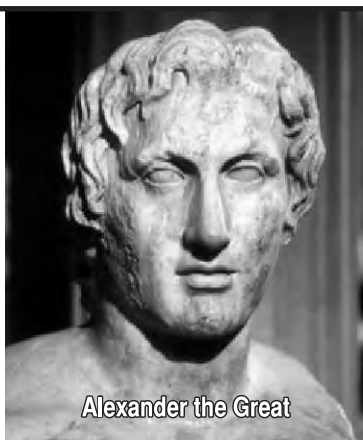
But Nebuchadnezzar's sons could not hold the empire together and, **true to Daniel's prophecy**, another power rose and conquered Babylon in 539 BC.

This we know from history was a coalition of Persia and Media (the **silver chest and arms** in Nebuchadnezzar's dream), founded by the legendary King Cyrus the Great in 550 BC.

- **Yet the Medo-Persian empire was inferior to Babylon both in power and wealth, as silver is inferior to gold.**

Still the relentless march of history followed Daniel's prophecy, and at the Battle of Issus, on 5 November 333 BC, Alexander the Great of Macedonia (ancient Greece) achieved a decisive victory over Darius III of Persia, the first time the Persian army had been defeated with the King present on the battle field.

This marked the end of Persian power and the rise of Greece (the *belly and thighs of brass* in Daniel's words) as a world power. During this period of Greek rule Antiochus Epiphanes plundered the Temple in Jerusalem and carried off the sacred vessels to help finance his campaigns.



Alexander the Great



The traditional date for the end of the Greek period is the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC, after which an unsettled period followed. Alexander's political and cultural transformation of the Mediterranean and the Near East, establishing Greek as the lingua franca, explains why Greek is the original language of the New Testament. To reach the largest audience in the region where Christianity was born, it was the obvious language to use. Over 5,800 complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts have been catalogued.

A folio from Papyrus 46, one of the oldest New Testament manuscripts in existence

Now we reach the year 168 BC: the rise of Rome, the prophecy's *legs of iron* stage. Rome swept over the world, ruling large swathes of Europe for centuries. But the Roman empire became divided into the eastern and western empires, and so we have the **two legs** of the statue in the dream. Rome was in power in the days of the Lord Jesus.

Of course, all of this is proven history, but we are not dependent upon history for our prophetic interpretation. Daniel himself identifies these successive empires in his vision in Chapter 7 as the 'four fearful beasts': The *lion* (Babylon), the *bear* (Persia), the *leopard* (Greece) and the *nameless monstrosity* (Rome). We will deal with these in the next tract.



Julius Caesar

So history has vindicated Daniel, as his predictions have been precisely fulfilled. This makes it likely that the as-yet unfulfilled part of the prophecy, the *feet and the ten toes*, will prove to be equally accurate. What do the feet and ten toes, a mixture of iron and clay, represent? Well, they are part of the same image as the head of gold, chest of silver, etc., representing the continuation of man's rule of the earth during the 'times of the gentiles'.

Daniel even suggested when the final days of gentile world power will dawn: It will be at a time when the world will be divided between two great powers (the two feet), with ten smaller nations, the ten toes, five on each foot.



These will be the last world federation of nations, loosely held together with ties of common danger and mutual fear. They can never blend, they mix but will not unite. In John's day five kingdoms had already fallen, and the sixth (Rome) was in power. In Daniel's day Babylon still held sway (he prophesied only about the future ones). John also says the final manifestation of world power was still in the future.

● **Think about it! That's where we are now!**

And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

Revelation 17:10



How near the coming of the Lord must be, when we see all these things happening before our very eyes!

Dear friend and fellow believer,
This tract is a basic introduction to Daniel Chapter 2, yet it outlines profound truths about events yet to come, so I encourage you to read the book of Daniel for yourself and discover its prophecies! The lines are being drawn... we are just waiting for the final events to unfold. The very next event may well be the coming of the King of kings!
The end is at hand...

ARE YOU READY?

In the first year of Belshazzar, king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream. Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven, churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea." DANIEL 7:1-3

This quotation from the first three verses of Daniel chapter 7 sums up what we'll be discussing in this tract.



Tract #25 described Nebuchadnezzar's vision of a statue that prophesied the coming world empires, much of which has already been fulfilled. Now, beginning with chapter 7, we have a very graphic picture of history foreseen by Daniel up to the setting up of the eternal kingdom when the Lord Jesus returns. The above quote gives us the setting for this vision. We are told that an angel commanded the four winds to be held back from destroying the earth until the faithful remnant of God had been sealed in their foreheads.

We believe God is going to preserve His faithful people by sealing them, and keeping them even through the storm of tribulation.



I saw four angels holding tight the four winds of the earth.
Revelation 7:1

We are told that these four winds strove upon the Great Sea, which in Scripture refers to the Mediterranean Sea. In general there are only three seas in the Bible, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee and the Great Sea. So the setting for the four kingdoms in this 7th chapter revolves around the Mediterranean Sea. **At the eastern end of this sea lies Palestine - the centre of human history and the place of God's government when Jesus returns.**

Palestine, according to the Bible, is the centre of the world and God deals with this area particularly, yet other nations may be brought in when they have some relationship with Palestine. So scripturally Palestine is the exact geographic centre of the world in the plan of Almighty God for the nations. When the Bible refers to east or west, it is always in relation to Palestine or the Mediterranean. The word *mediterranean* literally means 'in the middle of the earth'. When we see the two beasts in Revelation 13, we are told that one of them comes out of the sea. (There are good commentaries concerning from where the political leaders of the end time will arise, but that is not the subject of this tract.)



So we have two great leaders of the end time! Again, much discussion here, yet when we consider the events of the times we are living in, they are surely about to appear!

ALBRECHT DÜRER:
THE FOUR RIDERS
OF THE APOCALYPSE (detail)



Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. DANIEL 7:3

Now in Daniel 7 we have four winds, which represent the power of God, striving on the Great Sea. This introduces us to the vision of Daniel. The great conflict of all the ages centres around the Mediterranean Sea. It is out of this area that the prophesied world kingdoms arise. Today we see a lot of interest in the region around Palestine. This will continue to the end time, being a revival of the old Babylonian system of world power and domination which, according to this chapter, shall only be destroyed at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember: the four beasts relate to the four kingdoms in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as we explained in Tract #25.

The Four Beasts of Daniel 7

In his vision Daniel sees four beasts. The first is like a lion, with wings like an eagle. The second is like a bear and the third like a leopard, while the fourth is dreadful and unspecified. These beasts symbolise four world empires. The lion is the nation of Babylon, the bear is Medo-Persia, the leopard is Greece, and the last beast is Rome, both in its historic and prophetic form, which it will assume at the end of this age. The parallels with the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream we discussed in Tract #25 are obvious. The vision refers to the same period, the final form of gentile Babylonian world dominion.

The First Beast: Winged Lion



The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.

DANIEL 7:4

We are told the lion had eagle's wings, indicating the speed with which Babylon carried out its conquest. But then Daniel notices that the wings are plucked, its power is taken away, and it is lifted from the earth and ultimately destroyed. This is a clear reference to the reign of Belshazzar.

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

Belshazzar's reign ends with the miraculous writing on the wall. Daniel interprets this as foretelling the death of King Belshazzar, who is actually slain the same night. The words are mene, mene, tekel, upharsin, which is Aramaic for numbered, numbered, weighed, divided. (Daniel 5:25–31)

- The 'writing on the wall' had such an impact that even today many cultures over the world use the phrase as a metaphor for impending doom.



