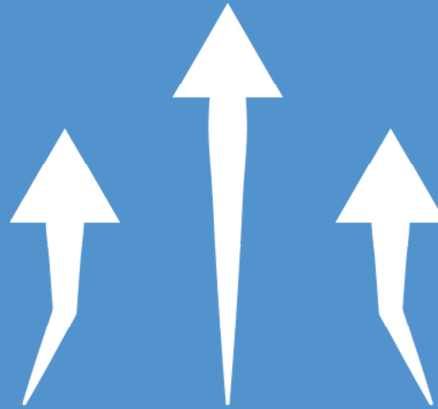


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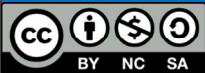


# **The Rapture Survival Guide**

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**The Rapture Survival Guide is a comprehensive collection of information focused on the events leading up to and succeeding the rapture of the church. The guide is designed to help you survive the perilous times ahead, avoid deception, prove that the bible is from God and save your eternal life.**





The Rapture, otherwise known as "the Harpazo" is a Christian religious event in which the believers saved in Jesus Christ and those younger than the accountable age vanish from earth instantly "in the twinkling of an eye" meeting Jesus in the air. Those who aren't saved through Jesus and were left behind on earth will be subject to 7 years of the wrath of God, known as the Tribulation. You can become saved through Jesus after the rapture happens, but your life will be much tougher with the antichrist around.

Following the instant disappearance of believers from earth, and consequently, the standing aside by the 'restrainer' who is the Holy Spirit, there will be utter chaos in the world as people seek to understand what happened. If you're one of these people - you have found the answers to the questions you have on the subject alongside the Bible. Be warned that there will be a "lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:11) that is so powerful it will deceive even the most intelligent people.

Many Christians believe that this lie will be an alien abduction deception of some sort as it's the only plausible reason that could explain the disappearance of millions of people from earth in a single moment. However since the Bible isn't explicit on what this 'lie' is, be careful not to be deceived.

Immediately after the rapture, the antichrist (someone who puts himself in *place* of God) can begin his rise to power, gaining notoriety and influence all over the world and solving its problems. Once he has gained enough attention on the world stage he will make an existing covenant with Israel - even more spectacular, allowing the Jews to build the third temple and worship again.

This covenant initiates the 7 year tribulation which is the period God pours out plagues on the planet in an attempt to bring His nation of Israel and those who dwell on the earth back to Him. Three and a half years into the this covenant, the antichrist sits on the throne in the temple in Jerusalem and declares himself to be god, initiating the second half of the tribulation.

The antichrist will then double down on his intent to slaughter all Jews and newly converted Christians throughout the entire globe and all those who refuse to take his 'mark' - The Mark of the Beast on either their right hand or forehead. The bible says his mark "666" will need to be 'calculated' and won't be easily identifiable, but it will be his number and not your own personal identification number. (Revelation 13:18)

During this rise and reign of the antichrist, God will be pouring out His just judgements on this increasingly sinful world which will cause utter devastation on the planet and ultimately cause the nations of the world to come together to battle God at Armageddon. Then comes Jesus' second triumphant return with all those who were raptured previously. Jesus will destroy all those who rejected Him and claim His throne in Jerusalem, ruling the world for 1,000 years known as the millennium.

#### This Rapture Survival Guide will:

- Help you to navigate through these tough times with tact and faith,
- Discuss bible prophecy and fulfillment,
- Help you become a Christian if you aren't already and
- Equip you mentally and spiritually for the rampant evil and deception ahead.

#### Subheadings

		1. Introduction	2. Timeline Diagram	3. Pre-Rapture	4. The Rapture		
		5. Post-Rapture	6. Tribulation	7. The Seals	8. The Trumpets		
		9. Mid Tribulation	10. The Bowls	11. Post-Tribulation	12. The Millennium		
		13. Eternity	14. Accepting Jesus	15. Addendum	16. Next Steps		

All of the terms above are discussed in greater detail below to help you understand God's plan for the gentiles (non Jews) and the plan for His nation of Israel in the final chapter of earth. So keep reading and feel free to print, copy, email and disseminate this guide to anyone and everyone seeking truth in these 'biblical' times as there are no copyrights on it.

If some of these prophecies such as the rapture have already been fulfilled and you're seeking answers, please keep reading! If anything, the events in the book of Revelation can be used to verify that the bible is 100% truth and given from a loving God *outside* of space and time. It's absolutely critical that you understand this before continuing on or you'll tend to disregard the essential points. For additional reasons on why the bible is truth, see the "RELIGION > Christianity > Evidence for God" section which can either be found below if you're reading the digital version or can be downloaded from [www.fluidicice.com/TRSG](http://www.fluidicice.com/TRSG) if you have a printed version.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

**51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

**52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

This is one of the verses in the bible referencing the rapture of the church.

There are plenty of other events which have to be fulfilled in the near future such as the global government and the one world religion.

However these three are very distinct events which will be hard to miss, as they will get global media coverage when they occur. There's more info on them events further below.



### Millions Vanish From Earth!

(1 Corinthians 15:52)

Jesus calls the believing Christians home, before His wrath

(Jumps down to 'Left Behind?')



### The Destruction of Damascus

(Isaiah 17)

Damascus will be destroyed and never inhabited again

(Jumps down to Damascus' destruction)



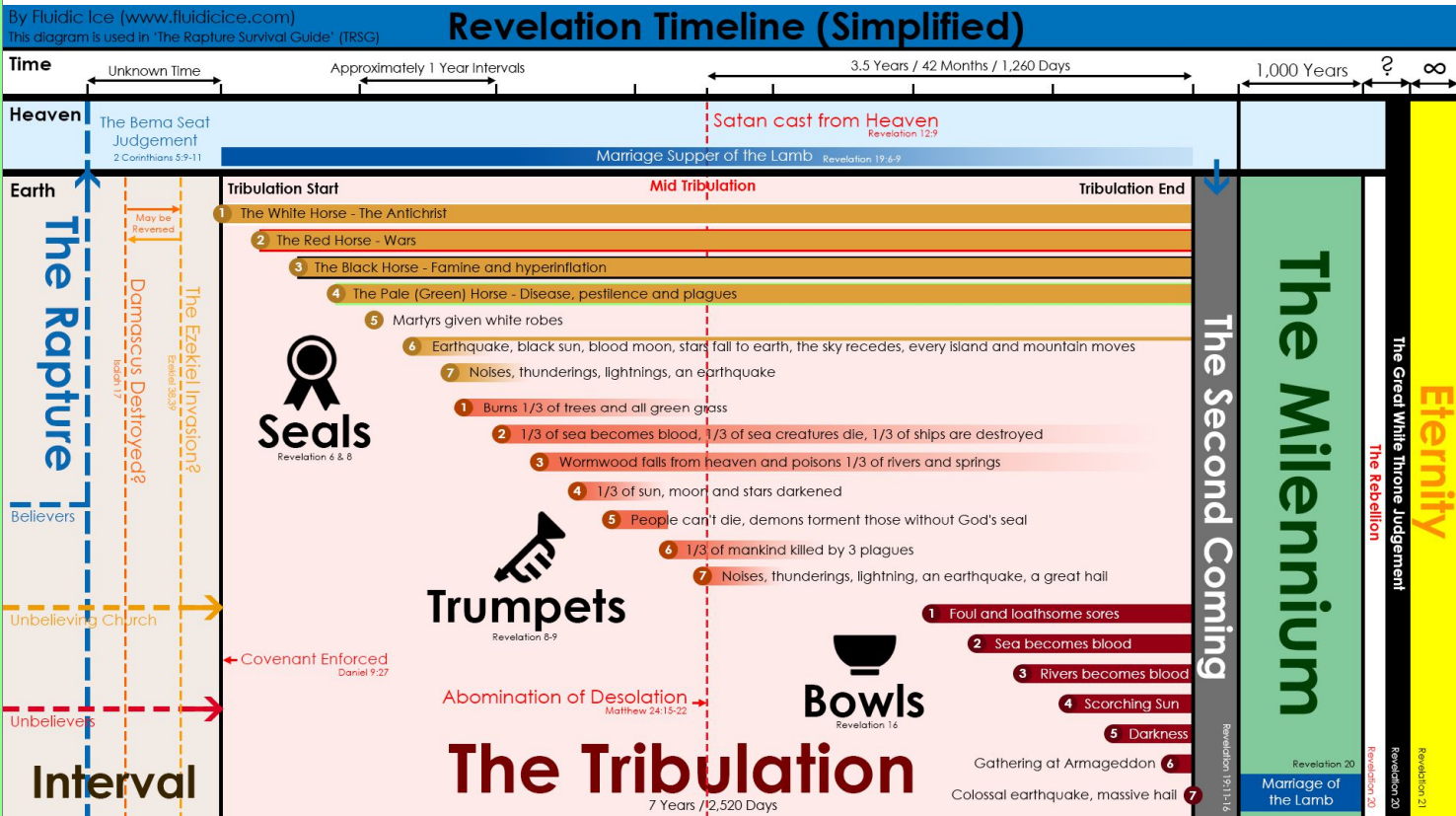
### The Russian Invasion of Israel

(Ezekiel 38)

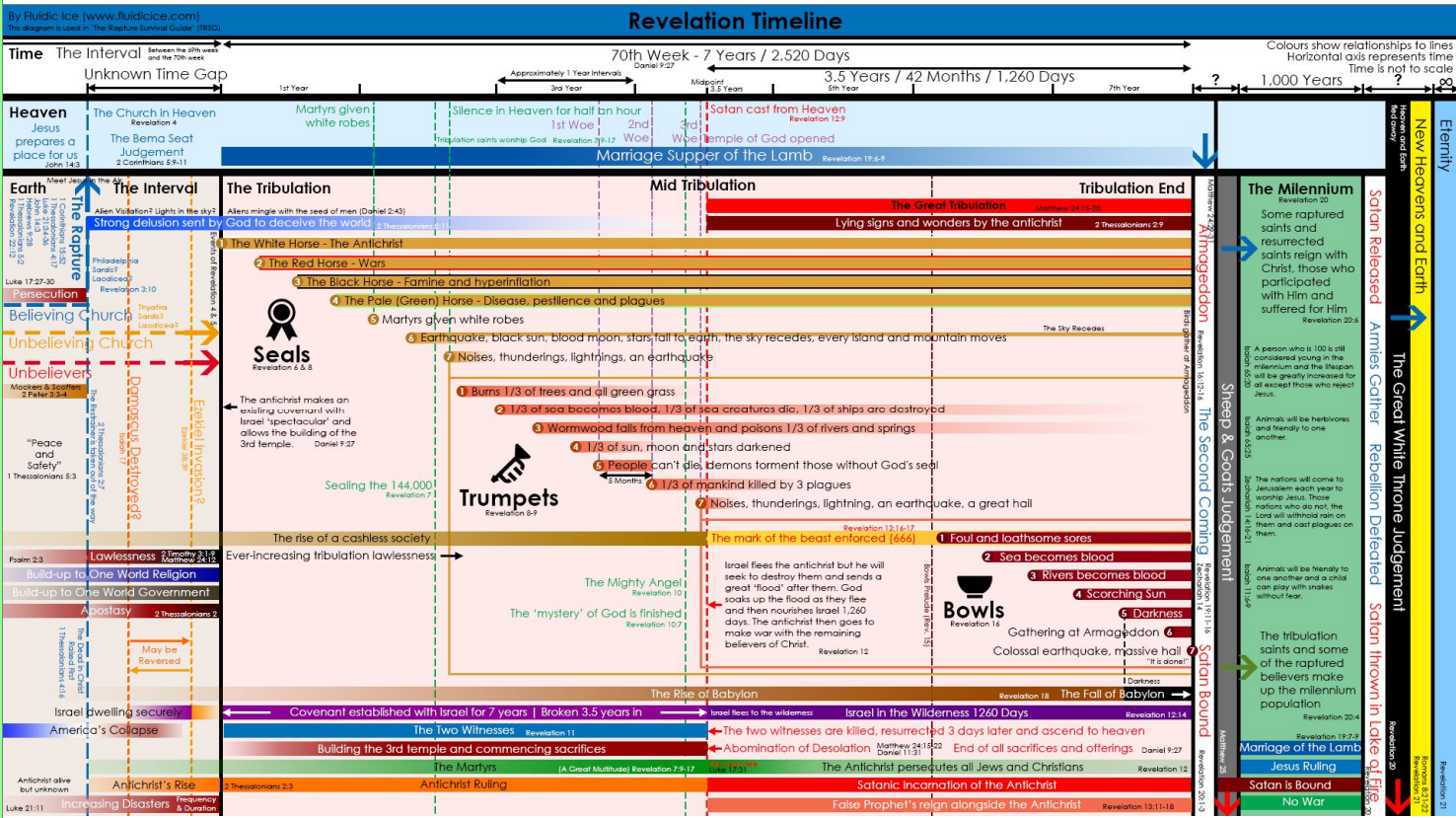
Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Syria will surprise attack Israel simultaneously but utterly fail

(Jumps down to the Israel invasion)

Below is a diagram of how these end time events could unfold, based on a premillennial dispensational view of Christianity. It can be used to refer back to when reading through the rest of the guide as you won't understand each event without further study. The full diagram may be a bit daunting on first glance, but after reading the scriptures (mostly Revelation) you should slowly be able to work out what each event signifies and where you sit in God's end times timeline. The bible covers this 7 year tribulation period in better detail than any other time in the bible, however there still are a few gaps which must be 'guessed'. I recommend finding which Seal, Trumpet or Bowl the world is currently experiencing and read on - watching out for the next sign described in the bible. If anything, it can be used to prove the validity and accuracy of God's word to help keep you strong in the faith. For previously fulfilled prophecies, take a look at the "Christianity" section.



Below is the more detailed revelation timeline for those who are interested in diving deeper into these future events.





For an easier reading experience I recommend downloading the high-definition diagrams from my website [www.fluidicice.com/TRSG](http://www.fluidicice.com/TRSG). Or just do a web search for "fluidic ice revelation timeline" to find it.



The Timeline Link

**TLDR Below:** The horizontal axis is time and the vertical axis splits up the events in heaven and on earth. If you draw a vertical line anywhere on the diagram, any horizontal lines that intersect with it may be occurring at that time. Colours have a relationship with anything else that colour.

### Reading the Diagram

To start reading this rather complicated diagram take a look at the white 'Time' bar near the top. This shows approximate timings for the events below such as the tribulation and the millennium. A little further down in the light blue section are the events that take place in heaven. Vertical lines spanning heaven and earth just show you these events occur in both places. Any coloured text adjacent to coloured lines shows a relationship. Coloured text is used to link common themes throughout the document, such as satanic influences and events appearing red, events involving raptured believers in baby blue and the events involving Israel being purple. Of course this may not always apply as I ran out of colours to use.

The events on earth are found under the heaven section and have a light brown and light red background. This is the section you will likely be focusing on the most if you've missed the rapture as it contains the seals, trumpets and bowls. I recommend drawing a vertical line on the diagram every so often to keep track of where you are in God's grand scheme. The gradient lines on the diagram are themed to particular events, people or groups of people and generally cover most of the timeline. The weaker the gradient - the less it applies.

The events after the tribulation such as the millennium and eternity are more for your general information due to not needing this diagram after the second coming of Jesus. That's about it, if you still have questions on it try reading the referenced scriptures found on the detailed diagram.

### Diagram Events

The diagram starts before the rapture of the church where lawlessness, natural disasters and the persecution of the church will grow ever stronger in an attempt to wake people up from their spiritual slumber and to turn them back to God. Then the rapture happens (the blue line with an upwards arrow on the left) and the restrainer steps aside allowing all hell to break loose on earth. People will loot, steal, murder, riot and cry out in agony as the entire world breaks down. The deception sent by God will fool many into believing 'the lie' and people will be fixed to their TV's in disbelief at what's happening.

Out of the shadows the one who will be called the 'antichrist' will rise to power having the solutions to the worlds problems. (the orange gradient at the bottom) He will then establish a covenant with Israel allowing the third temple to be built (maroon line at the bottom), kicking off the tribulation period (the entire light red area in the middle). The tribulation is a time of God's wrath on the world - but particularly Israel, and consists of 21 scroll related events in the form of seals, trumpets and bowls including a few others mentioned throughout the bible. The seals are the orange gradients near the top, the trumpets are the red/orange gradients and the bowls are the maroon gradients at the bottom of the diagram. This is the point at which the seals and trumpets take place.

3.5 years into the covenant with Israel (the red dotted line in exactly the middle), the antichrist will sit on the throne in the third temple and desecrate it with abominations to God. This is known as the Abomination of Desolation which starts the horrific second half of the tribulation known as the "Great Tribulation" where the Jews and Christians are hunted down even more for their faith. (The green gradient near the bottom) It is this point where the antichrist will mandate a 'mark' that everyone must take to be able to buy and trade with, and whoever doesn't take this mark will be beheaded.

The bowls of God's wrath will be poured out on the world somewhere throughout this second half. (The maroon gradients with number in the middle-right) Near the end of the 7 years the Euphrates river will dry up (Bowl 5) allowing the nations of the world to gather in Armageddon, Israel to fight God. (Bowl 6) Jesus will then come gloriously from heaven with those who were raptured and kill all those who took the mark of the beast and those who do not believe in Him. (The white vertical bar before the millennium)

Satan will be bound and those Christians who survived the tribulation and those who returned from heaven will live harmoniously in the millennium with Jesus reigning. (The green section to the right) After the 1,000 years have finished, satan will be released once more to deceive the nations for a time before Jesus destroys the uprising. (The white section to the right after the millennium)

The great white throne judgement then occurs, where all the old testament saints and unbelievers throughout history are raised to life and judged for what they did in life. (The black bar) Once the judgement has passed and everyone has been grouped to either His left hand or right hand, he will send them to either everlasting life in heaven or everlasting judgement in hell. Finally, a new heaven and a new earth will be created for us to live in eternally. (The yellow and light blue bars)

What follows is a detailed description of the events in the timeline. I recommend printing the diagrams out on an A3 or A4 page to follow along on.



# Pre-Rapture

The period of time before the rapture occurs

## The Pre-Rapture

First, to comprehensively explain what will happen after the rapture you need to understand what the bible says on the rapture and the events leading up to it, even if it's already happened. You would undoubtedly have many questions on current events which the bible passages below should shed some light on.

It will also help you not to be deceived by the **POWERFUL** lie that will undoubtedly be on the news and TV attempting to explain the disappearance of only true Christians and young children, likely with some sort of 'alien abduction' narrative as demons will be working overtime to trick all those who weren't taken. For more on demons and how they can imitate UFOs and aliens, see the "The Alien Deception" section under "The Rapture" below.

**If the rapture has already happened, jump down to "The Rapture" section to get straight into the main content, then return here later as it's still important to know.**

## The Term 'Rapture'

Many will say that the word "Rapture" isn't in the English bible, and they would be right. The word "Jesus" or "Trinity" isn't in the original Hebrew and Greek texts either but does that mean it's unbiblical? No. There have been a lot of translations since the original scripts of Hebrew and Greek were written down by the prophets all those years ago which is why some of the words had to be changed to make sense in our modern languages. Even though the words are different, the meaning has still been the same throughout all of history.

Since the New Testament was written in Greek, this is the language where we will find the origins of the word "Rapture". It was originally "ἁρπάζω" which, when transliterated [to write or print using the closest corresponding letters of a different alphabet or language] means "Harpazo". Strong's Greek Concordance translates Harpazo to mean: 1. to seize, carry off by force, 2. to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly, 3. to snatch out or away.

Therefore the rapture is a seizing or forcefully snatching away of His church to Him. That is the meaning of the word but we still have to connect our word "Rapture" with the meaning of being snatched away forcefully, that is where the Latin word "raptus" comes in. It means "a carrying off" and is a root of the Medieval Latin word "raptura" which also means "seizure" or "kidnapping". The interpreters translated the Greek "ἁρπάζω" to the Latin "raptus" and over time it became "raptura" and finally in modern English "Rapture".

## Lawlessness

As written in 2 Peter 3:1-9, there will be mockers and scoffers in the last days who will perpetually criticize christians for their beliefs, saying: "When is He coming? It's been thousands of years with no sign of His return." They will mock the belief in the rapture, mock those who pray and mock Christians just because of their belief in God. This mocking will become greater and more consistent in the days leading up to the rapture. People will also seek to do away with the biblical traditions such as marriage between a man and woman and avoid God completely as per Psalm 2:3. "Let us break Their bonds in pieces, And cast away their cords from us."

At the time of writing, the nations of the world are continually, and increasingly casting away biblical commandments and traditions while replacing them with: abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, hedonism, evolution, murder, lying, rape, witchcraft, fornication and many more.

### 2 Peter 3:3-9

**3** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

**4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

**5** For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

**6** by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

**7** But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**8** But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

**9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

## Rapture Verses

These are some bible verses mentioning the rapture and where you can find them. The interpretation is to the right of each one, however you should only ever trust the word of God and not man therefore I recommend you look them up yourself and come to your own understanding of them.



## Daniel 12:1-2

**1** And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as was never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

**2** 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."

Michael the angel will relinquish his guardianship position over Israel and the events of the tribulation, the wrath of God and the antichrist will befall it, affecting it and every other nation on earth. The people of Israel, in particular the sealed 144,000 of Jesus will be delivered through this tribulation.

## Signs

A major sign of Christ's return post-rapture is war and dissension among groups of people. The book of Revelation tells us that the Tribulation Period is filled with constant war that will escalate until the entire world is involved. This war will be terrible, ceaseless and unending. The Bible says that as we move toward the end times, there will be many talks of conflicts, border skirmishes, race wars and national battles. World military spending has now reached one trillion dollars. The arms trade is big business and a world war with our current technology and nuclear/hypersonic weapons would be devastating to the entire planet.

As we get closer and closer to the End Times, there will be ever frequent natural disasters, hunger and famine. If you look around the world right now, there are millions of people going hungry, despite God blessing us with a fertile and abundant planet. There will also be major earthquakes which scientists have said are overdue as well as the spread of new diseases. We have noticed an epidemic of new diseases breaking out that we have not been able to control the spread of such as ebola, COVID-19 and new strains of the flu.

Many wonder what the worlds current devastation is telling us. Combined, they should be fairly obvious signs of Christ's soon return which will be about 7 years after the enforcement of the covenant by the antichrist or 3.5 years after he declares himself as god in the temple. This gives those who are unsaved a second and even third checkpoint, showing there's not long until His return. I recommend going back to the top of this section and looking at the timeline again if you're confused about the order of events.

Daniel's 70th week isn't actually a week of days as we know it, but a period of 7 years. 69 weeks consisting of 7 years (483 Years Total) have already passed but there's a gap before the final, disastrous 'week'. Initially there will be utter chaos after the rapture but there will be somewhat of a recovery afterwards as roads are cleared, wreckages are contained and vacancies are filled. However, strong delusions and lies will be spread by the media about what has happened, and the world will never return to normal. People will be seeking answers and it will be the only thing on people's minds for a long time.

During this time of clean-up and repair, the world will fall further into disarray and the nations will seek a leader to deliver them from the earth's continual problems. Global warming and aliens may be two of the most discussed topics after the rapture due to the massive increase and frequency in natural disasters as shown in Revelation. Then upon the scene, the self declared "saviour" of the world will come, making "peace" among nations. He will enforce a new peace treaty (or make an existing treaty even greater) with Israel and allow the third temple to be built. This peace he brings will not be achieved through pen and ink but with the sword, by destroying those nations who do not align with his goals or 'the good of the planet'.

## American Collapse

The American collapse is a prerequisite for the one-world government as long as America continues to be a capitalist nation. As of 2019 America is the closest and strongest ally Israel has ever had. However nobody is found in the bible to help defend Israel during the Gog/Magog invasion (Ezekiel 38) leading us to the conclusion that America must lose its superpower status before Israel can stand alone.

For decades now America has been abandoning and replacing the one true God in all aspects of society. It's no wonder that we are starting to see the wrath of God beginning to strike the nation in the form of civil unrest, lawlessness and insanity. 2020 was crazy enough of a year, but already we see that 2021 is making 2020 look like a walk in the park!

America is also not found in the bible by scholars today so this leads us to the question of why? Below are a few of the most likely reasons why America is no longer a world super power anymore.

### America's Demise could be caused by:

- The Rapture
  - Abandonment Wrath (By God)
  - An Economic Collapse
  - Communist Takeover
  - A Pandemic
  - A Civil War
  - Nationwide Riots
  - A Supervolcano
  - A Mega-Earthquake
- or a combination of them.

## Damascus Destroyed



### Damascus Destroyed

In Isaiah 17 the bible says that Damascus will be utterly destroyed. That is, destroyed and never inhabited again. We can be guaranteed this hasn't taken place yet (in 2019) because the city exists and is called home to about 18 million people. The reason it won't be inhabited again could be a hint at nuclear weapons use which due to radiation, can render any location uninhabitable.

This event could take place before or after the rapture, so it's included before just in case. Take the destruction of the city as a warning of what is to come and evidence that the bible is true. If you're still sceptical read on for further prophecies of the future, or read it yourself for more which have already been fulfilled.

- This event could be before or after the rapture

**Isaiah 17:1-3**

1 "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, And it will be a ruinous heap.  
 2 The cities of Aroer are forsaken; They will be for flocks Which lie down, and no one will make them afraid.  
 3 The fortress also will cease from Ephraim, The kingdom from Damascus, And the remnant of Syria;  
 They will be as the glory of the children of Israel," Says the Lord of hosts.  
**See Isaiah 17 for More**

**Russia and Syria Invade Israel**



**Russia and Syria Invade Israel**

Russia (Magog), Iran, Turkey, Sudan, Libya and Syria will launch a combined surprise attack against Israel to claim their spoils which is likely to be natural resources such as the vast reserves of minerals, gas, technology, gold, oil and even water. However, God will destroy these armies in the mountains of Israel and will **rain fire on Russia** and those who 'dwell securely in the isles'.

This event will likely speed up the need for a world saviour (the coming 'antichrist') to solve the world's turmoil and wars.  
 • This event could be before or after the rapture

**Ezekiel 38:1-6**

1 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,  
 2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,  
 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.  
 4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.  
 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;  
 6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you."  
**See Ezekiel 38 for More.**

Ezekiel 38–39 foretells a massive future invasion of Israel by the armed forces of six nations. Five of those nations are identified in 38:5–6 with the names they bore in Ezekiel's time. The first nation, Persia, is now the modern state of Iran. It is currently ruled by an Islamic fundamentalist government that is building significant military power, including the development of nuclear weapons. It has openly declared its commitment to the annihilation of the Jewish State of Israel.

The second nation, Ethiopia, isn't the same as modern Ethiopia. Today it is known as Sudan and is dominated by an Islamic fundamentalist government that is using brutal means, including crucifixion of Christians, to attempt to establish a pure, Islamic state.

The third nation, Libya, the western neighbour of Egypt, is also an Islamic nation today. It is strongly anti-West and anti-Israel, and Western intelligence has been informed that Libya has hired Eastern European and former Soviet military scientists to aid its development of military power.

The people of the fourth nation, Gomer, were also known as the Cimmerians. They originally lived north of the Caucasus Mountains in the southern part of what is modern Russia. In Ezekiel's time, they had settled in what is now central Turkey. The people of the fifth nation, Togarmah, were identified by Josephus as the Phrygians, who settled in Cappadocia, now eastern Turkey.

Considering the location of the fourth and fifth nations in Turkey, it should be noted that the present secular government of Turkey is being threatened by Islamic fundamentalists. As a result, some leaders fear that Turkey could become another Iran. If that happens, all the nations named in Ezekiel 38:5–6 will be characterized by a militant Islamic hatred of Israel.

The five nations of Ezekiel 38:5–6 will be led by a sixth in the future attack against Israel. God gave three identifying marks for that leader. The leader is identified as "the chief prince" or ruler "of Meshech and Tubal" (Ezekiel. 38:2; 39:1). Classical Greek writers called the people of Meshech the "Moschoi" and Assyrian records referred to them as the "Muski." This group settled in the area of Armenia, "where the borders of Russia, Iran and Turkey converge."

The people of Tubal were located in the central part of Turkey immediately west of Togarmah. Gog's location is "the north parts" (38:15; 39:2). The Hebrew word translated "parts" means "extreme or uttermost parts." Since Ezekiel was a Hebrew prophet, he would refer to geographical locations from the vantage point of his homeland. Thus, his statement in 38:15 indicates that when Gog leads the six-nation attack against Israel, he will come from his location in the extreme or uttermost parts directly north of Israel. Russia is the nation situated in the extreme or uttermost parts directly north of Israel.

From what has been observed, it appears that Russia will lead the future invasion against Israel foretold in Ezekiel 38–39. Why would Russia do this? One reason is anti-Semitism. Before Communism, Russia was notorious for brutal persecution of Jews. While Communism held an iron grip on the government of that nation, it suppressed the outward expression of hatred for Jews. As a result of this ominous trend and the lifting of Communist rule, a mass exodus of Jews from the former Soviet Union has been taking place since the early 1990s, with the majority returning to their ancient homeland of Israel.

There is another reason for Russia to lead the future invasion—a desire for status. According to an independent secular intelligence agency, officers of the armed forces of the former Soviet Union believe that Russia can still have superpower status, even without Communism, if it will ally itself with Islamic nations against Israel.

In Ezekiel 38:8, 16, God declared that this future invasion of Israel would take place "in the latter years" and "latter days". That would be after Israel has been regathered from the nations to its homeland and feels so safe and secure that it will have no defences of its own (vv. 8, 11–12, 14). There has been an amazing regathering of Israel to its homeland since its re-establishment as a nation state in 1948, but certainly Israel does not feel so safe and secure there today that it has no defences of its own.

Since the Scriptures indicate that there will be no warfare during the future reign of the Messiah (Ps. 72:7; Isa. 9:6–7; Mic. 4:3–4), this invasion cannot take place during the Millennium. Is there any time between now and Christ's Second Coming to establish the Millennium when Israel will feel so safe and secure that it will not maintain its defences? It appears so.



According to Daniel 9:27, at the very beginning of the future seven-year Tribulation period, the Antichrist will enforce a strong covenant with Israel. It will so strongly bind Israel to the Antichrist that he will regard that nation as an extension of himself and his empire in the Middle East. As a result, through that covenant the Antichrist will guarantee Israel's national security. This guarantee will cause Israel to feel so safe and secure that it will discontinue the costly burden of maintaining its defences.

This feeling of security will not last long, however. In the middle of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will begin to desolate Israel (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15-21); thus, the nation will feel safe and secure only during the first half of the seven-year Tribulation. It appears, then, that the invasion of Israel by Russia and its Islamic allies will take place during the first half of the Tribulation, perhaps shortly before its midpoint. The invaders will think that since Israel has let down its military guard, it will be their opportune time to strike and plunder its resources (Ezek. 38:10-13). As a result, they will launch such a large invasion force that it will seem like a massive cloud covering the land (38:9, 15-16).

God's initial action will be to pull these invaders into Israel for His own sovereign purpose (38:4, 16; 39:2). When they attack, His attitude toward them will be characterized by fury, jealousy, and fiery wrath (38:18-19). He will then actively intervene to destroy the massive invading force through a fierce earthquake, landslides, self-destructive panic, pestilence, excessive rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone (38:19-22).

The destruction of the invading army will be so extensive that the mountains and open fields of Israel and a valley near the Dead Sea will be congested with corpses. God will bring fowl and beasts to eat many of them. It will take the Jews seven months to bury the remainder of the dead and seven years to destroy their weapons (39:3-5, 9-20). If this invasion takes place shortly before the middle of the Tribulation, this destruction of weapons will continue into the early part of the Millennium.

God's purpose for all of this will be to glorify Himself before Israel and all the nations—to so impress them with His existence and power that He will have life changing influence on them (38:16, 23; 39:7, 13, 21-22). Many Jews and Gentiles will be saved during the Tribulation (Revelation 7). No doubt the fulfilment of the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecy will be one of the means through which God will bring people of that time to Himself.

**Alternative Viewpoint**

Since the destruction of Damascus and the invasion of Israel are difficult to place into a timeline I have included an alternative view on how it could happen. This view is that the destruction of Damascus occurs prior to the invasion of Israel caused by a war which also includes the destruction of the surrounding nations which loathe Israel. The aftermath of this provides a safe(er) and secure environment for Israel to flourish without walls - having no local threats anymore.

This catastrophic war is where Israel takes the spoils of the surrounding nations and extends its borders, which will ultimately prove to be the 'hooks in the jaws' of the Gog invasion. The Ezekiel invasion therefore will take place before the tribulation begins, at which point the antichrist will step in and quell the violence.

**Cash Phase-Out**

<b>Cash Phase-Out</b>	This is a prerequisite for the one-world currency. Cash and other forms of payments will overlap the one world currency for a transition period before it becomes too cumbersome to use and is shut down. We can see the effects that COVID-19 had on the flow of cash where people weren't accepting it for fear of catching the virus.
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**One World Currency**

<b>One World Currency</b>	<p>A currency exclusively used globally is a prerequisite for the one world government. If nobody can buy or sell without the mark, then there must be a one world currency, which as the bible describes will be a mark (possibly a chip) either in the right hand or forehead.</p> <p>A one world currency could be something like Facebook's Libra or Bitcoin but ultimately the world will ditch the plastic credit cards and put technology in either your hand or forehead.</p>	<p><b>Revelation 13:16-17</b>  <b>16</b> And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:  <b>17</b> And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.</p>
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**One World Government**

<b>One World Government</b>	<p>As the world grows darker and the laws of the world are no longer upheld, nations will join together under one world government to supposedly bring peace to the world and help prevent both man-made and natural disasters occurring. For the antichrist to be able to control the world, a one world government needs to be created.</p> <p>This government may sound like it will solve the problems of the world, but will only cause havoc and the collapse of many nations. We can see it coming together slowly today and will most likely originate from Europe or the United Nations.</p>
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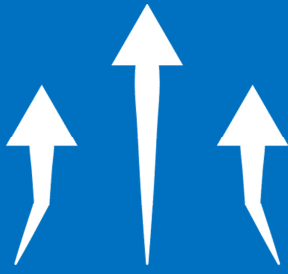
This government will likely form right after a catastrophic, global disaster such as a pandemic, economic collapse, global war, an 'alien visitation' or the rapture. As described in the bible this government will begin with 10 leaders and will slowly be reduced down to 3, not including the antichrist. He will then 'subdue' the remaining three and become the sole power of the government of the world. This is found in **Daniel 7:24-25** with the horns meaning 'kings'. The ten-nation confederacy is also seen in Daniel's image of the statue in **Daniel 2:41-42**, where he pictures the final world government consisting of ten entities represented by the ten toes of the statue.

**Revelation 13:16-17** describes some sort of satanic mark which will be required in order to buy and sell. This means anyone who refuses the mark will be unable to buy food, clothing or other necessities of life. No doubt the vast majority of people in the world will succumb to the mark simply to survive. Again, verse 16 makes it clear that this will be a universal system of control where everyone, the rich and poor, great and the small will bear the mark on their right hand or forehead.

**One World Religion**







# The Rapture

The instant disappearance of believers and children

## Left Behind?

### So the rapture's happened, and the world is in absolute chaos! What do I do???

#### Left Behind?

Were you unsure about Christianity or even rejected God completely but have since seen that millions of people have vanished from the earth, who strangely were all born-again Christians and young children? This is the prophesised rapture or "harpazo" and it's the biblical event where God pulls his church from the earth so he can pour out his wrath on the nations and those who haven't accepted Him.

You've missed the bus, but that won't stop you from getting into heaven if you become a born again Christian and follow Jesus' teachings from now on. However it will be an extremely dangerous period of time and Christians will almost certainly be killed for their faith by their friends, neighbours, the global government and the antichrist, but isn't eternal life in heaven with God worth dying for? The fact that the Rapture even happened should be substantial evidence that there is a God. You may have even heard about the rapture previously but brushed it aside as a "tale of mythical proportions" or the "ranting of religious nuts".

With many hundreds of thousands to millions of people on earth instantly disappearing, chaos would have likely ensued across the entire planet as cars crash, planes will fall from the sky, utilities shut down, house fires and utter chaos and panic everywhere as parents frantically look for their young children who were raptured. The lack of people to fulfil jobs will delay production, and transportation across the country will grind to a halt, exacerbated by the array of crashed vehicles in the road. Some important leaders may also disappear, leaving nations leaderless for a period of time or causing people to fight for control. After people realize that millions are missing, looters many likely to go house to house hoping it won't be occupied. Many evildoers and spiritualists will rejoice that the people holding back the planet have been removed so they can continue to 'fix' the planet.

The rapture may have occurred prior to an election causing chaos and swaying the results tremendously in favour of someone else. With the withdrawal of the born-again Christians from earth, and with the holy spirit who indwells them also stepping aside, the world will get out of hand rapidly as Christians were the salt and light of the earth. In the same way that salt slows meat from going rancid, so too will the earth rot and decay faster with a nose dive into evil and lawlessness.

The fact that you've been left behind should be a wake up call that you aren't currently going to heaven if you die today or even when Jesus returns at His Second Coming.

The good news is that you have slightly longer than 7 years (from the rapture) before His return to commit your life to Him and become a Christian. However with the impending devastation that is to come, you likely have much less time to live than that.

Below is a list of notable people and groups who probably **won't** be taken in the rapture, so don't be deceived by anything they say if they remain behind:

#### Watch For

- The instant disappearance of millions of people from earth - born again believers in Christ, likely excluding much of the Catholic and other 'stray' churches.
- The disappearance of all young children

#### The Pope

Contrary to what the world believes, the Pope is more ungodly than most other people on the planet. He doesn't talk about the blood of Jesus, he doesn't tell people they are sinful and need to be saved and he is trying to align all religions into a One World Religion.

#### The Catholic Church

The Catholic Church is unfortunately misled by the pope today who picks and chooses what they believe in the Bible. Therefore many people who attend these catholic churches have never accepted Jesus into their life.

#### Other 'Christian' Churches

Other apostate Christian churches which believe in Jesus but have strayed from the truth likely won't be raptured. This could include: Seventh Day Adventists, Pentecostal Churches, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses and more. It comes down to a personal belief in Jesus and not the church they are part of.

#### All Other Religions

People in all other religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, etc, definitely won't be raptured.

#### Many Televangelists

"Christians" such as Joel Osteen, Andy Stanley, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer and Kenneth Copeland. You don't want to follow or believe anything a self-professed "Christian" has to say after the rapture.

#### The Music & Tv Industry

Musicians and actors who have sold their soul to the devil definitely won't be taken and will likely have a part to play in the deception of the masses with their influence and followers.

These are the people who **will** be taken in the rapture:

#### Born-Again Christians

All believers in Christ who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, believing that He died and rose again will be taken. This includes Jews who have accepted Christ even though the majority of Israel will go through the tribulation.









# Post-Rapture

The events between the rapture and the tribulation

## Post-Rapture

### Post-Rapture

Lawlessness will rise daily and the world will become increasingly desperate for answers on what's happening across the planet. Millions of jobs will be left empty which will affect the food and produce markets, industrial, construction and every other facet of society today. The speed of the earth's downward trajectory will increase dramatically and the nations will desperately seek a leader to lift the world out of these debilitating times.

It will get so bad that presidents and the elites will seek to form a global government to help curb the natural and man made disasters. They will take away people's rights, lock them down, throw them in prison and will likely kill many who resist. People will literally go insane when the 'aliens' reveal themselves and will loot, burn and destroy what they can - believing the world is about to end. If you find yourself living in these perilous times, accept Jesus, because you may not live much longer considering the 'biblical' judgements to come.

For many weeks after the rapture, people will be in utter shock at what happened, and is still happening around the planet! First the disappearance of millions of people and then the arrival of extraterrestrial life. By this point the aliens would have likely made contact with humanity 'revealing themselves' as peaceful beings who only wish to 'enlighten' the human race with advanced ideas to help solve the world's problems.

Satan is a master of deception and he's been plotting this lie for centuries to get the majority of the world to believe the rapture was of alien origin. Most people will believe it - since there will be some form of lights or UFOs visible in the sky worldwide as well as being broadcast on live TV. These 'aliens' will eventually reveal themselves and will probably speak on live interviews in earths languages. They will probably explain this by saying they've been monitoring humans for decades.

This part of the guide is conjecture based off the verse in Daniel 2:43 that says "...they will mingle with the seed of men...". This means that 'they' can't be human. So according to this verse, the aliens will have to integrate themselves with humans until such as day they will have sexual relations with human women (and men) just like the days of Noah! Read Genesis 19 paying particular attention to verse 5 to realise that the inhabitants of Sodom wanted to have sexual relations with those angels.

Remember that in the Bible, angels are never referred to in any gender other than masculine. Therefore all fallen angels and demons are male and if these 'aliens' are all male too it would just prove even more that they're demons which have left their first habitation (Jude 1:6). By 'habitation' (or in the greek "oiketerion"), the bible means they disrobed from their spiritual body in higher dimensions to be able to enter our dimension.

The time between the rapture and the tribulation is unknown, but it likely won't be longer than a few years due to the dark powers that want to unite this planet under a global government for total control, and the sooner they achieve this, the sooner they control the planet. During this time, everyone will be trying to recover from the chaos of the rapture while allowing the antichrist - the mouthpiece of satan himself to rise to power with 'all the solutions'.

## Deception

There will be a lot of theories and deception after the rapture occurs, as is stated in **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12**. If you're reading this and millions of people have vanished then take heed of what the Bible says and keep reading God's word. Throughout the bible Jesus warns not to be deceived by anyone, but test what you're told to see if it's of the holy spirit or not.

I'm writing this section in 2018 and I **know** the rapture will happen at some point in the future. I can't tell the future, I just put my faith in the word of God which is repeatedly proved itself with past and future prophecies. Satan is the prince of the power of the air and if one thing is evil today - it's the broadcasts that are making their way into our homes which can only be described as the mouthpiece of the devil, so stay vigilant and away from these forms of technology which can flood your home with lies.

### 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12

**11** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:  
**12** That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

To emphasize how important it is not to be deceived, here is a list of everywhere the bible mentions not to be deceived in relation to the end times:

<b>Matthew 24:4</b>	<b>4</b> And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.
<b>Matthew 24:5</b>	<b>5</b> For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
<b>Matthew 24:11</b>	<b>11</b> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.
<b>Matthew 24:24</b>	<b>24</b> For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
<b>Mark 13:5</b>	<b>5</b> And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.
<b>Mark 13:6</b>	<b>6</b> For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many.
<b>Mark 13:22</b>	<b>22</b> For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.
<b>Luke 21:8</b>	<b>8</b> And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.





As we get closer and closer to the end times, there will be ever frequent natural disasters, hunger and famine. If you look around the world right now, there are millions of people going hungry, despite God blessing us with a fertile and abundant planet. There will also be major earthquakes which scientists have said are overdue as well as the spread of new diseases. We have noticed an epidemic of new diseases breaking out that we have not been able to control the spread of such as ebola, COVID-19 and new strains of the flu.

Many wonder what the worlds current devastation is telling us. Combined, they should be fairly obvious signs of Christ's soon return which will be about 7 years after the enforcement of the covenant by the antichrist or 3.5 years after he declares himself as god in the temple. This gives those who are unsaved a second and even third checkpoint, showing there's not long until His return.

Daniel's 70th week isn't actually a week of days as we know it, but a period of 7 years. 69 weeks consisting of 7 years (483 Years Total) have already passed but there's a gap before the final, disastrous 'week'. Initially there will be utter chaos after the rapture but there will be somewhat of a recovery as roads are cleared, wreckages are contained and vacancies are filled. However, strong delusions and 'the lie' will be spread by the media about what has happened, and the world will never return to normal. People will be seeking answers and it will be the only thing on people's minds for a long time.

During this time of clean-up and repair, the world will fall further into disarray and the nations will seek a leader to deliver them from the earth's continual problems. Global warming and aliens may be two of the most discussed topics after the rapture due to the massive increase and frequency in natural disasters as shown in Revelation. Then upon the scene, the self declared "saviour" of the world will come, making "peace" among nations. He will enforce a new peace treaty (or make an existing treaty even greater) with Israel and allow the third temple to be built. This peace he brings will not be achieved through pen and ink but with the sword, by destroying those nations who do not align with his goals or 'the good of the planet'.

### The Bema Seat Judgement

Meanwhile, in heaven after the rapture, Christians will come before the Judgment Seat of Christ otherwise known as the "Bema Seat". The purpose of this seat is to examine a Christians life. The Bible tells us, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). The term used here refers to a summing up and estimation of the total pattern of a believer's life. The overall focus of this should keep us from worrying over every small things we've ever done, or thoughtless sin we have committed. It's a time of reward, not punishment.

Though we won't be condemned for our sins, our present lives do affect what will happen at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It's important that we pay attention to the Bible's prophetic passages and study God's plan for the future. Though we don't know the date, time or hour of the Rapture, we can be cognizant of all that is going on around us so that we are living the life God intended for us in Christ. When we study and understand the Rapture, we will be better prepared for what is to come. Christians should be on guard, watching and praying until the day of the Lord.

The Bible says in **Luke 21:34-36**:

**34** *But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.*

**35** *For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

**36** *Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

**"Our present lives affect what will happen at the Judgment Seat of Christ."**

### Steps To Take

What should you do now that the rapture has happened and you want to start living your life not for yourself, but for God? I've compiled a series of steps for you to help start your new walk with Jesus in these troubling times.

## 1 - Believe

Firstly you should be absolutely sure that you believe the disappearance of people was due to the rapture, the same event prophesied throughout the bible. You can read the "Pre-Rapture" section again for the evidence and bible verses about the rapture's soon coming from a pre-rapture perspective. There will be a lot of deception after the rapture and God himself will send a strong delusion on the earth which may even deceive the wise (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12), so be strong and read your bible!

You should also believe that God is real, and alive today. You should understand that God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus are one (called the trinity by scholars), and that Jesus came and died for your sins on the cross nearly 2,000 years ago, rising on the third day. I have included the gospel of John in the Christianity section so you can read it for yourself. If you're still wondering whether God is real you should take a look at the "Evidence for God" section for some remarkable facts about Him and how He left a way to verify himself, and the bible of its authenticity.

## 2 - Accept

You should scroll to section 14 for information on how to be saved through Jesus, by confessing your sins and committing your life to God. Put simply you need to:

- a) Admit** you're a sinner in need of a saviour,
- b) Believe** that Jesus is Lord and that He died and rose again on the third day, and
- c) Confess** with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and that you wish to follow His ways putting your old life behind you.

It's that simple, but these aren't just 'magic words' you say to go to heaven, you honestly and truly have to believe every word you say because Jesus looks at the heart. It's never too late to be saved (before the second coming) and you can still live with God for eternity, even though it'll be much tougher now. I've included a lot of other information in the Christianity section which will also help on your journey of discovering God.

## 3 - Read

Read your bible daily, I recommend starting with John (Not 1 John, but the John that comes after Luke) for a great book covering all the important topics from Jesus's ministry. If you don't have a bible, a few of the biblical books have been included in the Christianity section.

Once you're done with John I recommend reading Luke, Acts, Romans, Genesis, Revelation, Psalms and Proverbs followed by the rest of the New Testament and then the Old Testament. Before and after reading His word I recommend a time of worship to praise the Lord of the universe for all His gifts, love and compassion. Singing the Psalms are a great way to praise Him! If you don't understand something particular in the bible, bring it to Him in prayer that He may open your eyes so you can see what He means.

If you're unfamiliar with the bible, the last book of Revelation contains most of the information about the end times and the antichrist. However there are many other books of the bible with end times significance such as Daniel, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Revelation can be difficult to comprehend without background knowledge so I recommend looking up prophecy commentary pastors such as Chuck Missler to assist in the decryption of the Bible as some of the old language can be perplexing.

## 4 - Know

This period on earth will be the most destructive the world has ever seen, with man-made wars, 8.5+ magnitude earthquakes, volcanos, seas turning red, mountain sized meteors falling from space and much more. To top it off the antichrist will seek to kill all Jews and Christians during the last 3.5 years of his reign - after he sits in the temple calling himself god.

He will literally behead those who don't take his mark on their forehead or right hand, so unfortunately the odds are greatly against you surviving until the second coming of Jesus. But I can guarantee you one thing, if you stand firm in the faith no matter what happens to you, you will live eternally with Jesus - the King of the universe - forevermore! As you go to your death for Christ, know that you are mere seconds away from seeing Him face to face! I pray that you have courage and you stand by your commitment to the Lord in those dark times that He gives you strength, boldness, wisdom and peace. Remember the below verse through the troubles of hardship you face, another good one is Psalm 23.

**Matthew 10:28** "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

### DO NOT TAKE THE MARK OF THE BEAST!

Jesus says that you won't enter heaven once you take this mark as it's a sign of allegiance with the devil. This mark will be one that the world leader (the antichrist) mandates everyone on earth must receive on/in either their forehead or their right hand, allowing them to buy and sell. This mark could possibly be some form of electronic implant or digital tattoo allowing seamless and instant digital transactions.

It's interesting that you can lose your salvation by taking this mark. Scholars have considered the possibility that it changes your DNA structure, converting you into something that's non-human and therefore outside the scope of salvation.

## 5 - Learn

After the grim previous step you should learn all you can about the tumultuous times coming ahead to prepare yourself. Further below, starting with subheading 6 is a summary and interpretation of the events in the book of Revelation which outlines each of God's judgements on the earth. If anything, each of these can be used to verify the bible is true and to help others believe His word! For further reading on how the world descended into darkness and the evil forces at play today I recommend reading the 'CONSPIRACIES' section I wrote in "The Preparedness Encyclopedia (TPE)". It also has a section which compares the biblical values and modern values today such as marriage, love, sex, homosexuality, abortion, God, evolution, satan etc.

Then watch some of the content in the 'Christian Content' section in 'Next Steps' further below as these are bible-based truth seeking individuals who don't compromise on the word of God. There are hours and hours of free, downloadable content which will teach you everything there is to know about the bible and God.

## 6 - Equip

You're about to head into a battle in the most destructive time in all of history, against a spiritual foe who cannot be harmed by mortal weapons, who only Jesus can conclusively defeat. Satan is the father of lies and there will certainly be a LOT of them circulating after the rapture.

Put on the armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) so you can resist the devils attempts to take you down. The armour is further explained in the Christianity section if you don't understand it immediately. Equip and teach those around you about the greatness of the Lord Almighty!

If you don't already, you should find some like-minded individuals who are on the same Christian walk as you and want to live for Him too. Having companions on this journey makes the trip much easier and you can support each other through times of hardship, and praise God together.

Even if you are alone on this path you will always have Jesus who you can pray to at any time, I'm sure that if you pray for another Christian friend to support you and if it's within His will, you will find someone. There will be a multitude of tribulation saints (Revelation 7:9-17), so you certainly aren't alone.

## 7 - Battle

It's time to head out into battle to fulfil His purpose for your life by living for Him and spreading His gospel to all those who don't already know Him. Pray for all other Christians in these troubled times that they may stand strong and be resilient against the devil. Pray that those who are questioning the rapture won't take the mark of the beast or be led astray by the lies of the masses and the media.

Read your bible consistently and learn and memorise Gods word whenever you can. Praise and worship Him daily. Help those around you who need assistance or food and spread the gospel and this guide to whoever needs it. Live a life worthy of God by emulating His example to us while He was here. Feed those in need, assist anyone needing help, give with no thought of return and above all preach the gospel to everyone so that they might be saved!

**Do not be afraid** because Jesus has overcome the world, He knows the end from the beginning and He has already defeated satan at the cross! Everything happens in His timing and all events in the world are under His control. He sees everything happening at all points in time, from the worker ant carrying a breadcrumb to the person in jail crying out to Him in desperation.

He works in mysterious ways and can turn around events that may seem evil from our point of view, to acts that glorify Him, such as COVID, which on second glance is bringing thousands of people to Him. He chooses the weak to demonstrate His power such as David against Goliath. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Do you know Him?

**John 16:33**

**33** *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

**6** *Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.*

**Joshua 1:9** *"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

**1 Corinthians 16:13** *"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."*

**Philippians 4:13** *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

### The Rise of the Antichrist

#### The Rise of the Antichrist

Now that the rapture has occurred there's no reason why the antichrist can't begin to show his face on the global stage and start his final rise to power as he may already be in a position of minor power. (Revelation 13:1-8)

The antichrist will begin by rising up among the ten leaders of the new world order. Seven of them will drop out and he will subdue the last three. The world will 'marvel' and be amazed by the antichrist, at the ideas he sets forward and the actions he takes as this will certainly be a very charismatic, intelligent and yet deceitful man. There's also a possibility he might be an alien...

#### The Description of the Antichrist Revelation 13:3

*"And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast."*

**Revelation 13:1-8**

**1** *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the **sea**, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.*

**2** *Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

**3** *And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.*

**4** *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

**5** *And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.*

**6** *Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.*

**7** *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

**8** *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

The bible even includes a physical description of the antichrist:

**Zechariah 11:17**

**17** *"Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock!  
A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye;  
His arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded."*

### The Rise of the False Prophet

#### The Rise of the False Prophet

The false prophet is a religious leader and the 'beast which rises from the earth' who performs great miracles and causes people to worship and follow the antichrist - the beast that rises from the water in the second half of the tribulation. (Revelation 13:11-18) He will be able to rain fire down from the sky on command, however this power is from the devil and not from God.

He uses these demonic abilities to deceive many and will cause people to believe that the first 'beast' (the antichrist) is in fact the messiah. The false prophet may already have a powerful position when the rapture occurs (such as the Pope), and will ally himself with the antichrist to gain even more power.

**Revelation 13:11-14**

**11** *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the **earth**, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.*

**12** *And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*

**13** *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.*

**14** *And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived."*

Do not be deceived by the false prophet who performs wondrous signs as he will lead you down the path of death and away from Jesus Christ. However there will also be two witnesses sent by God who will preach His word during the first half of the tribulation and will also be able to cast plagues on the earth as often as they like. Although the antichrist will have them killed at the midpoint of the tribulation, they will be resurrected by God. But more on them further below.

**John 14:6**

**6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

There will be many who claim to be the Messiah and many will claim to have the answers for a troubled world. In Matthew 24, Jesus gave a warning specifically for our generation. In this passage Jesus, speaking to us, warns us that false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. These false prophets in the tribulation are not working with sleight of hand illusions but actual demonic powers.

You must be on guard and ask yourself who these sinister prophets and messiahs are, and where they are trying to lead you. The Bible warns us that these are no ordinary men. In the end times, people will be crying desperately for leaders to deliver them from the turmoil, and they will seek mystics and religious leaders who claim to have deeper knowledge about the events that have transpired.

**Reconstruction of Babylon**

<b>Reconstruction of Babylon</b>	At some point before or in the tribulation, the city of Babylon will be built and serve as the residence of the antichrist. It will likely take many years to construct and therefore this gives notion that it could be started well before the tribulation. Babylon will likely be constructed around Al-Hillah in Iraq where the previous Babylon empire was located.	<b>Babylon Coordinates</b> 32.478642, 44.451235 or (32° 28' 43.1" N, 44° 27' 4.4" E)
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# Tribulation

The 7 year period of wrath on the planet

The tribulation is initiated by a covenant (a peace treaty) between Israel and the world leader (the antichrist) allowing the Jews to rebuild their temple on the mount around or on the spot where the Dome of the Rock currently stands.

This half of the tribulation is a time of false peace among men where things will seem to be improving for a short time, while also being subject to the wrath of God.

#### Look For

- A leader creating a covenant or making an existing covenant with Israel greater than before. The covenant is set to last 7 years.

### Rebuilding the 3rd Temple

#### Rebuilding the 3rd Temple

Right after the covenant with Israel is established, the third temple in Jerusalem will start to be constructed by the Jews. They already have all the materials ready to go, including the ark of the covenant. They just need the green light.

#### Look For

- The third temple being constructed on the mount next to - or in place of the Dome of the Rock. It can be found at: 31°46'40.9" N, 35°14'7.3" E.

### The Two Witnesses

#### The Two Witnesses

The two witnesses sent from God will begin to preach for 3.5 years (42 months) in the first half of the tribulation (after the covenant is established). (Revelation 11:1-6) They will be wearing 'sackcloth' and have power from God to prevent rain from falling, the ability to turn waters to blood and power to strike the earth with plagues whenever they want. Anyone who tries to harm them will be killed by fire proceeding from their mouth.

#### Look For

- Two people spreading the word of God starting at the time of the enforcement of the peace covenant to the abomination of desolation. (3.5 years total)

The seals below are the start of the judgement of God on the earth, these judgements can only take place in the tribulation which can only begin once the church is removed from the earth - hence the pre-tribulation rapture. Jesus is the one opening the seals and releasing these judgements on the earth and therefore cannot be part of the judgements.

Many people incorrectly believe that Jesus is the rider on the white horse mentioned below. See Revelation 5 for more information on the events leading up to the opening of the seals or Revelation 6 for the seals themselves.

### Revelation Summary

This is a summary of the seals, trumpets and bowls in revelation to see what happens at a glance. The seals and trumpets occur in the first half of the tribulation and the bowls in the second half. This section doesn't include non-seal events such as the sealing of the 144,000. For those, view the diagram at the start or read the full list of events below.

#### The Seals

	<b>1st Seal</b>	The White Horse - The revealing of the antichrist who goes forth to conquer the nations.
	<b>2nd Seal</b>	The Red Horse - The taking of peace from the world, there will be great wars.
	<b>3rd Seal</b>	The Black Horse - Releases famine and hyperinflation on the world.
	<b>4th Seal</b>	The Pale (Green) Horse - There will be disease, pestilence and plagues released upon the world.
	<b>5th Seal</b>	The martyrs of Jesus are given white robes.
	<b>6th Seal</b>	A powerful earthquake, black sun, blood red moon, stars fall to earth, the sky recedes, every island and mountain moves.
	<b>7th Seal</b>	Silence in heaven, noises, thunderings, lightnings, an earthquake.

The trumpets occur in the first half of the tribulation:

#### The Trumpets

	<b>1st Trumpet</b>	Hail and fire mingled with blood falls to earth burning 1/3 of all trees and all the green grass.
	<b>2nd Trumpet</b>	A fiery mountain falls into the sea, 1/3 of the sea becomes blood, 1/3 of sea creatures die, 1/3 of all ships are destroyed.
	<b>3rd Trumpet</b>	A burning meteor falls from space contaminating 1/3 of the rivers and springs. Many people die from poisoned water.
	<b>4th Trumpet</b>	1/3 of the sun becomes dark, 1/3 of the moon becomes dark, 1/3 of the stars becomes dark. 1/3 of the day and night don't occur.
	<b>5th Trumpet</b>	People can't die, the air is filled with smoke, the sun is blocked by smoke, demons torment those without God's seal.
	<b>6th Trumpet</b>	An army of 200 million who have armour coloured red, blue and yellow, Demons and the army cause 1/3 of mankind to be killed.
	<b>7th Trumpet</b>	The temple of God is opened in heaven, noises, thunderings, lightning, an earthquake, a great hail.

The bowls occur in the second half of the tribulation, likely closer to the end:

#### The Bowls

	<b>1st Bowl</b>	Sores and pain for those who have the mark of the beast or worship his image.
	<b>2nd Bowl</b>	The entire sea turns to blood, all sea creatures die, all fishing stopped.
	<b>3rd Bowl</b>	All rivers and springs become blood.
	<b>4th Bowl</b>	The sun scorches men with great heat, blasphemy against God.

**5th Bowl**

Puts the kingdom of the beast into darkness and gives them intense pain.

**6th Bowl**

The Euphrates dries up allowing armies to travel to Armageddon. Demons gather nations together at Armageddon to battle God.

**7th Bowl**

Noises, thunders and lightnings and the biggest earthquake in history. Every mountain falls, islands move out of place, huge hail.

The seals - (unlike some of the trumpets and bowls) will likely continue through the entirety of the tribulation, so for seal 2 wars will be continually fought through the tribulation and in seal 3, famine and hyperinflation will be ongoing for the rest of the tribulation as per the layout in the Revelation Timeline diagram. Contrary to what unbelievers may like to think - a world without Christians (and the restrainer) will be the most catastrophic time in the history of the planet.

I recommend familiarising yourself with the plagues of Egypt as there's a very strong link between them and these judgements. They can be found in list format in the Christianity section or in the Bible starting at Exodus 7:14.



# Seals

## The 7 seals of God's judgement

### 1st Seal

#### The First Seal

(The Conqueror)  
The White Horse

The first seal sets loose a rider on a white horse who comes to conquer nations. The rider is NOT Jesus because he is the one opening the seal - therefore he cannot be part of the seal as well. The rider is the antichrist who comes to earth to deceive the nations and proclaim that he is christ.

His riding of a white horse is evidence that his aim is deception to make people believe that he is the christ. Some readers are confused by this and it only takes a little further reading about the type of person this is to come to the conclusion that he isn't Jesus. Jesus comes on a white horse in Revelation 19:11 to claim His throne.

#### Look For

- A false 'saviour' who conquers nations
- They create 'peace' and solve world problems
- A very suave and charismatic individual
- He will confirm a covenant with Israel to allow the 3rd temple to be built
- He mandates that everyone receives a mark on their forehead or right hand
- He may not be human

#### Revelation 6:1-2

**1** Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see.

**2** And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer."

Compare that to the below, when Jesus actually returns:

#### Revelation 19:11-13,16

**11** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

**12** His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

**13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

**16** And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

The antichrist will create a false peace by using violence and attacking those peoples and nations who don't align with his ideals. His reign and control over the world will be one achieved by fear. He will remain on earth for the entire duration of the tribulation, after which he is thrown into the lake of fire at the second coming of Jesus. This individual will be extremely suave, intelligent and charismatic albeit having some kind of battle injury on his arm and right eye. The 'deadly wound' he sustained is one that people typically die from, however he instead lived.

How did he receive this deadly injury? The only option that the bible has left open to us is that it's some kind of battle wound. But what battle? Is this an earthly battle or a heavenly battle? That question might be more easily answered once they have been revealed.

I cannot emphasize enough that you should NOT take the mark of the beast on your right hand or forehead. If you do so you have allied yourself with the devil himself and you will be going to hell when Jesus returns or when you die, which may be soon considering the judgements that are coming.

Not to mention that the first bowl says that all those with the mark will get painful sores all over their body. You may not be able to buy anything but if you commit yourself to Jesus and live for Him, you will be with Him for eternity in heaven. To clarify, the mark of the beast is most likely enforced 3.5 years into the covenant with Israel, when the antichrist declares himself as god.

Again, here's the physical characteristics of the antichrist if you missed it above:

#### Zechariah 11:17

**17** "Woe to the worthless shepherd, who leaves the flock!

A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye;

His arm shall completely wither, and his right eye shall be totally blinded."

#### Revelation 13:3

**3** And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

#### Revelation 13:16-18

**16** He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

**17** and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

**18** Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

So this is a man who has seen battle or conflict and has wounds on his right arm and his right eye. His arm will be weakened and withered due to these wounds which have also damaged his right eye so much that he is blind in that eye.

For a great teaching on the 1st Seal by Chuck Missler, see the hour long videos below:

- **Behold a White Horse - Part 1:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7witCMZ-O0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7witCMZ-O0)
- **Behold a White Horse - Part 2:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-V9wB92XuA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-V9wB92XuA)

<b>Related Verses</b>	<p><b>The Antichrist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Revelation 13 "...And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns..."</li> <li>● Zechariah 11:17 "...A sword shall be against his arm and against his right eye; his arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded.""</li> <li>● 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 "...and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God..."</li> <li>● Daniel 7:7-8 "and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots."</li> <li>● Daniel 9:27 "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering."</li> </ul> <p>● Daniel 11:37 "He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all."</p> <p>● Daniel 7:24-25 "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law."</p> <p>● Revelation 13:3-5 "And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast."</p> <p>● Revelation 17:1-18 "...one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition."</p> <p>● Revelation 19:20 "Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image."</p> <p>● 1 John 2:18 "...it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming..."</p>
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**2nd Seal**

<b>The Second Seal</b> (Wars) The Red Horse	<p>The second seal speaks of wars that will occur on the earth. Peace will be taken from the nations of the earth and people will kill each other in great number. This stacks with the first seal in which the antichrist goes out to conquer nations in the name of 'peace'.</p>	<b>Look For</b> ● Global Wars
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**Revelation 6:3-4**

**3** When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."  
**4** Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

These wars will continually escalate throughout the tribulation, pulling nation upon nation into the conflict until the world is consumed by war. This war is likely to be deemed 'World War 3' by those around the globe. This war will be nothing like previous wars... World War 2 was fought with relatively low-tech equipment compared with what we have at our disposal today. Imagine if all 13,410 nuclear weapons we have stockpiled in 2020 were used in a war today.

- Modern Weapons**
- Nuclear weapons used across the globe
  - Hypersonic weapons
  - EMPs to disable nations
  - AI and combat oriented robots
  - Unmanned aircraft and drones to eliminate targets
  - Weaponized viruses
  - Nerve, blister and blood agents
  - Drones and micro-drones which can be breathed in to kill from the inside

For a great teaching on the 2nd Seal by Chuck Missler, see the hour long videos below:

- **Behold a Red Horse - Part 1:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZND9AXQ07s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZND9AXQ07s)
- **Behold a Red Horse - Part 2:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDaM5iAK8C8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDaM5iAK8C8)

<b>Related Verses</b>	<p><b>Wars</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Matthew 24:6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."</li> <li>● Mark 13:7 "But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet."</li> <li>● Luke 21:9 "But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately.""</li> <li>● Revelation 16:16 "And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."</li> </ul>
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**3rd Seal**

<b>The Third Seal</b> (Famine) The Black Horse	<p>The third seal releases famine upon the earth so that food is scarce. In todays society it speaks of hyperinflation where the value of money goes down exponentially, having less and less purchasing power each day. This seal again, stacks with the first two because if there's endless wars, countries will be spending huge budgets on fighting and will have to create more and more money to finance the war.</p>	<b>Look For</b> ● Famine ● Inflation ● Hyperinflation
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**Revelation 6:5-6**

**5** When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.  
**6** And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."



A quart of wheat is the minimum amount that someone requires to survive each day and the price shows us that it costs 8-10x more than normal. So a \$4 USD loaf of bread today would cost around \$32 USD. This verse may not reflect actual prices, but it could just mean that someone will work all day and come home with only enough to feed themselves for a day. If you're reading this ahead of time, it may be wise to stock up on some canned, freeze-dried and other long life foods. You should also remember that God knows exactly what you require to stay alive as per Matthew 6:25-34, Proverbs 10:3 and many other verses, so you shouldn't go overboard.

There are likely to be natural disasters which destroy huge areas of crops and livestock across the globe with the possibility of secondary consequences such as locust swarms which rise from flooded areas.

For a great teaching on the 3rd Seal by Chuck Missler, see the hour long videos below:

- **Behold a Black Horse - Part 1:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfAXHC1HA2k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfAXHC1HA2k)
- **Behold a Black Horse - Part 2:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WICSXjuDpqk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WICSXjuDpqk)

### Related Verses

#### Famine & Pestilence

- Ezekiel 5:12 "One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst;"
- Matthew 24:7/Mark 13:8/Luke 21:11 "And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places."
- Genesis 12:10 "Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land."
- Exodus 9:3 "behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence."
- Genesis 41:31 "So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe."
- Job 5:20 "In famine He shall redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword."
- Revelation 18:8 "Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine."

## 4th Seal

### The Fourth Seal (Death) The Pale (Green) Horse

The fourth seal releases death and hell to kill a quarter of the earth with hunger, disease and beasts of the earth. People will go hungry and perish due to a lack of crops, food and from the beasts of the earth.

#### Look For

- Disease
- Pestilence
- Plagues

#### Revelation 6:7-8

**7** When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

**8** So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Keep in mind that these 'beasts of the earth' may not necessarily be large animals such as bulls and snakes, but could also be microscopic creatures such as bacteria and viruses. When the famine and inflation comes in seal 3, people likely won't be able to afford common hygiene items and will therefore make the effects of this seal worse.

COVID-19 is a fake pandemic and shouldn't even be compared to real pandemics such as the 1918 Spanish flu which infected a third of the world's population (500mil of 1.5 billion people) with a death rate of 14% for whoever contracted the virus. COVID's true death rate is around 0.01%-0.05%, but this is being concealed from everyone under the guise of population control and power. The point is that this seal will utterly devastate the planet and considering that people will be so over lockdowns and isolation by then, this could spread much quicker than anticipated. Assuming the population of the world will be 8 bil by then, that means 2 billion will die.

For a great teaching on the 4th Seal by Chuck Missler, see the hour long videos below:

- **Behold a Livid Horse - Part 1:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=75lBjYm0dME](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75lBjYm0dME)
- **Behold a Livid Horse - Part 2:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGBgatYWlls](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGBgatYWlls)

### Related Verses

#### Disease

- Exodus 9:8 "and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

#### Pestilence

● Exodus 9:3 "behold, the hand of the Lord will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence."

- Ezekiel 5:12 "One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst;"

● Matthew 24:7/Mark 13:8/Luke 21:11 "And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places."

#### Plagues

- Of Egypt (Exodus 7-12) Blood Waters, Frogs, Lice, Flies, Disease, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Firstborn Death

## 5th Seal

### The Fifth Seal (Martyrs)

In the fifth seal Jesus gives those who were slain for the testimony of God a white robe and are told to wait a little longer.

#### Look For

- Nothing - This seal likely has no effects on earth.

#### Revelation 6:9-11

**9** When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

**10** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

**11** Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."

It's quite shocking that this early into the tribulation there are already many who have been killed for their faith. It really shows the reality that Christians likely won't live long in the tribulation, especially the second half of it. On the other side of the coin - the longer you wait to accept Jesus, the more likely you are to die from the judgements and go to hell for eternity! Accept Him Now!

## Related Verses

**White Robes**

- Mark 16:5 "And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed."
- Luke 9:29 "As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening."
- Revelation 4:4 "Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes;"
- Revelation 7:9-14 "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

### 6th Seal

## The Sixth Seal (Powerful Earthquake)

The sixth seal starts with a great earthquake, the sun will go black, the moon will turn to blood, the stars of heaven fall to earth which could be meteors or representative of demons. The sky will recede as a scroll then every mountain and island will move out of its place.

This is likely to be the most devastating sequence of natural disasters in human history so far and will be an absolute sign that the bible is true and you must repent. Spread the word of God to everyone and everyone because the worst is yet to come.

- Look For**
- A great earthquake
  - Black sun
  - Blood red moon
  - Stars fall to earth
  - The sky recedes
  - Every island and mountain moves from their place

**Revelation 6:12-14**  
**12** I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood."  
**13** And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.  
**14** Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place."

**A Great Earthquake**  
 There's a lot to deconstruct in this seal. Firstly a great earthquake is fairly straightforward, it's an quake that has a higher magnitude than what the world is typically used to which could be anything from magnitude 8 to 11. Earthquakes always have an epicentre which could be almost anywhere on earth, but will most likely occur on a plate boundary. For any large earthquake there are bound to be aftershocks of reducing sizes following plate boundaries which are likely to continue to wrap around the globe as its energy is expended.

**A Black Sun**  
 Secondly 'the sun becomes as black as sackcloth of hair' could mean the sun turns black in the same way you turn down the brightness of an item in image editing programs, rendering it black. True black implies that there's no light being reflected off it, but being the sun, it gives off light which brings us to our first contradiction, so this option couldn't be accurate.

It could also mean that only the rays from the sun that are directed toward the earth can't be seen, rendering the sun black. This could be achieved by a massive object such as a rogue planet passing between the sun and the earth. From earth this would make the sun look black as you would be able to see the sun's corona with a large black circle in the middle.

A planet-wide black sun has never occurred that we know of and would certainly be a shock to all those on the planet, particularly if it comes as a surprise. Generally it's the moon which passes between the sun and the earth giving us a total eclipse for a tiny slice of earth. This seems like the most plausible option and will probably cause the most fear as you will be able to see how black the sun is.

The duration of this blackened sun isn't permanent either, because the sun is darkened in the 4th trumpet which means it has to reset at some point.

**The Blood Moon**  
 When the earth is somewhere between the sun and the moon, the moon can glow red due to scattering the light of all other colours by earth's atmosphere. That's the simple part, however we have to remember that the sun will be 'black' at the same time. This is where the 'rogue planet' comes in again.

If a rogue planet is lined up perfectly between the sun and the earth and the earth is 'mostly' casting a shadow on the moon, the sun can be black and the moon would appear twice as red as a normal blood moon (albeit half as bright) due to the extra filtering of colours from the rogue planet in addition to the earth. Don't rule out the ability for God to simply turn the moon red by His own power - He turned the Nile red, and He can do it again!

**The Stars Fall to Earth**  
 The stars falling to earth is a little harder to explain. Throughout the bible stars are referred to as angels such as when satan draws a third of the stars of heaven (Revelation 12:4). This passage might be referring to demons falling from heaven to earth. We know it couldn't mean literal stars falling to earth because they're balls of flaming gas which would eliminate all life on earth if even one collided with us. It also can't mean stars falling literally because in the 4th trumpet the stars become darkened, hence they are still around and in their place. However it could also refer to meteors falling from space into earth's atmosphere, showing up a bright glowing streaks.

**The Sky Recedes**  
 This is probably the hardest to explain. Firstly for the sky to be rolled up like a scroll you need a higher dimension, a fourth dimension. We have proven there's quite a few higher dimensions out there and that's all we need for this theory to work. God Himself could roll up our universe, making it smaller. What this looks like in person, I have absolutely no idea, except perhaps the most distant galaxies and stars disappearing as if they 'fall to earth'.

## Islands and Mountains Move

Every island and mountain will move from their place. This is another tricky one because it doesn't say explicitly that it's caused by the earthquake which also happens in this seal. Something has to shake the entire earth which could either be the earthquake or the sky receding.

If it's the earthquake, the magnitude would have to be in the range of 11-12 to be felt 'strongly' all over the planet. Keep in mind that 1 extra unit on the richter scale equals 10x the amount of shaking and 33x the amount of energy released. The area at the epicentre of the earthquake would be absolutely decimated for thousands of kilometres to be able to shake the other side of the planet. This leads me to believe that the receding sky is the cause of the shaking.

Since it's in the same verse as the sky receding it looks to be like that is the cause of the shaking. Unfortunately I have no idea how this would shake the planet. Perhaps in the same way that the earth shakes on land, so too can space 'shake' or quiver.

### Combined

- Joel 2:31/Acts 2:20 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord."
- Matthew 24:29/Mark 13:24 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

### Earthquake

- 7th Seal (Revelation 8:5) "And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake."
- 7th Trumpet (Revelation 11:19) "And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."
- 7th Bowl (Revelation 16:18) "and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth."
- Zechariah 14:4 "And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south."

### Black Sun

- Amos 8:9 "That I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight;"
- Luke 23:45 "Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two."
- Revelation 9:2 "So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit."

### Blood Moon

- Joel 2:31 "And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord."
- Acts 2:20 "And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord."

### Stars Fall

- Revelation 8:10 "And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch"
- Revelation 9:1 "And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit."
- Revelation 12:4 "His [satan's] tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

### Sky/Heavens

- 2 Peter 3:10 "in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."
- 2 Peter 3:12 "...because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?"

### Islands and Mountains

- Revelation 16:20 "Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

## Related Verses

If you understand the way the Bible is set out with its heptadic structure there could be a potential time gap here between the 6th and the 7th seals.

## Sealing of the 144,000

### Sealing of the 144,000

144,000 Jews receive the seal of God on their foreheads so that they will not be harmed during the tribulation. These Jews are specifically chosen so there are 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes who will survive the tribulation.

#### Look For

- This event doesn't seem to have any visible signs on earth so it can't be used as a marker.
- There will always be at least 144,000 Jews on earth during the tribulation.

### Revelation 7:3-5

**3** saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

**4** And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

**5** of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

### Revelation 7:6-8

**6** of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;  
**7** of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;  
**8** of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

## 7th Seal

### The Seventh Seal (Silence)

The seventh seal brings silence to heaven for about half an hour. Afterwards an angel throws a censer filled with fire down to earth and there were noises, thunderings, lightnings and an earthquake. These events (such as the noises, thundering and lightnings) may be heard and seen on the earth worldwide but they could also only apply to a single region of the planet such as Israel.

#### Look For

- Noises
- Thunderings
- Lightnings
- An Earthquake





# Trumpets

## The 7 trumpets of God's judgement

### 1st Trumpet

#### The First Trumpet (1/3 Vegetation Struck)

The first trumpet rains hail and fire down mixed with blood, burning a third of the trees up and all the green grass.

#### Look For

- Hail and fire falling
- Huge forest fires
- All grass burnt up

#### Revelation 8:7

**7** The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

The first trumpet is likely to involve meteorites entering earth's atmosphere. These meteors will be large enough to make it to the ground to start fires while also being able to hit every nation on earth due to earth's axial spin. I'm not sure how ALL the grass on the planet could be burnt up, while only burning a third of the trees... especially if it recently rained in an area...

Then there's the fact that it also hails. Hail is composed of water which would eventually have to melt. Wouldn't this have the reverse effect and slow the spread of the burning grass? I'm not even sure how blood could be mingled with all of it and what effects that would have on the earth. If there's anything you should be grateful for in the tribulation it's that you get to see God's word fulfil itself, seeing exactly what He means by each of the prophecies.