Detail from Rembrandt's famous painting of the writing on the wall.

12 : 10 : 539 BC

12 October 539 BC: On this night King Belshazzar threw a huge party. In the midst of the festivities a hand appeared and wrote MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN on the wall. Daniel was called to interpret this, and he foretold Belshazzar's death at the hand of the Persian king, Cyrus II.

That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain, and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two. DANIEL 5:30-31



Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
Shah of Iran (Persia)

12 : 10 : 1971 AD

12 October 1971 AD: On this same date 25 centuries later the Shah of Iran (Persia) held history's most extravagant party at the tomb of Cyrus the Great to celebrate Iran's 2,500th anniversary and his own glory. He flew in eighteen tons of gourmet fare and royalty and rulers from all over the world were regaled for three days amidst the ancient ruins of Persepolis.

Once more we can only marvel at the accuracy of the Bible!

The Second Beast: Bear



And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, "Get up and eat your fill of flesh!"

DANIEL 7:5

Then follows Daniel's vision of the second beast, the bear. This beast represents the coalition between the Medes and Persians, formed after the fall of Balshazzar. Persia, being more powerful, is represented by one side being higher than the other. The three ribs indicate it had overcome three world powers of its day, including Babylon.

The Third Beast: Leopard



After this I beheld, and there was another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

DANIEL 7:6

The leopard is a graphic picture of Greece under Alexander the Great, symbolising the speed with which Alexander's armies overran the world three hundred years before Christ. Daniel tells us the leopard had four heads and we know after his death Alexander's huge empire was divided among four of his generals. **All of this is historically confirmed.**

The Fourth Beast: Dreadful Monster



After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

DANIEL 7: 7-8

The fourth beast symbolises the final era of gentile world dominion. Construing the 1,260 days as years means the prophecies in both Daniel 7 and Revelation 12 commence in 538 AD, a watershed year in European history. The (pagan) Roman Empire fell in 476 AD, but in effect re-established itself in AD 538 as the (Christian) Holy Roman Empire. The new empire, however, gradually broke up into a number of kingdoms; yet since the Bible often uses the number 10 to denote completeness, the 'ten horns' of the fourth beast represent all the kingdoms that resulted from this dissolution. These horns refer to a time when ten great kingdoms will unite in a confederacy with papal involvement to guarantee peace and security for the world.



The haloed eagles, symbol of the Holy Roman Empire

- This interpretation is solidly supported by archaeology and original historical sources that coincide with the rest of the Books of Daniel and Revelation.

The Little Horn: Antichrist

The fourth beast had ten horns, signifying the kingdoms of the revived Roman Empire, the last form of Babylonianism. Yet the vision shows that these kingdoms will be divided in two alliances of five nations each, experiencing great difficulty to co-operate. Then finally a solution seems to be found, as Daniel notices a little horn appearing and plucking up three of the original horns. This horn he describes as having eyes like a man and a mouth speaking great things.



This little horn is the *man of sin*, the Antichrist, who will arise in the confusion of the nations in their futile efforts to bring peace and confederacy.



The Deeds of Antichrist by Luca Signorelli, c 1505, showing the Antichrist being directed by Satan

For a short period the ‘pompous’ Antichrist will succeed in unifying the ten nations, particularly in rehabilitating the people of Israel and Palestine. He will bring order out of disorder and even defuse the threat of war, bringing the promise of a long hoped-for millennial rest.

- **But he will be extremely powerful, dominating the world, and he “will speak against the Most High and oppress His holy people”.** His reign, however, will be short-lived, as we read in Daniel 7:9-11 and 13-14.

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

DANIEL 7:9-11



I saw in the night visions, and, behold, One like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

And there was given Him dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

DANIEL 7: 13-14



But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap.

MALACHI 3:2



The picture is now clear: Kingdom after kingdom arising only to fall, all man's efforts failing to bring about the desired peace and prosperity man has longed for since time began.

Then finally the Antichrist, the enemy of God, Satan incarnate, will make one final attempt to bring together all of the disorganised factions of the world, **only to be destroyed by the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Dear Friend!

As we look at the world today, with its wars and troubles, we cannot ignore the fact that all these things have been prophesied by Daniel, and that many have already come to pass. The next event, we believe, will be the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to put down His enemies and set up His Everlasting Kingdom.

May the Lord help us to be ready for His appearing!



*The man who would know God
must give time to Him.*

A W Tozer

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide. He set it up in the plain of Dura. DANIEL 3:1

The image supposedly reflected the statue in the dream Daniel interpreted (Daniel 2; see tract #1), but was in the king's likeness and in fact glorified his own achievements. When we read Revelation the story in Daniel 3 becomes clear. Nebuchadnezzar is one of many types of this coming powerful man we call the Antichrist. Babylon is the fore-runner of the great world empire which this Man of Sin will rule in the 'Tribulation Period'. (Daniel 3:1)

- Note the prominence of the number 6 in the dimensions of this image sixty cubits high, six cubits wide!



Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippingeth, shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

DANIEL 3: 4-6



Nebuchadnezzar's people obeyed the edict, but three young Hebrews remained steadfast in their love of God. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego represent the Remnant of the Tribulation, because they refuse to bow before Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.

This statue is a type of the image of Revelation 13, and is called in the Word the 'abomination of desolation'.

Servants of the king saw the young men refusing to worship the statue and reported them to the king.

"But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?"

DANIEL 3: 12-14



Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if He does not, we want you to

know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." DANIEL 3:16-18



Next, notice the answer of the three youths to the demand of the wicked king! The king, who was the highest authority in that day: see Daniel 3:16-18. The result of the three youths' steadfastness infuriated Nebuchadnezzar. (Check Daniel 3:19-23.)

Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. DANIEL 3: 19-23



The Lord delivers them from the furnace and they are highly exalted. Now we turn again to Daniel 3:24-27 and see the clear picture. The Bible is clear in that the believer is to be a good and faithful citizen of the land. But there is another truth: when the laws of the land conflict with the service to God, we must not hesitate to put the will of God above the commands of the government. Yet the question needs to be asked when the 'Earth day of rest on a Sunday' becomes law, will punishment be enacted when there is disobedience? And who will the world worship on that day; will it be the giver of that law? On 7 March 321 AD Emperor Constantine issued a civil decree making Sunday the day of rest from labour, stating: "Christians shall not Judaize (keep sabbath) and be idle on Saturday... But shall work on that day."

That statement is a contradiction of God's law.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

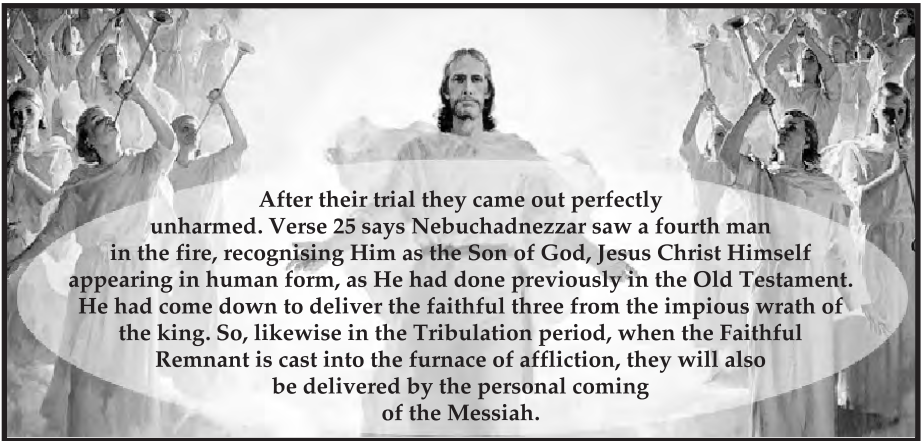
They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

DANIEL 3:24-27



After their trial they came out perfectly unharmed. Verse 25 says Nebuchadnezzar saw a fourth man in the fire, recognising Him as the Son of God, Jesus Christ Himself appearing in human form, as He had done previously in the Old Testament. He had come down to deliver the faithful three from the impious wrath of the king. So, likewise in the Tribulation period, when the Faithful Remnant is cast into the furnace of affliction, they will also be delivered by the personal coming of the Messiah.