#### Related Verses

#### Hail & Fire Falling

- 7th Plague (Exodus 9:24) "So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail..."

#### Hail

- Joshua 10:11 "...the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah"
- 7th Trumpet (Revelation 11:19) "And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."
- 7th Bowl (Revelation 16:17) "And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great."

### 2nd Trumpet

#### The Second Trumpet (Sea Meteor)

The second trumpet calls something like a large mountain or meteor on the ocean and turns a third of it to blood. A third of all living creatures in the sea die and a third of all ships are destroyed.

#### Look For

- Something like a mountain falling into the sea and turning the water to blood
- 1/3 of sea creatures dead
- 1/3 ships destroyed

#### Revelation 8:8-9

**8** Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

**9** And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

#### Sea Meteor

This judgement being a meteor is important to note because it says a third of all ships will be destroyed. The destruction of so many ships can only occur from a huge tsunami overturning and sinking them. For approximately one third of all ships on earth to be destroyed by a tsunami in 2020 (about 18,000 ships), requires it to either strike the North Pacific Ocean or the North Atlantic Ocean. Depending on the size of the meteor some boats further from the impact zone may be shaken violently but not destroyed.

To further complicate matters generally space objects are monitored by space agencies prior to their impact and will warn the public so people can get out of the way. This means that either the meteor surprises everyone on earth or they wilfully hide the fact it's coming.

To view marine traffic take a look at: [www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com). I recommend turning on the density map to see the most common routes and then clicking 'playback' to remove the current ship markers. Your guess to where it will strike is as good as mine.

If it strikes the North Pacific Ocean, the tsunami will cover more sea than anywhere else. Countries such as: America, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Japan, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand are likely to experience the catastrophic effects of the wave striking the mainland.

If it strikes the North Atlantic Ocean, the tsunami will cover less ground than the Pacific but the Atlantic contains more sea traffic. Countries such as: America, Canada, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Brazil, Mauritania, Senegal, Western Sahara, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland, England, Iceland and Greenland are likely to experience the catastrophic effects of the wave striking the mainland.

The countries in both these lists are America and Canada, so be prepared if you live in either of these countries. Also remember that God works in mysterious ways and it may still strike the unlikeliest of seas like the Indian Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea, so search the scriptures. (Acts 17:11)











The seven thunders utter their voices, however John was commanded not to write what he heard.

**Revelation 10:1-4**  
**1** I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.  
**2** He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,  
**3** and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.  
**4** Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

**Facts**

- What John heard the seven thunders say is not written in the Bible.
- So these thunders cannot say something that is written in the Bible, yet they must agree with everything that is written in the Bible.

A mystery in the bible is the time of the rapture and another is the new name that Jesus has in Revelation 19.

**Matthew 24:36**  
**36** But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

**Revelation 19:12**  
**12** His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

Thunder generally describes how God talks throughout the bible, so these could be His own words which must be said in heaven at that certain time. However since this is said in the future it could change the entire future of earth if the message of the thunders was written down.

**The Mighty Angel**

These verses between the 6th and 7th trumpets could signify a possible delay longer than between the previous trumpets.

(See above for the first 4 verses)

**Revelation 10:5-7**  
**5** The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven  
**6** and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,  
**7** but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets."

**The Little Book**

John becomes a participant in the great drama which is unfolding before us. He is required to do a very strange thing, one that has a very typical meaning. He eats the little book at the instructions of the angel, and the results are bittersweet. Eating the little book means to receive the Word of God with faith. The part of the Word of God taken by John was judgment. It was sweet because the future is sweet. In Genesis 18:17 we read, "And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do...?"

It is sweet to know what God is going to do, but when you find out that judgment is coming, it is bitter. John eagerly received the Word of God, but when he saw that more judgment was to follow, it brought travail of soul and sorrow of heart. It was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his digestive system. If you and I can take delight in reading this section of the Word of God and the judgments that are to fall upon the earth, then we need to do a great deal of praying to understand the mind of God.

It is sweet to know the Book of Revelation and what God intends to do, but when we find out that judgment is coming to the Christ-rejecting world around us, we cannot rejoice in that. The prophecy becomes bitter.

**Revelation 10:8-11**  
**8** Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."  
**9** So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."  
 And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."  
**10** Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.  
**11** And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

**The Witnesses Killed**

**The Witnesses Killed**

**(See the 'Tribulation Overview' section for the arrival of the witnesses)**  
 The antichrist rises against the witnesses once they have completed their testimony, he will make war against the them, overcome them, and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three days and will not be buried. Those on the earth will rejoice over their death, partying and sending gifts to one another because of the torment these witnesses inflicted on the earth in God's name.

**Look For**

- A televised event of the slain witnesses
- A worldwide party celebrating their death
- They will not bury their bodies

**Revelation 11:7-10**  
**7** When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.  
**8** And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.  
**9** Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.  
**10** And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth."

The bible doesn't say in what manner the witnesses will be killed but we can guess it has to be something that visually confirms their death such as gunshot wounds, missing limbs or anything else that people can easily look on and agree that nobody can survive that type of wound. If you didn't catch it above, the witnesses are likely to be Elijah and Moses for various reasons.

**The Witnesses Resurrected**



## The Witnesses Resurrected

After three and a half days of laying in the street, God will breathe life into them and they will be resurrected. The witnesses then hear a loud voice from heaven and ascend in a cloud.

Their enemies see this (on television) and in the same hour a great earthquake strikes the city where a tenth of it falls. About seven thousand people are killed in the earthquake and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

### Look For

- The saints resurrected after 3 days and ascend into heaven
- A huge earthquake in Jerusalem where about 7,000 people are killed
- A mass repentance in Jerusalem

### Revelation 11:11-13

**11** Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

**12** And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

**13** In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

## 7th Trumpet

### The Seventh Trumpet

(Kingdom Proclaimed)

The seventh trumpet proclaims God's kingdom and the temple of God was opened in heaven resulting in lightnings, noises, thunderings and a great earthquake.

### Look For

- Noises
- Thunder
- Lightning
- Great earthquake
- A great hail

### Revelation 11:19

**19** Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Since there are minor earthquakes occurring around the world daily, we know that this earthquake has to be much more substantial than that or it wouldn't even be mentioned. Assuming the previous earthquakes in revelation are magnitude 8.5-9, this 'great' earthquake will likely be in the range of magnitude 9 to 11.

### Related Verses

#### Noises, thunderings, lightnings, an earthquake

- 7th Seal (Revelation 8:5) "And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake."
- 7th Bowl (Revelation 16:18) "And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth."

You're now 2/3's of the way through the tribulation which should be definitely more than enough evidence to prove the accuracy of the bible by now, repent and accept Jesus as your saviour today because you may not live much longer. The hailstones in the 7th bowl alone each weigh about 34.2kg (75.3 lbs) each and (at minimum) could be the size of a rounded briefcase to a small car.

## Third Temple Complete

The third temple should be completed by now with the temple worship established. There will be a small amount of time between the completion of the temple and the abomination of desolation as some sacrifices and worship will occur.



# Mid-Trib

The middle of the tribulation period

The mid tribulation is a marker which can be used to identify the middle of the tribulation period. The abomination of desolation (discussed below) signifies the turning point in the tribulation and separate the first 3.5 years and the end 3.5 years of the 70th week of Daniel. Up until this point the antichrist was a man (or alien) who followed satans instruction, however from the abomination of desolation onwards satan himself will indwell him directly. He will also gain satanic supernatural powers to deceive the world and to reign in the nations with brutal force while attempting to behead all Jews and Christians and those who don't follow him.

## Do NOT take the mark of the beast!

This is likely the point when the antichrist will likely mandate the taking of the mark of the beast on either your right hand or forehead. If you take it, you have allied yourself with the devil himself and you are guaranteed be going to hell for eternity, either when Jesus returns or you die. Which may be soon considering the insane "world-ending" judgements that are coming. Not to mention that the first bowl says that all those with the mark will get painful sores all over their body. You may not be able to buy anything, but if you commit yourself to Jesus and live for Him, but you will be living with Him for eternity in heaven. God is the provider of all your needs.

You cannot be tricked into getting the mark of the beast because it will be equivalent to signing your soul to the devil and you will be pledging allegiance to the antichrist over everything else, including God. If anyone takes the mark, they will be doing it willingly and those who refuse will be beheaded. Something else to point out is that this mark will be the number of the antichrist and not a personal identification number such as a bank account number. This number will be related to him and will have the ciphered number 666 hidden within in.

The mark will allow you to purchase things for free as part of the antichrists socialist/marxist agenda. Alongside this, the mark may also give you demonic powers such as curing diseases, boosting your IQ, 'enlightening you', changing your eye colour or strengthening your muscles. However none of these are worth the price you pay for it - AN ETERNITY IN HELL. This temptation will be exactly like Adam and Eve in the garden when satan deceived them by saying:

### Genesis 3:4

**4** "You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So essentially: "You won't die (spiritually) if you take this mark, but instead your eyes will be opened and you will be enlightened." Pretty incredible huh? He's still up to his old dirty tricks.

The reason why taking the mark of the beast is irreversible could be that it alters your DNA permanently thus removing you from the scope of being human. Jesus died on the cross ONLY for the sins of humanity and since their DNA will be changed permanently, His death won't cover anyone who takes this mark - even if they try to remove it and repent.

However I don't see anyone trying to remove the mark as they will probably be blinded to the truth as soon as they take it. Interestingly there have been a lot of published articles recently about vaccines which have the ability to alter your DNA and RNA. Perhaps they will use one of those modified RNA vaccines such as the Luciferase Quantum Dot vaccination?

### Abomination of Desolation

In the bible, the abomination of desolation is the act of the antichrist sitting on the throne in the recently rebuilt temple and declaring himself as god. When this act is witnessed worldwide on television, Jews and any other Christians in the area will flee from Israel immediately - not even going into their homes to grab items. This starts the second half of the tribulation where those without the mark of the beast are hunted and beheaded and Jews are persecuted, causing 2/3 of them to eventually perish. Assuming there's about 7 million Jews living in Israel, that means about 4.67 million of them will die by the end of the tribulation.

This is the point in which the antichrist (satan-incarnate) is given satanic powers such as raining fire from heaven. (See Revelation 13)

### The Jews Second Exodus

The Jews will flee from Israel and will be hunted and killed by the antichrist for the remainder of the tribulation. They will flee into the desert - to Petra, for 3.5 years where they will be protected and sustained by God. Bibles were concealed somewhere in Petra hundreds of years ago in preparation for Jews coming to Petra, so they may come to know Jesus.

### Hosea 5:15

*I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me."*

Notice that He says 'return to my place'. This implies that He left heaven, and He did, when He came to die on the cross for our sins 2,000 years ago.

**Matthew 24:15-18**

**15** "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

**16** "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

**17** Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

**18** And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

**Mark 13:14-21**

**14** "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

**15** Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house.

**16** And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes."

**17** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

**18** And pray that your flight may not be in winter.

**19** For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

**20** And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

**21** "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it.

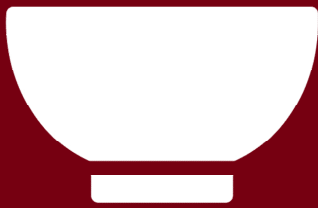
**Luke 21:23**

**23** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14 comment "Let the reader understand". If you read this you should look into the meaning of the "Abomination of Desolation" in the first temple, but for simplicity I've added a quick description below:

**History of the Abomination of Desolation**

In 167 B.C. a Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanies set up an altar to Zeus over the altar of burnt offerings in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. He also sacrificed a pig on the altar in the holiest Temple in Jerusalem. This event is known as the abomination of desolation. The same thing will occur again, this time committed by the antichrist, but likely even worse.



# Bowls

## The 7 bowls of God's judgement

This section contains the events of the second half of the tribulation, from the abomination of desolation up to the end of the 7 years when the gathering at Armageddon happens.

### 1st Bowl

#### The First Bowl (Loathsome Sores)

The first bowl pours out foul and loathsome sores on everyone with the mark of the beast or who worshiped the antichrists image. The sores are unique to those with the mark of the beast - which could be due to a lack of research when designing this 'mark'. Be warned that as a Christian during this period you will easily stand out due to your lack of sores. The antichrist himself probably won't have the mark of himself and therefore might not be subjected to these sores.

**Look For**

- Sores and pain for those who have the mark of the beast and worship his image

#### Revelation 16:2

**2** So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

It sounds like these sores cover the whole body of those with the mark and not just the area around the mark. They will also be foul, meaning that they will both look putrid and smell revolting. People won't want to come near each other because of the stench and many contact based jobs will have to be suspended.

Sex will also probably be avoided until the sores are gone. Loathsome could imply that people will utterly hate these sores and their own bodies and will seek to remove them by any means possible. It is unknown how long this bowl judgement will last and if the sores will remedy themselves or last through to the end of the tribulation.

#### Related Verses

##### Sores & Pain

- 5th Trumpet (Revelation 9:5) "*And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.*"
- 5th Bowl (Revelation 16:10) "*and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.*"
- 6th Plague (Exodus 9:9) "*...and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast...*"

### 2nd Bowl

#### The Second Bowl (Sea Turns to Blood)

The second bowl turns the entire sea to blood and every living creature in it dies.

**Look For**

- The entire sea is blood
- All sea creatures die
- All fishing stopped

#### Revelation 16:3

**3** Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

A while after death, blood separates into a clear watery top layer with a thick red under layer. This could be what the bible refers to by 'blood as of a dead man'. This judgement will kill everything that was still alive in the sea after the second trumpet when 1/3 of all sea creatures were killed. After people realize that everything in the ocean is dead, fishing will likely stop for the remainder of the tribulation.

By reading the text carefully it looks like the sea creatures died due to the sea becoming blood and therefore eliminates the possibility that the dead sea creatures caused the sea to turn to blood. It's unknown whether the entire sea will become blood at the exact same time or it will originate from a point and spread. It's also possible that the waters will stink, just like in Exodus.

For further reading I recommend looking at Exodus 7:14-25 where Moses turns the waters to blood.

#### Related Verses

##### Blood

- 6th Seal (Revelation 6:12) "*...and the moon became like blood.*"
- 2nd Trumpet (Revelation 8:8) "*...and a third of the sea became blood.*"
- 3rd Bowl (Revelation 16:4) "*...poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.*"
- 1st Plague (Exodus 7:14-25) "*...and they [the waters] shall be turned to blood.*"

### 3rd Bowl

#### The Third Bowl (Waters Turn to Blood)

The third bowl turns all the rivers and springs to blood because the evil have spilt the blood of saints and prophets.

**Look For**

- All rivers and springs are blood

**Revelation 16:4-7**

4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.  
 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.  
 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due. And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

In the same way as the previous bowl turned the seas to blood, this one will turn the rivers and springs to blood. Since it's difficult to explain how this happens because rivers generally come from rain and springs from underground, let's just say it's done by God's divine power.

Again, for further reading I recommend Exodus 7:14-25 where Moses turns the waters to blood.

<b>Related Verses</b>	<b>Blood</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6th Seal (Revelation 6:12) "...and the moon became like blood."</li> <li>• 2nd Trumpet (Revelation 8:8) "...and a third of the sea became blood."</li> <li>• 2nd Bowl (Revelation 16:3) "...and it [the sea] became blood as of a dead man."</li> <li>• 1st Plague (Exodus 7:14-25) "...and they [the waters] shall be turned to blood."</li> </ul>
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**4th Bowl**

<b>The Fourth Bowl</b> (Men Are Scorched)	The fourth bowl causes the sun scorch men with great heat. People won't be able to cool themselves very easily due to all waters being blood as per the previous bowls.	<b>Look For</b>
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**Revelation 16:8-9**  
 8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.  
 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

For the sun to be able to scorch people with a great heat, the effects of the 4th trumpet where 1/3 of the sun was struck must have been undone. Since the previous sun-altering judgements, the world will have cooled down greatly, particularly in the 5th trumpet when the sun was blocked by thick smoke. This bowl would likely counter those lasting effects and semi-stabilize the planets temperature, that is until it overheats.

<b>Related Verses</b>	<b>Sun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6th Seal (Revelation 6:12) "...and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair..."</li> <li>• 4th Trumpet (Revelation 8:12) "...And a third of the sun was struck..."; "A third of the day did not shine..."</li> </ul> <b>Scorched</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deuteronomy 28:22 - "Burning Up"</li> </ul>
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**5th Bowl**

<b>The Fifth Bowl</b> (Darkness and Pain)	The fifth bowl plunges the kingdom of the beast into 'painful' darkness and gives everyone in the kingdom of Babylon sores. This will be darkness that you can physically feel just like the darkness plague in Egypt back in Exodus.	<b>Look For</b>
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**Revelation 16:10-11**  
 10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.  
 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Not only would they be able to feel this darkness, they won't be able to see each other for the duration just like Egypt back in Exodus. Even after so many plagues, disasters and judgements they still won't repent and instead blaspheme against God almighty.

<b>Related Verses</b>	<b>Darkness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9th Plague (Exodus 10:21-29) "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.""</li> </ul>
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**6th Bowl**

<b>The Sixth Bowl</b> (Euphrates Dried Up)	The sixth bowl dries up the Euphrates river to make way for the kings of the east. Demons go out to the nations of the earth to gather them for the battle with God. It takes a very depraved mind or a strong deception to trick people into believing that they can defeat the God of the universe in a battle with mortal weapons.	<b>Look For</b>
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**Revelation 16:12-16**  
 12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.  
 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.  
 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.  
 15 Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."  
 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."









# Post-Trib

The events after the tribulation period

## Tribulation End

This just marks the end of the tribulation or the "Time of Jacob's Trouble" which ends when God's wrath is fulfilled. As soon as it ends, Matthew 24:29 and Mark 13:24 say that the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

These events occur as soon as the tribulation ends and lead into the glorious return of Jesus Christ. The world will also exist about 45 days after the end of the tribulation while the armies of the world gather at Armageddon.

### Look For

- A darkened sun
- The Moon won't shine
- Stars will, or have previously fallen from Heaven
- The powers of heaven will be shaken

### Matthew 24:29-31

**29** "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

**30** Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**31** And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

### Mark 13:24-27

**24** "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;

**25** the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

**26** Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

**27** And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

## Armageddon Gathering

### Armageddon Gathering

The armies of the antichrist gather at Armageddon (Tel-Megiddo) to battle God.

### Look For

- The armies of the world gathering at Armageddon

### Revelation 16:16

And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

### Revelation 19:19

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army

### Coordinates of Armageddon

- 32°36'57"N
- 35°12'46"E

During the time since the tribulation ended, the sun will be darkened, the moon won't give any light and the stars will fall from heaven. The powers of heaven will also be shaken, however not much is know about what this will actually look like in person.

This army won't be a bunch of catapults and people with spears, but the finest military earth has to offer, led by what is likely to be the most intelligent man who's ever existed, who is incarnated with the most intelligent fallen being of all - satan.

The arsenal of weapons utilized in this battle almost definitely includes nuclear weapons, hypersonic missiles, jets, drones and every other type of modern warfare known to man. There's even the chance that these 'aliens' give us access to extremely powerful technology and weapons - ships that can seemingly defy gravity and move at obscene speeds while making right-angles, and weapons which make our nuclear weapons look like toys.

## The Second Coming

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." **Matthew 24:30**

This is the second coming of Jesus, where He purges the world of sin and rules from Jerusalem for 1,000 years. Unlike the first coming as a human, this time Jesus returns in all His might, power and wrath, destroying His enemies on arrival. The chance of the army gathered at Armageddon actually winning against God is 0%, with absolutely no doubt about it.

When this event occurs there's no use for the remainder of this document. If you've survived to the end of the tribulation as a firm, born-again Christian then you should be excited for the second coming of Jesus. You will be the people who populate the earth in the millennial reign.

## Jesus' Return



**Matthew 25:31-46**

- 31** "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.  
**32** All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.  
**33** And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.  
**34** Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:  
**35** for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;  
**36** I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'  
**37** "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?  
**38** When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?  
**39** Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'  
**40** And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'  
**41** "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:  
**42** for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;  
**43** I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'  
**44** "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'  
**45** Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'  
**46** And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."





# Millennium

## The 1,000 years of Jesus' reign from Jerusalem

The millennium is the period of 1,000 years when Jesus reigns over the entire earth with a rod of iron. (Revelation 19:15) Nations must travel to Jerusalem once a year to maintain blessings from Jesus or He will withhold rain on that nation. During the millennium there will be births and deaths as we know them now, however the average age of a person is much longer, greatly exceeding 100 years old. Animals will no longer harm people and a child can play with a cobra without fear. However those who don't worship or follow God will be cursed and have shorter lives.

### The Believers Live with Christ

Those who were loyal to Christ during their life and walked closely with Him will reign with Christ for the millennium with glorified bodies. Those who were saved but didn't walk the path set for them by God will likely just live in the millennium. Glorified bodies are bodies which can't sin and include multi-dimensional abilities likely allowing instant transportation and the ability to appear within a closed room such as Jesus' movements after His resurrection.

#### Revelation 20:4-6

**4** And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

**5** But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

**6** Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

The verse above describes those who died in the tribulation for their testimony of Jesus and who did not take the mark will live and reign with Jesus for the 1,000 years. Those who did not believe aren't resurrected until the Great White Throne Judgement which occurs after the millennium is complete.

#### Isaiah 65:20-25

**20** "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

**21** They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

**22** They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

**23** They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, And their offspring with them.

**24** "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

**25** The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the Lord.

This verse shows the greatly increased maximum age in the millennium. Someone who is 100 years old will be considered a child with most of their life ahead of them. The sinners however will be cursed with a shorter life. This implies that there will still be personal choice and sin in the world, even without the deceiver - satan.

The world will also be much more fruitful and crops will be easier to take care of and produce much more food. Children will be raised righteously with a love of God, yet they will have free will and will be able to choose between right and wrong as evidenced by some nations not coming to Jerusalem for the feast of tabernacles each year. (Zechariah 14:17-19)

#### Zechariah 14:16-21

**16** And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

**17** And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

**18** If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

**19** This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

**20** In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

**21** Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the Lord of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts.

This passage says that the nations of the world will come to Jerusalem each year to worship the Lord and to take part in the feast of tabernacles. However for those nations that don't, the Lord will withhold rain on their lands.

**Isaiah 11:6-9**

**6** "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.

**7** The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

**8** The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

**9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11 is an interesting passage describing what living in the millennium will be like. Animals will settle down and won't harm each other, or humans during the millennium. Children won't have any fear of snakes - or any other animal.

### The Rebellion

After the thousand years of Jesus' peaceful reign satan is released to deceive the nations once again. He deceives them with a lie and then brings them against God, and against His people by surrounding the city of Jerusalem. The army he musters will number as many as the sand of the sea which just shows how many people will be alive at the end of the millennium since people don't die as young or as easily. God then destroys this army by fire from the sky.

**Revelation 20:3**

"But after these things he [satan] must be released for a little while."

**Revelation 20:7-9**

**7** Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

**8** and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

**9** They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

### Satan's Demise

**Satan's Demise**

The devil is thrown into hell to be tormented for ever and ever after God destroys the rebellion. He will be joining the antichrist and the false prophet who have been there burning for the past thousand years already.

**Revelation 20:10**

**10** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

### The Great White Throne Judgement

**The Great White Throne Judgement**

At the Great White Throne Judgement the dead who had not believed in God or followed his word are resurrected to be judged. Heaven and earth will flee away from the face of Him who sits on the throne, which is hard to imagine since we always picture something physical. Those not found in the book of life are thrown into the lake of fire. Death and Hades are then thrown into the lake of fire, meaning nobody will be able to die from this point forward. This is the last and final judgement.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

**11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

**12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

**13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

**14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

**15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.



# Eternity

An eternity spent with God

## The New Jerusalem

### The New Jerusalem

A new heaven and earth is created, where those who love the Lord will dwell with Him forever. There will be no sin, death, pain or sorrow and everything will be perfect. Part of this creation will be a New Jerusalem which has no need for the sun or moon because the glory of God illuminates it. This is described quite thoroughly by John in Revelation 21.

Something to note is that the new Jerusalem described below may not be in three dimensions but four, hence the highlighted words in the verse below and the one below that. Breadth is the unit of length/direction which isn't used in our third dimension world. This phrasing is only found in the KJV and the bolding below is my own.

#### 1 Corinthians 2:9

*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

#### Ephesians 3:17-19 (KJV)

*17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,  
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the **breadth**, and **length**, and **depth**, and **height**;  
19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

#### 2 Peter 3:10-13

*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.  
11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,  
12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?  
13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

#### Revelation 21:1-27

*1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.  
2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.  
4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."  
5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."  
6 And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.  
7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.  
8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."  
9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."  
10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,  
11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.  
12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:  
13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.  
14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.  
15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.  
16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.  
17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.  
18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.  
19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,  
20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.  
21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

- 22** *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*
- 23** *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*
- 24** *And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.*
- 25** *Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).*
- 26** *And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.*
- 27** *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*

**What is Salvation?**

Salvation is the deliverance from sin. To save means to deliver or protect. Jesus equated being saved with entering the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:24-25).

What are we saved from? We are saved from God's wrath, that is, His judgment of our sin when we meet Him face to face (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9). Our sin has separated us from God, and the consequence of this violation of God's law is death (Romans 6:23). Biblical salvation refers to our deliverance from the consequences of sin and therefore involves the removal of sin which is already paid for by Jesus on the cross.



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Who does the saving? Only God can remove sin and deliver us from sin's penalty (2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5). How does God save? God has rescued us through Jesus's death on the cross and subsequent resurrection which achieved our salvation (Romans 5:10; Ephesians 1:7). Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God (Ephesians 2:5, 8) which is ours for the taking through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). How do we receive salvation? We are saved by faith. First, we must hear the gospel—the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection (Ephesians 1:13).

Then, we must believe—fully trust the Lord Jesus (Romans 1:16). This involves repentance, a changing of mind about sin and Christ (Acts 3:19), and calling on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:9-10, 13). A definition of salvation would be "The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus." Salvation is available in Jesus alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and is dependent on God alone for provision, assurance, and security.

This is absolutely the most important section in the entire guide, outlining the path to eternal salvation as described in the bible. Your acceptance or denial of Jesus will affect where you spend eternity, and every soul lives forever, it's just a matter of location. A prerequisite for becoming saved is knowing that God exists and that He created you, the universe and heavens.

God wrote the bible through man to *further* prove His existence to us alongside the wonderful and spectacular world around us. There are countless incredible facts about the Bible that prove it had to be designed outside of space and time. For a few of these amazing insights read the 'Evidence for God' section in 'Christianity'.

**Salvation**

**A**

**Admit that you are a sinner.**

Any gap between God's perfect law and our imperfect obedience is called sin, which everyone has committed.

- "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)
- "There is none righteous, no, not one;" (Romans 3:10)
- "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:10)
- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

**B**

**Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried, and that God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day, taking the punishment you deserved.**

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6) Your own good works cannot save you, no matter how good a person you are, and wouldn't the creator of heaven set the bar for entry?

- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)
- "But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners. Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

**C**

**Call upon the name of the Lord and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Lord and Saviour. There is an example prayer below.

- "If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

**The Sinners Prayer**

*"Dear God, I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sins. I am willing and ready to change and turn from my sin. I now invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life, as my personal Saviour."*

**"Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

Joel 2:32 / Acts 2:21 / Romans 10:13

Once you've prayed this prayer, believing it with all your heart, you're saved by the power of the blood of Jesus! He paid that ultimate price of our sin, sacrificing Himself so that we may live. However it's easy to say something with your mouth, what takes real effort is living out a life in pursuit of Jesus, walking according to His will for you and leaving your old sinful ways behind.

Below are some more verses related to salvation and justification, as well as some next steps you should take as a new Christian to help cement your faith. If there's one thing that satan despises, it's new Christians. So be prepared to battle against the spiritual forces of wickedness by praying and reading your bible daily as well as putting on your spiritual armour.





This section is for extra information that would be interesting to know, but not vital to understanding the rapture timeline.

**Rapture Timing**

Among Christians there can often be some heated debates about the tribulational timing of the rapture, whether it's pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, post-tribulation, that it's already happened (Postmillennialism) or that it's all allegorical (Amillennialism). This document uses the Pre-Tribulational viewpoint because it's the only biblically accurate position, but to sum it up simply - we are to expect Him at any time.

**Pre-Tribulational**

**Pre-Tribulational**  
(Biblically Accurate)

The pre-tribulation position advocates that the rapture will occur before the beginning of the seven-year tribulation period, while the second coming will occur at the end of it. Pre-tribulationists often describe the rapture as Jesus coming for the church and the second coming as Jesus coming with the church. We're not looking for the antichrist, we're looking for Jesus Christ.

**This is the view used throughout this document as explained below.**

Why the view is biblically accurate:

- 1 "Comfort another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18) How can you comfort others knowing you will go through even part of the tribulation?
- 2 The Blessed Hope - (Titus 2:13) "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"
- 3 We're not appointed to God's wrath, but to obtain salvation through Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)
- 4 We are to pray for escape. (Luke 21:36) "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass."
- 5 The church is mentioned repeatedly in the first 3 chapters but never again from the fourth chapter on - because it's now in heaven before the start of the tribulation.
- 6 Revelation has 3 sections. The things that 'have been' (ch. 1), the things that 'are' (ch. 2&3) and the 'things to come' (ch. 4-22). John is taken up in ch.4 as a 'type' of the rapture.
- 7 John was taken to heaven in the spirit in Revelation chapter 4 which mirrors a type of the rapture in the correct position relative to Revelation. As a whole, the bible is laid out in chronological order, and follows the nation of Israel.
- 8 The Doctrine of Imminency - We are to expect Him at any time, there are no longer any preconditions to His return.
- 9 It mirrors a Jewish Wedding: • The Betrothal (Payment, Set Apart / Sanctification), • Bridegroom Departs to Father's House (He prepares a room addition, The bride prepares for his imminent return), • Surprise Gathering (Wedding, often at midnight) • Seven Day Marriage Supper. See: The Jewish Wedding - Chuck Missler, on YouTube for more information.
- 10 As discussed above, why would God 'beat up' His bride (the believers) in the tribulation before taking her to dinner - the marriage supper of the lamb?
- 11 The seven lamps of fire in heaven represent the 7 churches and relate back to the parable of the 10 virgins.
- 12 Parable of the 10 virgins. Matthew 25:1-13. This is an example of a Pre-Tribulational rapture as they do not know the day or the hour.
- 13 The 24 elders in heaven symbolise the raptured church. It's interesting that there are also 24 references to raptures throughout the bible.
- 14 The tribulation period is the last week in Daniel's 70 weeks where God focuses exclusively on Israel to bring them to Him.
- 15 Revelation 3:10 "Because you have persevered, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world". The hour of trial is the tribulation, and those who persevere are His believers.
- 16 If the rapture occurs pre-tribulation - wouldn't satan do his best to try and convince people otherwise so they feel they have more time?
- 17 Daniel's absence during the events of the golden idol worship in Daniel 3 is a 'type' of the rapture. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego symbolise Israel.
- 18 Joseph in Egypt during the 7 years of famine is a typeology of the tribulation. Joseph's brothers are representative of Israel.
- 19 Enoch's rapture is a 'type' of the church before the great flood of Noah. (A type is a doctrine or theory concerning the relationship of events in the Old Testament to the New Testament)
- 20 Lot and his family were delivered from the judgement of God on Sodom. He didn't protect them in the midst of the judgement, but took them out entirely.
- 21 If the church has to go through the tribulation to 'refine' or 'prove' themselves, then salvation is based on works done in the tribulation rather than as a gift.
- 22 The tribulation is a time of God's wrath on the "earth-dwellers" not on His believers. (Revelation 6:15-17)
- 23 The conditional tribulation. Jesus rebuked the Thyatira church saying that unless they repent, they will go through the tribulation. (Revelation 2:22)













<p><b>The Scarlet Woman</b> (AKA: The Harlot) (From Revelation 17)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scarlet woman represents Babylon the city</li> <li>• She rides the scarlet beast</li> <li>• Clothed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls (Revelation 17:4)</li> <li>• Has her hand in a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication (Revelation 17:4)</li> <li>• She is drunk on the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus (Revelation 17:6)</li> <li>• She sits on (controls) many 'waters'. The waters represent every people, nation and tongue of the world.</li> <li>• Written on her forehead is: "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." (Revelation 17:5)</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Scarlet Beast</b> (From Revelation 17)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scarlet woman rides this beast</li> <li>• The beast is full of names of blasphemy towards God (Revelation 17:3)</li> <li>• It has seven heads (mountains / kingdoms). (Revelation 17:3 &amp; 9)</li> <li>• It has ten horns. This represents ten kings of the future one world government. (Revelation 17:3) These horns give power and authority to the beast (over the nations of the world) (Revelation 17:7)</li> <li>• The horns will make war with the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them. (Revelation 17:14)</li> <li>• The ten horns (the ten kings) will hate the harlot, but will give their kingdom to the beast</li> <li>• Those on the earth will marvel at the beast (Revelation 17:8)</li> </ul>
<p><b>The 24 Elders</b> (In Heaven)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They represent the believing Church in heaven, those who were raptured and also raised from the dead (Revelation 4:4)</li> <li>• The church is mentioned in Revelation up to chapter 4, after which the church is represented as the 24 elders</li> <li>• There are 24 references to the rapture throughout the bible</li> <li>• They are called 'kings and priests' throughout the bible (Revelation 1:6) (Revelation 5:10)</li> <li>• They are clothes in white robes and gold crowns (Revelation 4:4)</li> </ul>
<p><b>The 7 Lampstands</b> (In Heaven)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5)</li> <li>• Represent the seven churches (Revelation 1:20)</li> <li>• The lamps are on earth in Revelation 1-3 and in heaven from then on. (Revelation 1:12) (Revelation 4:4)</li> </ul>

This is the end of the Rapture Survival Guide (TRSG). If you still have questions you should read the Bible for yourself or look at the christian content below to watch some of the videos on almost any topic you could imagine. Alternatively you could go to the 'Christianity' section and continue reading. I recommended scrolling back up to the 'Accepting Jesus' section and read it through if you haven't already and consider accepting Jesus into your life.

**Christian Content**

Many people will realize that the Christians they ignored their whole life were right and will attempt to seek the truth of what happened in scripture and prophecy updates. Unfortunately this will be extremely difficult with possible electricity and internet outages, lies being proliferated by news outlets and the remaining spiritual leaders denying that it was the rapture. Christian content may be pulled from the entire internet by those in power further increasing the difficulty of finding truth.



Google Backup

If you're looking for reliable Christian content on bible teachings take a look at the links below.

I recommend downloading the free content as quickly as possible because:

- The servers of Christian believers won't be renewed and will eventually go down
- Christians won't be shipping physical digital content due to not being here anymore
- The antichrist and tech companies may try and remove as much of it as possible



Box Backup



Dropbox Backup

If all else fails, read the Bible and the Christianity section in this document. If you need a bible, I have one uploaded on my server at: [www.fluidicice.com/downloads/bible/English\\_Bible.pdf](http://www.fluidicice.com/downloads/bible/English_Bible.pdf) (English, KJV)

I also have bibles in most other languages on my website at [christianity.fluidicice.com/bibles](http://christianity.fluidicice.com/bibles). If that's not enough I have off-site backups of most of my content, check them out below, or use the QR codes. (You may need to cover the adjacent codes to prevent them being read while you scan one)



OneDrive Backup (1)



OneDrive Backup (2)

For off-site backups of my main content (in case my website goes down) see:

- **Google:** [www.drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KVzooRSuHUQI8Zj-mXPYJ0iE14PZc3](http://www.drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KVzooRSuHUQI8Zj-mXPYJ0iE14PZc3)
- **Box:** <http://app.box.com/s/jplaw5euljmybbzqk02m0o3g4y2hcm84>
- **Dropbox:** [www.dropbox.com/sh/jjd2itt9tztzm1z/AADNRiWtvTr1zZ1nBVQbkkI3a](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/jjd2itt9tztzm1z/AADNRiWtvTr1zZ1nBVQbkkI3a)
- **OneDrive (1):** <http://1drv.ms/u/s!AuxDPqkBHS-3zQMa-66lGrqgkIFj?e=RPQdt5>
- **OneDrive (2):** <http://1drv.ms/u/s!AkxVecxqAulvgSiAaU9QvsVCtzKU?e=JVgbTo>
- **MediaFire:** [www.mediafire.com/folder/bp0tscrc6fyj/Creative\\_Content](http://www.mediafire.com/folder/bp0tscrc6fyj/Creative_Content)



MediaFire Backup

Below is a list of biblically sound pastors who upload hours upon hours of amazing Christian content, most of which you can watch for free. Take a look and learn about the end times, our saviour Jesus Christ or the Bible.

For a hyperlinked list of the below see: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com/content](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com/content)

**Reliable Christian Content Channels**

<b>Fluidic Ice</b>	<b>by Fluidic Ice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com">www.christianity.fluidicice.com</a> (Website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.fluidicice.com/TRSG">www.fluidicice.com/TRSG</a> (The Rapture Survival Guide)</li> </ul>
	My website containing audio and video backups of much of the content below.	
<b>Koinonia House</b>	<b>by Chuck Missler (among others)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.khouse.org/">www.khouse.org/</a> (Website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/koinoniahouse/videos">www.youtube.com/user/koinoniahouse/videos</a> (YouTube)</li> </ul>
	Koinonia House writes captivating biblical-scientific posts and analyses. They also produce biblical study videos and have comprehensive bible commentaries. Chuck is my go-to bible teacher.	
<b>Alohableprophecy</b>	<b>by J.D. Farag</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.jdfarag.org">www.jdfarag.org</a> (Website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/alohableprophecy">www.youtube.com/user/alohableprophecy</a> (YouTube)</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.facebook.com/JDFarag/">www.facebook.com/JDFarag/</a> (Facebook)</li> </ul>
	J.D. has a spectacular grasp on Bible prophecy and regularly puts out prophecy updates and bible teachings, while strictly adhering to the scriptures. J.D. is my go-to guy for prophecy updates.	
<b>Get a Life Ministries</b>	<b>by Billy Crone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.getalifemedia.com">www.getalifemedia.com</a> (Website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/NFBCmedia">www.youtube.com/user/NFBCmedia</a> (YouTube)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.vimeo.com/getalifemedia/videos">www.vimeo.com/getalifemedia/videos</a> (Vimeo)</li> </ul>
	Billy creates videos on a huge array of topics such as: The Seals, The Rapture, Satan and Demons, UFOs - The great last days deception, Intelligent Design, World Religions, Studies on God, etc. Best of all - almost all his content is free to watch on his website!	
<b>Olive Tree Ministries</b>	<b>by Jan Markell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.olivetreeviews.org">www.olivetreeviews.org</a> (Website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/OliveTreeMinistries">www.youtube.com/user/OliveTreeMinistries</a> (YouTube)</li> </ul>
	Jan has a weekly radio broadcast throughout America discussing current events from a biblical perspective, usually with special guests. She tackles issues such as: Bible Prophecy, the Rapture, Communism and Current Events.	
<b>Jack Hibbs</b>	<b>by Jack Hibbs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.jackhibbs.com">www.jackhibbs.com</a> (Website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/RealLifeJackHibbs">www.youtube.com/user/RealLifeJackHibbs</a> (YouTube)</li> </ul>
	Jack uploads regular bible commentary, world updates and great content on every Christian topic. He pastors a church and therefore regularly puts out sermons.	
<b>John Haller</b>	<b>by John Haller</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.fbchapel.com/">www.fbchapel.com/</a> (Website)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLkJuTKF2csS-8hBILRkOzw">www.youtube.com/channel/UCLkJuTKF2csS-8hBILRkOzw</a> (YouTube)</li> </ul>





## The Rapture Survival Guide (This Guide)

by **Fluidic Ice**

- [www.fluidicice.com/TRSG](http://www.fluidicice.com/TRSG)

## The Rapture - The Blessed Hope

by **Chuck Missler**

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExEf7UjEwyl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExEf7UjEwyl)

Chuck outlines and discusses the Rapture - our Blessed Hope for 2 hours.