Bound hand and foot, cast in the fire, then walking free. All the fire affected, were the bonds that held them!

And to you who are also passing through the fire because of your faith in Christ, remember the fire cannot hurt you, but only serve to free you and exalt you in due course.

This is true for all God's people who are faithful and who refuse to bow before the coming Antichrist. The Lord has not promised to keep us out of the fire of Tribulation, but He has promised to be with us in trouble and to see us through. Jesus says in John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."



But remember Jesus said Daniel was a prophet - his prophecies dealt with future events.

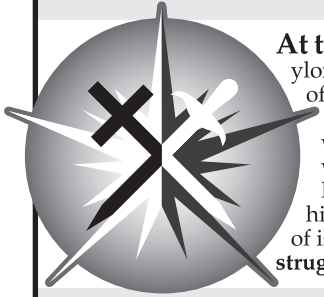


We started this tract with Nebuchadnezzar instructing everyone to worship his golden image. Everybody obeys, with the exception of a few, a little remnant who refuses to do so. Again in these last days we have a *type*, where the remnant refuses to follow Rome by worshipping on a Sunday, but remains faithful by worshipping the true God, the *Creator God*, as commanded, on the Sabbath. In Revelation 13 we see another image, similar in principle, set up by the Antichrist of whom Nebuchadnezzar was merely a type. Once more everyone is instructed to worship an image, again upon pain of death. As in Daniel's day, there will be a remnant that refuses and is marked for death, but is miraculously preserved by the Lord and exalted to reign in the millennial age.



● **A parallel of Daniel 3 & Revelation 13.**

The Great Controversy



At the end of this age Satan will once more revive his Babylonian programme and under the direction of the two beasts of Revelation 13 will set up a world religion and will attempt to force a world religion by setting up an image and will once more attempt to destroy God's chosen elect, yet will come to an end as all the rest of Satan's puppets, such as Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar. This indicates that man's history has always been a great controversy, not a succession of isolated events. **The great controversy has always been the struggle of Satan against Christ and God's people.**

So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation', spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand - then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. MATTHEW 24:15,16



For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now - and never to be equalled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

MATTHEW 24: 21,22

The Tribulation, remember, is the fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy in chapter 9 of his book. Jesus spoke about this terrible time in Matthew 24:15, 16, 21, 22.

In Matthew 24 Jesus answers the question of the disciples about the end of the age, which we believe is very close. Remember Jesus refers to Daniel as 'the prophet Daniel'.

The Abomination of Desolation

Jesus says that in this Tribulation period Daniel's prophecy of the Abomination of Desolation will be fulfilled, referring to the following verses from Daniel:

9:27: *He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'. In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. ['Seven' means a week.]*

11:31: *His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.*

12:11: *From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

THE FAITHFUL

Definition: A small minority of people who will remain faithful to God and so be saved.

The Bible is full of stories where God calls His chosen people out of dangerous places or destructive company for their own safety. Although they had received numerous warnings to repent, the general mass of people choose to reject God and live according to their own selfish ways.

So let's sum up what we are saying concerning the 'Faithful Remnant in the Tribulation'.



One famous remnant story in particular we find in Genesis 6: the story of Noah and his ark. God told Noah to build an enormous ark (Genesis 6:14) so that he and anyone else who believed God's warning would be safe from the terrible flood that would wipe out all life on earth. Noah and his family made up a faithful remnant of God's true followers.



Johan Huibers's life-size model of Noah's Ark

The End-Times Remnant and who will be part of it: Those who are part of this remnant are recognisable by the way they choose to obey God's commandments at all costs, pledging their allegiance to Him and turning away from sin.

The book of Revelation is full of prophetic imagery, using metaphorical characters to symbolise literal events.

- In Revelation, Satan is depicted as a raging dragon, while God's church and His people are symbolised by a woman whom the dragon seeks to destroy.

Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus...

REVELATION 12:17, ESV



The Remnant's Mission



As the few true believers in the last days, the Remnant have been entrusted with a God-given mission, a message they must deliver to the entire world. Rather than hiding their faith, they are commissioned to share the gospel and tell others who God is and what He has done. The apostle John writes about this message when he says in Revelation 14:6-7 that the first angel spreads the news that God is our creator, is our only source of Salvation, and that we ought to worship Him.

- We are not to seek our salvation from other sources or try to live by our own rules.

The Three Angels' Messages

Revelation 14:6-12

These texts form a **key mandate** of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The following three panels represent their main themes.

A full teaching is beyond the scope of this tract.
We encourage our readers to undertake their own studies.

First Angel's Message

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His Judgement has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

REVELATION 14:6-7 ESV

The second angel warns the Earth that Babylon, the biblical symbol of selfish ambition, will fall. God's judgement is coming, and all the worldly things people have worked for are going to become worthless. The only thing people can do, is to flee Babylon and turn to Christ, as God commanded His remnant to do.

Second Angel's Message

Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

REVELATION 14:8 ESV

Third Angel's Message

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of His anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." REVELATION 14:9-12, ESV

Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.



Each of us can do our part in the Remnant Church's mission, by telling others who God is and helping them to be ready for the Second Coming. God doesn't want anyone to be lost. He wants as many of His precious children in Heaven with Him as possible, and by spreading the three angels' messages and sharing God's Word, we can help make that happen.

Let's answer the call!

#28 Daniel's 2,300 Year Prophecy First read Tract #24!

Help me out here, Pastor. What can you tell me about the 2,300 year prophecy we read about in Daniel 8:14?



Well, my friend, in this short tract we will outline what happened on the Day of Atonement in the earthly sanctuary, specifically the rituals with the two goats. This will help us better understand deeper truths regarding salvation and the final disposition of sin as revealed in Leviticus 16.

The period of 2,300 years begins with the decree by Artaxerxes in 457 BC and ends in the year 1844. The dates are irrefutable.

*** Read Leviticus 16:16 and 30 ***

יִוֵּם כִּפּוּר - Day of Atonement

There are three main parts to the Day of Atonement:

#1 The Purification Offering for the priest. The high priest slaughtered a bull for his sins, making sure that he (the priest) would be clean when entering the sanctuary, so that he could perform the ritual to cleanse it. (Leviticus 16:11-14)

#2 The Purification Offering of the goat 'for the Lord' (Leviticus 16:8-9 & 15-19). During the year, the purification offerings 'brought all the sins of the Israelites into the sanctuary'. The Day of Atonement was the time to remove these sins from the sanctuary; this process was done through the blood of the 'goat for the Lord'.