## 4 Horses of Revelation (1 Hour Each Video)

by **Chuck Missler**

- Behold a White Horse - Part 1: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7witCMZ-O0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7witCMZ-O0)
- Behold a White Horse - Part 2: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-V9wB92XuA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-V9wB92XuA)
- Behold a Red Horse - Part 1: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZND9AXQ07s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZND9AXQ07s)
- Behold a Red Horse - Part 2: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDaM5iAK8C8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDaM5iAK8C8)
- Behold a Black Horse - Part 1: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfAXHCiHA2k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfAXHCiHA2k)
- Behold a Black Horse - Part 2: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WICSXjuDpqk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WICSXjuDpqk)
- Behold a Livid Horse - Part 1: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=75lYm0dME](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75lYm0dME)
- Behold a Livid Horse - Part 2: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGBgaTYWlls](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGBgaTYWlls)

These horses represent the first four seals in Revelation which Chuck discusses in great depth.

## The Mystery of the Rapture

by **Amir Tsarfati**

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPxGs\\_wyGZA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPxGs_wyGZA)

Amir discusses the soon coming rapture of the Church foretold in the Bible. 1 hour long video.

## What the End Times Will Look Like

by **Jack Hibbs**

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8fk17qnnX4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8fk17qnnX4) (1 Hour 40 Minutes)

## Who Told You About The End Times? (1 Hour Each Video)

by **Jack Hibbs**

- Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzE9tPwMKLg>
- Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYCJdbrNwfo>
- Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bnwa14-2slg>

In this series, we will learn how to discern the voices of our day based on what scripture reveals.

## Learn the Bible in 24 Hours (mp3 Audio Only)

by **Chuck Missler**

- [www.khouse.org/6640/](http://www.khouse.org/6640/)

This series outlines the entire bible in 24 1 hour sessions. It's a great place to start learning about the bible as a whole.

## Why Should I Trust the Bible?

**Impact Video Ministries**

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtNcbu5oHQU&](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtNcbu5oHQU&)

A well made video debating the reliability of the Bible, a good one to watch for those questioning Christianity. 15 minutes long.

The content on most of the sites above can be directly downloaded via buttons on their web pages however the content on YouTube requires a program to download them such as an MP3 download: "[www.mp3-youtube.download/en](http://www.mp3-youtube.download/en)" (free) or a video downloader such as: "[www.4kdownload.com/products/product-videodownloader](http://www.4kdownload.com/products/product-videodownloader)" (free trial - \$15 After).

I've also created a 2,000+ page preparedness document if you're living in the end times and are trying to survive. Of course you should trust God first and foremost to provide what you need but we need to apply some effort on our end as well. You can download it here:

**The Preparedness Encyclopedia (TPE): [www.fluidicice.com/TPE](http://www.fluidicice.com/TPE)**



Hyperlinks of the videos above

If you're after entertainment and want a Christian novel based on the events after the rapture, look up the "Left Behind" series written by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. It's a series of 16 novels set after the rapture takes place and ending with the second coming of Jesus. It follows the lives of Rayford Steele and his daughter Chloe and their struggle through the tribulation, while closely following a likely narrative of what could happen in the end times as depicted by the bible. The series ends with the second coming of Jesus.

## My Links

- For my site on everything Christian, head to: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com)
- If you're looking to spread the gospel in your area, you can find some printable tracts here: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com/proclaim](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com/proclaim)
- Looking for the evidence for God? Search for it in this document under 'Christianity', or head to: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com/evidence](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com/evidence)
- If you're interested in bible prophecy and what's coming, have a look at: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com/prophecy](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com/prophecy)
- For information on salvation and being saved, see: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com/salvation](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com/salvation)
- To download bibles in almost any language, check out: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com/bibles](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com/bibles)

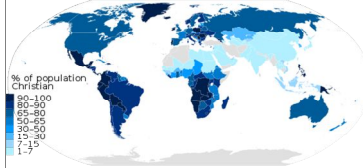


[www.christianity.fluidicice.com](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com)

Christianity is the following of Jesus Christ's teachings and having a relationship with our father in heaven because we are all sinners and have strayed from the path set to us by going our own lustful ways. He sent his only Son to die on the cross for every one of these sins and he longs to have a relationship with each of us, and wants to see us prosper and live for him. He alone is the way, the truth and the life.

### Geographic Positioning

Countries with the greatest proportion of Christians by country (as of 2010<sup>n</sup>)



*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

**John 3:16**

Largest Christian Populations <sup>n</sup>	United States	Brazil	Russia	Mexico	Nigeria	Philippines	China	Democratic Congo	France	Italy	Ethiopia
	229,157,250	169,213,130	114,198,444	106,204,560	80,510,000	78,790,000	67,070,000	63,150,000	55,948,600	55,832,000	51,477,950

### Subheadings

	<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>2. Denominations</b>	<b>3. Who is God?</b>	<b>4. The Commandments</b>	
	<b>5. Beatitudes</b>	<b>6. The Parables</b>	<b>7. Evidence for God</b>	<b>8. Accepting Jesus</b>	
	<b>9. Spiritual Armour</b>	<b>10. After Death</b>	<b>11. The Bible</b>	<b>12. Common Questions</b>	
	<b>13. Biblical Timeline</b>	<b>14. Further Reading</b>			

## 1

## Introduction

Many people place the beginning of Christianity some two thousand years ago with the life of Jesus. In actuality, Christianity began as a reform movement within Judaism, which had been established nearly two thousand years earlier. To understand Christianity, we must go back to the roots of Judaism. We find aspects of the history of the Israelites recorded in the Bible, which is ultimately a collection of writings conveying the story of God's relationship with humanity. "In the beginning," the Scriptures state, "God created the heavens and the earth."

However, sometime after creating humanity, things began to go awry. People chose to defy God's command, and sin entered the world. As a direct result of this disobedience, humans have since been struggling with broken relationships with God, themselves, others, and creation. Even worse, through that act, death was introduced to the world. In order to restore everlasting relationship with his creation, God chose one righteous person - Abraham, and initiated a plan of redemption. Through Abraham's family, a people became a nation that was destined to be a light, a blessing, and a model to the entire world: Israel.

Though there were moments when they forgot who they were and neglected God's commands, in time the Israelites succeeded in being God's faithful people—despite threats and attacks levelled against them from surrounding nations. In the Christian understanding, the Israelites' presence in the world and their message of the one true God prepared the peoples of the earth for the next phase of God's plan. Through his prophets, God foretold a final resolution to the broken relationship between God and humans: God himself would enter the world in the form of a human being.

He would experience what we experience. He would suffer the pain that we suffer, endure the temptations we endure, feel the emotions we feel. But more than that, he would be beaten, broken, and crushed. In his death he would take on all the sins of man, until "by his wounds we (would be) healed" and set free from the bondage of sin. And in the end, he would restore his scattered and dispirited people, ushering in an era of unending peace.

Then came Jesus. A Jewish carpenter who lived two thousand years ago, Jesus is called the Son of God. Christians believe Jesus to be fully man and fully God, equally human and divine. Early in his life, Jesus distinguished himself as an unusually precocious child, demonstrating tremendous spiritual wisdom and maturity. When Jesus knew the moment was right, he left behind his home and embarked on a new path. He began to preach, teach, perform miracles, and gather around him a band of disciples. Eventually, they recognized him as the messiah. What his followers did not realize was that God's plan was going to take an unusual turn. He was going to restore the nation of Israel, as they hoped, but he would do it in a most unexpected way—not through shows of power and the oppression of enemies but through selfless love and compassion.

*"In the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."*

**2 Timothy 3:1-4**

Jesus, the Son of God, was crucified, died, and rose from the dead. He conquered sin and death in order to restore humanity's broken relationship with God, the Father. Jesus did what we cannot: he lived a perfect, sinless life and paid the price for our transgressions. Christians believe that Jesus' sacrifice for humanity saved us from the permanent consequence of our sins—eternal separation and isolation from God. Through Jesus, we can attain eternal life in relationship with God. Indeed, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life, and that whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life."

One day, Jesus promised, he will return to reign over his faithful followers in a peaceful kingdom where "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain." In the interim, he has sent the Holy Spirit to live and dwell with his followers, leading them in the way of truth. Today, Christianity is practiced in three primary forms: Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant. Within each of these three branches, there are numerous subsets and denominations. However, each group concurs on the general story and purposes described above; they divide mainly in the details of how principles should be applied practically.

Over the years, Christianity has seen its fair share of glorious, proud moments and all too many humiliating, shameful ones. But this is less an indictment on God, Jesus, or Christianity than it is on his followers. Mahatma Gandhi allegedly once said, "I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." He voiced the inconsistency found between the Son of God and those who claim to follow in his footsteps. And yet, should that surprise anyone? The Bible tells story after story of those who failed to live as God called them to live. This is not true just for Christians but for all people. This is why we need a messiah, a redeemer, a saviour. And yet, should that surprise anyone? The Bible tells story after story of those who failed to live as God called them to live.

This is not true just for Christians but for all people. This is why we need a messiah, a redeemer, a saviour. Chuck Colson once said, "Christianity is an explanation of all of reality." Simply put, we all know the world is broken. The whole world, including me and you, needs fixing. And no matter how many different fix-it methods we try—whether self-help or sex, missionary work or money—none of them can fill the void that all of us feel. Christianity, from creation up through God's restoring work in Jesus, is both the explanation of and solution to that emptiness. Ultimately, Christianity is the story of God's powerful, redemptive love for his people.

2

Denominations

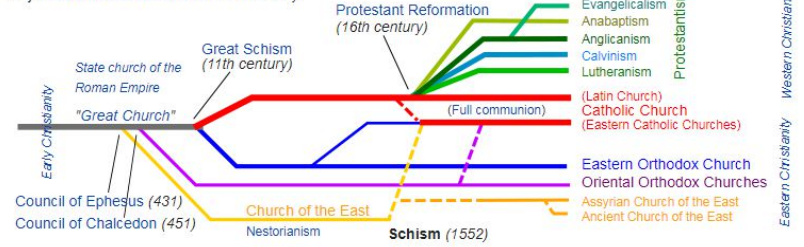
These are the different denominations of Christianity in the world today. Keep in mind that only those which hold fast to the inerrant and divine word of God (the bible) is the straight and narrow path, or the only path to heaven.

Great Schism (1054 A.D.)

The East–West Schism is the break of communion since the 11th century between the Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

The schism was the culmination of theological and political differences which had developed during the preceding centuries between Eastern and Western Christianity.

Major denominational families in Christianity:



(Not shown are non-Nicene, nontrinitarian, and some restorationist denominations.)

Protestant Reformation

The Reformation was a major movement within Western Christianity in 16th-century Europe that posed a religious and political challenge to the Catholic Church and in particular to papal authority, arising from what was perceived to be errors, abuses, and discrepancies by the Catholic Church. The Reformation was the start of Protestantism and the split of Protestantism from the Roman Catholic Church.

Catholicism

Catholic theology is based on the Nicene Creed. The Catholic Church teaches that it is the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church founded by Jesus Christ, that its bishops are the successors of Christ's apostles, and that the Pope is the successor to Saint Peter to whom primacy was conferred by Jesus Christ.

Latin Church

It employs the Latin liturgical rites. It is headed by the Bishop of Rome - the pope - and has its headquarters in the Vatican City. The Latin Church traces its history to the earliest days of Christianity.

Independent Catholicism

Various denominations self-identifying as Catholic, despite not being affiliated with the Catholic Church.

<b>Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association</b>	Substitute for the true Roman Catholic church with goals to eliminate religion in order to achieve a pure materialistic and autocratic society.
<b>Old Catholic Church</b>	The term Old Catholic Church was used from the 1850s by groups which had separated from the Roman Catholic Church over certain doctrines, primarily concerned with papal authority; some of these groups, especially in the Netherlands, had already existed long before the term.

Protestantism

Originated with the 16th century Reformation, a movement against what its followers perceived to be errors in the Roman Catholic Church.

Ever since, Protestants reject the Roman Catholic doctrine of papal supremacy and sacraments, but disagree among themselves regarding the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

They emphasize the priesthood of all believers, justification by faith alone rather than by good works, and the highest authority of the Bible alone in faith and morals.

Historical Protestantism

- Baptist Churches
- Lutheranism
- Methodism
- Calvinism
- Presbyterianism
- Congregationalism
- Anabaptism

Modern Protestantism

- Pentecostalism
- Nondenomin... Christianity
- Seventh-day Adventists
- New Apostolic Church
- Restoration Movement
- Plymouth Brethren

Anglicanism

Anglicanism is a Western Christian tradition that evolved out of the practices, liturgy and identity of the Church of England following the Protestant Reformation.

Eastern Christianity

Eastern Orthodox Church

The most common estimate of the number of Eastern Orthodox Christians worldwide is 225–300 million, forming a single communion, making it the second largest, single Christian denomination behind the Catholic Church.

Oriental Orthodoxy

Oriental Orthodox churches are the churches descended from those that rejected the Council of Chalcedon in 451. Despite the similar name, they are therefore a different branch of Christianity from the Eastern Orthodox.



Christianity	Denominations	Denomination Comparison	<b>Governance</b>	Papal/Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop; the pope (the Bishop of Rome) is the ultimate Church leader.)	Presbyterian (A graded organizational system by presbyters or elders.)	Congregational (Local churches are self-governing.)	Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop.)	Mixed (Congregational, Presbyterian, and Episcopal structures exist.)	<b>Governance</b>
			<b>Mary</b>	From conception, Mary was without original sin, she is the Immaculate Conception. Mary is the "Mother of God." Mary was a virgin when she conceived Jesus and when she gave birth. She remained a virgin throughout her life. She delivers souls from death and continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation.	Jesus was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary is honoured as "God-bearer" and a model for Christians.	Mary was a virgin both when she conceived Jesus and when she gave birth. (Luke 1:34-38). Though "highly favoured" by God (Luke 1:28), Mary was still human and therefore sinned.	Anglicans believe Jesus was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary was a virgin both when she conceived Jesus and when she gave birth. "They...have difficulties with Catholic belief in her immaculate conception, that Mary was free from the stain of original sin from the moment of her own conception.	Jesus was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary was a virgin both when she conceived Jesus and when she gave birth.	<b>Mary</b>
			<b>Purgatory</b>	All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.	Rejected	Rejected	The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory... is a fond thing vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.	Rejected	<b>Purgatory</b>
				<b>Catholic</b>	<b>Presbyterian</b>	<b>Baptist</b>	<b>Anglican</b>	<b>Lutheran</b>	

### 3 Who is God?

Here is a list of the names, titles and characteristics of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit.

#### His Name

Jesus	Mat 1:21	The Christ of God	Luk 9:20
Lord Jesus	Act 7:59	Jesus Christ of Nazareth	Act 4:10
Christ Jesus	1Ti 1:15	Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever	Hbr 13:8
A Saviour, Jesus	Act 13:23	Jesus the Christ	Mat 16:20
The Saviour of the World	1Jo 4:14	Christ	Mat 23:8
A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord	Luk 2:11	Messiah, which is called Christ	Jhn 4:25
Jesus Christ	Rev 1:5	Anointed	Act 4:27
The Lord Jesus Christ	Col 1:2	Christ the Lord	Luk 2:11
Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself	2Th 2:16	The Lord Christ	Col 3:24
Jesus Christ our Lord	Rom 5:21	The Christ, the Saviour of the World	Jhn 4:42
Jesus Christ the Righteous	1Jo 2:1	The Christ, the Son of the Blessed	Mark 14:61
The Son	1Jo 4:14	His own Son	Rom 8:32
The Son of God	Jhn 1:34	The Son of the Blessed	Mark 14:61
The Son of the living God	Mat 16:16	My Son	Psa 2:7
His only begotten Son	Jhn 3:16	A Son given	Isa 9:6
The Son of the Father	1Jo 1:3	The Son of the Highest	Luk 1:32

#### His Name By Others

The Father, "My Beloved Son."	Mat 17:5	Disciples, "Thou art the Son of God."	Mat 14:33
Jesus Himself, "I am the Son of God."	Jhn 10:36	Nathaniel, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God."	Jhn 1:49
The Spirit, "The Son of God."	Mark 1:1	Martha, "The Christ, the Son of God."	Jhn 11:27
Gabriel, "The Son of God."	Luk 1:35;	Eunuch, "Jesus Christ is the Son of God."	Act 8:37
John Baptist, "This is the Son of God."	Jhn 1:34	Centurion, "Truly this was the Son of God."	Mar 15:39
John, Apostle, "The Christ, the Son of God."	Jhn 20:31	Unclean spirits, "Thou art the Son of God."	Mar 3:11
Paul, Apostle, "He is the Son of God."	Act 9:20	The Legion, "Thou Son of the Most High God."	Mark 5:7

#### His Titles

God	Jhn 1:1;	The God of the whole earth	Isa 54:5
The Holy Child Jesus	Act 4:27	God manifest in the flesh	1Ti 3:16
The Mighty God	Isa 9:6	Our God and Savior	2Pe 1:1
The Everlasting God	Isa 40:28	The great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ	Tts 2:13
The True God	1Jo 5:20	Emanuel, God with us	Mat 1:23
My Lord and my God	Jhn 20:28	The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob	Exd 3:2, 6
God my Saviour	Luk 1:47	The Highest	Luk 1:76
My Beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased	Mat 12:18	The Most Blessed for ever	Psa 21:6
Jehovah	Isa 40:3	Lord of Peace	2Th 3:16
The Lord Jehovah	Isa 40:10	The Lord	Rom 10:13;
Jehovah my God	Zec 14:5	The Lord of Glory	1Cr 2:8
A Lamb as it had been slain	Rev 5:6	The Same	Hbr 1:12;
Jehovah, God of Hosts	Hsa 12:4, 5;	I am	Exd 3:14;
The King, Jehovah of Hosts	Isa 6:5	I am (before Abraham was)	Jhn 8:58
The Strong and Mighty Jehovah	Psa 24:8	I am (whom they sought to kill)	Jhn 18:5, 6
Jehovah, mighty in battle	Psa 24:8	I am (the Resurrection and the Life)	Jhn 11:25
The Redeemer	Isa 59:20	The Chosen of God	Luk 23:35
The Lord	1Cr 12:3	Lord both of the dead and living	Rom 14:9
One Lord	Eph 4:5	Lord of the Sabbath	Luk 6:5
King of Kings	Rev 17:14	Lord of all	Act 10:36
Lord of Lords	Rev 17:14	Lord over all	Rom 10:12
The Messiah the Prince	Dan 9:25	The Prince of Princes	Dan 8:25
The Prince of Life	Act 3:15	The Prince of the Kings of the earth	Rev 1:5
A Prince and a Saviour	Act 5:31	The Salvation of God	Luk 2:30
The Prince of Peace	Isa 9:6	The Glory of thy people Israel	Luk 2:32
The Word	Jhn 1:1	The Gift of God	Jhn 4:10;
The Word was with God	Jhn 1:1	Wisdom	Pro 8:12, 22
The Word was God	Jhn 1:1	The Wisdom of God	1Cr 1:24
The Word of God	Rev 19:13	The Power of God	1Cr 1:24
The Word of Life	1Jo 1:1	The Image of the invisible God	Col 1:15
The Word was made flesh	Jhn 1:14	The Image of God	2Cr 4:4
The Almighty, which is, and was, and is to come	Rev 1:8	The Alpha and the Omega	Rev 1:8



Who is God?	His Titles	The Creator of all things	Col 1:16	The First and the Last	Rev 1:17
		The Upholder of all things	Hbr 1:3	The Life	1Jo 1:2
		The Everlasting Father (or Father of Eternity)	Isa 9:6	Eternal Life	1Jo 5:20
		The Beginning	Col 1:18	That Eternal Life which was with the Father	1Jo 1:2
		The Beginning and the Ending	Rev 1:8	He that liveth	Rev 1:18
		The Lamb of God	Jhn 1:29	The Bridegroom	Rev 21:9
		A Lamb without blemish and without spot	1Pe 1:19	The Blessed	Psa 77:17
		The Lamb that was slain	Rev 5:12	Mine Elect, in whom my soul delighteth	Isa 42:1
		The Man	Jhn 19:5	The Son of David	Mat 1:1
		The Man Christ Jesus	1Ti 2:5	The Son of Mary	Mark 6:3
Who is God?	His Titles	The Seed of the Woman	Gen 3:15	The Son of Joseph (reputed)	Jhn 1:45
		The Son of Man	Mar 10:33	The Seed of Abraham	Gal 3:16, 19
		The Son of Abraham	Mat 1:1	Of the Seed of David	Rom 1:3
		The Root of Jesse	Isa 11:10	The Shepherd of Israel	Rev 2:7
		The Root of David	Rev 5:5	The Bread of God	Jhn 6:33
		The Root and Offspring of David	Rev 22:16	The True Bread from Heaven	Jhn 6:32
		The Branch	Zec 6:12	The Bread of Life	Jhn 6:35
		The Branch of Righteousness	Jer 33:15	The Living Bread	Jhn 6:51
		King over all the Earth	Zec 14:4, 5, 9	The Servant of the Father	Mat 12:18
		The Child	Isa 7:16	My Servant, O Israel	Isa 49:3
Who is God?	His Titles	The Young Child	Mat 2:20	My Servant, the Branch	Zec 3:8
		A Child Born	Isa 9:6	My Righteous Servant	Isa 53:11
		The Child Jesus	Luk 2:43	A Servant of Rulers	Isa 49:7
		Her First-Born Son	Luk 2:7	A Nazarene, or Nazarite	Mat 2:23
		The Sent of the Father	Jhn 10:36	The Carpenter	Mark 6:3
		The Apostle	Hbr 3:1	The Carpenter's Son (reputed)	Mat 13:55
		A Prophet	Act 3:22, 23	He Humbled Himself unto death	Phi 2:8
		A Great Prophet	Luk 7:16	A Stranger and an Alien	Psa 69:8
		The Prophet of Nazareth	Mat 21:11	A Man of Sorrows	Isa 53:3
		A Prophet mighty in deed and word	Luk 24:19	The Shield	Psa 84:9
Who is God?	His Titles	A Servant	Phi 2:7	The Faithful and True	Rev 19:11
		One Shepherd	Jhn 10:16	The Shepherd of Israel	Eze 34:23
		Jehovah's Shepherd	Zec 13:7	The Shepherd and Bishop of Souls	1Pe 2:25
		The Shepherd of the Sheep	Hbr 13:20	The Good Shepherd (that laid down his life)	Jhn 10:11
		The Way	Jhn 14:6	The Bright and Morning Star	Rev 22:16
		The Light	Jhn 12:35	A Light of the Gentiles	Isa 42:6
		The True Light	Jhn 1:9	A Star	Num 24:17
		The Just	1Pe 3:18	The Morning Star	Rev 2:28
		The Light of the world	Jhn 8:12	The Day Star	2Pe 1:19
		The Light of men	Jhn 1:4	The Truth	Jhn 14:6
Who is God?	His Titles	A Light to lighten the Gentiles	Luk 2:32	The Sun of Righteousness	Mal 4:2
		The Captain of the Host of the Lord	Jos 5:14	The Deliverer	Rom 11:26
		The Captain of Salvation	Hbr 2:10	The Lion of the Tribe of Judah	Rev 5:5
		A Leader	Isa 55:4	The Author and Finisher of Faith	Hbr 12:2
		A Commander	Isa 55:4	A Precious Stone	1Pe 2:6
		A Ruler	Mic 5:2	A Governor	Mat 2:6
		The Builder	Mat 16:18	A Chief Corner-stone	1Pe 2:6
		The Foundation	1Cr 3:11	A Stone	Isa 28:16
		A Sure Foundation	Isa 28:16	A Living Stone	1Pe 2:4
		The Rock	Mat 16:18	The Resurrection	Jhn 11:25
Who is God?	His Titles	The Faithful and True Witness	Rev 3:14	The Rock of my Heart	Psa 73:26
		A Ransom (his life)	Mar 10:45	The Rock of my Salvation	2Sa 22:47
		The Beginning of the Creation of God	Rev 3:14	My Rock and my Redeemer	Psa 19:14
		My Rock and my Fortress	Psa 31:3	The King of Righteousness	Hbr 7:2
		The Rock of my Strength	Psa 62:7	The Faithful Witness	Rev 1:5
		The Temple	Rev 21:22	The Offerer	Hbr 7:27
		A Sanctuary	Isa 8:14	The Offering	Eph 5:2
		The Lamb	Rev 7:9	The Sacrifice	Eph 5:2
		A Strength to the Poor	Isa 25:4	A Witness to the People	Isa 55:4
		The Just One	Act 7:52	The Holy One of Israel	Isa 49:7
Who is God?	His Titles	A Refuge from the Storm	Isa 25:4	The Holy One of God	Mark 1:24
		The Judge	Act 17:31	Holy, Holy, Holy	Jhn 12:41
		The Righteous Judge	2Ti 4:8	My First-Born	Psa 89:27
		The King	Zec 14:16	The First-Born from the dead	Col 1:18
		King of Kings	Rev 19:16	The King of the Jews (born)	Mat 2:2; 15:2
		Lord of Lords	Rev 19:16	The King of the Jews (crucified)	Jhn 19:19
		The Head of all Principality and Power	Col 2:10	The Last Adam	1Cr 15:45
		The Head of the Body, the Church	Col 1:18	Crowned with many Crowns	Rev 19:12
		The King of Peace	Hbr 7:2	Crowned with a Crown of Thorns	Jhn 19:2
		The King of Israel	Jhn 1:49	Crowned with Glory and Honor	Hbr 2:9

**Other Titles**

Who is God?	Other Titles	<b>He was:</b>	Obedient, Meek, Lowly, Guileless, Tempted, Oppressed, Despised, Rejected, Betrayed, Condemned, Reviled, Scourged, Mocked, Wounded, Bruised, Stricken, Smitten, Crucified, Forsaken.
		<b>He is:</b>	Merciful, Faithful, Holy, Harmless, Undefined, Separate, Perfect, Glorious, Mighty, Justified, Exalted, Risen, Glorified, Altogether Lovely, The Rock.
		<b>He is my:</b>	Saviour, Hope, Brother, Maker, Husband, Well-beloved, Portion, Helper, Physician, Healer, Refiner, Purifier, Lord, Master, Servant, Example, Teacher, Shepherd, Keeper, Feeder, Leader, Restorer, Resting-place, Passover, Peace, Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, Redemption, All in All.

**4**

**The Commandments**

The	<b>Commandment 1</b> You shall have no other Gods before me	The Creator of the universe declares He is our God and our deliverer and asks us to demonstrate our love for Him by having no other Gods. The First Commandment is the first of a series of four that define our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Establishing, developing and maintaining that personal relationship with the true and living God is the most important commitment we can ever make.
		That is the primary focus of the first of the Ten Commandments. We should love, honour and respect Him so much that He alone is the supreme authority and model in our lives. He alone is God. We should allow nothing to prevent us from serving and obeying Him.



### Commandment 10

You shall not covet

God instructs us not to covet because He knows it can entrap us into even greater sin. To covet means to crave or desire, especially in excessive or improper ways. The Tenth Commandment does not tell us that all of our desires are immoral. It tells us that some desires are wrong. Coveting is an immoral longing for something that is not rightfully ours. That is usually because the object of our desire already belongs to someone else.

But coveting can also include our wanting far more than we would legitimately deserve or that would be our rightful share. Our desire should be to contribute to the well being of others, to make our presence in their lives a blessing to them. In prohibiting coveting, it defines not so much what we must do but how we should think. It asks us to look deep within ourselves to see what we are on the inside.

## 5

### Beatitudes

The beatitudes come from the opening verses of the famous Sermon on the Mount delivered by Jesus and recorded in Matthew 5:3-12. Here Jesus stated several blessings, each beginning with the phrase, "Blessed are ..." (Similar declarations appear in Jesus' Sermon on the Plain in Luke 6:20-23.) Each saying speaks of a blessing or "divine favour" that will be bestowed on the person who possesses a certain character quality.

<b>Matthew 5:3 &amp; Luke 6:20</b>	Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	The phrase "poor in spirit" speaks of a spiritual condition of poverty. It describes the person who recognizes his or her need for God. "The kingdom of heaven" refers to people who acknowledge God as King.
<b>Matthew 5:4 &amp; Luke 6:21</b>	Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.	"Those who mourn" speaks of those who express deep sorrow over sin and repent from their sins. The freedom found in forgiveness of sin and the joy of eternal salvation is the "comfort" of those who repent.
<b>Matthew 5:5</b>	Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.	Similar to "the poor," "the meek" are those who submit to God's authority and make him Lord. Revelation 21:7 says God's children will "inherit all things."
<b>Matthew 5:6 &amp; Luke 6:21</b>	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.	"Hunger" and "thirst" speak of deep need and driving passion. This "righteousness" refers to Jesus Christ. To "be filled" is the satisfaction of our soul's desire.
<b>Matthew 5:7</b>	Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.	We reap what we sow. Those who demonstrate mercy will receive mercy. Likewise, those who have received great mercy will show great mercy. Mercy is shown through forgiveness, kindness, and compassion toward others.
<b>Matthew 5:8</b>	Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.	The "pure in heart" are those who have been cleansed from within. This is not outward righteousness that can be seen by men, but inward holiness that only God can see. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:14 that without holiness, no one will see God.
<b>Matthew 5:9</b>	Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.	The Bible says we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Reconciliation through Christ brings restored fellowship (peace) with God. 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 says God entrusts us with this same message of reconciliation to take to others.
<b>Matthew 5:10 &amp; Luke 6:22</b>	Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	Just as Jesus faced persecution, so will his followers. Those who endure by faith rather than hide their faith to avoid persecution are genuine followers of Christ.

## 6

### The Parables

These are the parables Jesus talked about in the bible and their meaning. Keep in mind that Jesus spoke in parables so that those who were not believers did not understand as mentioned in the last parable named "The Purpose of Parables".

#### The Lamp

##### Matthew 5:14-16

- 14** You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.  
**15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.  
**16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

##### Explanation

Christians shouldn't be a follower of Christ in secret, but they are called to tell the world and let their light shine brightly in the darkness. This especially occurs today when the end of all things is near.

#### The Speck and the Plank

##### Matthew 7:1-5

- 1** Judge not, that you be not judged.  
**2** For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.  
**3** And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?  
**4** Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?  
**5** Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

##### Explanation

You cannot condemn a person for sinning when you have great sin in your own life. To correct another, you first must have your own sins forgiven, turning from them completely before being able to correct someone else's lifestyle.

#### New Cloth on Old Garment

**Matthew 9:16-17**

16 No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse.  
17 Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

**Explanation**

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**The Divided Kingdom****Matthew 12:24-30**

24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."  
25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.  
26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?  
27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.  
28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.  
29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.  
30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

**Explanation**

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**The Sower****Matthew 13:1-9**

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.  
4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.  
5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.  
6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.  
7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.  
8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.  
9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

**Explanation****Matthew 13:18-23**

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:  
19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.  
20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;  
21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.  
22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.  
23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

**The Tares Among the Wheat****Matthew 13:24-30**

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;  
25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.  
26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.  
27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'  
28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'  
29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.  
30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

**Explanation**

Tares look just like wheat in their early growing stages but right at the end, instead of wheat they produce a worthless black bud. This parable explains why the good and the ungodly are living together with each other. If the ungodly people are uprooted the godly will suffer.

**The Mustard Seed****Matthew 13:31-32**

31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,  
32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

**Explanation**

Mustard seeds should only grow to be about the size of a small bush and not a tree. This is an unnatural plant which is grown from the mustard seed and can't have been the same seed that was planted. Another point to mention is that throughout the bible birds are represented negatively, and having birds nesting in the branches could be interpreted as outside forces affecting the truth and purpose of the seed. An example would be the Catholic church today who adheres to the doctrine of man rather than the original seed - the word of God. The catholic church, as well as some mega-churches today has grown to be huge and have slowly let more 'birds' nest in their branches. The aim is to stay a bush, staying true to the word of God and if your congregation grows too big, it should split into two smaller churches or bushes instead of growing more branches.

**The Leaven**

**Matthew 13:33**

**33** Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

**Explanation (By Chuck Missler)**

It has been popular to view this as a prediction that the Church will eventually "convert" the entire world. Unfortunately, this would seem to contradict other prophecies. (Luke 18:8; Isaiah 63:3,5; 2 Peter 2; Jude, etc.)

Furthermore, we must never lose sight of the fact that Jesus was a Jewish rabbi, speaking to Jewish disciples. Leaven is always used as a symbol of sin. The Feast of Passover emphasizes the use of unleavened bread. Even to this day, the Jews make a game out of cleansing the house of leaven: they hide a little for the children to find to earn a reward. Jesus refers to the "leaven of Pharisees and Sadducees." (Matthew 16:6; Luke 13:21.) Paul also makes these same type of references. (1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:7-9.)

It is interesting that the Feast of Israel that prophesizes the Church is the Feast of Pentecost, the only feast that features leavened (Gentile?) bread. (See our Briefing Package, The Feasts of Israel, a prophetic study of all of the Feasts.) Why is leaven used as a symbol of sin? It corrupts by puffing up. The origin of sin was in Lucifer's pride. (Isaiah 14:12-17.) That's why God hates pride. (Try that in your concordance sometime!) Furthermore, the "three measures of meal" have their origin in Genesis 18, where Abraham receives the famous three visitors.

This first was the Lord Himself, and the other two were angels who had an assignment the following day at Sodom and Gomorrah. From that day to this, in both the Jewish and Arab cultures, the "three measures of meal" are emblematic of a fellowship offering. So to a Jewish ears, when Jesus described a woman putting leaven into the three measures of meal, they probably gasped in horror!

**Hidden Treasure****Matthew 13:44**

**44** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

**Explanation**

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**Pearl of Great Price****Matthew 13:45-46**

**45** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,  
**46** who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

**Explanation (By Chuck Missler)**

In verses 45-46, Jesus again uses a strange Gentile allusion: the pearl. It all sounds good, until you realize that oysters are not kosher! (Deuteronomy 14:10.)

Here again, we see an allusion to the Church. The pearl is the only "jewel" that is the result of a living organism. It grows as a response to irritation. And it is removed from its place of growth to become an item of adornment! The more we study these parables, the more questions they raise.

**The Net****Matthew 13:47-50**

**47** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,  
**48** which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.  
**49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,  
**50** and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

**Explanation**

This parable is just like the wheat and the tares parable which also describes a 'sorting' between good and bad at the end of the age.

**The Heart of Man****Matthew 15:10-14**

**10** When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand:  
**11** Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."  
**12** Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"  
**13** But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.  
**14** Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

**Explanation****Matthew 15:15-20**

**15** Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us."  
**16** So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding?  
**17** Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated?  
**18** But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.  
**19** For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.  
**20** These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

**The Lost Sheep**



**Matthew 18:10-14**

- 10 "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.
- 11 For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.
- 12 "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?
- 13 And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.
- 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

**Explanation**

○

**The Unforgiving Servant**

**Matthew 18:23-35**

- 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.
- 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.
- 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.
- 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'
- 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.
- 28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'
- 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'
- 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.
- 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.
- 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.
- 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?'
- 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.
- 35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

**Explanation**

○

**Laborers in the Vineyard**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

- 1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.
- 2 Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.
- 3 And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
- 4 and said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went.
- 5 Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.
- 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?'
- 7 They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.'
- 8 "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.'
- 9 And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.
- 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius.
- 11 And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner,
- 12 saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.'
- 13 But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?
- 14 Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.
- 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'
- 16 So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

**Explanation**

○

**The Two Sons**

**Matthew 21:28-32**

- 28 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.'
  - 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went.
  - 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.
  - 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first."
- Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.
- 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

**Explanation**

○

**The Tenant Farmers**





**Explanation (By Nancy Missler)**

The faithful and wise servant in this story is equivalent to a true disciple of Christ. He places the desires of his lord above his own and, thus, is an obedient steward who provides for his "family." He does what he is required to do at the time, but he also steadfastly awaits his lord's return. Verse 47 says because of this, the lord (when he returns) will "make him ruler over all his goods."

In the same way, God entrusts us—His own servants—to not only feed His spiritual family and do His will, but also to await His return. Our reward for doing so will be the privilege of greater service in His future kingdom. The special pleasures, honors, and splendors, which are to accompany the return of the Lord from heaven and the setting up of His kingdom, are to be a reward for fidelity and faithful service in His absence.

The unfaithful and disobedient servant, however, is the equivalent of a carnal and nominal Christian. The word evil in verse 48 is the Greek word *kakos* (Strong's #2556), which simply means "someone who has been disqualified." It means "a worthless or injurious person." It means he lacks the qualities that he should possess.

Simply put, he is "not worthy." This servant thought his lord would delay his coming. And this, of course, affected how he lived his life. He was lazy, untrustworthy, and cruel. He abused his position by being ill tempered and self-indulgent to those who worked with him. He thought he would never be called into account for these things because he secretly believed his lord would be slow to return.

**The Ten Virgins****Matthew 25:1-13**

- 1 *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*
  - 2 *Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*
  - 3 *Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,*
  - 4 *but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*
  - 5 *But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*
  - 6 *"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'*
  - 7 *Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.*
  - 8 *And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'*
  - 9 *But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'*
- 10 *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.*
  - 11 *"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'*
  - 12 *But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'*
  - 13 *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

**Explanation (By Chuck Missler)**

our Justification can be compared to the Jewish betrothal. Our Sanctification can be compared to a Jewish woman preparing herself for her future wedding. And our Glorification (the Rapture) can be compared to a Jewish groom coming by surprise to carry his bride away.

As you can see from the Biblical model of marriage (summarized above), it was necessary that the bride prepare her own bridal garment for the big day. During the time of preparation, she remained in her father's home, making herself ready. This preparation meant making her own wedding gown, getting ready for her new role as a wife, transferring her allegiance from her father to her new husband, and so forth. Cohabitation was forbidden at this time, since the bride must remain a virgin. The goal of this in-between time was that she would be presented to her future groom as a chaste and pure virgin.

This was not only true for Jewish brides; it is also true in the Christian life. At the end of our "preparation time" (our betrothal), we are to be presented to Christ as a pure virgin. Ephesians 5:27 describes the way that this will occur: "That He [the Lord] might present [the church] to Himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Paul added to this by saying, "That I may present you to Christ as a chaste virgin" (2 Corinthians 11:2). Chaste (#53, *hagnos*) is the root from which *hagiosmos* (#38) comes from. *Hagiosmos* means "sanctified."

Notice, however, the words might and may in the two above verses. They indicate that it's God's will to present us "as a chaste and holy virgin, without spot or wrinkle," but it's not a given. In other words, it's not automatic. Something is required of us! We must participate in the action. We must prepare ourselves, just as a Jewish bride does.

So according to the Biblical model, the presentation of the bride to the Lord is conditional. She must not only be presented as a "chaste virgin, not having spot or wrinkle" (Ephesians 1:4), she must also be sanctified, holy, and without blemish (Hebrews 12:14).

What this is saying is that there is a possibility that while we are here on earth waiting for Christ to return, we can defile our garments and prevent this from happening.

We will expand in later issues upon the two different kinds of garments a believer can wear. The first one is the Garment of Salvation that Christ imputes to us at our new birth (Isaiah 61:10). This is our external garment without spot or wrinkle. The second garment and the one that Christ requires for the Marriage festivities is the white linen garment made up of the believer's own "righteous works"; i.e., the "fruit" from his life. (Revelation 19:7-8) Revelation 3:5 tells us that overcomers will be clothed in white garments. This speaks of the internal sanctification and the moral fitness that Christ requires of His Bride. (2 Corinthians 7:1; 11:2)

This second garment, then, is the one that can get defiled, stained, and blackened through the believer's own negligence. Remember, God said to the Church at Sardis: "There are a few who have not defiled their garments." (Revelation 3:4)

Defile here means "a stain or a blackening of some-thing." It refers to an internal condition, a moral or spiritual transgression. It simply means "unfaithfulness." As Strong's puts it: "It means dirtying our clothes." As Christians we dirty our clothes by not being faithful and by quenching His Spirit.

Let me be clear: I am not saying that a believer must be sinless. All believers sin at various times and it's only when we confess and repent of our sin that we can once again be clean. 1 John 1:9 has to become a part of our lives:

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness..." 1 John 1:9*

The "holy ones without blemish" in Ephesians 5:27 are those believers who have chosen to do just that in order to keep themselves clean, prepared, and ready. They are the sanctified ones. They have continued to "put off" their sin and self and "put on" Christ. They are now arrayed in fine linen, clear and white. This garment does not refer to the "righteousness of Christ," which has been imputed to them (Isaiah 61:10), but rather to their own righteous deeds.

*"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready." Revelation 19:7, 8*

In other words, these believers have chosen to make themselves fit, prepared, and ready. They are sanctified, holy and chaste virgins.

James 1:27 exhorts us to keep ourselves "unspotted" (see also Revelation 3:4-5; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 11:2-3). "Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments" (Revelation 16:15). These are the ones who will be deemed worthy to enter the bridal chamber because they have on the appropriate wedding garments.

God desires to present us to Himself a glorious church, having no surface defects, holy and without blemish. But He does not coerce His subjects; He respects our will. We can of our own choosing fall short of the glory of God, by not daily confessing our shortcomings (Hebrews 12:15).

The million-dollar question is: What happens to those believers who are not ready, not prepared, not fit, not holy, and not chaste? What happens to them? Are they allowed into the Marriage festivities? Some theologians believe they are; some others believe they are not. Study Ephesians 5:27 for yourself and see what the Spirit shows you. Speaking of the importance of being prepared, fit, and ready for Christ's soon return, the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 is very appropriate.

There are many interpretations of this parable, so again, be as the Bereans and study the Scripture for yourself. Remember, a parable is simply a truth told in story form to help explain a previous truth. The previous truth in Matthew 24 is to watch, be ready, and endure to the end, for you know not what hour the Lord comes.

Note that ten virgins took their lamps (torches filled with oil) and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of those virgins were wise because they took extra oil. The other five virgins, however, didn't bring extra oil and thus, were foolish.

Vines Complete Expository Dictionary says that the number 10 (Strong's #1176, deka) is a very significant number. It's used 248 times in the Bible and means "the measure of human responsibility" and also the number of "completion." Virgin (Strong's #3933) means "an unmarried woman." The word wise (Strong's 5429, phromiros) means "single-minded" (i.e., one life is being lived—God's) and thus, these believers were full of light (Luke 11:34). The word foolish (Strong's # 3474, moros) means "double-minded" (i.e., two lives are being lived—God's and our own), and thus, these believers are full of darkness (Luke 11:34).

While waiting for the bridegroom, all ten virgins slept. But at midnight a cry was made that the bride-groom was coming and they were to go out and meet him. All the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps (adjusted them), but the foolish found that their lamps had gone out and they had no oil to refill them. They asked the wise if they could have some of their oil, whereupon the wise said, "We cannot let you have our oil because there will not be enough for us. Why don't you go and purchase some for yourselves?"

While the five foolish virgins were gone trying to find extra oil, the bridegroom came and those wise virgins who were ready, worthy, and prepared (who had their lamps lit) went in with him to the wedding festivities and the door was shut. Later when the five foolish virgins came, they said, "Lord, Lord, open the door." But he answered them saying, "I know you not" (Matthew 25:12).

The Greek word used here for know is oida (Strong's #1492), which means to see, to perceive or to "know intimately." The Lord was saying to the five foolish virgins: "I don't know you intimately; we don't have a close relationship. If we did, you would have obeyed Me and brought more oil." In other words, there was no fellowship between them. The Lord only knew them by observation.

The five foolish virgins in this parable obviously are in heaven. But because they didn't know (oida) the Lord intimately, He didn't let them in to the wedding ceremony. They were not qualified to enter.

The accuracy of the Scriptures continues to amaze us. When you peel back all the details, the Bible is an absolute treasure hunt! For example, earlier in Matthew (in Matthew 7:23), where Jesus is talking to those who professed to be Christians, who professed to have prophesied in His Name, who cast out devils in His Name, and who said they had done many wonderful works in His Name, He didn't say, "I know you not," like He does here in Matthew 25. He says, "I never knew you." And the Greek word He uses for I never "knew" you is ginosko, which means "to have knowledge of."

In other words, in Matthew 7, He is saying: "I never knew you to begin with. I don't recognize you at all." Whereas in Matthew 25 (where we are reading about the 10 virgins), He is saying, we don't have an intimate relationship. Thus in Matthew 25, I believe the person is saved; whereas in Matthew 7, I believe the person is not saved.

The key to both is the "knowing."

A friend of ours sent us the following quote and it seems so applicable here: "Far above all the doing . . . it seems the knowing is where we need to focus . . . and let the doing spring forth from the real knowing."

This is so true. If we are sanctified and partaking of Christ's Life, we'll have intimate knowledge (oida) with Christ and "fruit" will result. If we are not faithful and we aren't partaking of His Life, then we won't have that close relationship that the Lord desires and "fruit" will not be produced.

## Ten Talents or Gold Coins

**Matthew 25:14-30**

- 14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.  
 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.  
 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.  
 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.  
 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.  
 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.  
 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'  
 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'  
 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'  
 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'  
 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.  
 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'  
 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.  
 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.  
 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.  
 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.  
 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Explanation**

**What is the 'outer darkness'?** Charles Stanley talks about the above parable and its mention of "outer darkness" in his book *Eternal Security* where he says, "The final verse of this parable is so severe that many commentators assume it is a description of hell. It is not! Keep in mind that this is a parable. A parable makes one central point. The point of this parable is that in God's future kingdom, those who were faithful in this life will be rewarded, and those who were not, will lose any potential reward. Some will be given more privileges and responsibility while others will have none...The outer darkness refers to 'being thrown outside a building into the dark' and in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Dr. Spiros Zodhiates says: "These terms may be applied to believers who have failed the Lord in their service...In this instance, the "outer darkness" may be a reference to a place or a position of far less rewards for the servants who proved themselves less diligent than those who used and exercised their talents to the fullest. The expression would then refer to the degrees of the enjoyment of heaven rather than referring to hell..."

**The Purpose of Parables****Matthew 13:10-17**

- 10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"  
 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.  
 12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.  
 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.  
 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;  
 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'  
 16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;  
 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

So in conclusion, Jesus spoke in parables to hide the meaning behind His words because He knew that the Pharisees wouldn't believe Him either way. By hiding the meaning their future judgement is lessened.

**7****Evidence for God**

This section contains evidence for God in the world around us and through the bible. This is perhaps the most important section if you are an unbeliever.

**The Universe****The Universe (By Marilyn Adamson)**

Scientists are convinced that our universe began with one enormous explosion of energy and light, which we now call the Big Bang. This was the singular start to everything that exists: the beginning of the universe, the start of space, and even the initial start of time itself. Astrophysicist Robert Jastrow, a self-described agnostic, stated, "The seed of everything that has happened in the Universe was planted in that first instant; every star, every planet and every living creature in the Universe came into being as a result of events that were set in motion in the moment of the cosmic explosion...The Universe flashed into being, and we cannot find out what caused that to happen."

Steven Weinberg, a Nobel laureate in Physics, said at the moment of this explosion, "the universe was about a hundred thousands million degrees Centigrade...and the universe was filled with light." The universe has not always existed. It had a start...what caused that? Scientists have no explanation for the sudden explosion of light and matter.

In a book entitled "Science Speaks" by Peter Stoner, he proceeds to present scientific evidence in behalf of special creation. For example, he points out that science had previously taught that special creation was impossible because matter could not be destroyed or created. He then points out that atomic physics had now proved that energy can be turned into matter and matter into energy. He then considers the order of creation as presented in Genesis 1:1-13. He presents argument after argument from a scientific viewpoint to sustain the order which Genesis chronicles.

He then asks, "What chance did Moses have when writing the first chapter (of Genesis) of getting thirteen items all accurate and in satisfactory order?" His calculations conclude it would be one chance in 31,135,104,000,000,000,000,000 (1 in  $31 \times 10^{21}$ ). He concludes, "Perhaps God wrote such an account in Genesis so that in these latter days, when science has greatly developed, we would be able to verify His account and know for a certainty that God created this planet and the life on it."

### The Universe (By Chuck Missler)

#### The Nature of Light

Not only have recent scientific articles highlighted the discoveries that the speed of light has changed over the centuries (something that Barry Setterfield has been declaring for decades) the very nature of light has ripped open the entire world of quantum physics that has shattered our concepts of reality itself.

The changes in the velocity of light not only impacts our understanding of the astronomical distances and properties, it affects the atomic behavior involved in the red shift of spectra, the reliability of radiological dating, etc. It is the peculiar properties of photons themselves that continue to astonish the quantum physicists wrestling with the very nature of our physical existence. It is now recognized that subatomic particles lack a property known as "locality." All subatomic particles are now understood to be immediately connected. There is a simultaneity - a "non-locality" - among all photons that has been confirmed in the laboratory. It now appears that our entire universe may actually be a gigantic hologram of some kind.

#### The Fabric of Space

Most of us assume that space is simply an empty vacuum with nothing "in it." However, it is increasingly evident that even empty space has astonishing properties that have yet to be fully understood. We now know that this "firmament," (raqia) which the Scripture presents, possesses electromagnetic properties including dielectric permittivity, magnetic permeability, an intrinsic impedance, and has an astonishing "zero-point" energy sufficient to keep all the electrons in the entire universe in their orbits. The term "stretching the heavens" appears at least 17 times in the Scriptures.

According to the Scriptures, the heavens can be "torn," "worn out" like a garment, "shaken," "burnt up," "split apart" like a scroll, rolled up" like a mantle or a scroll. The concept of being "rolled up" carries some additional insights. There must be some dimension in which space is "thin." If space can be "bent," there must be a direction it can be bent toward. Thus, this tells us that there must be additional dimensions beyond those of space itself.

It is now understood that we live in even more than four dimensions: ten dimensions is the current estimate (which is precisely what Nachmonides concluded in his commentary on Genesis back in the 13th century!) The more we understand from the current perspectives of modern physics, the more comfortable we are with the chronicle in Genesis One.

#### The Architecture of the Solar System

The more we study our solar system, the more questions get raised. Here, too, the prevailing assumptions that are broadly taught are totally specious. The "Nebular Hypothesis," that the planets were somehow thrown off by the sun, is mathematically untenable. There is no plausible explanation that would support a solar origin of the planets.

The sun contains 99.86% of all the mass of the solar system, and yet contains only 1.9% of the angular momentum. The nine planets contain 98.1%. Furthermore, the outer planets are far larger than the inner ones. (Jupiter is 5,750 times as massive as mercury, 2,958 times as massive as Mars, etc.)

There are many other provocative enigmas concerning our planetary history:

- There are three pairs of rapid-spin rates among our planets: Mars and Earth, Jupiter and Saturn, and Neptune and Uranus, are each within 3% of each other. Why?
- Earth and Mars have virtually identical spin axis tilts (about 23.5). Why? (From angular momentum and orbital calculations, it would seem that the three pairs of these planets may have been brought here from elsewhere.)
- Why does Mars have 93% of its craters in one hemisphere and only 7% in the other? It would appear that over 80% occurred within a single half-hour!

It's almost as if God designed it to challenge any naturalistic hypotheses!

### The Bible

This section is split into many subsections because the bible IS the primary way that God proves Himself to us. To prove the content in the bible is from God first we have to authenticate that the bible is the same today as when it was written as discussed below by Chuck Missler.

If you want to watch a 15 minute video instead of reading the sections below, I recommend "Why Should I Trust the Bible?" by Impact Video Ministries on YouTube. You can find it here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtNcbu5oHQU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtNcbu5oHQU) and here: [www.fluidicice.com/salvation](http://www.fluidicice.com/salvation) as a backup if YouTube has taken it down.

*"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free"*  
**John 8:32**

The Christian Scriptures are historically outstanding, deserving serious consideration. One could even say that the history of the Bible is so compelling that to doubt the Bible is to doubt history itself since the Bible is the most historically verifiable book of all antiquity. The only book more historically verifiable than the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible) is the New Testament. Consider the following:

- More manuscripts exist for the New Testament than for any other of antiquity—it has 5,000 ancient Greek manuscripts, 24,000 in all including other languages. The multiplicity of manuscripts allows for a tremendous research base by which we can test the texts against each other and identify what the originals said.









The Greek word "the" occurs most frequently in the passage: exactly 56 times, or  $7 \times 8$ . Also, the number of different forms in which the article "the" occurs is exactly 7.

There are two main sections in the passage: verse 1–11, and 12–17. In the first main section, the number of Greek vocabulary words used is 49, or  $7 \times 7$ . Why not 48, or 50? Of these 49 words, the number of those beginning with a vowel is 28, or  $7 \times 4$ . The number of words beginning with a consonant is 21, or  $7 \times 3$ . The total numbers of letters in these 49 words is 266, or  $7 \times 38$  — exactly! The number of vowels among these 266 letters is 140, or  $7 \times 20$ . The number of consonants is 126, or  $7 \times 18$  — exactly.

Of the 49 words, the number of words which occur more than once is 35, or  $7 \times 5$ . The number of words occurring only once is 14, or  $7 \times 2$ . The number of words which occur in only one form is exactly 42, or  $7 \times 6$ . The number of words appearing in more than one form is also 7.

The number of the 49 Greek vocabulary words which are nouns is 42, or  $7 \times 6$ . The number of words which are not nouns is 7. Of the nouns, 35 are proper names, or exactly  $7 \times 5$ . These 35 names are used 63 times, or  $7 \times 9$ . The number of male names is exactly 28, or  $7 \times 4$ . These male names occur 56 times or  $7 \times 8$ . The number which are not male names is 7.

Three women are mentioned — Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth. The number of Greek letters in these three names is 14,  $7 \times 2$ . The number of compound nouns is 7. The number of Greek letters in these 7 nouns is 49, or  $7 \times 7$ . Only one city is named in this passage, Babylon, which in Greek contains exactly 7 letters. And on it goes. To get an indication of just how unique these properties are, try the example in the inset.

There are even more features in the numerical structure of the words themselves. As you may know, both Hebrew and Greek uses the letters of the alphabet for numerical values. Therefore, any specific word — in either Hebrew or Greek — has a numerical value of its own by adding up the values of the letters in that particular word. The study of the numerical values of words is called gemetria.

The 72 vocabulary words add up to a gametrical value of 42,364, or  $7 \times 6,052$ . Exactly. If one Greek letter was changed, this would not happen. The 72 words appear in 90 forms — some appear in more than one form. The numeric value of the 90 forms is 54,075, or  $7 \times 7,725$ . Exactly.

We will defer other examples of gametrical properties of the Biblical text for subsequent articles, but it becomes immediately obvious that hidden below the surface are aspects of design that cannot be accidental or just coincidence. Remember, the rabbis say that "coincidence" is not a kosher word!

There are words in the passage just described that occur nowhere else in the New Testament. They occur 42 times ( $7 \times 6$ ) and have 126 letters ( $7 \times 18$ ). How was this organized?

Even if Matthew contrived this characteristic into his Gospel, how could he have known that these specific words — whose sole characteristic is that they are found nowhere else in the New Testament — were not going to be used by the other writers? Unless we assume the absurd hypothesis that he had an agreement with them, he must have had the rest of the New Testament before him when he wrote his book. The Gospel of Matthew, then, must have been written last.

It so happens, however, that the Gospel of Mark exhibits the same phenomenon. It can be demonstrated that it would have had to be written "last." The same phenomenon is found in Luke. And in John, James, Peter, Jude and Paul. Each would have had to write after the other in order to contrive the vocabulary frequencies! You can demonstrate that each of the New Testament books had to have been "written last."

There is no human explanation for this incredible and precise structure. It has all been supernaturally designed. We simply gasp, sit back, and behold the skillful handiwork of the God who keeps His promises. And we are indebted to the painstaking examinations and lifetime commitment of Dr. Ivan Panin for uncovering these amazing insights.

#### The Bible (By Marilyn Adamson)

God's word to us which has lasted 2,000 years so far. He was but a man with 12 disciples which has profoundly grown to be the largest religion of our day. The bible can speak to us through the ages and transcends through time, it was the same when it was created, it is the same now, and it will be the same word of God forever more.

There has been divine intervention involved in the creation on the bible where every letter, and symbol has been placed there by the father in heaven. It's so complex that we're still finding new facts about it today such as hidden codes that point to a creation outside our dimension and the fact that the creator had to be outside our space time to prophecise the future so accurately.

#### Biblical Genealogy Codes

##### Biblical Genealogy Codes (Chuck Missler)

The great discovery is that the Bible is a message system: it's not simply 66 books penned by 40 authors over thousands of years, the Bible is an integrated whole which bears evidence of supernatural engineering in every detail. The Jewish rabbis have a quaint way of expressing this very idea: they say that they will not understand the Scriptures until the Messiah comes.

But when He comes, He will not only interpret each of the passages for us, He will interpret the very words; He will even interpret the very letters themselves; in fact, He will even interpret the spaces between the letters! When I first heard this, I simply dismissed this as a colourful exaggeration. Until I reread Matthew 5:17–18:

*"Think not that I have come to destroy the Torah and the prophets; I have not come to destroy but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."* **Matthew 5:17-18**

(A jot and tittle are the Hebrew equivalent of our dotting an i and the crossing of a t.)





So, how did Pilate return the favor to the Temple rulers who forced him into condemning Jesus to die? He did so by writing the statement of Jesus' guilt in Hebrew in such a way that it actually portrayed Jesus as YHWH (יהוה) Himself via an acrostic!

Hebrew is read from right to left and I've highlighted the first letter of each word in the statement above to show the unpronounceable name of God is hidden within the statement. Since acrostics (like the above) were commonplace in ancient Israel the Jews were outraged that Pilate put this code into the inscription above Jesus, as evidenced by the passage below:

#### Luke 23 3-4

**3** Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

He answered him and said, "It is as you say."

**4** So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

#### John 19 19-22

**19** Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

**20** Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

**21** Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews." ' "

**22** Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

This account can only be found in the book of John and provides some great insight into yet more proof that Jesus really is the Son of God.

## Complexity

### Complexity (By Marilyn Adamson)

The complexity of our planet points to a deliberate Designer who not only created our universe, but sustains it today. The Earth...its size is perfect. The Earth's size and corresponding gravity holds a thin layer of mostly nitrogen and oxygen gases, only extending about 50 miles above the Earth's surface.

If Earth were smaller, an atmosphere would be impossible, like the planet Mercury. If Earth were larger, its atmosphere would contain free hydrogen, like Jupiter. Earth is the only known planet equipped with an atmosphere of the right mixture of gases to sustain plant, animal and human life. The Earth is located the right distance from the sun.

Consider the temperature swings we encounter, roughly -30°C (86°F) to +120°C (248°F). If the Earth were any further away from the sun, we would all freeze. Any closer and we would burn up. Even a fractional variance in the Earth's position to the sun would make life on Earth impossible.

The Earth remains this perfect distance from the sun while it rotates around the sun at a speed of nearly 67,000 mph. It is also rotating on its axis, allowing the entire surface of the Earth to be properly warmed and cooled every day. And our moon is the perfect size and distance from the Earth for its gravitational pull. The moon creates important ocean tides and movement so ocean waters do not stagnate, and yet our massive oceans are restrained from spilling over across the continents.

Water...colourless, odourless and without taste, and yet no living thing can survive without it. Plants, animals and human beings consist mostly of water (about two-thirds of the human body is water). You'll see why the characteristics of water are uniquely suited to life:

It has wide margin between its boiling point and freezing point. Water allows us to live in an environment of fluctuating temperature changes, while keeping our bodies a steady 37°C (98.6°F). Water is a universal solvent. This property of water means that various chemicals, minerals and nutrients can be carried throughout our bodies and into the smallest blood vessels.

Water is also chemically neutral. Without affecting the makeup of the substances it carries, water enables food, medicines and minerals to be absorbed and used by the body. Water has a unique surface tension. Water in plants can therefore flow upward against gravity, bringing life-giving water and nutrients to the top of even the tallest trees.

Water freezes from the top down and floats, so fish can live in the winter. Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is in the oceans. But on our Earth, there is a system designed which removes salt from the water and then distributes that water throughout the globe.

Evaporation takes the ocean waters, leaving the salt, and forms clouds which are easily moved by the wind to disperse water over the land, for vegetation, animals and people. It is a system of purification and supply that sustains life on this planet, a system of recycled and reused water.

The human brain...simultaneously processes an amazing amount of information. Your brain takes in all the colours and objects you see, the temperature around you, the pressure of your feet against the floor, the sounds around you, the dryness of your mouth, even the texture of your keyboard.

Your brain holds and processes all your emotions, thoughts and memories. At the same time your brain keeps track of the ongoing functions of your body like your breathing pattern, eyelid movement, hunger and movement of the muscles in your hands. The human brain processes more than a million messages a second. Your brain weighs the importance of all this data, filtering out the relatively unimportant.

This screening function is what allows you to focus and operate effectively in your world. The brain functions differently than other organs. There is an intelligence to it, the ability to reason, to produce feelings, to dream and plan, to take action, and relate to other people. The eye...can distinguish among seven million colours.

It has automatic focusing and handles an astounding 1.5 million messages -- simultaneously. Evolution focuses on mutations and changes from and within existing organisms. Yet evolution alone does not fully explain the initial source of the eye or the brain -- the start of living organisms from nonliving matter.

## The Plagues of Egypt

These are the plagues of Egypt and their relationship to the plagues in Revelation. It's interesting to study for further research and to also help verify that God's plan of revelation is all throughout the bible.



Plague Number	Plague Description	Plague Warning?	Rod Used	Relationship to Revelation
1	<b>Waters Become Blood</b> (Exodus 7:14-25)	Yes	Aaron's Rod	<b>Trumpet 2:</b> 1/3 of the sea becomes blood <b>Bowl 2:</b> Entire sea becomes blood <b>Bowl 3:</b> All rivers and springs become blood
2	<b>Frogs</b> (Exodus 8:1-15)	Yes	Aaron's Rod	<b>Revelation 16:13</b> "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."
3	<b>Lice</b> (Exodus 8:16-19)	No	Aaron's Rod	
4	<b>Flies</b> (Exodus 8:20-32)	Yes	No Rod	
5	<b>Livestock Diseased</b> (Exodus 9:1-7)	Yes	No Rod	<b>Seal 4:</b> Disease, pestilence and plagues
6	<b>Boils</b> (Exodus 9:8-12)	No	No Rod	<b>Bowl 1:</b> Loathsome sores and pain on those without God's seal
7	<b>Hail &amp; Fire</b> (Exodus 9:13-35)	Yes	Moses' Rod	<b>Trumpet 1:</b> Hail and fire <b>Trumpet 7:</b> Great hail <b>Bowl 7:</b> Massive hail
8	<b>Locusts</b> (Exodus 10:1-20)	Yes	Moses' Rod	<b>Trumpet 5:</b> (Revelation 9:3) "Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power."
9	<b>Darkness</b> (Exodus 10:21-29)	No	Moses' Rod	<b>Bowl 5:</b> Darkness falls on Babylon
10	<b>Death of the Firstborn</b> (Setup: Exodus 11:1-10, Plague: Exodus 12:29-30,)	Yes		

**Exodus vs Revelation**

- They are freed from affliction in Egypt and will be freed from the time of Jacob's trouble in Revelation
- They cry to God and are heard both times
- God will command oppressors to let them go
- Both have two witnesses with miracles performed before their enemies
- The enemies will also perform miracles
- Both contain judgements from God
- God will protect His people
- Duplicate Plagues (Blood waters, frogs, locusts, boils, hail, darkness)
- People's hearts are hardened
- Death to multitudes
- Israel will be delivered

**Daniel vs Revelation**

These are the comparisons between Daniel 3 (the fiery furnace) and the events of Revelation in the Bible, both of which have idols people are commanded to worship. The golden idol in Daniel is a 'type' of events to come in the tribulation. 'Typology' is a set of separate events with a common recurring theme throughout the bible.

Daniel	Revelation	Comparison
The size of the image of gold was <b>sixty</b> cubits high and <b>six</b> cubits wide. (Daniel 3:1)	In Revelation the beasts number is <b>666</b> . (Revelation 13:18)	Daniel 3:1 & Revelation 13:18 both have significance to a consecutive number 6. 6 is the number of man.
They were commanded to worship the image of gold" (Daniel 3:1)	They were commanded to worship the beast and his image" (Revelation 14:11)	Both are images of themselves or false gods which are demanded to be worshipped.
You shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. (Daniel 3:5)	He causes everyone to receive a mark, that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. (Revelation 13:16)	In both cases, everyone is forced to worship the idol or receive the mark.
Those who don't worship the idol shall be cast into the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:6)	Those who don't take the mark will be beheaded. (Revelation 20:4)	Whoever does not take the mark or worship the image is killed.
The Jews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego refuse to bow to this idol.	The nation Israel will likewise realize this man is not God and will not receive the mark or bow to him.	Neither of God's people will bow or submit to anyone but the true God.
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego are thrown into the 7 times hotter fiery furnace.	Israel will go into the 7 year tribulation.	The furnace is commanded by Nebuchadnezzar to be 7 times hotter than normal which directly relates to the 7 year tribulation or Daniel's 70th week.
God appeared as a fourth member in the fiery furnace and protected them from the flames.	God will protect Israel during the tribulation and ensure their survival and needs are met.	God shields those whom He loves and those who follow His law.
Where was Daniel during the events of this idol worship?	Where is the Church during the tribulation?	Daniel was off on other business for the king, and would not have bowed down to this idol either. The church likewise will be raptured before the antichrist appears.

**DNA Code (By Marilyn Adamson)**

All instruction, all teaching, all training comes with intent. Someone who writes an instruction manual does so with purpose. Did you know that in every cell of our bodies there exists a very detailed instruction code, much like a miniature computer program? As you may know, a computer program is made up of ones and zeros, like this: 110010101011000.

The way they are arranged tell the computer program what to do. The DNA code in each of our cells is very similar. It's made up of four chemicals that scientists abbreviate as A, T, G, and C. These are arranged in the human cell like this: CGTGTGACTCGCTCCTGAT and so on.

There are three billion of these letters in every human cell! Well, just like you can program your phone to beep for specific reasons, DNA instructs the cell. DNA is a three-billion-lettered program telling the cell to act in a certain way. It is a full instruction manual. Why is this so amazing?

One has to ask, how did this information program wind up in each human cell? These are not just chemicals. These are chemicals that instruct, that code in a very detailed way exactly how the person's body should develop. Natural, biological causes are completely lacking as an explanation when programmed information is involved. You cannot find instruction, precise information like this, without someone intentionally constructing it.

**God Pursues Us****God Pursues Us (By Marilyn Adamson)**

"I was an atheist at one time. And like many atheists, the issue of people believing in God bothered me greatly. What is it about atheists that we would spend so much time, attention, and energy refuting something that we don't believe even exists?! What causes us to do that? When I was an atheist, I attributed my intentions as caring for those poor, delusional people...to help them realize their hope was completely ill-founded.

To be honest, I also had another motive. As I challenged those who believed in God, I was deeply curious to see if they could convince me otherwise. Part of my quest was to become free from the question of God. If I could conclusively prove to believers that they were wrong, then the issue is off the table, and I would be free to go about my life. I didn't realize that the reason the topic of God weighed so heavily on my mind, was because God was pressing the issue."

"I have come to find out that God wants to be known. He created us with the intention that we would know him. He has surrounded us with evidence of himself and he keeps the question of his existence squarely before us. It was as if I couldn't escape thinking about the possibility of God.

In fact, the day I chose to acknowledge God's existence, my prayer began with, "Ok, you win..." It might be that the underlying reason atheists are bothered by people believing in God is because God is actively pursuing them. I am not the only one who has experienced this. Malcolm Muggeridge, socialist and philosophical author, wrote, "I had a notion that somehow, besides questing, I was being pursued."

C.S. Lewis said he remembered, "...night after night, feeling whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all of England."

Lewis went on to write a book titled, "Surprised by Joy" as a result of knowing God. I too had no expectations other than rightfully admitting God's existence. Yet over the following several months, I became amazed by his love for me."

**Jesus Christ****Jesus Christ (By Marilyn Adamson)**

Why Jesus? Look throughout the major world religions and you'll find that Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius and Moses all identified themselves as teachers or prophets. None of them ever claimed to be equal to God. Surprisingly, Jesus did. That is what sets Jesus apart from all the others.

He said God exists and you're looking at him. Though he talked about his Father in heaven, it was not from the position of separation, but of very close union, unique to all humankind. Jesus said that anyone who had seen Him had seen the Father, anyone who believed in him, believed in the Father. He said, "I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

He claimed attributes belonging only to God: to be able to forgive people of their sin, free them from habits of sin, give people a more abundant life and give them eternal life in heaven. Unlike other teachers who focused people on their words, Jesus pointed people to himself. He did not say, "follow my words and you will find truth." He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me."

What proof did Jesus give for claiming to be divine? He did what people can't do. Jesus performed miracles. He healed people...blind, crippled, deaf, even raised a couple of people from the dead. He had power over objects...created food out of thin air, enough to feed crowds of several thousand people.

He performed miracles over nature...walked on top of a lake, commanding a raging storm to stop for some friends. People everywhere followed Jesus, because he constantly met their needs, doing the miraculous. He said if you do not want to believe what I'm telling you, you should at least believe in me based on the miracles you're seeing.

Jesus Christ showed God to be gentle, loving, aware of our self-centeredness and shortcomings, yet deeply wanting a relationship with us. Jesus revealed that although he views us as sinners, worthy of his punishment, his love for us ruled and he came up with a different plan. God himself took on the form of man and accepted the punishment for our sin on our behalf. Sounds ludicrous?

Perhaps, but many loving fathers would gladly trade places with their child in a cancer ward if they could. The Bible says that the reason we would love God is because he first loved us. Jesus died in our place so we could be forgiven. Of all the religions known to humanity, only through Jesus will you see God reaching toward humanity, providing a way for us to have a relationship with him. Jesus proves a divine heart of love, meeting our needs, drawing us to himself.



**Ezekiel 36:33-36**

**33** 'Thus says the Lord God: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.

**34** The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.

**35** So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

**36** Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it."

Today, not only has the land been restored but the nation of Israel is a mini super power. Israel is leading the world in water technology, military technology, digital security, agriculture and many more."

Agriculture: 19/113

Economy: 5/95

Happiness: 11/156

Military: Rank 15/133

Space: 5/50

**Prophecies Fulfilled**

	Prophecy	Bible Prophecy Reference	Fulfilment
<b>1</b>	<b>The Messiah Will Be Born In Bethlehem</b>	<b>Micah 5:2</b> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."	<b>Matthew 2:1-6</b> <b>1</b> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <b>2</b> saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." <b>3</b> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <b>4</b> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <b>5</b> So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <b>6</b> 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "
<b>2</b>	<b>The Messiah Will Be Born Of A Virgin</b>	<b>Isaiah 7:14</b> "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."	<b>Matthew 1:20-23</b> <b>20</b> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <b>21</b> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." <b>22</b> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <b>23</b> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."
<b>3</b>	<b>The Messiah Will Be A Prophet Like Moses</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 18:15</b> "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear"	<b>John 7:40-42</b> <b>40</b> Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." <b>41</b> Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? <b>42</b> Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" <b>Acts 3:20-23</b> <b>20</b> and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, <b>21</b> whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. <b>22</b> For Moses truly said to the fathers, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. <b>23</b> And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people."
<b>4</b>	<b>The Messiah Will Be Tempted By Satan</b>	<b>Psalms 91:10-12</b> " <b>10</b> No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; <b>11</b> For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. <b>12</b> In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone."	<b>Matthew 4:5-7</b> <b>5</b> Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <b>6</b> and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" <b>7</b> Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "
<b>5</b>	<b>The Messiah Will Enter Jerusalem Triumphantly</b>	<b>Zechariah 9:9</b> "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."	<b>Matthew 21:8-11</b> <b>8</b> And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <b>9</b> Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!" <b>10</b> And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" <b>11</b> So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee." <b>Luke 19:35-37</b> <b>John 12:12-15</b>

6	<b>The Messiah Will Be Rejected By His Own People</b>	<p><b>Isaiah 53:1</b> "He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."</p>	<p><b>John 1:10-11</b> 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.</p> <p><b>John 12:37-38</b> 37 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"</p> <p><b>Matthew 26:3-4</b> 3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, 4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.</p>
7	<b>The Messiah Will Be Betrayed By One Of His Followers</b>	<p><b>Psalms 41:9</b> "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me."</p> <p><b>Psalms 55:12-13</b> 12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. 13 But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 26:47</b> And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.</p> <p><b>Matthew 26:49-50</b> 49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.</p> <p><b>Luke 22:21-22</b> 21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. 22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"</p> <p><b>Luke 22:47</b> <b>John 13:18, 21, 26</b></p>
8	<b>The Messiah Will Be Betrayed For 30 Pieces Of Silver</b>	<p><b>Zechariah 11:12-13</b> 12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 26:14-16</b> 14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.</p> <p><b>Matthew 27:3-4</b> 3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"</p>
9	<b>The Messiah Will Be Tried And Condemned</b>	<p><b>Isaiah 53:8</b> "He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 27:1-2</b> 1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. 2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.</p> <p><b>Luke 23:1, 23</b> 1 Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. 23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.</p> <p><b>Acts 4:26-28</b></p>
10	<b>The Messiah Will Be Silent Before His Accusers</b>	<p><b>Isaiah 53:7</b> "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 27:12-14</b> 12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" 14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marvelled greatly.</p> <p><b>Mark 15:3-5</b> 3 And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. 4 Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" 5 But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marvelled.</p> <p><b>1 Peter 2:22-23</b></p>
11	<b>The Messiah Will Be Smitten And Spat Upon</b>	<p><b>Isaiah 50:6</b> "I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."</p> <p><b>Micah 5:1</b> "Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 26:67-68</b> 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"</p> <p><b>Matthew 27:30</b> Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.</p> <p><b>Mark 14:65</b> <b>Mark 15:19</b> <b>John 19:1-3</b> <b>Psalms 22:7-8</b></p>
12	<b>The Messiah Will Be Mocked And Taunted</b>	<p><b>Psalms 22:7-8</b> 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"</p>	<p><b>Matthew 27:39-40</b> 39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."</p> <p><b>Luke 23:35</b> And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."</p> <p><b>Luke 23:11</b></p>



13	The Messiah To Die By Crucifixion, With Pierced Hands And Feet	<p><b>Psalm 22:14-16</b> "14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;"</p> <p><b>Zechariah 12:10</b> "then they will look on Me whom they pierced..."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 27:31</b> And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.</p> <p><b>Mark 15:20</b> And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.</p> <p><b>John 19:15-16</b> 15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" 16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.</p>
14	The Messiah Will Suffer With Sinners	<p><b>Isaiah 53:12</b> "Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 27:38</b> Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.</p> <p><b>Mark 15:27</b> Two criminals were crucified with Him, their crosses on either side of His.</p> <p><b>Luke 23:32-33</b> 32 There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. 33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.</p>
15	The Messiah's Garments Will Be Divided By Casting Lots	<p><b>Psalm 22:18</b> "They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 27:35</b> Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."</p> <p><b>John 19:23-24</b> 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. 24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things.</p> <p><b>Mark 15:24</b></p>
16	The Messiah's Bones Will Not Be Broken	<p><b>Numbers 9:12</b> "They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it."</p>	<p><b>John 19:32-37</b> 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."</p>
17	The Messiah Will Die As A Sin Offering	<p><b>Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 12</b> "5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 12 ...Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."</p>	<p><b>John 1:29</b> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"</p> <p><b>Acts 10:43</b> To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."</p> <p><b>Acts 13:38-39</b> 38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.</p> <p><b>1 Corinthians 15:3-4</b> <b>Ephesians 1:7</b> <b>1 Peter 2:24</b> <b>Revelation 1:5</b></p>
18	The Messiah Will See His Seed	<p><b>Isaiah 53:10-11</b> "10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities."</p>	<p><b>Ephesians 1:4-5</b> 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will</p> <p><b>Hebrews 12:2</b> Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.</p> <p><b>Ephesians 1:21-23</b></p>
19	The Messiah Will Be Buried In A Rich Man's Tomb	<p><b>Isaiah 53:9</b> "And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth."</p>	<p><b>Psalm 16:10</b> For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.</p> <p><b>Psalm 30:3</b> O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.</p>
20	The Messiah Will Be Raised From The Dead	<p><b>Psalm 30:3</b> "O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit."</p> <p><b>Psalm 16:10</b> "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."</p>	<p><b>Matthew 28:5-7</b> 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."</p> <p><b>Mark 16:6-7</b> <b>Acts 2:27-31</b> <b>1 Corinthians 15:17, 20</b></p>







<b>Medical Hygiene</b>	<p><b>Exodus 15:26</b> "and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.""</p> <p>This refers to eating only what God has ordained to be eaten such as clean meat like cows and oxen. Today we understand that many predatory birds and animals - those which God deemed unclean contain bacteria and viruses which can cause illness.</p>	Exodus 15:26 Deuteronomy 23:12-13
<b>Circumcision</b>	<p><b>Genesis 17:12</b> "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant."</p> <p>How did Moses know how to circumcise a baby on the 8th day after birth? Today we understand that is the safest and most optimum time to perform the circumcision.</p>	Genesis 17:12
<b>Pathways in the Sea</b>	<p><b>Psalms 8:8</b> "The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas."</p> <p>The pathways in the sea are otherwise known as the ocean currents and were only discovered in 1855 by Matthew Maury in his publication "The Physical Geography of the Sea and Its Meteorology". The full story is below:</p>	Psalms 8:8 Isaiah 43:16

American naval officer and oceanographer Matthew Maury (1806-1873) was a Christian who loved reading his Bible. He also had no doubts about its accuracy. And these facts led him to some remarkable discoveries in science.