#3 The elimination ritual with the live goat for Azazel. God wanted to get the sins of His people away from the sanctuary and the camp, therefore another live goat was sent out into the desert. LEVITICUS 16:8, 10, 20-22

"He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it." LEVITICUS 16:15

ILLUSTRATION: THE TEMPLE INSTITUTE





ILLUSTRATION: THE TEMPLE INSTITUTE

"But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat in the wilderness. [...] Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it way into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man." LEVITICUS 16:10 & 21

- In this sense the Day of Atonement was unique, for only on this day were both the sanctuary and the people cleansed.

The Day of Atonement was the second phase of a two-phase atonement. In the first phase, during the year, the Israelites were forgiven. Their sins were not blotted out, but were entrusted to God Himself, who promised to deal with them. The second phase did not have much to do with forgiveness; the people were already forgiven. In fact, the verb *forgive* does not occur at all in either Leviticus 16 or Leviticus 23:7-32.

- What this shows us is that the entire Plan of Salvation deals with *more than just the forgiveness of our sins*, a point that makes even more sense when understood in the wider context of the 'Sanctuary Doctrine'.

ILLUSTRATION: THE TEMPLE INSTITUTE



The high priest's function was to mediate between God and mankind. He administered the system, performing various rituals, sacrifices and offerings. (Hebrews 8:3). With the exception of leading the goat of Azazel to the wilderness, he performed almost every ritual. On the Day of Atonement, the 'great' high priest, as he was called, became a living example of Christ. Just as the attention of God's people was focused on the high priest, Jesus is the exclusive centre of our attention. As the activities of the high priest on earth brought cleansing to the people, Jesus' work in the heavenly sanctuary does the same for us. (Romans 8:34, 1 John 1:9)

- Just as the only hope of the people on the Day of Atonement was in the high priest, our only hope is in Christ.

Christ's blood releases the repentant sinner from condemnation, yet it does not cancel the sin, which stays recorded in the Sanctuary until the final atonement. Christ's blood removed sin from the born-again believer, but sin remains in the heavenly sanctuary until the Day of Atonement. As recorded in Leviticus 16:16-20, the high priest had to enter the Most Holy Place and purge it from the ritual impurities, transgressions and sins. He then transferred all the iniquities, all the transgressions and all the sins of Israel onto the '**live goat**' and sent them away, through the goat into the desert. Thus all the moral faults of Israel were gone. This achieved the unique goal of the Day of Atonement: *a moral purification that went beyond forgiveness.*

**There was no new forgiveness necessary on this day.
God had already forgiven their sins.**

Where did the live goat (named Azazel) end up? Check Leviticus 16: 20-22! The ritual with the live goat was not an offering. In English it is often called the *scapegoat*, which has found its way into our general conversation. The live goat was never slain, probably to avoid any idea that the ritual constituted a sacrifice. The live goat came into the picture only after the high priest had finished the atonement of the entire sanctuary (verse 20). This point cannot be over-emphasised: The ensuing ritual with the live goat had nothing to do with the actual cleansing of the sanctuary or of the people.

● **The people had already been cleansed!**



Who or what is Azazel? Early interpreters identified Azazel as the original angelic sinner and the primary author of evil, even as the leader of evil angels. We know him, of course, as a symbol of Lucifer himself.

The ritual with the live goat was a *rite of elimination* that accomplished the final disposal of sin. Sin would be brought upon the one responsible for it in the first place, and then carried away from the people forever. *Atonement* was made upon it in a punitive sense (Leviticus 16:10), as the goat carried the ultimate responsibility for sin.



Does Satan play a part in our salvation, as some falsely charge we teach? Of course not! Satan never, in any way, bears sin for us as a substitute. Jesus alone has done that, and it is blasphemy to think that Satan had any part in our redemption.



OK, Pastor, I catch you so far. Those first ten pages are good Bible teaching, but as a born again New Testament Christian, what can I learn from this?

It's simple, really!

In the end, the judgement is not the time when God decides to accept or reject us, but the time when He finalises our choice, whether or not we have accepted Him. Put it this way: a choice made manifest by our works. **In short, our destiny is determined in our present life.**

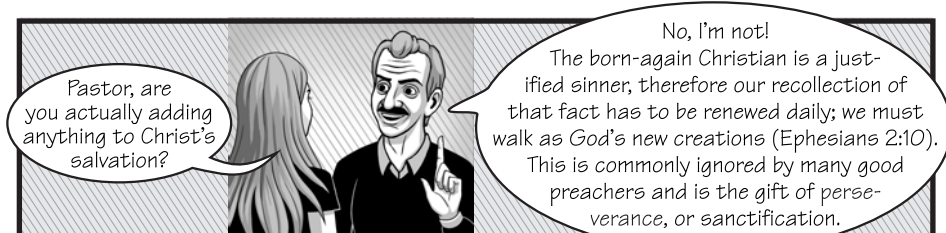
Jesus said: If you love me, keep My commandments. JOHN 15:10

What this tract really shows is that God has no need of a judgement to know the life of each individual.



God's work in the sanctuary is a divine accommodation, carried on for the sake of us, His creatures both in heaven and on earth. It is in this teaching (the main theme of this tract) that God enters into a relationship with His people by an *act of atonement*, such as can only be effected in the sanctuary (Leviticus 16:16). The word *atonement* used here is the word of Christ Himself, the Risen Lord. God makes a covenant with the Remnant Church and separates them from the world as His own possession, and vouches for this covenant.

- **All this is true only because Jesus Christ has become our righteousness, sanctification and redemption; the Good News being that the *believer* will be justified, the *justified* will be sanctified and the *sanctified* will be saved on the Day of Judgement.**



Pastor, are you actually adding anything to Christ's salvation?

No, I'm not!
The born-again Christian is a justified sinner; therefore our recollection of that fact has to be renewed daily; we must walk as God's new creations (Ephesians 2:10). This is commonly ignored by many good preachers and is the gift of perseverance, or sanctification.

Justification and sanctification are inseparably connected due to having the same source, Jesus Christ and His being crucified (1 Corinthians 1:2). Both have the same content, which is **fellowship and communion with Him**. They are integrated, but for that very reason not identical.

- **Justification is the *means* whereby we appropriate the saving act of God in the past, whereas sanctification is the *promise* of Jesus's ministry in the sanctuary, present and future.**

Justification secures our entrance into fellowship and communion with Christ through the unique and final event of His death.

Sanctification is when Christ ministers on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary.

Justification is primarily concerned with the relation between man and the law of God.

Sanctification is the Christian's separation from the world with the help of the Holy Spirit until the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Justification enables the believer to break away from his sinful past.

Sanctification enables him to abide in Christ, to persevere in faith and grow in love.

Justification makes the individual a member of the church.

Sanctification preserves the Remnant Church with all its members, as Christ is our Advocate.



OK, Pastor, I think I'm catching it. Seems you mean that **Justification** and **sanctification** have a similar relation to each other as **creation** and **preservation**, justification being the creation of a new man, and sanctification his preservation until the day of Jesus Christ.

I remember putting up my hand in a gospel church meeting and the pastor saying I was saved. But now, having listened to you, I am beginning to understand the sanctuary doctrine.



I trust then from these pages the reader will understand that the 'Christian' cannot then be 'once saved, always saved' without living a sanctified life, as sanctification is an integral component of salvation. This teaching is considered fundamental to the doctrine of the 'Remnant Church' as explained in the 'Sanctuary Doctrine'.



Nevertheless, having said all that, I don't want anybody to be confused. Some dear folk have become confused about the Day of Atonement in a way that has left them without assurance of salvation.