Maury entered the US Navy in 1825, but an accident in 1839 partially disabled him, so he left active sea duty. Three years later, still with the Navy, he was appointed superintendent of the US Naval Observatory in Washington, and also of the US Depot of Charts and Instruments.

Over the next 19 years Maury devoted himself to studying the winds, clouds, weather, and ocean features ... as well as the Bible. In his Bible studies, the words of Psalm 8 stuck in his mind: ' ... whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas'. Maury determined that if God's Word said there were 'paths' in the seas, then there must be paths. So he set out to find them.

He studied old ships' logs. From these he compiled charts of ocean-wind and sea currents. To study the speed and direction of the ocean currents Maury set adrift weighted bottles known as 'drift bottles'. These floated slightly below the surface of the water, and thus were not affected by wind.

Instructions were sealed in each bottle directing anyone who found one washed ashore to return it. From the location and date on which the bottles were found, Maury was able to develop his charts of the ocean currents—the 'paths' of the seas—which greatly aided the science of marine navigation.

In 1855, Maury wrote the first textbook on modern oceanography, The Physical Geography of the Sea and Its Meteorology. In this work, Maury presented oceanography from a delightfully Christian view.

He included Biblical passages of meteorological and other scientific importance, such as the Scripture quote from the book of Job (28:25) which refers to God's making 'the weight for the winds'. He explained the Biblical statement this way:

*'... though the fact that the air has weight is here so distantly announced (in Job), philosophers never recognized the fact until within comparatively a recent period, and then it was proclaimed by them as a great discovery. Nevertheless, the fact was set forth as distinctly in the book of nature as it is in the book of revelation; for the infant, in availing itself of atmospherical pressure to draw milk from its mother's breast, unconsciously proclaimed it.'*

Maury died in 1873. He was elected to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. A monument erected in his honour on Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, reads: 'Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas, the genius who first snatched from the oceans and atmosphere the secret of their laws. His inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8; Ecclesiastes 1:6.' It is often claimed that the Bible is not a scientific textbook. Yet the Bible's accuracy when touching on scientific subjects has led many great scientists, including Matthew Maury, to some outstanding scientific discoveries.

<b>The Water Cycle</b>	<p>In the ancient near east, Hebrew scholars observed that even though the rivers ran into the sea, the sea never became full. Some scholars conclude that the water cycle was described completely during this time in this passage:</p> <p><b>Ecclesiastes 1:6-7</b> "6 The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. 7 All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again."</p>	Ecclesiastes 1:6-7
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Scholars are not in agreement as to the date of Ecclesiastes, though most scholars point to a date during the time of King Solomon, son of David and Bathsheba, "three thousand years ago, there is some agreement that the time period is 962–922 BCE. Furthermore, it was also observed that when the clouds were full, they emptied rain on the earth. In addition, during 793–740 BCE a Hebrew prophet, Amos, stated that water comes from the sea and is poured out on the earth.







**Fellowship**

Be baptized, worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached and the Bible is the final authority on everything. It will encourage you greatly and you will be learning in a group where the Bible can be openly discussed.

- **Matthew 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- **Hebrews 10:25** "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
- **2 Timothy 3:16** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"

**Tell others about Christ**

We all have a calling in this world. This can be anything from pastoring a Church, helping the poor, financing mission trips, developing Christian content, etc. The one thing we all have in common is the need to spread the gospel across the planet to reach all those who are lost, hurting or in need. Find the purpose God has for you and pursue it, you will find it's something you enjoy doing too!

- **Mark 16:15** "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."
- **1 Corinthians 9:16** "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"
- **Romans 1:16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

**Walking with Jesus**

If you have received Jesus Christ as your Saviour, as a Christian you should Read your Bible daily to get to know Christ better. I recommend the KJV, NKJV or ESV versions as they are the most accurate to the original text. If you encounter questions, resolve them by asking a steadfast Christian to help you with them, and then going back to the scriptures to verify their answer for yourself.

- **2 Timothy 2:15** "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
- **Psalms 119:105** "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

**Seek Earnestly**

As always if you wish to find answers out for yourself you should search God's word. If you're told something by a friend, pastor or bible scholar, search the scriptures to ensure what they say is correct. Take caution not to be fooled by what others claim the bible says but do your own research. There will be great apostasy and a falling away from Christianity in the end times. The word of God is living and he can speak to you through His words. So find a bible.

- **Matthew 7:7-8** "7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

**Godly Armour**

You need to equip your spiritual armour. For more information see subsection 9 in the Christianity section.

**Next Steps**

You should research what the bible has to say on prophecy and the end times. Have a look at my Christianity posts on my website and watch some of the videos using the QR code to the right to get there. If you don't have a reader you can head to: [www.christianity.fluidicice.com](http://www.christianity.fluidicice.com).

**9****Spiritual Armour****Ephesians 6:13**

"Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

In Christianity the following spiritual armour can protect you from the unseen war on Earth and Heaven. The following is what the Bible says about the Spiritual Armour. Ephesians 6:12 clearly indicates that the conflict with Satan is spiritual, and therefore no tangible weapons can be effectively employed against him and his minions.

We are not given a list of specific tactics Satan will use. However, the passage is quite clear that when we follow all the instructions faithfully, we will be able to stand, and we will have victory regardless of Satan's strategy.

**Ephesians 6:14-20**

**14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

**16** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

**17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

**18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

**19** and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

**20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Belt of Truth**

"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth"

The first element of our armour is truth (verse 14). This is easy to understand, since Satan is said to be the "father of lies" (John 8:44). Deception is high on the list of things God considers to be an abomination. A "lying tongue" is one of the things He describes as "detestable to Him" (Proverbs 6:16-17). We are therefore exhorted to put on truth for our own sanctification and deliverance, as well as for the benefit of those to whom we witness.

**Breastplate of Righteousness**

"having put on the breastplate of righteousness"

Also in verse 14, we are told to put on the breastplate of righteousness. A breastplate shielded a warrior's vital organs from blows that would otherwise be fatal. This righteousness is not works of righteousness done by men. Rather, this is the righteousness of Christ, imputed by God and received by faith, which guards our hearts against the accusations and charges of Satan and secures our innermost being from his attacks.

#### Footwear of Peace

"and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace"

Verse 15 speaks of the preparation of the feet for spiritual conflict. In warfare, sometimes an enemy places dangerous obstacles in the path of advancing soldiers. The idea of the preparation of the gospel of peace as footwear suggests what we need to advance into Satan's territory, aware that there will be traps, with the message of grace so essential to winning souls to Christ. Satan has many obstacles placed in the path to halt the propagation of the gospel.

#### Shield of Faith

"above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one"

The shield of faith spoken of in verse 16 makes Satan's sowing of doubt about the faithfulness of God and His Word ineffective. Our faith—of which Christ is "the author and perfecter" (Hebrews 12:2)—is like a golden shield, precious, solid, and substantial.

#### Helmet of Salvation

"And take the helmet of salvation"

The helmet of salvation in verse 17 is protection for the head, keeping viable a critical part of the body. We could say that our way of thinking needs preservation. The head is the seat of the mind, which, when it has laid hold of the sure gospel hope of eternal life, will not receive false doctrine or give way to Satan's temptations. The unsaved person has no hope of warding off the blows of false doctrine because he is without the helmet of salvation and his mind is incapable of discerning between spiritual truth and spiritual deception.

#### Sword of the Spirit

"and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

Verse 17 interprets itself as to the meaning of the sword of the Spirit—it is the Word of God. While all the other pieces of spiritual armour are defensive in nature, the sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon in the armour of God. It speaks of the holiness and power of the Word of God. A greater spiritual weapon is not conceivable. In Jesus' temptations in the desert, the Word of God was always His overpowering response to Satan. What a blessing that the same Word is available to us!

#### Prayer

"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints"

As you can see at the top of this section, the most talked about piece of the armour is prayer, which leads us to believe it is the most important piece. We should be on our knees praying daily for those we know to come to Christ, strength for our leaders, that God's will be done on earth and so much more! In verse 18, we are told to pray in the Spirit (that is, with the mind of Christ, with His heart and His priorities) in addition to wearing the full armour of God. We cannot neglect prayer, as it is the means by which we draw spiritual strength from God.

Without prayer, without reliance upon God, our efforts at spiritual warfare are empty and futile. The full armour of God—truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer—are the tools God has given us, through which we can be spiritually victorious, overcoming Satan's attacks and temptations. Below is a list of prayer points which should be raised up to God:

##### Prayer Points

- Your Spiritual Growth
- Your Relatives
- Your Family
- Unsaved People / Your Enemies (Luke 6:27-28)
- Your Church and Congregation
- Your City / Town / Country
- The Government / Political Leaders
- Your Trials, Worries and Anxieties (Matthew 26:41, Philippians 4:6, Romans 8:26, Psalm 34:17)
- Missionaries / Missions Organisations
- The Protection of Israel

##### Prayer Elements (Components of Praying)

- Worship (John 4:24, Psalm 95:6)
- Praise (Isaiah 12:5)
- Thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2)
- Intercession (Saying a prayer on behalf of another) (1 Timothy 2:1, Ephesians 6:18)
- Confession of Sin (1 John 1:9, James 5:16)
- Prayer for Guidance / Wisdom / Strength
- Personal Requests
- Mediation Based on the Scriptures
- Spiritual Warfare

#### The Model Prayer









<b>Millennium Saints</b>	Believers who are alive when God judges His enemies in the millennium	Alive	(After God destroys the Rebellion) Taken to the 'new heaven'	Still Alive	Heaven
<b>Millennium Unbelievers</b>	Those unbelievers who died in the millennium	Dead	(After Death) They stay dead until judgement.	The Great White Throne Judgment	Hell, after judgement
<b>Millennium Unbelievers</b>	Those who chose to rebel against God in the millennium	Alive	(At the end of the Millennium) God kills them in His wrath.	The Great White Throne Judgment	Hell, after judgement

Which category are you in? Every soul lives forever, the question is where will you spend it? It's not too late to change your destiny - even in the tribulation.

# 11 The Bible

This section explains the different books of the bible, how long they are and what the general overview of them is. Further below I've included a selection of the most pertinent books and chapters of the bible to read. To save space I had to make the font size smaller so you'll have to zoom in to read them or use a magnifying glass if you've printed this sheet.

If you wish to read the other books which aren't included, find a KJV, NKJV, ESV, ISV or NIV bible as most of the others are either hard to find or aren't biblically accurate. You can also find a variety of different language bibles below including English. I pray that God will guide you to a bible if you are truly seeking his word. The below bible version is the NKJV (New King James Version). Currently it contains the books of: John, Romans, Jude, Revelation and Psalms 1-41.

**"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16)**

*"Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed." Luke 1:1-4*

## The Books

These are the books of the bible ordered as they appear in the Bible. Every book is divinely inspired by God and therefore He also wrote them all, but His name is not included in the 'Written By' field to save space.

### Old Testament

#	Book	Chapters	Book Type	Written By	Overview
1	<b>Genesis</b>	50	Law	Moses	Genesis answers two big questions: "How did God's relationship with the world begin?" and "Where did the nation of Israel come from?"
2	<b>Exodus</b>	40	Law	Moses	God saves Israel from slavery in Egypt, and then enters into a special relationship with them.
3	<b>Leviticus</b>	27	Law	Moses	God gives Israel instructions for how to worship Him.
4	<b>Numbers</b>	36	Law	Moses	Israel fails to trust and obey God, and wanders in the wilderness for 40 years.
5	<b>Deuteronomy</b>	34	Law	Moses	Moses gives Israel instructions (in some ways, a recap of the laws in Exodus-Numbers) for how to love and obey God in the Promised Land.
6	<b>Joshua</b>	24	History	Unknown	Joshua (Israel's new leader) leads Israel to conquer the Promised land, then parcels out territories to the twelve tribes of Israel.
7	<b>Judges</b>	21	History	Unknown	Israel enters a cycle of turning from God, falling captive to oppressive nations, calling out to God, and being rescued by leaders God sends their way (called "judges").
8	<b>Ruth</b>	4	History	Unknown	Two widows lose everything, and find hope in Israel—which leads to the birth of the future King David.
9	<b>1 Samuel</b>	31	History	Unknown	Israel demands a king, who turns out to be quite a disappointment.
10	<b>2 Samuel</b>	24	History	Unknown	David, a man after God's own heart, becomes king of Israel.
11	<b>1 Kings</b>	22	History	Unknown	The kingdom of Israel has a time of peace and prosperity under King Solomon, but afterward splits, and the two lines of kings turn away from God.
12	<b>2 Kings</b>	25	History	Unknown	Both kingdoms ignore God and his prophets, until they both fall captive to other world empires.
13	<b>1 Chronicles</b>	29	History	Ezra	This is a brief history of Israel from Adam to David, culminating with David commissioning the temple of God in Jerusalem.
14	<b>2 Chronicles</b>	36	History	Ezra	David's son Solomon builds the temple, but after centuries of rejecting God, the Babylonians take the southern Israelites captive and destroy the temple.
15	<b>Ezra</b>	10	History	Ezra	The Israelites rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, and a scribe named Ezra teaches the people to once again obey God's laws.
16	<b>Nehemiah</b>	13	History	Nehemiah	The city of Jerusalem is in bad shape, so Nehemiah rebuilds the wall around the city.
17	<b>Esther</b>	10	History	Unknown	Someone hatches a genocidal plot to bring about Israel's extinction, and Esther must face the emperor to ask for help.

18	Job	42	Poetry	Unknown	Satan attacks a righteous man named Job, and Job and his friends argue about why terrible things are happening to him.
19	Psalms	150	Poetry	David: 73, Asaph: 12	A collection of 150 songs that Israel sang to God (and to each other)—kind of like a hymnal for the ancient Israelites.
20	Proverbs	31	Poetry	Solomon: 29, Agur: 1	A collection of sayings written to help people make wise decisions that bring about justice.
21	Ecclesiastes	12	Poetry	Solomon	A philosophical exploration of the meaning of life—with a surprisingly nihilistic tone for the Bible.
22	Song of Solomon	8	Poetry	Solomon	A love song (or collection of love songs) celebrating love, desire, and marriage.
23	Isaiah	66	Major Prophet	Isaiah	God sends the prophet Isaiah to warn Israel of future judgment—but also to tell them about a coming king and servant who will “bear the sins of many.”
24	Jeremiah	52	Major Prophet	Jeremiah	God sends a prophet to warn Israel about the coming Babylonian captivity, but the people don't take the news very well.
25	Lamentations	5	Major Prophet	Jeremiah	A collection of dirges lamenting the fall of Jerusalem after the Babylonian attacks.
26	Ezekiel	48	Major Prophet	Ezekiel	God chooses a man to speak for Him to Israel, to tell them the error of their ways and teach them justice: Ezekiel.
27	Daniel	12	Major Prophet	Daniel	Daniel becomes a high-ranking wise man in the Babylonian and Persian empires, and has prophetic visions concerning Israel's future.
28	Hosea	14	Minor Prophet	Hosea	Hosea is told to marry a prostitute who leaves him, and he must bring her back: a picture of God's relationship with Israel.
29	Joel	3	Minor Prophet	Joel	God sends a plague of locusts to Judge Israel, but his judgment on the surrounding nations is coming, too.
30	Amos	9	Minor Prophet	Amos	A shepherd named Amos preaches against the injustice of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
31	Obadiah	1	Minor Prophet	Obadiah	Obadiah warns the neighboring nation of Edom that they will be judged for plundering Jerusalem.
32	Jonah	4	Minor Prophet	Jonah	A disobedient prophet runs from God, is swallowed by a great fish, and then preaches God's message to the city of Nineveh.
33	Micah	7	Minor Prophet	Micah	Micah confronts the leaders of Israel and Judah regarding their injustice, and prophecies that one day the Lord himself will rule in perfect justice.
34	Nahum	3	Minor Prophet	Nahum	Nahum foretells of God's judgment on Nineveh, the capital of Assyria.
35	Habakkuk	3	Minor Prophet	Habakkuk	Habakkuk pleads with God to stop the injustice and violence in Judah, but is surprised to find that God will use the even more violent Babylonians to do so.
36	Zephaniah	3	Minor Prophet	Zephaniah	God warns that he will judge Israel and the surrounding nations, but also that he will restore them in peace and justice.
37	Haggai	2	Minor Prophet	Haggai	The people have abandoned the work of restoring God's temple in Jerusalem, and so Haggai takes them to task.
38	Zechariah	14	Minor Prophet	Zechariah	The prophet Zechariah calls Israel to return to God, and records prophetic visions that show what's happening behind the scenes.
39	Malachi	4	Minor Prophet	Malachi	God has been faithful to Israel, but they continue to live disconnected from him—so God sends Malachi to call them out.
<b>New Testament</b>					
#	Book	Chapters	Book Type	Written By	Overview
40	Matthew	28	Gospel	Matthew	This is an account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, focusing on Jesus' role as the true king of the Jews.
41	Mark	16	Gospel	Mark	This brief account of Jesus' earthly ministry highlights Jesus' authority and servanthood.
42	Luke	24	Gospel	Luke	Luke writes the most thorough account of Jesus' life, pulling together eyewitness testimonies to tell the full story of Jesus.
43	John	21	Gospel	John	John lists stories of signs and miracles with the hope that readers will believe in Jesus.
44	Acts	28	History	Luke	Jesus returns to the Father, the Holy Spirit comes to the church, and the gospel of Jesus spreads throughout the world.
45	Romans	16	Epistle	Paul	Paul summarizes how the gospel of Jesus works in a letter to the churches at Rome, where he plans to visit.
46	1 Corinthians	16	Epistle	Paul	Paul writes a disciplinary letter to a fractured church in Corinth, and answers some questions that they've had about how Christians should behave.
47	2 Corinthians	13	Epistle	Paul	Paul writes a letter of reconciliation to the church at Corinth, and clears up some concerns that they have.
48	Galatians	6	Epistle	Paul	Paul hears that the Galatian churches have been lead to think that salvation comes from the law of Moses, and writes a (rather heated) letter telling them where the false teachers have it wrong.
49	Ephesians	6	Epistle	Paul	Paul writes to the church at Ephesus about how to walk in grace, peace, and love.
50	Philippians	4	Epistle	Paul	An encouraging letter to the church of Philippi from Paul, telling them how to have joy in Christ.

51	Colossians	4	Epistle	Paul	Paul writes the church at Colossae a letter about who they are in Christ, and how to walk in Christ.
52	1 Thessalonians	5	Epistle	Paul	Paul has heard a good report on the church at Thessalonica, and encourages them to "excel still more" in faith, hope, and love.
53	2 Thessalonians	3	Epistle	Paul	Paul instructs the Thessalonians on how to stand firm until the coming of Jesus.
54	1 Timothy	6	Epistle	Paul	Paul gives his protégé Timothy instruction on how to lead a church with sound teaching and a godly example.
55	2 Timothy	4	Epistle	Paul	Paul is nearing the end of his life, and encourages Timothy to continue preaching the word.
56	Titus	3	Epistle	Paul	Paul advises Titus on how to lead orderly, counter-cultural churches on the island of Crete.
57	Philemon	1	Epistle	Paul	Paul strongly recommends that Philemon accept his runaway slave as a brother, not a slave.
58	Hebrews	13	General Epistle	Unknown	A letter encouraging Christians to cling to Christ despite persecution, because he is greater.
59	James	5	General Epistle	James	A letter telling Christians to live in ways that demonstrate their faith in action.
60	1 Peter	5	General Epistle	Peter	Peter writes to Christians who are being persecuted, encouraging them to testify to the truth and live accordingly.
61	2 Peter	3	General Epistle	Peter	Peter writes a letter reminding Christians about the truth of Jesus, and warning them that false teachers will come.
62	1 John	5	General Epistle	John	John writes a letter to Christians about keeping Jesus' commands, loving one another, and important things they should know.
63	2 John	1	General Epistle	John	A very brief letter about walking in truth, love, and obedience.
64	3 John	1	General Epistle	John	An even shorter letter about Christian fellowship.
65	Jude	1	General Epistle	Jude	A letter encouraging Christians to content for the faith, even though ungodly persons have crept in unnoticed.
66	Revelation	22	Prophecy	John	John sees visions of things that have been, things that are, and things that are yet to come.
#	Book	Chapters	Book Type	Written By	Overview

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**John**

John is one of the best books to begin reading the bible with. It has been said that it's shallow enough to take a dip in, but deep enough to wade in. John is split into four sections by scholars today:

- The prologue informs readers of the true identity of Jesus
- Jesus is baptised, calls his disciples, and begins his earthly ministry. He travels from place to place informing his hearers about God the Father, offering eternal life to all who will believe, and performing miracles which are signs of the authenticity of his teachings.
- Jesus prepares the disciples for their coming lives without his physical presence, and prays for them and for himself.
- Chapter 21 tells of Jesus' post-resurrection appearance to his disciples in Galilee, the miraculous catch of fish, the prophecy of the crucifixion of Peter, the restoration of Peter, and the fate of the Beloved Disciple.

**New King James Version (NKJV)**

**John 1**

<p><b>The Eternal Word</b> 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.</p> <p><b>John's Witness: The True Light</b> 4 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.</p> <p>10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.</p>	<p><b>The Word Becomes Flesh</b> 14 And the Word became 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. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.</p> <p><b>A Voice in the Wilderness</b> 19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord." ' " as the prophet Isaiah said. 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees.</p>	<p>25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.</p> <p><b>The Lamb of God</b> 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is He of whom I said, 'After He comes a man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 31 I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."</p> <p>32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."</p>	<p><b>The First Disciples</b> 35 Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold! The Lamb of God!"</p> <p>37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"</p> <p>39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).</p> <p>40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And He brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).</p>	<p><b>Philip and Nathanael</b> 43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."</p> <p>46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!"</p> <p>48 Nathanael said to him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered and said to him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"</p> <p>50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."</p>
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**John 2**









Christianity The Bible John	The Bible John	<p><b>The Soldiers Mock Jesus</b> 1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. 2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. 3 Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. 4 Pilate then went out to you, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, so that you may know that I find no fault in Him."</p> <p><b>Pilate's Decision</b> 5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."</p> <p>7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the son of God." 8 Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid. 9 And went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.</p>	<p>10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." 12 From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."</p> <p>13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"</p> <p>15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 Then he delivered Him to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.</p>	<p><b>The King on a Cross</b> 17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called The Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. 19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.</p> <p>20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.</p> <p>21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.' " 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."</p> <p>23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. 24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be." And these things were fulfilled, that they might know that they were not without purpose. Therefore those who crucified Him said to one another, "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things.</p>	<p><b>Behold Your Mother</b> 25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.</p> <p><b>It Is Finished</b> 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.</p> <p><b>Jesus' Side Is Pierced</b> 31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.</p>	<p>33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."</p> <p><b>Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb</b> 38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus, 39 and Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. 40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. 41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.</p>
		<p><b>The Empty Tomb</b> 1 Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."</p> <p>3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and they were going to the tomb. 4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. 5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the handkerchief that had been there, and His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.</p>	<p><b>Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord</b> 11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she went she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."</p> <p>14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."</p> <p>16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).</p> <p>17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.</p>	<p><b>The Apostles Commissioned</b> 19 Then, the same day of evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut, because the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.</p> <p>21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."</p>	<p><b>Seeing and Believing</b> 24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."</p> <p>26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"</p> <p>29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."</p>	<p><b>That You May Believe</b> 30 And truly Jesus made many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.</p>

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## Romans

The Epistle to the Romans or Letter to the Romans, often shortened to Romans, is the sixth book in the New Testament. Biblical scholars agree that it was composed by the Apostle Paul to explain that salvation is offered through the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the longest of the Pauline epistles.

### New King James Version (NKJV)

The Bible Romans	The Bible Romans	<p><b>Greeting</b> 1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. 5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;</p> <p>7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:</p> <p>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p><b>Desire to Visit Rome</b> 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, 10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. 11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith of you and me.</p>	<p>13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you [but was hindered until now], that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. 14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.</p> <p><b>The Just Live by Faith</b> 16 For I am ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."</p>	<p><b>God's Wrath on Unrighteousness</b> 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. 19 Because what may be known of God's manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse; 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools; 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.</p> <p>24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves. 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.</p>	<p>26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.</p> <p>28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unloving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.</p>
		<p><b>God's Righteous Judgment</b> 1 Therefore you are excusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 3 And do you think this, O man, who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?</p>	<p>5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each one according to his deeds: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.</p>	<p>12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law 13 [for not the hearers of the law are in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves. 15 Who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them] 16 In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.</p>	<p><b>The Jews Guilty as the Gentiles</b> 17 Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, and are proud, and approve of things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law. 18 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 19 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? 22 You who preach that a man should not swear, do you swear? 23 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 24 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? 24 For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.</p>	<p><b>Circumcision of No Avail</b> 25 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? 27 And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? 28 For he is not a Jew who is an outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.</p>

## Romans 2

### Romans 1

### Romans 2

### Romans 3



<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>God's Judgment Deferred</b> 1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. Chiefly because for them were committed the oracles of God. 3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? 4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged." 5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? It is said as a man, "4 Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?" 7 For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? 8 And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.</p>	<p><b>All Have Sinned</b> 9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks after God, 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." 13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lip." 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness," 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their way; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."</p>	<p>19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 But they will be justified by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin.</p>	<p><b>God's Righteousness Through Faith</b> 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Him.</p>	<p><b>Boasting Excluded</b> 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith, 28 therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. 29 Is it He the God of the Jews only? He is not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also. 30 Since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.</p>		
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>Abraham Justified by Faith</b> 1 What then shall we say? That Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. <b>David Celebrates the Same Truth</b> 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, His faith is accounted for righteousness. 6 Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."</p>	<p><b>Abraham Justified Before Circumcision</b> 9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 Did he then receive it before he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while uncircumcised, but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also. 12 And the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.</p>	<p><b>The Promise Granted Through Faith</b> 13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but by the righteousness of the law. 14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect. 15 Because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.</p>	<p>16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all 17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of us who believe, though we were against hope. 19 And he was not being weak in faith, though he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."</p>	<p>23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us, that it should be imputed to us who believe in His righteousness. 25 And he was not having been seen for the dead, 26 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.</p>		
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>Faith Triumphs in Trouble</b> 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by His blood to the grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance, 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.</p>	<p><b>Christ in Our Place</b> 7 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much less shall we be saved by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.</p>	<p><b>Death in Adam, Life in Christ</b> 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— 13 For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)</p>	<p>18 therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one man's righteous act, the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound, but where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>			
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>Dead to Sin, Alive to God</b> 1 What shall we say? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How did we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.</p>	<p>5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, shall we also walk in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, so that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. 9 For we know that our old man was crucified with the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over us. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all, but that He might live to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>	<p>12 therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.</p>	<p><b>From Slaves of Sin to Slaves of God</b> 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered, so that you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.</p>	<p>20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God's eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>		
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>Freed from the Law</b> 1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—no longer by the law, but by His death. 5 That we should bear fruit to God. 6 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bring about death. 4 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the address of the letter.</p>	<p>5 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit. If indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.</p>	<p><b>Law Cannot Save from Sin</b> 13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but the doing with me is not. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.</p>	<p>21 find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!</p> <p>So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.</p>			
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>Free from Indwelling Sin</b> 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of His condemnation sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things that the Spirit of God is giving to us, which cannot be by a mindless dead flesh, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.</p>	<p><b>Sin's Advantage in the Law</b> 7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. 9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring about death. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. 12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.</p>	<p><b>From Suffering to Glory</b> 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope that he will see? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.</p>	<p>26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. 30 And He shall conform the frailborn many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.</p>	<p><b>God's Everlasting Love</b> 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For if I am persecuted, neither death nor pain, nor angles nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>		
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>Israel's Rejection of Christ</b> 11 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accused from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh. 4 who are Israelites, to whom pertains the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.</p>	<p><b>Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose</b> 4 But it is not that the word of God is taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel. 7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but in Isaac your seed shall be called. 8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."</p>	<p>19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still stand idle? For who has resisted His will?" 20 He said indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 This is it that the potter has power over the clay, in the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?</p>	<p>25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And he beloved, who was not beloved." 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, "They are not My people," "You are they that shall be called sons of the living God." 27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness. Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth." 29 And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah."</p>	<p><b>Present Condition of Israel</b> 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith. 31 But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but by works, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. 33 As it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense. And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."</p>		
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">The Bible Romans</p>	<p><b>Israel's Rejection of Christ</b> 11 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accused from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh. 4 who are Israelites, to whom pertains the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; 5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.</p>	<p><b>Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose</b> 4 But it is not that the word of God is taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel. 7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but in Isaac your seed shall be called. 8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. 9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."</p>	<p>19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still stand idle? For who has resisted His will?" 20 He said indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 This is it that the potter has power over the clay, in the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?</p>	<p>25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And he beloved, who was not beloved." 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, "They are not My people," "You are they that shall be called sons of the living God." 27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness. Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth." 29 And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah."</p>	<p><b>Present Condition of Israel</b> 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith. 31 But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but by works, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. 33 As it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense. And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."</p>		



The Epistle of Jude, often shortened to Jude, is the 65th book in the bible preceding Revelation. It is written by to Jude, the servant of Jesus and the brother of James the Just. It warns to be vigilant against false teachers and false doctrine which will be rampant in the last days. It is included because Jude is speaking directly to our generation and if we were living through the bible, the period from the birth of the Church until now would be Jude.

New King James Version (NKJV)

Table with 4 columns and 1 row for Jude 1. Columns contain: Greeting to the Called, Old and New Apostles, Apostles Depraved and Doomed, and Apostles Predicted. Includes verses 1-23.

The Book of Revelation, is the 66th book of the bible and the final book of the New Testament. It's written by John and is split into multiple sections outlined below. Revelation can also be quite difficult to understand at times, so if you would like some assistance on interpretation, check out the "The Rapture > Addendum > Prominent Figures" section.

New King James Version (NKJV)

- 1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1 - 1:20)
2. Messages for seven churches of Asia (2:1 - 3:22)
3. Before the Throne of God (4:1 - 5:14)
4. Seven Seals are opened (6:1 - 8:6)
5. Seven trumpets are sounded (8:6 - 11:19)
6. The Seven Spiritual Figures (12:1 - 15:8)
7. Seven bowls are poured onto Earth (16:1 - 16:16)
8. Aftermath: Vision of John given by "an angel who had the seven bowls" (17:1 - 18:24)
9. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19:1 - 19:10)
10. The Judgment of the two Beasts, the Dragon, and the Dead (19:11 - 20:15)
11. The New Heaven and Earth, and New Jerusalem (21:1 - 22:5)
12. Conclusion (22:6 - 22:21)

Table with 4 columns and 1 row for Revelation 1. Columns contain: Introduction and Benediction, To Him who loved us, 7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, and 8 I am the Alpha and the Omega.

Table with 4 columns and 1 row for Revelation 2. Columns contain: The Loveless Church, The Persecuted Church, The Compromising Church, and The Corrupt Church. Includes verses 1-29.

Table with 4 columns and 1 row for Revelation 3. Columns contain: The Dead Church, The Faithful Church, The Lukewarm Church, and The Overcomer. Includes verses 1-22.

Revelation 4

Christiansity The Bible Revelation	The Bible Revelation	<p><b>The Throne Room of Heaven</b></p> <p>1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."</p>	<p>2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And he who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunders, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.</p>	<p>4 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 5 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. 6 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:</p> <p>"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"</p>	<p>7 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever. 8 The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:</p>	<p>11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: For You created all things, and by Your will they all exist and were created."</p>	
		<p><b>The Lamb Takes the Scroll</b></p> <p>1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.</p> <p>4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."</p>	<p>6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.</p>	<p><b>Worthy is the Lamb</b></p> <p>8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and given bowels full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:</p> <p>"You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your Blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."</p>	<p>11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. 12 Saying with a loud voice:</p> <p>"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"</p>	<p>13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and who has breath and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:</p> <p>"Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"</p> <p>14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped Him who lives forever and ever.</p>	
Christiansity The Bible Revelation	The Bible Revelation	<p><b>First Seal: The Conqueror</b></p> <p>1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.</p>	<p><b>Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth</b></p> <p>3 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hands. 4 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."</p>	<p><b>Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth</b></p> <p>7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.</p>	<p><b>Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs</b></p> <p>9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.</p>	<p>11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. 12 Saying with a loud voice:</p> <p>"Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"</p> <p>14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped Him who lives forever and ever.</p>	<p><b>Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances</b></p> <p>12 I looked when he opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and the earth and the sea were thrown out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains. 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"</p>
		<p><b>Second Seal: Conflict on Earth</b></p> <p>3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.</p>	<p>5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.</p>	<p><b>A Multitude from the Great Tribulation</b></p> <p>9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God. 12 saying:</p>	<p>"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."</p> <p>13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"</p> <p>14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."</p>	<p>So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."</p>	
Christiansity The Bible Revelation	The Bible Revelation	<p><b>The Sealed of Israel</b></p> <p>1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.</p>	<p>5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.</p>	<p><b>Seventh Seal: Prelude to the Seven Trumpets</b></p> <p>7 The angel who held the seven seals fell down in worship before the throne, and he said, "Woe to him who seals these things!"</p>	<p><b>Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck</b></p> <p>10 Then the third angel sounded; and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on the third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.</p>	<p>12 Then the fourth angel sounded; and a third of the stars of heaven were cast down to the earth, and a third of the stars were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.</p>	<p>13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"</p>
		<p><b>Seventh Seal: Prelude to the Seven Trumpets</b></p> <p>1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.</p>	<p>5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunders, lightning, and an earthquake.</p> <p>6 So the seven angels who hold the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.</p>	<p><b>First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck</b></p> <p>7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.</p> <p><b>Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck</b></p> <p>8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.</p>	<p><b>Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck</b></p> <p>12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.</p> <p>13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"</p>		
Christiansity The Bible Revelation	The Bible Revelation	<p><b>Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit</b></p> <p>1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. 3 Then I saw three unclean spirits come upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not given authority to kill the men, but to torment them for five months; their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. 6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.</p>	<p>7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of spurring like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. 8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. 10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.</p> <p>12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.</p>	<p><b>Sixth Trumpet: The Angels from the Euphrates</b></p> <p>13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God. 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.</p>	<p><b>Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck</b></p> <p>10 Then the third angel sounded; and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on the third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.</p>	<p>17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.</p>	<p>17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.</p>
		<p><b>The Mighty Angel with the Little Book</b></p> <p>1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."</p>	<p>5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer. 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.</p>	<p><b>John Eats the Little Book</b></p> <p>8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."</p> <p>9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."</p> <p>And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."</p>	<p>10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."</p>	<p>17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.</p>	
Christiansity The Bible Revelation	The Bible Revelation	<p><b>The Two Witnesses</b></p> <p>1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Raise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."</p>	<p><b>The Witnesses Killed</b></p> <p>7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.</p>	<p><b>The Witnesses Resurrected</b></p> <p>11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and were seen by many men. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.</p> <p>14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.</p>	<p>15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God. 17 saying:</p> <p>"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."</p>	<p>19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail.</p>	
		<p><b>The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon</b></p> <p>1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.</p>	<p>3 And another sign appeared in heaven; behold, a great, fiery dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.</p>	<p><b>Satan Thrown Out of Heaven</b></p> <p>7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought. 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.</p>	<p>10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come. For the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."</p>	<p>19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail.</p>	
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**All Things Made New**  
 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."  
 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

**The New Jerusalem**  
 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 Three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. 14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a girdle to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcidony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoberyl, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls; each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

**The Glory of the New Jerusalem**  
 22 But I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

**The River of Life**  
 1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there; they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

**The Time Is Near**  
 6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."  
 8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. 11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

**Jesus Testifies to the Churches**  
 12 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."  
 14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.  
 16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."  
 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

**A Warning**  
 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the book of life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.  
**I am Coming Quickly**  
 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."  
 Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!  
 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

**Revelation 22**

This contains the first 41 Psalms in the bible to be read, meditated on or used as praise and worship to God.  
**New King James Version (NKJV)**

**The Meaning of Selah by Chuck Missler**  
 Selah means to lift up, or exalt. The word selah is from two roots: s\_lah, to praise; and s\_lal, to lift up. It is commonly assumed that this can also refer to a technical musical term showing accentuation, pause, or interruption, as the Psalms were, indeed, the hymnbook of Israel.

Selah does connect the end of one strophe with the beginning of the next; and, in four cases it connects the end of one Psalm with the beginning of the next, thus uniting the two Psalms (Ps 3 with 4; 9 with 10; 24 with 25; and 46 with 47). Selah is, thus, a connector: it connects the two passages between which it is placed. However, it appears that selah is to connect with subject matter, not with music; with truth, not tunes.

It is a "thought-link" which bids us to look back at what has been said and to mark its connection with what is to follow, or to some additional consequent teaching. It is neither the pausing on one subject nor the passing on from one subject to another, but it is the connecting of the two subjects together. Sometimes it is the structures that are connected. Sometimes it is synthetic, and adds a development of thought by connecting a prayer with that which forms the basis for it. Sometimes it is antithetic, and adds a contrast. And sometimes it connects a cause with an effect, or an effect with a cause.

Thus, if it be derived from salah, "to pause," it is not the instruments of music which are to pause while voices continue to sing; but it is our hearts which are to pause and to note the connection of precious truths. If it is derived from salal, "to lift up," then it is not the instruments which are to lift up their sound in louder degree, but our hearts which are to be lifted up to consider more solemnly the two truths which are thus connected.

**Psalms 1-4**

**Psalm 1**  
**The Way of the Righteous and the End of the Ungodly**  
 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

**Psalm 2**  
**The Messiah's Triumph and Kingdom**  
 1 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break their bonds in pieces, and cast away their cords from us." 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 "I will have said my King: On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." 10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry; And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

**Psalm 3**  
**The Lord Helps His Troubled People**  
**A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son.**  
 1 Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. 2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah 3 But You, O Lord, are a shield for me. My glory and the One who lifts up my head. 4 I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. Selah 5 I lay down and slept; I awake, for the Lord sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. 7 Arise, O Lord; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. 8 Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people, Selah

**Psalm 4**  
**The Safety of the Faithful**  
**To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.**  
 1 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. 2 How long, O you sons of men! Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthless things! And seek falsehood? Selah 3 But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself firm who is godly; The Lord will hear when I call to Him, and be still. Selah 4 Be angry, and do not sin; Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And put your trust in the Lord. 6 There are many who say, "Who will show us any good?" Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. 7 You have broken the teeth of his heart. More than in the season that their grain and wine increased. 8 I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**Psalms 5-7**

**Psalm 5**  
**A Prayer for Guidance**  
**To the Chief Musician. With flutes. A Psalm of David.**  
 1 Give ear to my words, O Lord, Consider my meditation. 2 Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God. For to You I will pray. 3 My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will direct it to You, and I will look up. 4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You. 5 The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. 6 You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy. In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. 8 Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies. Make Your way straight before my face. 9 For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue. 10 pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions. For they have rebelled against You. 11 But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them: Be joyful in You. 12 For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

**Psalm 6**  
**A Prayer of Faith in Time of Distress**  
**To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David.**  
 1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. 2 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled. 3 My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O Lord—how long? 4 Return, O Lord, deliver me, Or, save me for Your mercies' sake! 5 For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks? 6 I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears. 7 My eye wastes away because of grief; I grow old because of all my enemies. 8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication; The Lord will receive my prayer. 10 Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly.

**Psalm 7**  
**Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies**  
**A Meditation of David, which he sang to the Lord concerning the words of Cush, a Benjamite.**  
 1 O Lord my God, in You I put my trust: Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me. 2 Let they fear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver. 3 O Lord my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands. 4 If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause. 5 Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth. And lay my honor in the dust. Selah 6 Arise, O Lord, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment! You have commanded! 7 So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high.

8 The Lord shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness. And according to my integrity within me. 9 Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end. But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds. 10 My defense is of God, Who saves the upright in heart. 11 God is to be just; And God is angry with the wicked every day. 12 If he does not turn back, He will shorten his sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. 13 He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts. 14 Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. 15 He made a pit and dug it out. 16 And he falls into the ditch which he made. 16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. 17 I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

**Psalms 8-10**

The Bible Psalms	<p><b>Psalm 8</b> <b>The Glory of the Lord in Creation</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. On the Instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What a man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor, 6 And You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. 9 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!</p>	<p><b>Psalm 9</b> <b>Prayer and Thanksgiving for the Lord's Righteous Judgments</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. To the tune of "Death of the Son." A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in You, I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. 3 When my enemies turn back, 4 You will destroy and perish by Your presence. 4 For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the Throne judging in righteousness. 5 You have destroyed the nations, You have delivered the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever, 6 O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And You have destroyed cities, Even their memory has perished. 7 But the Lord shall endure forever. He has prepared His throne for judgment. 8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. 9 The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble.</p>	<p>10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You. 11 Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. 12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble. 13 Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death. 14 That I may tell of all Your praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion. 15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. 16 The Lord is known by the judgment He executes: The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation, Selah. 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God. 18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. 19 Arise, O Lord, Do not let man prevail; He has prepared his net for judgment, 20 Put them in fear, O Lord, That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 10</b> <b>A Song of Confidence in God's Triumph over Evil</b></p> <p>1 Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble? 2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. 3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord. 4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts. 5 His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; 6 For all his enemies, he sneers at them. 7 He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity." 8 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity. 9 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. 10 He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; He lies in wait to catch the poor. He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.</p>	<p>10 So the crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength. 11 He has said in his heart: "God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see." 12 Arise, O Lord! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble. 13 Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart: "You will not require an account." 14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless. 15 Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; Seek out his wickedness until You find none. 16 The Lord is King forever and ever. The nations have perished out of His land. 17 Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, 18 To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more.</p>
	<b>Psalms 11-16</b>				
The Bible Psalms	<p><b>Psalm 11</b> <b>Faith in the Lord's Righteousness</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 In the Lord I put my trust: How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountains," 2 For lo! the wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? 4 The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord: His throne is in heaven, 5 His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men, 6 The Lord tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. 7 Upon the wicked He will rain coals, Fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup. 8 For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness, His countenance beholds the upright.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 12</b> <b>Man's Treachery and God's Constancy</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men, 2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor, With flattering lips and a double heart they speak. 3 May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud things, 4 Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is Lord over us?" 5 For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, Now I will arise," says the Lord; "I will set him in the safety for which he yearns." 6 The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. 7 You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever. 8 The wicked prow on every side, When violence is exalted among the sons of men.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 13</b> <b>Trust in the Salvation of the Lord</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; Enlighten my eyes. Let I sleep the sleep of death; 4 Let my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; Let those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved. 5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 14</b> <b>Folly of the Godless, and God's Final Triumph</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." 2 They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 3 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 4 None of them are who do good, They have become together corrupt; There is none who does good, None that one. 5 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the Lord? 6 In whose eyes is the Lord? For God is with the generation of the righteous, 6 You shame the counsel of the poor, But the Lord is his refuge. 7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 15</b> <b>The Hope of the Faithful, and the Messiah's Victory</b> <b>A Micham of David.</b></p> <p>1 Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust. 2 O my soul, you have said to the Lord, "You are my God, My goodness is nothing apart from You." 3 As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight." 4 Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god. Their drink offerings of blood will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips. 5 O Lord, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; you maintain my lot. 6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance. 7 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the right seasons. 8 I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You show me the path of life! In Your presence is fullness of joy. At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.</p>
	<b>Psalms 17</b>				
The Bible Psalms	<p><b>Psalm 17</b> <b>Prayer with Confidence in Final Salvation</b> <b>A Prayer of David.</b></p> <p>1 Hear a just cause, O Lord, Attend to my cry; Give ear to my prayer which is not from deceitful lips. 2 Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright. 3 You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. 4 Concerning the works of men, By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer. 5 Uplifted my steps in Your paths, That my footsteps may not slip. 6 I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech. 7 Show Your marvelous lovingkindness by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You, From those who rise up against them. 8 Keep me as the apple of Your eyes; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings. 9 From the wicked who oppress me, From my deadly enemies who surround me.</p>	<p>10 They have closed up their feet like hearts; They have shut their mouths; they speak proudly. 11 They have now surrounded us in our steps; They have set their eyes, crouching down to the earth, 12 As if they are eager to hear his prey, And like a young lion lurking in secret places. 13 Arise, O Lord, Confound him, cast him down; Deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword. 14 With Your hand from men, O Lord, From men of the world who have their portion in this life, And whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure. They are satisfied with children, And leave the rest of their possession for their babies. 15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 18</b> <b>God the Sovereign Savior</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David: the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:</b></p> <p>1 I will love You, O Lord, my strength, 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. 4 The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God. He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.</p>	<p>10 They have closed up their feet like hearts; They have shut their mouths; they speak proudly. 11 They have now surrounded us in our steps; They have set their eyes, crouching down to the earth, 12 As if they are eager to hear his prey, And like a young lion lurking in secret places. 13 Arise, O Lord, Confound him, cast him down; Deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword. 14 With Your hand from men, O Lord, From men of the world who have their portion in this life, And whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure. They are satisfied with children, And leave the rest of their possession for their babies. 15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 18</b> <b>God the Sovereign Savior</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David: the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:</b></p> <p>1 I will love You, O Lord, my strength, 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. 4 The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God. He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.</p>
	<b>Psalms 18</b>				
The Bible Psalms	<p><b>Psalm 18</b> <b>God the Sovereign Savior</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David: the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:</b></p> <p>1 I will love You, O Lord, my strength, 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. 4 The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God. He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.</p>	<p>8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; "With our tongues we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is Lord over us?" 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters And thick clouds of the skies. 12 From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire. 13 The Lord thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire. 14 He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. 15 Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered At Your rebuke, O Lord. At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. 16 He sent fire from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. 17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me.</p>	<p>18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my support. 19 He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. 20 The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. 21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God. 22 For all His judgments were before me, And I did not put away His statutes from me. 23 I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. 24 Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness. According to the cleanness of my hands in His sight. 25 With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 26 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devout You will show Yourself devout. 27 For You will save the humble people, But will bring down haughty looks. 28 For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. 29 For by You I can run against a troop, By Your God I can leap over a wall.</p>	<p>30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; 31 He is as true as silver tried in fire, 32 He is as pure as gold, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? 33 He who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. 34 He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. 35 He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up. Your gentleness has made me great. 37 You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip. 38 I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. 39 I have wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet. 40 For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me. 41 You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me.</p>	<p>41 They cried out, but there was none to save! Even to the Lord, but He did not answer them. 42 Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the street. 43 You have delivered me from the strings of the people; A people I have not known shall serve me. 44 As soon as they hear of me they obey me; The foreigners submit to me. 45 The foreigners fade away, And come lightened from their hideouts. 46 The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. 47 It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me. 48 He delivers me from my enemies, You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. 49 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles. And sing praises to Your name. 50 Great deliverance He gives to His King, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore.</p>
	<b>Psalms 19-21</b>				
The Bible Psalms	<p><b>Psalm 19</b> <b>The Perfect Revelation of the Lord</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 The heavens declare the glory of God, And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day into day utter speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard, 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run his race. 6 Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.</p>	<p>9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. 12 Who can understand His errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. 13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be innocent, and And I shall be blameless of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 20</b> <b>The Assurance of God's Saving Work</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you; 2 May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion; 3 May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice, Selah. 4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire, 28 For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. 29 For by You I can run against a troop, By Your God I can leap over a wall.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 21</b> <b>Joy in the Salvation of the Lord</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 The King shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! 2 You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. 3 For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. 4 He asked life from You, and You gave it to him— Length of days forever and ever. 5 His path is green; Your path is peace. 6 Honor and majesty You have placed upon him, But we have made him most blessed forever. 7 You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. 8 For the King trusts in the Lord, And though the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved.</p>	<p>8 Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You. 9 You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The Lord shall swallow them up in His wrath, And He shall devour them. 10 Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men. 11 For they intended evil against You; They devised a plot which they are not able to perform. 12 Therefore You will make them turn their backs, You will make ready Your arrows on your string toward their faces. 13 Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.</p>
	<b>Psalms 22-24</b>				

Psalm 22 The Suffering, Praise, and Possibility of the Messiah To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Deer of the Dawn." A Psalm of David. 1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me...

10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God. 11 He did not forsake Me. For trouble is near; For there is none to help...

18 They divide My garments among them. And for my clothing they cast lots. 19 But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! 20 Deliver Me from the sword...

27 All the ends of the world shall shall remember and turn to the Lord. And all of the families of the nations shall worship before You. 28 O King of the kingdom is the Lord's. And He rules over the nations...

Psalm 23 The Lord is My Shepherd of His People A Psalm of David. 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters...

1 The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness. The world and those who dwell therein. 2 For He has founded it upon the waters. And established it upon the sea...

Psalms 25-27

Psalm 25 A Psalm of Deliverance and Forgiveness A Psalm of David. 1 To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 2 O My God, I trust in You. Let me not be ashamed...

10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. 11 For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. 12 Who is the man that fears the Lord?...

Psalm 26 A Prayer for Divine Scrutiny and Redemption A Psalm of David. 1 Vindicate me, O Lord. For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip...

Psalm 27 An Unabashed Declaration of Faith A Psalm of David. 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; I shall not fear. 2 The Lord is the strength of my life; O of whom shall I be afraid?...

6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me. Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord...

Psalms 28-30

Psalm 28 Rejoicing in Answered Prayer A Psalm of David. 1 To You I will cry, O Lord my Rock: Do not be silent to me. Let, if You are silent to me...

7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am not perplexed; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him...

Psalm 29 Praise to God in His Holiness and Majesty A Psalm of David. 1 Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, Give unto the Lord glory and strength. 2 Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name...

Psalm 30 The Blessings of Answered Prayer A Psalm, A Song of the dedication of the house of David. 1 I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up. And have not let my foes rejoice over me...

9 "What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise me, or will it declare Your truth? 10 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me; Lord, be my helper!"...

Psalms 30-32

Psalm 31 The Lord a Fortress in Adversity To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 In You, O Lord, I put my trust: Let me not be ashamed. Deliver me from Your righteousness...

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: My eye wastes away with grief. Yes, my soul and my body! 10 For my life is spent with grief, And my years with sighing...

Let the wicked be ashamed; And let the grave be silent in the grave. 18 Let the lying lips be put to silence, Which speak insistent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous...

Psalm 32 The Joy of Forgiveness A Psalm of David, A Contemplation. 1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity...

7 You are my hiding place: You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah 8 Will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye...

Psalms 33-34

Psalm 33 The Sovereignty of the Lord in Creation and History 1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. 2 Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings...

11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever; The plans of His heart to all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance. 13 The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men...

Psalm 34 The Happiness of Those Who Trust in God A Psalm of David of whom he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; For the humble shall hear of it and be glad...

11 Come, you children, listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12 Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit...

7 You are my hiding place: You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah 8 Will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye...

Psalms 35-36

Psalm 35 The Lord the Avenger of His People A Psalm of David. 1 Plead my cause, O Lord, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me. 2 Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help...

10 All my bones shall say, "Lord, who is like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him?" Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him? 11 Fear ceases because they rise up; They ask me things that I do not know...

Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause. 20 For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against the quiet ones in the land. 21 They also opened their mouth wide against me, And said, "Ah, that our eyes have seen it!"...

Psalm 36 Man's Wickedness and God's Perfections To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord. 1 An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: There is no fear of God before His eyes...

7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of wings. 8 They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures...

The Bible Psalms	Psalms 37-38					
	<p><b>Psalm 37</b> <b>The Heritage of the Righteous and the Calamity of the Wicked</b> <b>A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. 3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on its fruitfulness. 4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. 6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. 7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—only causes harm. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.</p>	<p>10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. 12 The wicked plot against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. 13 The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. 14 The wicked have drawn the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct. 15 Their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. 16 A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked. 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. 18 The Lord knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. 19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. 20 But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the Lord, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish, into smoke they shall vanish away.</p>	<p>21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, the righteous shows mercy and gives. 22 For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, but those cursed by Him shall be cut off. 23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand. 25 He has been young, and now grows old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants being bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lends; and his descendants are blessed. 27 Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore. 28 For the Lord loves justice, and does not forsake his saints; they are preserved forever. 29 But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off. 30 The righteous shall inherit the land, and their inheritance shall be forever. 31 The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. 32 The law of the Lord is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. 33 The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 38</b> <b>Prayer in Time of Chastening</b> <b>A Psalm of David. To be chanting to remembrance.</b></p> <p>1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! 2 For Your arrows pierce me deeply, and Your hand presses me down. 3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger. 4 Nor any health in my bones because of my sin. 5 For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. 6 My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. 7 I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. 8 For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. 9 I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. 10 Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. 11 My heart pounds, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.</p>	<p>11 My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague; and my relatives stand afar off. 12 Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. 13 But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. 14 Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. 15 For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. 16 For I said, "Hear me, lest they rejoice over me, lest, when my foot slips, they exalt themselves against me." 17 For I am ready to fall, and my sorrow is continually before me. 18 For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. 19 But my enemies are vigorous, and they are strong; and those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. 20 Those also who render evil for good, they are of my adversaries, because I follow what is good. 21 They do not forsake me, O Lord; O my God, be not far from me! 22 Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!</p>	
The Bible Psalms	Psalms 39-40					
	<p><b>Psalm 39</b> <b>Prayer for Wisdom and Forgiveness</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 I said, "I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue, and I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me." 2 I was mute with silence. 3 I held my peace even from good; and my sorrow was stirred up. 4 My heart was not within me; while I was muting, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue. 5 "Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am." 6 Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly every man of his best state is but vapor. Selah 7 Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them. 8 "And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You."</p>	<p>8 Deliver me from all my transgressions; do not make me the reproach of the foolish. 9 I was mute, I did not open my mouth, because it was You who did it. 10 Remove Your plague from me; I am consumed by the blow of Your hand. 11 When with rebukes You correct man for iniquity, You make his beauty melt away like a moth; surely every man is vapor. Selah 12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not be silent at my heart; for I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were. 13 Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength, before I go away and am no more."</p>	<p><b>Psalm 40</b> <b>Faith Preserving in Trial</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. 2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. 3 He has put out a new song in my mouth—praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord. 4 Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. 5 Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. 6 Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; my ears You have opened, but burnt offering and sin offering You did not require.</p>	<p>7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart." 9 I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord; You Yourself know. 10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly. 11 Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord; let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me. 12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head; therefore my heart fails me. 13 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me!</p>	<p>14 Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion who seek to destroy my life; let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor who wish me evil. 15 Let them be confounded because of their shame, who say to me, "Aha, aha!" 16 Let all of those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" 17 But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinks upon me, and my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.</p>	
The Bible Psalms	Psalms 41					
	<p><b>Psalm 41</b> <b>The Blessing and Suffering of the Godly</b> <b>To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.</b></p> <p>1 Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; you will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. 3 The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; you will sustain him on his sickbed. 4 I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." 5 My enemies speak evil of me: "When will he die, and his name perish!" 6 And if he comes to see me, he speaks lies; his heart gathers iniquity to itself; when he goes out, he tells it. 7 All who hate me whisper together against me; against me they devise my hurt. 8 "An evil disease," they say, "clings to him, and now that he lies down, he will rise up no more."</p>	<p>9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. 10 But You, O Lord, be merciful to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them. 11 By this I know that You are well pleased with me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. 12 As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, and set me before Your face forever. 13 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.</p>	<p>Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. <b>1 Corinthians 15:58</b></p>	<p>In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. <b>Psalm 5:3</b></p>	<p>Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <b>James 1:2-4</b></p>	
The Bible Psalms	Bible Verses					
	<p>For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." <b>Jeremiah 29:11</b></p>	<p>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. <b>Romans 6:23.</b></p>	<p>Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. <b>1 Corinthians 15:58</b></p>	<p>In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. <b>Psalm 5:3</b></p>	<p>Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <b>James 1:2-4</b></p>	
The Bible Psalms	Bible Verses					
	<p>Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. <b>1 Corinthians 16:13</b></p>	<p>Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <b>Lamentations 3:22-23</b></p>	<p>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. <b>Romans 15:13</b></p>	<p>The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down. <b>Proverbs 21:20</b></p>	<p>"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' <b>Matthew 6:9-13</b></p>	
The Bible Psalms	Bible Verses					
	<p>"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go." <b>Joshua 1:7</b></p>	<p>Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <b>Matthew 7:15</b></p>	<p>Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. <b>1 Timothy 5:8</b></p>	<p>And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. <b>Matthew 10:28</b></p>	<p>Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. <b>1 Corinthians 6:9-11</b></p>	
The Bible Psalms	Bible Verses					
	<p>Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; <b>Luke 21:21</b></p>	<p>And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. <b>Revelation 20:15</b></p>	<p>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. <b>Colossians 3:23</b></p>	<p>But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. <b>Genesis 2:16-17</b></p>	<p>Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. <b>2 Corinthians 4:16-18</b></p>	
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<p>That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe. <b>1 Timothy 4:10</b></p>	<p>I can do all this through him who gives me strength. <b>Philippians 4:13</b></p>	<p>A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. <b>Proverbs 27:12</b></p>	<p>Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. <b>Deuteronomy 31:6</b></p>	<p>Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. <b>Isaiah 40:28-31</b></p>
<p>One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. <b>Psalms 27:4</b></p>	<p>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <b>Psalms 23:4</b></p>	<p>And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. <b>Philippians 4:19</b></p>	<p>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <b>Romans 8:31</b></p>	<p>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <b>Hebrews 12:1-2</b></p>

**The Parable of the Rich Fool**  
 "And He told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."  
**Luke 12:13-14**

<p>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <b>John 3:16</b></p>	<p>Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. <b>Deuteronomy 15:10</b></p>	<p>The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naive go on, and are punished for it. <b>Proverbs 22:3</b></p>	<p>Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." <b>Deuteronomy 31:6</b></p>	<p>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. <b>Romans 8:38-39</b></p>
<p>The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand. <b>Psalms 37:23-24</b></p>	<p>Those who work their land will have abundant food but those who chase fantasies will have their fill of poverty. <b>Proverbs 28:19</b></p>	<p>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <b>John 15:13</b></p>	<p>The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. <b>Proverbs 22:3</b></p>	<p>Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you. <b>Deuteronomy 31:6</b></p>
<p>Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth. <b>Ecclesiastes 11:2</b></p>	<p>A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't, and even brags about it! <b>Proverbs 13:16</b></p>	<p>For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." <b>2 Thessalonians 3:10</b></p>		

12

Common Questions

The following are some answers to the most commonly asked questions about Christianity and the Bible.

**Are natural disasters literally "acts of God"? Does he cause them? (Mark 13:8)**  
 When a volcano erupts, a hurricane devastates a city or lightning ignites a vast forest fire, it is natural for us to ponder God's relationship to the events. How should we regard such tragic occurrences? Are they really "acts of God," as insurance companies still label them? Jesus asked his disciples a similar question. In Luke 13:4, Jesus asked, Those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? Jesus was apparently referring to a well-known disaster of his time that had killed 18 people. His point was simple: events and tragedies beyond our control are part of life. There is not necessarily a direct cause and effect between the people who suffer and the tragedies themselves. The Bible offers two reasons for natural disasters. First, the world itself is beautiful but broken. All of creation suffers as a consequence of the entry of sin, death and decay into the world (Ro 5:12; 8:19-22). Second, all of human history takes place within the context of the cosmic battle between the forces of God and the forces of Satan. Job did not know that the Lord was using his life as an example of faithfulness when Satan afflicted him with sores and sadness. Thankfully, Jesus left his disciples (and us) with this encouragement: In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (Jn 16:33).

**How do we know the Bible is true? (Hebrews 4:12)**  
 According to the Bible, all Scripture is God-breathed (2Ti 3:16). Peter confirmed this when he said that those who wrote the Bible were not speaking on their own but spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2Pe 1:21). Many parts of Scripture are directly attributed to God through use of phrases like This is what the LORD says (e.g., Ex 4:22). Finally, Jesus often quoted from the Old Testament and affirmed it as being God's Word. Prophecies that were later fulfilled are corroboration of the accuracy of the Bible's claim to be God's Word. For example, the vision recorded in Daniel 7 correctly predicted the rise of the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great, and the Roman Empire. Archaeological discoveries are also important evidence of the Bible's accuracy. For example, for many years King David was believed by some to be a fictional character. But recently a composition from a king of Syria referring to the "house of David" was discovered at Tel Dan. This writing provides tangible evidence that ancient rulers indeed recognized the dynasty of David in Judah. Another reason for confidence in the Bible's authenticity is its internal consistency. The Bible is actually a compilation of 66 books written over a period of 2,000 years by more than 40 different authors, and yet there is a unified message and a striking theological coherence—something that clearly speaks of God's guidance throughout the process of writing, transmitting and assembling the Biblical texts. It is important to remember that the original Biblical documents no longer exist. We are dependent on copies, and copyists can make mistakes. However, scholars have carefully tracked the accuracy of ancient manuscripts from different centuries, and their consistency gives us good reason to be confident in the Bibles we read today. Furthermore, rigorous standards were applied to determine the canon—both by the Jews, who determined the collection of books that make up the Old Testament Scriptures, and by the early church, which decided the books to be included in the New Testament.



**What does it mean to have faith? (Hebrews 11:1)**

In the Bible, faith is always tied to an active trust in God and his Word. For the believer, there is no such thing as "blind faith." Faith is the sensible response to the revealed will of God and the privileges he has promised his people. Biblical faith does not mean that people can believe in any unlikely thing and God, in response, must bring it to pass. In other words, faith that is not directly attached to God's Word is merely positive thinking. At its core, faith—trusting God—is how people access the salvation God has provided in Christ Jesus. Abraham, the father of all who have saving faith (Ro 4:16), believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness (Jas 2:23). Faith is not righteousness, but it is how we access Jesus' saving righteousness—something we could never access on our own (Eph 2:8). Faith, God's gift to his followers (Eph 2:8), is fortified by paying careful attention to the Bible and practicing the spiritual disciplines. Romans 10:17 says, Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Throughout the Christian life, faith continues to be how believers receive the privileges and necessities for serving Christ. We trust God to give what he has promised—whether it is gifts and abilities to do the work of Jesus in the world and in our own hearts (Jn 14:12–13) or whether it is carrying us through our spiritual journey and into our eternal home in heaven.

**What are angels, and how do they interact with the world today? (Genesis 28:12)**

Along with the creation of the physical world, God also fashioned and populated a spiritual realm we call heaven. Little is known about heaven, which is the place where God dwells, because it is beyond human observation. But the Bible identifies some of its inhabitants as cherubim, or "winged beings" (Ex 25:18–22; Eze 10:1–22); others as seraphim, or "burning ones" (Isa 6:2; Rev 4:6–8); and many simply as messengers (Ge 16:7–11; Ex 23:20–24; Mt 1:20–24), from which the term "angel" is derived. Together, the whole company of angelic beings is called the multitudes of heaven or the heavenly host (1Ki 22:19; Lk 2:13). In the Bible, angels and humans interacted primarily when these spiritual beings delivered messages from God to his people. But sometimes God sent angels to intervene in human affairs. For example, God sent an angel to guide the Israelites through the desert (Ex 23:20–23), provide food for Elijah (1Ki 19:5–8) and execute his divine judgment against the people of Israel (2Sa 24:16–17). For example, God sent an angel to guide the Israelites through the desert (Ex 23:20–23), provide food for Elijah (1Ki 19:5–8) and execute his divine judgment against the people of Israel (2Sa 24:16–17). While the ministry of angels occurred most specifically in supervising the redemptive history outlined in the Bible, angels also communicated God's divine will directly to individuals (Ac 10:3–5) and provided them with protection (Ac 12:11; 27:23). Throughout subsequent history many people have reported the presence of angelic beings who have communicated specific messages from God or intervened in specific situations. The mysterious and transcendent character of angels has sometimes nurtured cultic obsessions, but such worship is clearly contrary to the Bible's teaching (Col 2:18–19).

**Who is God, what does he value, and how can we approach him? (Exodus 3:13–14)**

The Bible doesn't explain who God is or try to prove his divine existence. It assumes God is eternally present (Ge 1:1) and depicts creation as a result of his divine thought and action (Ge 1:1–2:25). God has, however, offered us a glimpse of who he is through creation (Ps 19:1–6), his Word (Ps 18:30–31), and especially through the incarnation of his Son, Jesus Christ, who is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being (Heb 1:3). Jesus demonstrated God's compassion, grace and glory in his life, death and resurrection. From this and from the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Ac 2:1–13), our awareness of God as Trinity (one God in three persons) was formed. While God's being is beyond comprehension or perception (Ex 33:20; Jn 1:18), both the physical world and the human conscience clearly attest to his values and purposes. In addition, God revealed what he values through the Sinai covenant (Ex 20:1–24:18). The Ten Commandments (Ex 20:2–17; Dt 5:6–21) were affirmed by Jesus as a faithful summary of God's moral values (Mt 5:17–47), and they continue to shape social values and legal systems today. God also revealed what he values through the dietary regulations (Lev 11:1–47) and worship regulations (Lev 1:1–9:24; 16:1–34; 21:1–25:55) that were given to the ancient Israelites. Those regulations emphasized God's holiness and his desire for his people to be holy (Lev 11:44). When Jesus came to earth, he taught that while actions are important, God is more concerned with the heart (Mt 5:17–47; 15:18–20). God desires that we love him, trust him, obey him and imitate his character in our interactions with others by being compassionate, loving and forgiving. So how can we approach such a holy God? Access to God is only through faith in Jesus Christ (Jn 14:6; Ro 5:1–2; Eph 2:13–18; 3:12). Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring (us) to God (1Pe 3:18). Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Heb 4:16).

**How much influence does Satan have in the world today? (1 Peter 5:8)**

Enormous influence! Jesus called him the prince of this world (Jn 12:31), and Paul called him the god of this age (2Co 4:4). Satan controls a vast hierarchical network of fallen angels (Eph 6:12), also called demons. Revelation 12:9 says that Satan ... leads the whole world astray. He manipulates nations, rulers, economies and cultures. He remains disguised behind all the idolatries and false religions of the world. In the end, according to Revelation, Satan will orchestrate a vast, worldwide rebellion against Christ and the church, but he will be defeated and suffer eternal punishment (Rev 20:7–10). At the root of all Satan's efforts on earth is his desire to usurp God's glory. Satan is insanely jealous of God. Created as a mighty and good angel, he fell due to his arrogant desire to take the place of God (Isa 14:12–15; Eze 28:11–19). Satan works in this world primarily through deceit (Jn 8:44). He is skilful beyond our imagination at tempting people to sin. He is also ruthless and willing to spare no one in his pursuit of glory. However, Satan is no match for Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. Christians will certainly face Satan's attacks as he tempts, tests and accuses them (Job 1:8–12; Rev 12:10). But Christians may always take refuge in Jesus, for by the power of his name (Lk 10:17–20) they are successfully able to resist Satan (1Pe 5:8–10).

**How do I balance concern for the poor with the needs of my family? (Exodus 23:10–11)**

The poor mentioned in these verses are those who are in need of basic necessities (e.g., food, clothing, shelter). But elsewhere the Bible mentions other types of people who are poor. Whereas Matthew recorded Jesus saying that the poor in spirit are blessed (Mt 5:3), Luke's account states that the poor are blessed by God (Lk 6:20). The poor in spirit referred to in Matthew 5 are those who are spiritually bankrupt and desperate for God. The poor of Luke 6 are those who are desperate because they have no one to care for them. And the apostle Paul admonished Timothy to care for the widows in his congregation, saying, Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need (1Ti 5:3). The fundamental principle here is that God provides for the needs of the poor (Mt 6:25–34). But the question is, How does God do this? The answer is that he does this in a variety of ways. He often meets tangible needs through the generosity of his people, who want to give out of the abundance they have been given. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2Co 9:8). But God also assigns responsibilities to certain individuals who are close to people with material needs. In 1 Timothy 5 Paul said that local needs ought to be met by institutions and individuals who are in closest proximity to those in need. Continued Below.

**How do I balance concern for the poor with the needs of my family? (Exodus 23:10–11)**

So in the case of widows, Paul said that children or grandchildren bear the first line of responsibility to care for a widow's material needs (1Ti 5:4). But if the widow is all alone and remains upright in her loneliness, then she is to be cared for by the deacons (1Ti 5:5, 16). Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1Ti 5:7–8). So how do we balance concern for the poor with the needs of our own family? There is no one-size-fits-all answer. We should begin by examining the stance of our own heart in relation to the apostle's admonition to the Corinthians: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2Co 9:6–7). God has given his people ample resources to supply every imaginable need.

**Can our prayers cause God to change his mind? (Exodus 32:14)**

Scripture teaches that God sometimes adjusts his plans in response to our actions or requests. The Bible contains several examples of this: the Hebrews on the outskirts of Canaan (Nu 14:11–23); Hezekiah's repentance on behalf of Israel (Am 7:1–7) and the sparing of Nineveh (Jnh 3:1–10). Experiencing God's will is dynamic. As with any interpersonal relationship, God's relationship with humanity involves complex twists and turns. God modifies his responses based on ours, and we adjust our responses to God's. So, in a sense, it can be said that God sometimes changes his mind in response to our prayers. At the same time, God's will is determined. There are decrees and promises he has made that do not change. He kept his covenant with the forefathers of the Israelites (Dt 7:7–8), and he keeps his new covenant with those who believe in Jesus (Jn 6:37–40, 44). God wants us to live out his will obediently. He has predetermined ways he expects us to respond, but he has made us capable of resisting him (Ps 143:10; 1Th 5:16–18; Heb 10:35–39; 2Pe 3:9). These aspects of God's will work together. While it is not possible for us to fully understand how they work together, we know that God is ultimately in control.

**How are these laws relevant to us today? (Leviticus 19:19–28)**

Though some of the laws in Leviticus seem readily applicable today, others do not. It can be unsettling to see a general principle (Love your neighbour, v. 18) alongside what seems to be a culture-specific rule (Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head, v. 27) The result can be an apparent inconsistency in how we obey these laws. For example, how can we continue to view homosexual intercourse as sin (20:13) if we no longer care about blended fabrics of cotton and wool (19:19)? People attempt to resolve this problem in different ways. Some believe the laws fit into different categories of behaviour: moral laws are still binding, but ceremonial and civil laws were superseded when Jesus came. The distinction between a moral, civil and ceremonial law is not always clear, however. Others believe that only those laws mentioned or repeated in the New Testament remain binding. We can gain some insight into the problem by seeing what Jesus said about the law. He told his disciples that not a single letter of the law would disappear until everything is accomplished (Mt 5:17–20). Continued Below.

**How are these laws relevant to us today? (Leviticus 19:19–28)**

Yet because Jesus followed the true spirit of the law rather than the legalistic views of the religious teachers, he was accused of violating the law (Lk 6:1–2). Because the Bible is God's Word, we may assume that each law expresses some aspect or enduring principle of God's revealed will. Some details, written specifically for Israel's situation, will not fit ours today. But many of the regulating principles behind them are timeless. Matthew 5 provides several examples where Jesus upheld the deeper, spiritual principles of the law. The relevance of Old Testament laws may elude our understanding today because the content often addressed Israel's particular call to be God's distinct people. However, by seeking the timeless principle behind the letter of the law, we can still apply God's standards to the details of our lives within the context of our culture.

**Does obedience bring prosperity? (Leviticus 26:3–39)**

There is no question that righteous living has its own rewards. When the people of Israel served God, they enjoyed good social and economic climates. People who live disciplined lives of moderation generally enjoy the benefits of good health and finances. Even insurance companies formulate their premium rates according to the risks of certain lifestyles. However, these are general principles and cannot be expected to apply in every situation. The New Testament agrees with the Old Testament that God honours obedience and disdains disobedience, but the New Testament differs in its application of that principle. Where the Old Testament insists that a person's character, speech and actions immediately determine the resulting consequences, the New Testament teaches that by faith, righteous living will eventually be rewarded. The Old Testament says the faithful experience the good life now; the New Testament says they will one day. At the heart of the New Testament is Jesus, the only perfect human being, a man whose life ended in the suffering and disgrace of the cross. Even though he was sinless, he was abandoned by God—hardly the picture of prosperity and blessing! Yet his obedience provided righteousness for those who believe and resulted in his exaltation as Christ the Lord (Ro 5:19; Php 2:8). Romans 8:35–39 lists a number of things that cannot separate the believer from Christ: trouble, famine, nakedness, etc. Many items listed match items from the "curse" texts of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Therefore, the New Testament teaches that to obey does not guarantee an absence of material problems. Rather, the guarantee concerns spiritual security despite material troubles.

**Which is better, spiritually speaking—to be rich or poor? (Deuteronomy 8:10–18)**

The relationship between spirituality and wealth in the Bible is complicated. On the one hand, riches can be a sign of God's blessing (Ge 24:35; Dt 8:18), while poverty can symbolize divine judgment (Jer 8:10, 13). Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were God's friends and were very wealthy—as was Job, one of the most godly figures of the Old Testament. David, a man after God's own heart (1Sa 13:13–14), was also very rich. On the other hand, the luxuries and benefits wealth afforded altered Solomon's early devotion to God (1Ki 11:4). Through the prophet Amos, God blamed wealth for leading Israel into idolatry and moral decay (Am 3:13–4:1). On a number of occasions, Jesus spoke harshly about the rich who ignored God and the poor (e.g., Lk 12:13–21) and compromised their commitment to God (e.g., Mt 19:16–23). Jesus declared that the love of wealth can steal hearts away from God (Mt 6:24). Paul told Timothy to warn people about the temptations of wealth (1Ti 6:6–10, 17–19), and James wrote stern words on the same topic (Jas 2:5–7). It can't be said that people who are poor are necessarily in a better spiritual condition than those who are rich. Rather, our spiritual health depends on how we steward our blessings, view our possessions, and serve God and others with them. The Bible commands, Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth ... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven (Mt 6:19–20). We are to work so that we will have resources to share with those who are poor (Eph 4:28). We are also to give quietly, generously, thoughtfully and cheerfully (Mt 6:3; 2Co 9:6–7).

**Is there a connection between spiritual and physical health? (Deuteronomy 28:58–63)**

Generally, we must acknowledge that our Creator knows what is best for us, so in that regard our physical health and spiritual well-being are closely connected. The Hebrew word used most often to describe humans in the Old Testament is *nephesh*, translated person. It described the wholeness of life and was not easily reduced to the "body" and "soul" distinctions that emerged later in the Greek world of the New Testament. As part of God's design to make Israel a spiritually vibrant nation, long sections of the social codes in Leviticus were devoted to dietary regulations and hygiene as well as acceptable responses to illnesses, injuries and blood flow. The psalmist David clearly connected the blight of his physical condition to spiritual distress, noting that when he failed to confess his sins and remained at odds with God and others, his bones wasted and his strength was sapped (Ps 32:3–4). Paul recognized the connection between spiritual laxity and physical sickness (1Co 11:27–30) as well as the need for physical sustenance to maintain spiritual strength (1Ti 5:23). Still, care must be taken not to completely equate spiritual righteousness and physical health. The psalmist Asaph observed that many wicked people were models of vibrant strength (Ps 73:3–5). And the apostle Paul struggled constantly with at least one, if not several, physical ailments (2Co 12:1–10; Gal 4:13–15) that were by no means a result of spiritual deficiency. Humans are complex beings, and although we know there are connections between our physical and spiritual health, we can't always pinpoint what those connections are. Our task is to nurture our souls so that we maximize our spiritual health and take the best possible care of our bodies to maximize our physical health. We are to consider our bodies temples of the Holy Spirit (1Co 3:16; 6:19–20).

**Why does God allow bad things to happen? (Deuteronomy 31:16–21)**

No one knows the mind of God, except for God himself. He is infinite; we are finite. We are not entirely clueless about his character, however, because God speaks to us through his Word. According to the Bible, one reason bad things happen is because the whole world is under the control of the evil one (1Jn 5:19). That's why Jesus taught us to ask God to deliver us from the evil one when we pray (Mt 6:13). Even in the Garden of Eden—in paradise, before Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit—Satan was already there, waiting to tempt them to disobey God (Ge 3:1–6). Another reason bad things happen is because people sin. The reason why God allows people to sin and be tempted to sin is not for us to know—at least for now (Dt 29:29). What we do know is that when bad things happen, we should not rage against God. To revolt against God is to fall prey to the devil. The devil is a liar (Jn 8:44) and wants us to believe that God is blameworthy. But the Bible says that God is light; in him there is no darkness at all (1Jn 1:5). God is not the enemy; Satan is the enemy. Through his Spirit God empowers us to war against the enemy by following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour—during good times and bad times.