Such a view comes from a false understanding of the purpose of the Day of Atonement, called the *Investigative Judgement*. Think about the word **atonement**. What does it mean? How is atonement achieved? Who does the work of atonement? How is it accomplished? How should these answers help us understand why the Day of Atonement is actually integrated with the Good News of the Gospel?



- Consider the following Bible text: "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 CORINTHIANS 7:1

For many, the idea of the investigative judgement means *condemnation*.

Yet we mustn't forget that the idea of judgement has a positive side, in that judgement involves the vindication of the righteous (Daniel 7:22). Remember: There is no arbitrary decree from God electing some to be saved and others to be lost.

Each one of us is morally responsible for his or her own destiny.

Someone once wrote that the work of Christ, from His death to His ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, is simply part of 'God's orderly method' to deal with the sin problem in a way that will help answer all questions regarding His justice, fairness and love.

Dwell on the implications of that thought, especially in light of the *Sanctuary Doctrine* and what it teaches us about the grand issues involved in the sordid tragedy of sin.

**So back to the main theme of this tract:
Christ's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary.**

The book of Daniel helps us to understand both the time and the nature of the pre-Advent judgement. At the end of the 2,300 symbolic days - in 1844 - the heavenly sanctuary would be cleansed (Daniel 8:14, compare with Hebrews 9:23) and the pre-Advent judgement would begin (Daniel 7:9-14) - two different way of expressing the same event.

- **Remember, Jesus spoke of an investigation and of the wedding guests *before* the wedding feast actually started.**

Parable of the Wedding Feast (Matthew 22)

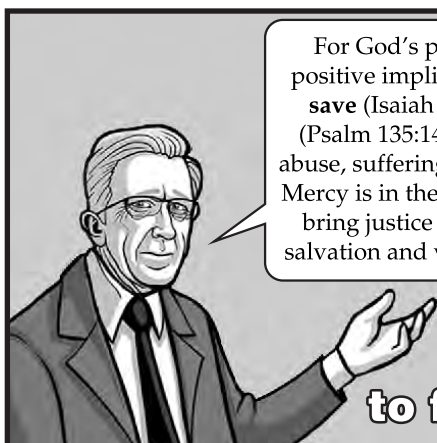


However, the basic word *judgement* remains: it is a reality that God *will* judge the world. The texts in the New Testament are clear, there is no ambiguity.

The pre-Advent judgement message of the sanctuary has sometimes been understood in a way that brings fear into the hearts of those who do not feel they are good enough to face the Divine Judge.

- **But the Biblical message of this judgement is Good News about Jesus (Rev. 14:6, 7).**

Yet we have the assurance of Jesus, not fear of hell.



For God's people, the verb 'judge' in the Bible has positive implications: **justify** (Romans 3:22-26; 5:6-11); **save** (Isaiah 35:4); **deliver** (Psalm 9:7-10); **vindicate** (Psalm 135:14). In this world of injustice, oppression, abuse, suffering, slander and evil, the God of Justice and Mercy is in the heavenly sanctuary, working it all out to bring justice to all wrongs done in the universe, and salvation and vindication to all those who trust in Him.

**There is no need
to fear the Judgement!**

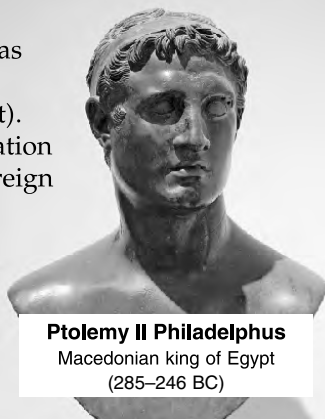


The Old Testament contains nearly 300 references to the Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus. That means Biblical prophecies are fully accurate and divinely inspired.

OK, Pastor, but the question arises: weren't these prophecies written at or after the time of Jesus? Then they're self-fulfilling!

Guess you're not happy with 450 BC as the historic date for the completion of the Old Testament (and all the prophecies about Christ). It's a fact that the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures, was initiated in the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus (285-246 BC).

- So logically, if the Greek translation was initiated in 250 BC, the Hebrew text on which the translation was based, must already have existed!



Ptolemy II Philadelphus
Macedonian king of Egypt
(285–246 BC)



Alright, Pastor, but how do we know that Jesus wasn't a pretender who connived to 'fulfil' prophecy in order to support His claims? Or what about Nostradamus? Wasn't he a prophet, too?

Nostradamus's prophecies are not that amazing at all. Most of his 'famous' predictions, such as the rise of Hitler, were extremely vague. Like other psychics, he was frequently wrong. A study by *The People's Almanac* of the predictions of 25 top psychics showed that 92% were totally wrong.



Remember, many of the prophecies concerning the Messiah were altogether beyond the human control of Jesus. For example, His place and time of birth as prophesied in Micah 5:2 and Daniel 9:25.

Just plain logic tells us we must accept the credentials of Jesus as the Messiah through fulfilled prophecy.



★ I have listed another eight of the prophecies from the Old Testament that relate to Jesus as the Messiah:

Prophecy #1. "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." ISAIAH 7:14

Fulfilment: "She was found with child of the Holy Spirit... Then Joseph... did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus." MATTHEW 1:18,24,25; see also LUKE 1:26-35



SIR EDWARD COLEY BURNE-JONES - NATIVITY

Prophecy #2. "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth." ISAIAH 53:7

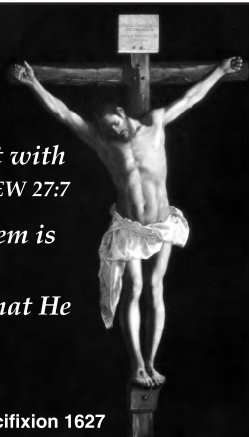
Fulfilment: "And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing." MATTHEW 27:12

Prophecy #3: "So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter." ZECHARIAH 11:13

Fulfilment: "And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in." MATTHEW 27:7

Prophecy #4: "He guards all His bones; not one of them is broken." PSALM 34:20

Fulfilment: "But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs." JOHN 19:33



Fran Zurbaran - Crucifixion 1627



Prophecy #5: "They also gave Me gall for My food, and for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink." PSALM 69:21

Fulfilment: "They gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it He would not drink." MATTHEW 27:34, JOHN 19:28, 29

Prophecy #6: "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord God, "that I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight." AMOS 8:9

Fulfilment: "Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land." MATTHEW 27:45

Prophecy #7: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" PSALM 22:1

Fulfilment: "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice saying, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" MATTHEW 27:46

Prophecy #8: "And they made His grave with the wicked - but with the rich at His death." ISAIAH 53:9



Fulfilment: "There came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph... and asked for the body of Jesus. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb." MATTHEW 27:57-60



WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

In 1956 Fred John Meldau of the **Christian Victory Publishing Company** offered a reward of a thousand dollars to anyone that could find someone living or dead who fulfilled just half of the prophecies concerning the Messiah.

A grand amount, yet no one was able to claim the prize!

The following is from an article by H Harold Hartzler of the **American Scientific Affiliation**: "We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all of just eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} (10 to the 17th power).

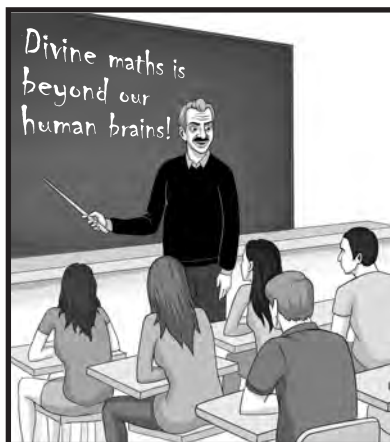
"That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (17 zeros after the 1)."

To get some perspective on this huge number, I quote an image by Peter Stoner of the **American Scientific Affiliation**:

Imagine taking 100,000,000,000,000,000 five rand coins, marking one and laying all of them over the entire Free State to a depth of about 600 mm. Then blindfold a man and tell him to go and pick out the marked coin.

What chance would he have of finding the right one?
Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in one man!

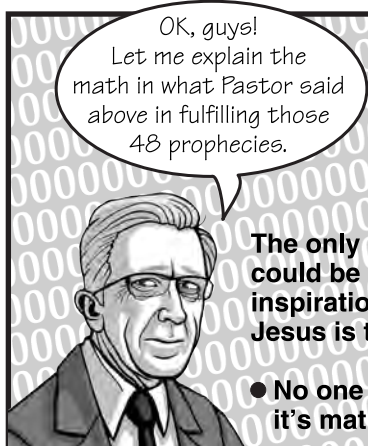
- **Impossible, yes, but remember: we are discussing God's divine power!**



Again we are considering the accuracy of 300 prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ. What if we look at only 48 prophecies?

The mathematical chance of any single individual fulfilling even only 48 of the Old Testament prophecies is beyond human comprehension!

Peter Stoner writes in **Science Speaks** that this means the fulfilment of these eight prophecies alone proves that God inspired the writing of them to a finality which allows only one chance in 10^{17} of being absolute.

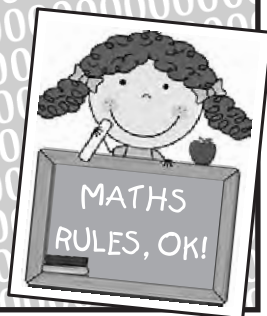


The mathematical probability is 1 in 10^{157} .

**Write the number 1 and follow it with 157 zeroes.
That's a *lot* of zeros!**

The only way these prophecies could be fulfilled is by divine inspiration and the fact that Jesus is the Messiah.

- **No one can deny this proof - it's mathematical!**



I'm sure you remember in Matthew 2:5 when Herod summoned the Magi, asking them where the Messiah was to be born. Their reply was: "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet."

Yes, we all know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Yet that prophecy was written 700 years previously by the prophet Micah!

- **There is only one conclusion:**
The prophet Micah was inspired by God!

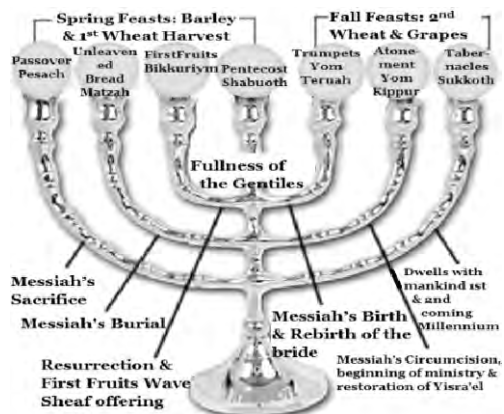


Herod consults the Magi

Yet there is more!

In the work and person of Christ there is a fulfilment of the Levitical Feasts. The Menorah, the most enduring symbol of Judaism, has several layers of symbolism, from the Tree of Life to being a representation of the coming of Christ.

- **Again: The Coming of Christ foretold.**



You may well ask why I went to the trouble to create this tract in the first place.

My aim is to illustrate the irrefutable accuracy of Biblical prophecy.

This is shown by the New Testament writers who were well versed in the Old Testament and referred to prophecies fulfilled in Jesus: "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled." ACTS 3:18

Here are three reasons why we should believe God's Word, the Bible.



#1 No book but the Bible contains accurate, predictive prophecy, because only the God of the Bible knows the future and has the power to bring it to pass. This tract outlines the fact that the Bible is divine through its frequent use of prophecy (Isaiah 46:9–12).

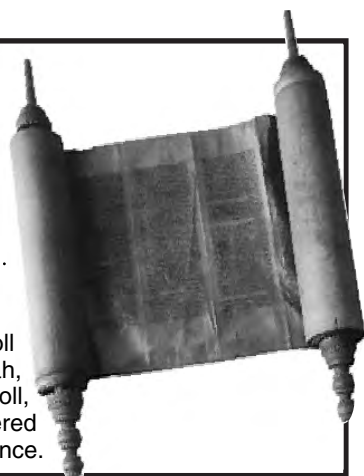
#2 The Bible agrees with the Bible and expresses an incredible consistency, considering that it was written over a period of 1,500 years by over 40 different writers. This unity of theme and message is maintained in 66 different books by all the various authors.

Yes, the Bible is unique!

#3 Yet the Bible is God's Word. We know this, because it is self-evident that the Holy Spirit guided the authors of the text as they wrote.

The math discussed earlier in this tract proves an unassailable accuracy of prophecy that could only be achieved by the will and power of the Almighty Creator, infinitely beyond the reach of human skills.

On the right is an example of a complete scroll of the Hebrew Bible manuscript of Isaiah, found in the Qumran caves in 1947. This scroll, dated to the first century BC, is considered the earliest Old Testament manuscript in existence.



Good News #1

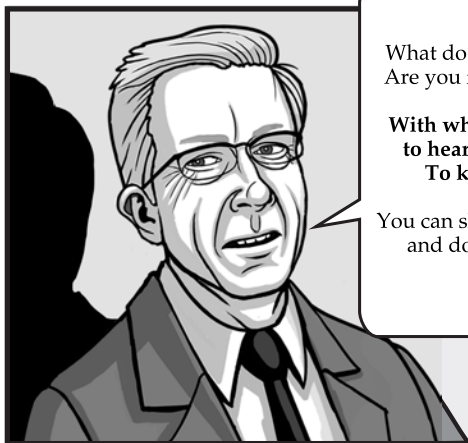
We can have complete confidence in Christ's return!

Good News #2

Why? Because His first arrival fulfilled perfectly the Bible's predictions of His life, death, and resurrection. (Check Tract # 24!)

Good News #3

Furthermore, the Bible contains eight times as many references to the Second Coming as to the first!



Dear Friend!

What do the words in this tract mean for you today? Are you fully confident that the prophecies you read in the Bible are truly from God?

With whom could you share this tract? Who needs to hear the hope that these prophecies provide?
To know that Jesus really is coming again?

You can share this tract on social media or WhatsApp, and download many more inspiring tracts from the website:

www.Bibletrakts.com

***Tell everyone:
Jesus will return!***

*The Bible says today is the accepted time,
today is the day of salvation...*

*But there will come a time
when it will be too late for you.*

Billy Graham



Pastor,
as a born-again believer I'm concerned that this doctrine of the 'investigative judgement' takes away my assurance of salvation.

I really need to feel secure and know that I am going to inherit eternal life in Heaven.

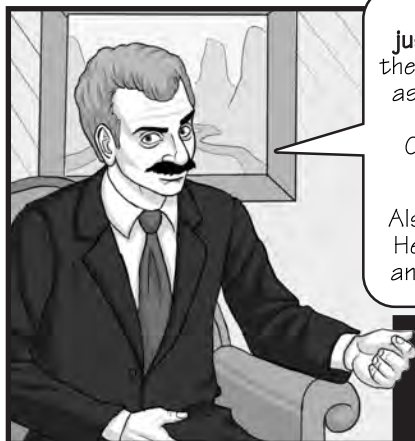
What especially concerns me, is that if my works don't measure up to God's standard, then my salvation is threatened!

The Gospel says Jesus died for my forgiveness. Surely that's enough for salvation?

Yes, Sister, as a born-again believer you are **justified**. However, our salvation (**Justification**) needs to be preserved by our daily communication and confession (**Sanctification**) with Jesus, our advocate.

Paul puts it so well in Romans 6:1-2: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"





Remember, the born-again Christian is a **justified** sinner; therefore our recollection of the fact has to be renewed daily; we must walk as God's **new creation**. Ephesians 2:10 says:

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Also, 1 John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

*"Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."
(Luke 11:28)*

Then the Bible tells us very clearly that believers are going to be judged before the Second Coming. If you check 2 Corinthians 5:10 you will note that Paul is specifically writing to believers (i.e., Church members):

"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10

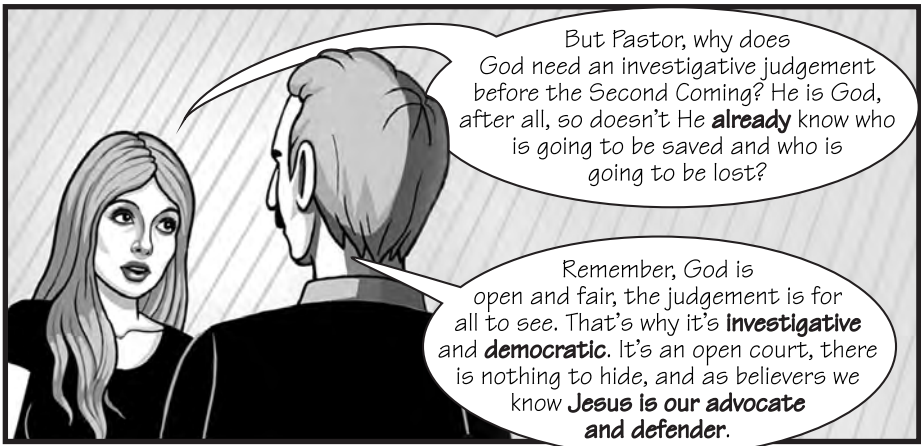


★ **So every born-again believer will be judged before the Second Coming of Jesus.** ★



What Paul is describing in 2 Corinthians 5:10 is the (pre-advent) **Investigative Judgement.**

This is only for those who have ever professed His name, and there's a reason for that: When Jesus comes, He is going to take the faithful ones to Heaven, but before He takes them there, He has to do the Judgement.



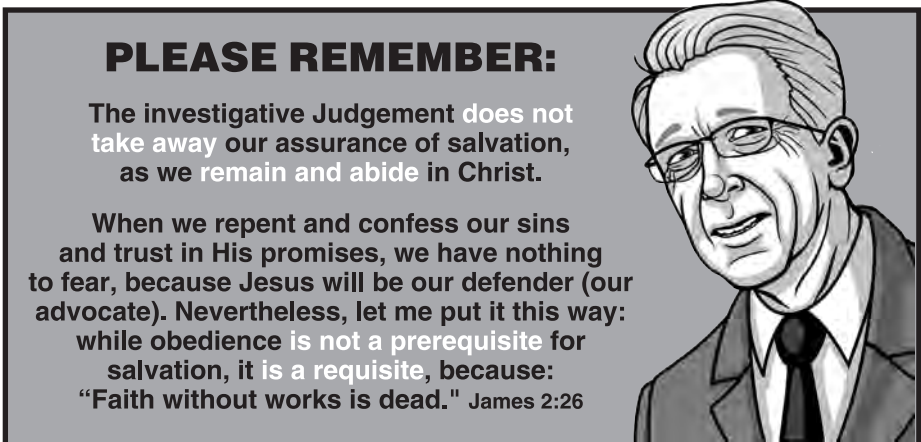
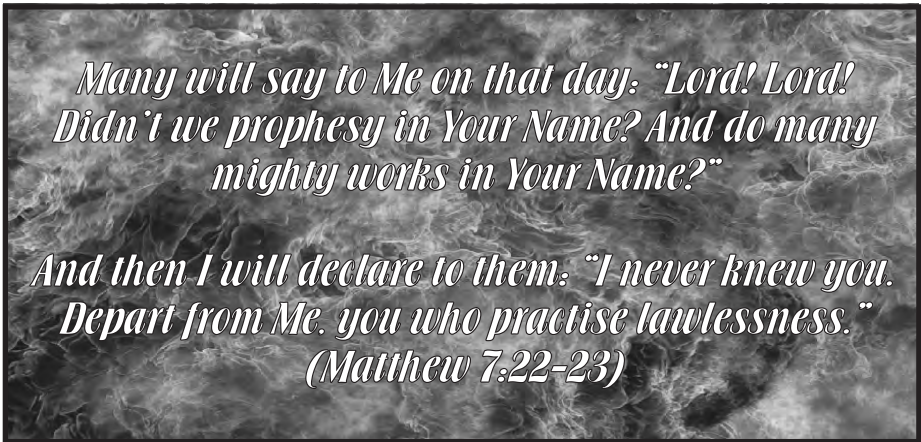
In this great controversy between God and Satan, Lucifer challenged the goodness of God, saying that God was an arbitrary dictator and a vindictive judge. He rebelled against God and was cast out of Heaven.

The Investigative Judgement does not exist because God doesn't know who is saved or lost. Its purpose is to reveal before a waiting world and a watching universe that, in every single life, God reached out in loving kindness and compassion to save them for His kingdom.



Yet in the church there are good and bad fish. In one of His parables Jesus tells the story of the fishermen and their dragnet. (Read it in Matthew 13:47-50.)

- The boat symbolises the church, while the fish (we) get sorted out on the shore.

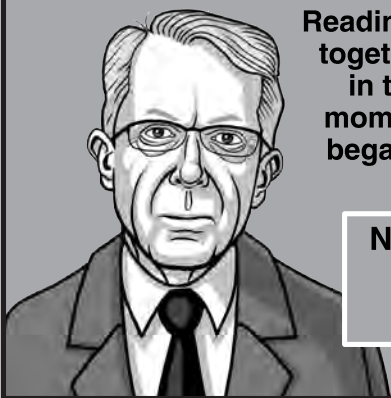


When Paul spoke about the judgement of God, it was in the future at that moment, yet Revelation 14:7 says: "For the hour of His judgement has come." This sums up what this tract is about.

Note: In the original Greek text the verb translated as has come is a so-called 'aorist'. In Greek, the aorist indicates an action is past, it has already taken place or is in the process of taking place. It simply is.

This indicates that the hour of God's judgement has arrived, it currently exists. God's judgment is a present judgement.

This is the hour of God's judgement.



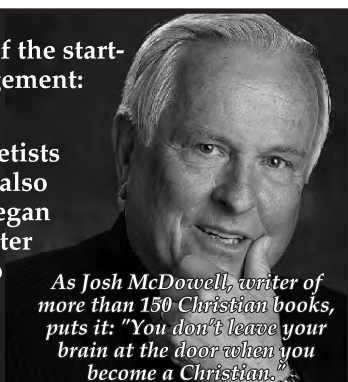
Reading Daniel's prophecies (Daniel 8:14) together with Revelation, we clearly are in the Judgement Hour, at this very moment. I believe the Judgement Hour began in 1844, at the end of the period of 2,300 years.

Now that may raise a question,
so bear with me
for the next few pages.

Of course, there's clear mathematical proof of the starting date of the pre-advent Investigative Judgement: AD 1844 (check Tract #24).

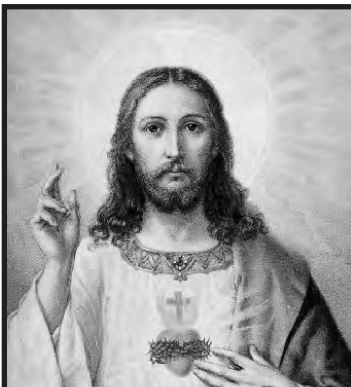
This is not an unusual deduction; other exegetists of different persuasions and denominations also believe Daniel speaks of a judgement that began at around this time. The Roman Catholic writer F Düsterwald, for instance, said: "There is no doubt that the prophet Daniel is describing God's judgement here..."

(*Die Weltreiche und das Gottesreich* [1890], p 177)



As Josh McDowell, writer of more than 150 Christian books, puts it: "You don't leave your brain at the door when you become a Christian."

✦ **The Bible is not only true, but logical as well.** ✦



Yet there's another aspect of the Judgement, namely that whatever unfairness or unrighteousness, whatever challenges I had in my life, in the Judgement God will make all things right. God will explain that He had been there with me in the trials of life to give me hope.

- Yet the Judgement says evil will be condemned, Satan will be defeated, and Christ will set all things right.



That's incredibly GOOD NEWS and I trust it encourages you!

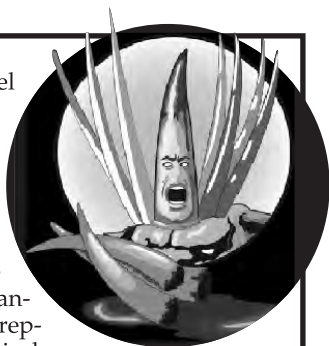


The Judgement is revealed in two books, Daniel and Revelation. They relate to one another.

In the book of Revelation Jesus says through John that the hour of God's judgement has come, but it doesn't tell us *when* the clock struck the hour, it doesn't tell us *when* the Judgement began.

However, if you check Daniel 7, 8 and 9, you'll find the time-line revealed. The history of salvation in Christ (Daniel 7) shows the vision of four beasts. Those four beasts represent four empires, their ten horns the rise of four political powers. The little horn, which arises last and overwhelms the other horns, refers to a politico-religious power that will attempt to change God's law.

- This is discussed in Tract #26.



But then you have the opening scenes of the Judgement. Daniel is looking at what takes place on earth. He looks up and sees this judgement scene. This is good news to him, since the earthly powers that opposed God's plan and purpose and His people are destroyed. (Daniel 7:9-10)



- So in those two verses we see the opening of the Judgement that Revelation 14:7 and Revelation 21:2 speak about.



Regarding the timing of the Judgement, we find it revealed in Daniel 8:14. In Daniel 8:13 the angel asks a question, and Daniel points us to the Sanctuary.

At this time the politico-religious power has suppressed the truth about the Sanctuary; they've suppressed the truth about Jesus as our Sacrifice, our High Priest, our Redeemer, the One who intercedes for us.

And he said to me,
"For 2,300 days, then shall the Sanctuary
be cleansed." Daniel 8:14

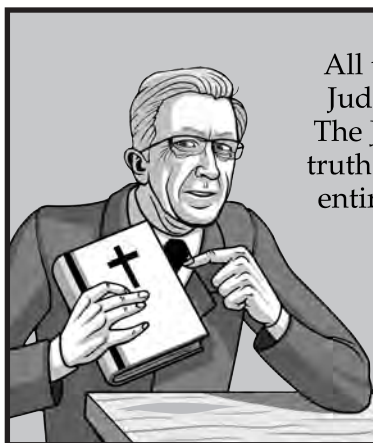
You come to the end of this chapter and Daniel faints; read Daniel 8:27 and Daniel 9:24.

All of this is explained in Tract #24. Remember, the 490 years relate to the Jewish nation!

So Gabriel returns to explain the vision to Daniel that he didn't understand: *"I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it."* - Daniel 8:27



And he informed me, and talked with me, and said: "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand." Daniel 9:22



All this means we are **now** living in the Judgement Hour, which started in 1844. The Judgement Hour is the time when the truth of God's Word is to be restored to the entire world, a truth that goes to the ends of the world.

Considering both Daniel and Revelation, this is a time to be sure our hearts are right with God.

So what are we to do then in the Judgement Hour?
What's our responsibility?

To repent then and open our hearts to God, to be sure
there is nothing between us and Jesus, this then is
our calling in the Judgement Hour.

Then let me paraphrase James 1:22:
"Get busy for The Lord!"

In conclusion, a word of encouragement!

We know Satan as the 'accuser of our brethren' (Revelation 12:10). Nonetheless, the Judgement that precedes the Second Coming is in favour of the 'justified' and the 'sanctified' believer. Read Daniel 7:22: "... until the Ancient of Days came and a judgement was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the Kingdom."

Wonderful News for the Christian!

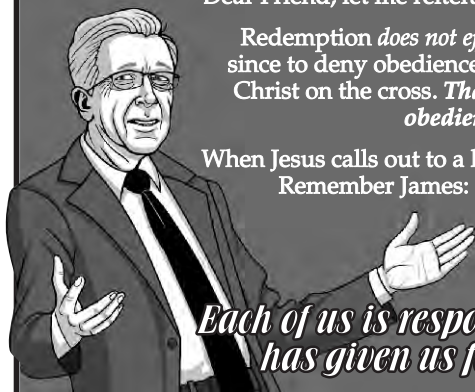
Dear Friend, let me reiterate my answer to our sister's concern:

Redemption does not effortlessly follow on from forgiveness, since to deny obedience to God's laws, denies the death of Christ on the cross. That is to expect forgiveness without obedience to God's laws.

When Jesus calls out to a lost soul, He calls him to discipleship.
Remember James: "Faith without deeds is dead."

Each of us has
received a talent!

***Each of us is responsible to use that which God
has given us for His honour and glory.***



"A touching gospel tract may be the seed of eternal life."

Why the Bible Tracts?

C H Spurgeon, famous Christian preacher and academic, wrote: "When preaching and private talk are not available, you need to have a tract ready. This is often an effective method. Get a good, striking tract, or none at all. But a touching gospel tract may be the seed of eternal life."



Charles Haddon Spurgeon
1834 - 1892

Lots of folk have asked me over the years why I make these Bible tracts and where I got the idea from.

Well, it's not a new idea, and the concept goes back a long time, since before the printing press. Christians have used tracts to communicate truth for centuries. Spurgeon himself penned many evangelistic tracts and urged his students to use them. At times, he personally went door-to-door distributing them.

For me, the spark came in 1961. We had a Baptist Church in Bournemouth, UK, that sent printed tracts worldwide, and that somehow caught my imagination. I was fifteen at the time.

Over the last fifty years or so I had made stop/start efforts to make printed tracts, but the project really took off when I began with tracts for WhatsApp. Thanks to the internet, these tracts travel worldwide and can be downloaded at virtually no cost to the reader. With a world population of eight billion people, free digital Bible tracts are an excellent means of spreading the Gospel.

One of the earliest Puritans, Cotton Mather, wrote: "Who can tell but that, with the expense of less than a shilling, you may convert a sinner from the error of his ways."

So, let's get to work!

George Ross



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