**What values does a Christian family hold? (Joshua 24:15)**

A Christian is someone who knows there is nothing he or she can do to deserve God's love but who gratefully accepts and trusts in what God has done through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ. This faith translates into a life lived in love, gratitude and service. A Christian family, then, reflects these same values. While the members of a Christian family are not perfect people and are not without problems, they do believe that God has their best interests at heart. The Bible and the commandments from God found in it serve as their rules for living. They strive to live according to God's Word and make God the foundation of their beliefs as a family unit. However, the modern family unit has changed since the days of Leave It to Beaver. Whether comprised of a husband and wife with no children, a husband and wife with children, a single parent raising a child or children alone, or any number of other scenarios—the goal of a Christian family is to love God and love people. With that in mind, the definition of "family" can extend beyond blood relatives and those related by marriage. One Biblical illustration of what a Christian family can look like may be found in Matthew 12:48–50, where Jesus said that his "family" is comprised of those who do the will of his Father in heaven. Jesus' answer emphasizes the great importance of our spiritual family—those with whom we may not share blood but with whom we share a common and strong faith in God and his Son, Jesus Christ. It should be noted, however, that being a Christian doesn't necessarily mean that every member of your family will also be a Christian. It's possible that only one spouse may believe (1Co 7:12–14; 1Pe 3:1) or that some children won't believe. After all, even Satan rebelled against the perfect Father.

**Does it matter when and where we pray? (1 Kings 8:29–30)**

When Jesus introduced prayer by saying, Our Father (Mt 6:9), he reminded us that prayer is more personal than prescriptive. Prayer is a "divine dialogue" between God and those who have a relationship with him. Therefore, we are welcome to come to God anytime and anywhere. Like Jesus, we may pray early in the morning (Mk 1:35) or in the evening (Mk 14:32). We may pray when we are afraid (Ps 119:145–146), when we are in need (Mt 7:7–12) or when we lack wisdom (Jas 1:5). We may also pray to express the joy (Php 1:4) and the gratitude (1Th 5:16–18) we feel when we see God at work around us. And while many of our prayers include requests for our personal needs, it is right to pray for others (1Th 5:25), including those in authority (1Ti 2:1–2) and even our enemies (Mt 5:44). We should pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests (Eph 6:18). Our prayers at any time may also be offered in any place. Hannah's prayer in the temple (1Sa 1:9–11) was no more spiritual than Moses' prayer in the desert (Ex 32:11–14). Jesus prayed in a garden (Lk 14:32–42). Jonah prayed in the belly of a fish (Jnh 2:1–10). Paul prayed in prison (Ac 16:22–25). Nehemiah prayed in the king's court (Ne 2:4). No matter where we are, we can always be assured of great reception with God when we pray.

**How can we handle guilt and regret over our past decisions? (Ezra 9:6)**

As every psychiatrist knows, unresolved guilt and brooding regret are significant blocks to healthy living. The Bible emphasizes self-analysis and awareness (Ps 139:1–24), confession and repentance (Ps 32:1–11; 51:1–19; Jas 5:16), and forgiveness (Mt 6:14) as elements of a sound spiritual lifestyle. But the past cannot be altered. Therefore it is also important to accept what has happened and learn how to live with the consequences of our choices and decisions. Once the consequences are acknowledged and dealt with (Ps 51:1–19), and the lessons are learned (Ps 107:1–43), we must be able to forgive ourselves because God forgives us. We need to forgive ourselves so that we can move ahead with hope into the future. Forgiving ourselves is not always easy, nor is it a matter only of individual concern. The teachings of the Bible indicate that self-forgiveness is a spiritual journey that takes place best in community. It is often within the faith community that we come to understand that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Ro 8:1). It is there that we find the grace, forgiveness and comfort of both God and others (2Co 1:3–7; 2:7). It is there that we can confess our sins to God and others and be healed (Jas 5:16; 1Jn 1:9). And "community" isn't limited to church congregations. There are many communities of faith working to help people heal from the consequences of their past choices. The "Twelve Steps" of Alcoholics Anonymous were formed on the basis of Biblical teachings and spiritual insights; as such, they often help people respond constructively to the tortures of an imperfect past.

**Should Christians today observe the Sabbath? (Nehemiah 13:15–22)**

The rules of the Sabbath, which in Hebrew means "rest," are based on two specific principles. First, in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:2–17), a sabbath rest on the seventh day of each week was patterned after the events of the creation story (Ge 2:1–3), which describes God ceasing from creative activity on the seventh day after bringing humankind into being. In that teaching, the Sabbath was a time for reflection on good things done and the enjoyment of important relationships. Second, when Moses repeated the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy 5:6–21, he noted that the Israelites had recently been rescued from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. In that teaching the Sabbath was a celebration of freedom from an existence solely devoted to work. For the Israelites, the Sabbath was both a rhythm of life bred into human understanding from the very beginning and a celebration of freedom from oppression. Jesus emphasized the former value of the Sabbath in his own teachings (Mk 2:23–28), while his followers focused on the latter value of the Sabbath—especially once they realized the great deliverance from the bondage of sin brought by Jesus' death and resurrection (Ac 20:7; Rev 1:9–10). This understanding was amplified by the writer of Hebrews 4:1–11 as a forwardlooking anticipation of the renewal of all things. Even though the Bible makes it clear that Sabbath observance is not mandatory (Col 2:14, 16), the practices of both Jesus and the early Christian community testify to its enduring value in a believer's spiritual life.

**Are people just pawns in God's chess game? (Job 1:13–19)**

It sometimes seems that people are caught in events beyond their control, events manipulated by God or Satan. They may feel forced into situations they would not choose if they were given a choice. While this seems unfair, there is another way—a higher way—to interpret the circumstances of life. We can see them as God-given opportunities to cooperate with God's purposes and plans that allow us to participate in something far more significant than our own schemes. We are more than pawns in a chess game. We can honour Almighty God by the way we live and die. Still, many unanswered questions remain. Only God knows why dozens of bystanders had to die in this unfolding drama between Satan and God. We struggle with the fact that some who are righteous have short, tragic lives, while others who are wicked enjoy wealth and long life. There is one thing we can affirm, however: what seems unfair in this life will be made right in eternity. Our problems will be resolved and many of our questions answered. God has permitted Satan certain freedoms. Satan is called the prince of this world (Jn 14:30) and the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Eph 2:2), for he sometimes uses sicknesses, plagues, wicked people and the forces of nature. Though God dealt a fatal blow to Satan through Jesus' death and resurrection, Satan continues to struggle against God and will do so until the end (Ro 16:20). There are two sides to the suffering of the righteous: the earthly and the heavenly. The apostle Paul understood the tension of living in a corrupt world. He placed his trust in God and things eternal—God's justice, mercy and love—not in the temporary things of this world—success, wealth and fame. Paul recognized that our struggle is not against flesh and blood (Eph 6:12) and took courage in knowing that our citizenship is in heaven (Php 3:20).

**Is God responsible for Satan's actions or people's sins? (Job 19:8–12)**

We know that evil exists in this world. Its origins are personified in a cruel being identified in the Bible as Satan ("adversary") or the devil ("slanderer"), but this creature's origin is never tied to the Creator who made all things good (Ge 1:31). Satan first appears in the creation story (Ge 3:1), with no explanation of how he got there or where he came from. Some think the poetic imagery of Isaiah 14, which describes the power and demise of the king of Babylon, alludes to Satan's origins. But this is only theological speculation. A cryptic scene in the drama of Job shows Satan as part of the company of angels who presented themselves before God (Job 1:6–2:7). While this being had the power to wreak havoc on Job's life in an attempt to make him sin, Satan's power was limited by God's permissions and prohibitions. This limitation of Satan's power by God is echoed by Jesus (Lk 10:17–21) in the New Testament and is pictured graphically in Revelation (Rev 20:7–10). We also know that the Bible does not absolve humans of their guilt for sinful choices and behaviours (Jas 1:13–18).

**If we are treated unfairly, is God still good? (Job 34:19)**

Because of the intrusion of sin and evil into our world, it seems to us that life is often not fair or just (Ps 73:3–12). Events occur that we do not cause or desire, and all our best efforts are not able to produce perfect results. Yet the Bible consistently declares that God is good, fair and just (Ps 9:7–12; 101:1; 145:1–21; 1Th 1:5–7; Rev 19:1–2, 11). Sometimes we find this truth difficult to grasp because of the complexity of this world and its evils. We have limited ability to clearly interpret it. But once we have spiritual insight about the truth, we can conform our behaviours more fully to reflect God's fairness, goodness and righteousness (Php 4:8–9). Even when things happen that contradict our expressed efforts and knowledge of God's ultimate designs, we can have confidence that God's purposes will prevail (2Co 3:7–5:10); he will restore the fortunes of earth and humankind to his original desires (2Pe 3:13). Both Peter (1Pe 1:6–7; 2:19–25) and Paul (Ro 8:18–39) insisted that when we experience unfairness in life, we are gaining insights into what Jesus went through. We are also learning how to hope for the fullness of God's goodness to renew our world.

**Why does it sometimes seem like God is far away? (Psalm 10:1)**

God promised his people, The LORD will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you (Dt 31:5). Yet sometimes God seems distant. During such times, the ever-present God hasn't gone anywhere. Instead, specific obstacles we create or experience can make God seem far away. One obstacle is busyness. Our overloaded schedules can crowd out time with God and make it difficult to sense his presence in our lives. When Jesus arrived for dinner at the home of friends, Martha chose to busy herself with kitchen duties while her sister sat at the feet of Jesus and was commended for doing what was better (Lk 10:38–42). Busyness isn't next to godliness. In fact, our crammed calendars can cause us to miss connecting with God daily. A second obstacle is "stuff," or possessions. In Matthew 19:16–22, Jesus urged a man to sell all he had and to follow him, but the man went away sad, because he had great wealth (Mt 19:22). Unfortunately, possessions and wealth can prevent people from pursuing Jesus. He warned, Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Mt 6:21). So, if our hearts wander after more and more stuff, we will have little room for God. A third obstacle is sin. Christians can be secure in their relationship with God because their sins have been forgiven through Jesus' death on the cross. But lingering sin in our lives can still stand in the way of present fellowship with God. Fortunately, when we confess our sin, repent and obey God, we will feel the Father's love and personal presence once again (Jn 14:23, 25–27).

**Why do our prayers seem ineffective at times? (Psalm 39:12)**

One of the differences between the personal God of the Bible and all other so-called gods is that the Lord is near us whenever we pray to him (Dt 4:7). However, anyone who has ever prayed has surely experienced a time when their prayers didn't seem to make it higher than the ceiling. Sometimes God is silent when we harbour sin in our lives. The psalmist understood that the Lord would not listen to his prayers if he cherished sin in (his) heart (Ps 66:18). Indeed, if Jesus experienced separation from the Father when he took our sin on himself at the cross (Mt 27:46), we should not be surprised to experience a sense of distance from God when we have unconfessed sin in our lives. When we rebel against God, he does not listen to our prayers (Isa 1:2, 15; 1Pe 3:7; cf. Heb 5:7). Similarly, our prayers may go unanswered if we ask with self-centred intentions (see Simon's story in Ac 8:9–25). Jesus' model of prayer, the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6:9–13), included not only personal requests but also praise, thanksgiving and intercession. Selfish requests made with insincere motives will fall on deaf ears (Jas 4:3). At other times, our prayers may seem ineffective when, in fact, the silence of God is intended to bolster our faith. In Luke 18:1–8, Jesus told a parable about a woman who sought help from a judge who initially refused her request but eventually gave her what she asked for because of her persistence. The lesson of the story is that God—a just judge who cares for us—will see to it that our needs are met, but we must exercise faith in his sovereign goodness (Lk 18:8). And while our praying may not produce immediate results, praying with persistence changes us and moves us toward greater dependence on God.

**Does God send troubles? (Psalm 71:20)**

We have trouble in the world and in our lives because of humanity's sinful nature. But the book of Job shows that troubles do not necessarily come in direct proportion to our sin. Troubles may come not because we have committed a particular sin but because of someone else's sin against us. In this psalm the writer looked back on his life and admitted that God had allowed him to experience some bitter troubles. God is not the blameworthy cause or originator of evil in the world, and he is neither capricious nor a mere passive observer. Sometimes God permits trouble in people's lives; other times he seems to deliberately bring people to a place where they will experience difficulties. The Bible says that God has many reasons for allowing the godly to experience suffering. Suffering may (1) lead someone away from sin and closer to God (Heb 12:4–11), (2) build up a person's character (Jas 1:2–6) or (3) provide a means to glorify God (Jn 9:1–3). Then again, there is the lesson of Job: explanations cannot always be found. At times we may not understand why God allows us to experience troubles, but even without answers it is good to say with the psalmist, You will restore my life again ... you will again bring me up.

**Does anything prevent God from responding to our prayers? (Psalm 102:1–2)**

No entity has the power to stop God from responding to our prayers. Nor does anyone have the power to force God to reveal what his answer to a prayer might be. In fact, God might choose not to answer our prayers—especially if our requests are selfish. James 4:3 says, When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. It is solely God's prerogative to answer prayer or not. Sometimes God might test us to see if we will trust him even without clear answers to our prayers. God wants us to know and love him personally; he doesn't want us to merely ask him for things. Because God is relational, it is possible even for Christians to quench the Spirit (1Th 5:19) or grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30), who intercedes on our behalf when we pray (Ro 8:26). We can do so through repeated sin, for example, which means it is possible for us to make our own prayers ineffective (e.g., 1Pe 3:7). At the same time, God assures us that he is not far away; if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2Ch 7:14).

**Is there any secular evidence to support the Bible's claims? (Psalm 119:160)**

Although the Bible is not an ancient history textbook, it does report events that have been confirmed by other historical works. Consider the following examples:

- Archeological digs and ancient Assyrian records confirm the Bible's portrayal of King Sennacherib's invasion of Judah (2Ki 18:13–19:37).
  - Until recent excavations at Tell Mardikh uncovered tablets mentioning Sodom and Gomorrah (Ge 19:1–29), scholars dismissed the existence of both cities as a Biblical legend.
  - The Hittites were also considered a Biblical legend until their capital and records were discovered in modern-day Turkey.
  - The palace of King Sargon, an Assyrian ruler mentioned in Isaiah, was uncovered in Iraq. The events recorded in Isaiah 20 were even recorded on the palace walls.
- In 1947, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls (which are copies of the Old Testament) confirmed how accurately the Bible was copied from 200 BC to AD 1200.
- Greek and Jewish writers (e.g., Pliny, Tacitus and Josephus) supported the Bible's claims that Jesus really lived, that he was executed between AD 26 and AD 36 and that he was worshiped as God.
  - Many of the details of the New Testament including facts about Pontius Pilate, the census recorded in Luke 2, the death of Agrippa I, the execution of Ananias the high priest and the crucifixion of Jesus—are also mentioned in other historical works.

**Does the Bible define when human life begins? (Psalm 139:13)**

A simple assumption undergirds the entire Bible: God, the author of life, creates each and every human being. Therefore, every person is sacred to him. Psalm 100:3 says, Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his. The Bible also assumes that life begins in the womb. God declared to the prophet Jeremiah, Before I formed you in the womb I knew you (Jer 1:5). And Job 31:15 refers to God forming us in the womb. So, medically speaking, God knows us and shapes us even minutes after conception, when our most primitive cells begin to separate; even at the fifth week of life, when our cerebral cortex starts to form; even at the sixth week, when our heart chambers converge; even at the seventh week, when our fingers and toes grow distinct; and even at the tenth week, when we become sensitive to touch. Perhaps Dr. Seuss captured the Bible's view on this issue best in his children's classic Horton Hears a Who: "After all, a person's a person no matter how small." In the Biblical story, all human beings, no matter how small or vulnerable—unborn babies and overwhelmed mothers, the weak and the frail, the imprisoned and the traumatized, the disabled and the diseased, the righteous and the sinners—are valuable to God, the author of all life.

**Does God approve of war? (Psalm 144:1)**

The Old Testament seems to say yes. The New Testament seems to say the opposite. This apparent contradiction must be understood within its historical context. Old Testament Israel conquered the sinful Canaanites as part of God's judgment. Israel was a theocracy—a nation-state in which God was King. But New Testament followers of Jesus Christ knew only the oppressive rule of the Roman state. Jesus introduced a whole new paradigm concerning violence, resistance and peace in his teachings regarding the kingdom of God. In fact, some early Christians did experience tension between loving one's enemy and serving in the military, while others such as the Roman centurion in Matthew 8:5–13 were encouraged by Jesus for their faith and their witness to those around them. At the end of the second century, soldiers began converting to Christianity, and by the time of Augustine (fourth century), Christians in the military were recognized as an essential component to carrying out warfare in a just manner. In Romans 13:1–7, we read that God gives governments the right to bear the sword—the power of retributive justice to punish evildoers. Any nation has a God-given responsibility to exercise just and appropriate force to protect its citizens from evil. The Bible does not detail how this is to be carried out, but the principles of punishing wrongdoers and protecting the innocent are the basis of our system of law enforcement today, on both a national level (police, FBI, etc.) and an international level (the military). This does not mean that God approves of everything that is done in the name of law enforcement or war (e.g., torture, wars of conquest, use of nuclear weapons). But the basic principles of punishing wrongdoers and protecting the innocent are in keeping with the character of God.

**How do I show love to people who violate God's standards without endorsing their sin? (Proverbs 1:15)**

Nobody likes the stereotypical judgmental "religious" person who condemns others for their sinful ways. Fortunately, the Bible provides advice on how to deal constructively with the faults and sins of other people: Be personal. Jesus had a very realistic view of the damage caused by sin. So if we see someone betraying God, others or their deepest selves, we should deal with it by approaching the person personally (Mt 18:15–20). This means that we should not complain or gossip about the person. Be humble. The Bible instructs us to consider our own lives before judging others. Jesus used a humorous illustration about the person who sees the speck in someone else's eye but fails to see the plank protruding from his or her own eye (Mt 7:3–5). The point is this: Don't project blame and shame on others. We're all sinners. We must be humble enough to admit our own mistakes first. Be gentle. The Bible instructs us to consider our own lives before judging others. Jesus used a humorous illustration about the person who sees the speck in someone else's eye but fails to see the plank protruding from his or her own eye (Mt 7:3–5). The point is this: Don't project blame and shame on others. We're all sinners. We must be humble enough to admit our own mistakes first. Be gentle. The Bible directs us to address people's sins with a gentle attitude (Gal 6:1–2). There is no reason to deal harshly with people for their faults. Be truthful. Spiritually speaking, we all have a lot of growing up to do. Honest people can help us grow by gently but firmly pointing out areas in our lives that could use work. The Bible refers to this process as speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15). It takes courage to do this, but most of us know that this kind of tough love helps us grow. Be hopeful. After we've approached someone personally—with humility, gentleness and truth-filled love—we can leave it in God's hands. We can't force someone to change and grow, but we can hope and pray that Jesus will continue to work in that person's life (Php 1:6).

**How should children be disciplined? (Proverbs 19:18)**

Proverbs begins with the assumption that children are born in need of correction. They enter the world with a bent toward doing wrong. Fathers and mothers are expected to lovingly but firmly train children in the ways of wisdom, responsibility and righteousness. The direction children receive at home sets the course for their entire lives: Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it (22:6). This isn't a blanket promise that godly parents won't have wayward children, but it does underscore the general principle that good parenting can have a life-long impact. Parents who fail in their duty to discipline their children bear a heavy responsibility. The writer sees them as a willing party to (their child's) death (19:18). In ancient Israel the penalty for several crimes was death, so failing to properly control a child could indirectly lead to his death. Parents who ignore their children or fail to give them the discipline they need consign them to a bleak and dismal future. There is disagreement today over disciplinary methods. Proverbs appears to favour the stronger forms of discipline: Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them (13:24). Taken to an extreme, of course, such punishment is abuse, which the Bible never encourages. The other side of the coin is that children who never learn that their actions carry consequences will eventually face even more grief.

**How can parents prepare their children to impact the world? (Proverbs 22:6)**

There is an old saying that ships were meant for the sea, not for the harbour. While the harbour is safe, the ship never fulfils its purpose until it is tested in deep waters. We face a similar dilemma in overseeing the lives of our children. Our natural instinct and primary duty while they are young is to protect them. But just as important, we must prepare them to face the risky, even dangerous, situations that life inevitably presents. Parents can find a healthy balance by working to develop three interrelated qualities in their children that will bear much fruit when their children grow to be adults. First, parents should raise their children to desire wisdom. What parent would not desire for his or her child to follow Solomon's example and ask God for wisdom above wealth and honour (1Ki 3:6–9)? The pursuit of wisdom will help children stay out of harm's way and equip them with the skills needed for effective leadership in any calling. Second, parents need to teach their children how to distinguish between right and wrong. Moral discernment and wisdom complement each other. Solomon, in fact, joined them together in his prayer for wisdom: So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours? (1Ki 3:9). Finally, parents should look for opportunities to vest maturing children with significant responsibilities that impact other people. This is one way to put into practice the stewardship principle found in Matthew 25:23: You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.

**What does the Bible say about sex? (Song of Songs 2:3–7)**

The Bible has a lot to say about sex. In fact, God's creation of sex is recorded at the very beginning of his written Word, and God's first instruction to humankind was to have sex: Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it (Ge 1:28). No one who studies the Bible can say that it is prudish about sexuality. Song of Songs is such a steamy account of sexual love that Jewish boys were forbidden to read it until they were 14 years old. However, as our creator, God knew that people needed committed love to protect them. He knew that outside of a God-ordained marriage, sex can cause many emotional, physical and spiritual problems. The Bible says: Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished (Pr 6:27–29). This instruction isn't just for adultery. In fact, any sexual relationship outside of marriage is outside of God's good plan for us. Sex was meant to be the intimate bond that holds a marriage together, as Jesus noted in Mark 10: For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh (vv. 7–8). Paul said that we are to honour God with our bodies (1Co 6:20). That means sex is essential between a husband and wife (1Co 7:3–5) but prohibited under any other circumstance. All people should flee from sexual immorality (1Co 6:18).



**What does the Bible say about the dangers of pornography? (Ezekiel 23:14–16)**

Because of the time and culture in which the Bible was written—no Internet, printed page or video—pornography isn't directly discussed in the Bible. However, the parable of Israel's unfaithfulness in Ezekiel 23:1–49 provides an interesting commentary on how images can seduce and corrupt. Verse 14 describes a woman—who represents Jerusalem—who saw figures of men drawn on a wall. As soon as she saw them, she lusted after them (v. 16). Not only did these depictions stir up lust, they also led her to seek out men with whom to have sex. That is exactly what pornography does; it arouses within people impure and unhealthy sexual desires and intensifies sexual temptation. Pornographic images—and the idea of instant sexual pleasure—can dominate the way a person thinks about God's gift of sex. Here's the bottom line: pornography takes something beautiful, which is meant to be shared intimately between two married people, and twists it into something selfish and demeaning. Furthermore, there are two other Biblical principles that can be applied to the issue of pornography:

(1) We should fill our minds only with true, noble and pure thoughts (Php 4:8).

(2) No matter what sins we've committed in the past, we're never too dirty to be forgiven and cleansed by God (1Co 6:9–11).

**What is hell like? (Matthew 5:21–30)**

The Bible offers a variety of disturbing pictures of hell. Hell is described as a place of unquenchable fire (Mk 9:43); condemnation (Mt 23:33); darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt 8:11–13); chains and judgment (2Pe 2:4). While some of these images create an apparent conflict (e.g., fire and darkness), together they are a picture of misery. The clearest picture we have of hell comes from Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19–31. In this parable, Jesus warned that the boundaries between heaven and hell are permanently fixed. While Lazarus entered a place of comfort (Lk 16:25), the rich man existed in torment, longing for even a drop of cool water (Lk 16:24). Jesus' description of hell also leads to several observations. People are recognizable there, and it is a place of agony and torment (Lk 16:23). The chasm between heaven and hell prevents escape or movement from hell to heaven (Lk 16:26). And it is not possible for anyone in hell to warn loved ones alive on earth about the reality of hell (Lk 16:31).

**How can I tell if I have too much "stuff"? (Matthew 6:19–20)**

When we have too many material possessions, we often hold on to them too tightly; we overemphasize their importance and purpose in our lives, and this causes us anxiety. A good way to find out if we have a healthy view of material possessions is to ask ourselves, Am I actively seeking first God's kingdom and his righteousness or am I worrying about losing or increasing my stuff? Jesus said, Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear (Mt 6:25). The remedy to our anxiety and acquisitiveness is to seek first (God's) kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to (us) as well (Mt 6:33). So what's needed is the cultivation of a right frame of reference concerning material possessions. What we have (or do not have) should not define who we are (or are not). Furthermore, we should be looking for creative ways to share what we have with others—especially those who cannot repay us in monetary or material ways. Have you ever stopped to wonder why God entrusts us with all this stuff in the first place? It is certainly not because we deserve it more than anybody else. The answer, in large part, goes back to what God said to Abram in Genesis 12:2–3: you've been blessed to be a blessing to others. We should never lose sight of the fact that we've been called to use what God has given us to serve others (Mt 20:25–28; 1Pe 4:10). We should acknowledge the reality that sometimes those with the least give the most materially (giving the shirt off their back) and relationally (giving from the heart), and that is the sacrificial giving the apostle Paul praised so highly in 2 Corinthians 8–9. So the issue is not simply how much we have or don't have; the issue is what we do with what we have. That core issue makes all the difference in the love we develop for stuff. We know we have too much stuff when anxiety or greed, which is idolatry (Col 3:5), keeps us from sharing with others; when we find our contentment in what we buy and own rather than in whom we love; and when we find our identity in what we possess rather than in our relationships. Seek first his kingdom, and everything else will fall into line.

**What does it mean to love my neighbour? (Matthew 22:37–40)**

Henri Nouwen once said that true community is the place where the individual we least like always lives next door. This is certainly a Biblical principle. Jesus taught that our neighbour might be the person least like us—consider the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25–37). We are called to be like the Samaritan rather than the religious leaders who passed by their Jewish countryman who had been beaten, robbed and left for dead along the road. They didn't lift a hand to help him. In contrast, the despised Samaritan did not walk past the Jewish man but cared for him—paying out of his own pocket for the man's needs, not expecting repayment. This Samaritan loved radically, sacrificially and at great risk to himself. He acted decisively; he didn't question what his fellow Samaritans would think or what might happen if the robbers were still nearby. Loving our neighbour involves caring for those in need who cross our path. This applies certainly to friends, but especially to those least like us and to those we like the least. Those who experience eternal life with Jesus must love like Jesus loves. So, just as Jesus loves his neighbour—like the Samaritan loved the Jewish man who was attacked by robbers—we too must love our neighbour, even though they might not like us or be able to pay us back. Jesus loves unconditionally and we should too.

**What are demons, and how do they interact with the world today? (Luke 9:37–43)**

Demons are called deceiving spirits (1Ti 4:1). They are also called impure spirits (Mt 10:1; see Lk 4:33). The origin of demons is not described in the Scriptures, but Jesus' reference to the devil and his angels (Mt 25:41) suggests that demons are angels who fell when Satan rebelled (Rev 12:4). Demons can speak and can possess people and animals (Mk 5:9, 12; Ac 19:15). Deceitful spirits are also capable of appearing as angels of light (2Co 11:14). Yet despite their apparent beauty and power, their influence is ultimately destructive (Mk 5:2–5). Demonic manifestation during the New Testament era often resulted in symptoms similar to those of mental or physical illness (e.g., Mt 9:33; 17:15, 18; Mk 5:15). Demonic influence is also a source of false religion (Dt 32:17; 1Co 10:19–21). The fact that demons are rarely mentioned in the Old Testament has caused some Bible scholars to conclude that the high frequency of demonic activity in the New Testament era was unique and may have been a response to the presence of Jesus. Others believe that demons are just as active today. In either case, Jesus gave his disciples authority over evil spirits (Mk 6:7). This power is rooted in Jesus the Messiah's kingdom authority (Mt 10:1, 7–8), which remains very much in effect today.

**Does God expect me to forgive someone who keeps hurting me? (Luke 17:1–4)**

The entire Christian understanding of forgiving others is based on God's forgiveness of us through Jesus Christ. We are to forgive each other just as in Christ God forgave (us) (Eph 4:32). Peter once asked Jesus how many times he was supposed to forgive someone who continued to sin against him (Mt 18:21). Jesus responded with a chilling statement and a story that teaches us the limitless nature of forgiveness. We should not set limits on our forgiveness, because God has forgiven us a far greater debt (Mt 18:23–35). So does God expect you to forgive someone who keeps hurting you? Yes, because we have been shown such abundant forgiveness. Yes, because we have a new nature—a new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph 4:24). But steps should also be taken in difficult relationships to establish boundaries and to encourage true reconciliation. One person can bring forgiveness to a relationship, but it takes two people to bring reconciliation. You are responsible to forgive others because Christ has forgiven you. However, you cannot bring reconciliation to a relationship if the other person does not want to make peace with you. Consider Paul's counsel in Romans 12:18: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Relationships can only be healed through forgiveness and repentance. Where repentance is not present, reconciliation cannot take place.

**What about those who have never heard about Jesus? (Acts 4:12)**

Jesus was clear about the rules for receiving salvation when he said, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (Jn 14:6). And when speaking about Jesus, the apostle Peter said in this passage, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Further, all people have to answer to God whether or not they have "heard" about him (Heb 9:27). The Bible states that God has clearly revealed himself in creation (Ro 1:19–20) and that he has set eternity in the human heart (Ecc 3:11). This means that people see all around them the evidence of God and sense within themselves the truth that they are meant for more than this world. God is not the problem; humankind is. Because of sin, people reject this knowledge of God and rebel against his will (Ro 1:21–23). It is only because of God's grace (Eph 2:8–9) that he saves people from their own sinful desires (Ro 1:24–32). How God works out his plan is mysterious and complicated. We have our ideas of what it means for Jesus to be "the way," but he is not bound by our understanding. God works to accomplish his goals in ways that we will never see or comprehend. The wideness of God's mercy and the tenacity of his love is beyond our intellectual capacity. Jesus is central in the redemption story. But God rewards those who seek him (Heb 11:6). It is our mission to help those who seek him and make sure that those who have yet to answer God's call hear and understand the gospel (Mt 28:19–20; Ac 1:8). God always acts justly; he never acts unfairly or wrongly (Dt 32:4). We might be surprised at the final roll call of heaven. Fortunately, it is God—not us—who will sort out the details in each person's case.



**What is the value of baptism? (Acts 19:1-7)**

Jesus' final instructions to his disciples were to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Mt 28:19- 20). For centuries, brilliant minds have debated whether baptism is a symbol or a sacrament, whether it is for believers or infants. But clearly, baptism is a crucial step in a Christian's faith journey. The real question is, When precisely does our faith journey begin? Scripture is clear that baptism points to the fact that a person has already begun a relationship with God. However, it is God who initially draws us to himself (Jn 6:44). We don't create our own spiritual sensitivity, and this aspect of our faith journey is poignantly illustrated in the baptism of helpless, dependent infants. The disciples Paul met in Ephesus were adults who had a way to go in learning how to imitate and trust in Jesus the Messiah. They were becoming the kind of people who consistently obey Jesus. Baptism into the name of the Lord Jesus was the key for enabling them to living a Spirit-filled and empowered life. In a world where individualism and privacy are cherished values, baptism publicly and boldly proclaims our allegiance to Jesus. Through baptism, we fly our colours— declaring we are unashamedly committed to following Jesus, and proclaiming our union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Life is hard. Sin is enticing. Our identity is often uncertain. Our faith is sometimes weak. Baptism is a reference point during challenging times that helps us rediscover "true north." We remember our baptism. We remember to whom we belong. We remember that we are part of the body of Jesus Christ. And we also remember that, spiritually speaking, we are like helpless, dependent infants who can't live on their own without the sustaining grace and power of their Father in heaven. Finally, baptism immerses us into the reality of the Trinity (Mt 28:19). The precise meaning of this may elude us, but complete understanding is not a prerequisite to rejoicing. We are no longer on our own. We have fellowship with the Trinity.

**Does God expect me to keep my mind and body pure in today's culture? (1 Corinthians 6:18)**

In his Word, God calls his people to a life of holiness. Peter wrote, As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy" (1Pe 1:14-16). When we read a passage like this, we might think, How can God expect me to live a holy life in a culture that bombards me every day with the very antithesis of holiness? When we're tempted to respond this way, we must keep three things in mind. First, the culture of the Old and New Testament writers was every bit as decadent as ours is today. Sinful human nature hasn't changed, nor has our adversary, the devil. We cannot excuse lowering our standards on the basis of the changing conditions in which we live. Second, the moral standards in the Word of God are no less applicable and binding today than they were when the Old and New Testament writers recorded in written words what God had previously made known to countless generations before through the witness of conscience and creation. God's moral standards are as unalterable as the holy nature of God himself. His moral standards reflect his holy nature, and Peter calls us to mimic God as obedient children (1Pe 1:14). And third, God hasn't left us alone in our fight against sin. He has given us the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit. While no one will achieve sinless perfection on this side of heaven, the Spirit within is a powerful resource to aid us in becoming increasingly conformed in mind and body to the image of the holy God we love and serve.

**How do Christians practice evangelism in a culture that frowns on "proselytizing"? (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)**

Ever since Jesus charged his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19), Christians have understood that it's our privilege and responsibility to share the gospel. The early Christians obeyed this charge in a culture that frowned on proselytizing even more than our own culture does. When Peter and John were threatened and commanded by the Jewish authorities to stop preaching, they responded by saying, We must obey God rather than human beings! (Ac 5:29). Despite the consequences, our commitment today should be no less than theirs was. The charge to proclaim the gospel in a culture that frowns on doing so requires both courage and sensitivity. Paul modelled both of these qualities when he preached to the Athenians at the Areopagus (Ac 17:16-34). In that sermon, he showed remarkable fluency in Greek literature and religion, communicating the unchanging gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that the Athenians could understand and appreciate. At the same time, he didn't shrink from proclaiming the resurrection—a doctrine that flew in the face of their preconceived ideas and philosophical commitments. When sharing the gospel, we, like Paul, must be mindful of our culture, yet never shrink away from those eternal truths that may rub people the wrong way. And we must always season our words with acts of compassion so that unbelievers may see [our] good deeds and glorify [our] Father in heaven (Mt 5:16). Paul's wise counsel to the Colossians sums it up best: Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone (Col 4:5-6).

**What is my purpose in life? And how can I be certain of it? (1 Corinthians 10:31)**

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Mt 6:10). This is the essence of our purpose. We are to honour God and advance his kingdom through who we are and in everything we do. Through our cooperation with God's Spirit who is at work within us, we can grow to the point that what we want aligns with what God wants—our passions and purposes are his passions and purposes; we think, speak, act and relate in a Christlike way. We will never be perfect or without struggle in this life, but we can be inwardly connected to Jesus (Jn 15:1-8). We listen for the Spirit's guidance. We cultivate our gifts. We live our lives pursuing God's kingdom interests (1Co 10:31-11:1). But often this isn't enough for us. We want to know our specific, individual purpose with certainty. We want the mystery solved. We want to find a unique purpose that focuses our energies and convinces us that our life counts. Perhaps our feverish search for the specific is misguided. Maybe our need for certainty reflects our addiction to control and what Eugene Peterson calls "insiders' pride." God wants us to trust him, and sometimes knowing too much leads to trusting too little. Maybe letting go of the pressure to find our purpose—and instead following hard after God each new day—will centre us squarely in the target.

**How can we identify our spiritual gifts? (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)**

Every believer has been blessed with at least one spiritual gift (a God-given ability to be used in building up the body of Christ). See the article What are spiritual gifts? (1Co 12:1-31). But how can we discover what our gifts are? Here are several guidelines that will prove helpful in answering this question:

- Learn: Scripture mentions dozens of spiritual gifts. In order to recognize the gifts in our lives, we should know what they are (Ro 12:6-8; Eph 4:11-12; 1Pe 4:10-11).
- Pray: We should go to God in prayer and ask him what our gifts are. We should remain open. God the Holy Spirit chooses our gifts (1Co 12:11), and he is able and willing to reveal them to us.
- Serve: We should not wait for God to tell us what our gifts are before we begin serving in ministry. As we get more involved, patterns will emerge that will give us a clue as to what our gifts are.
- Ask: We should go to other believers who know us well and ask them what they think our gifts are. It is hard to imagine God giving us gifts that no one else recognizes but us!
- Desire: We should ask ourselves, "What do I desire to do? What do I delight in doing for Christ? What am I passionate about in relation to fellow believers?" God has given us these passions and desires, and they are often another clue as to what our gifts may be.

**Is there value in other religions like Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism? (Galatians 1:9)**

Yes, there is value, especially ethical value, in other religions. But the more significant question is, Is there eternal value in other religions? No. Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism all provide very different answers to questions concerning the nature of God, sin, who Jesus Christ is, what the purpose of life is, the afterlife and the eternal significance of being a good person. We should acknowledge the diversity of religions and the diversity of their answers to such basic questions. The writer of Hebrews tells us that God rewards those who earnestly seek him (Heb 11:6). God wants to be found, and traces of him can be found throughout the world's religions. But much about God's revelation of himself through nature and the world's religions has also been distorted through sin, ignorance, falsehood and superstition (Ro 1:18-32). This is why we all need a more definitive form of revelation. In the Christian faith, the most rudimentary issues concern who Jesus Christ is and whether he actually has the authority to speak on God's behalf. The Gospels record Jesus' teachings and the rest of the New Testament corroborates, clarifies and applies his teachings. While world religions help to express the human soul's longing to know its Creator, all religions must wrestle with the question of truth about Jesus Christ. Was he a charismatic leader, a prophet, a martyr or the way and the truth and the life (Jn 14:6)? The Bible teaches that believing in Jesus and following his way is the only path to finding a personal relationship with God and receiving eternal life. Jesus said, No one comes to the Father except through me (Jn 14:6). And the apostle Peter said, when speaking about Jesus, Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved (Ac 4:12). It is logically impossible for the various religions of the world to all be correct. Everyone can't be right. The common practice of picking and choosing from each of the religions creates a self-made spirituality governed by a god made with our own hands and in our own image. All roads do not lead to God. But all roads can be a way to get started on the quest to find him.

**What is spiritual warfare, and how does it affect me? (Ephesians 6:12)**

Spiritual warfare is the unseen battle of believers against Satan and his army of demons, or fallen spirits. It is not a physical battle, says the apostle Paul, but a spiritual struggle against the dark forces of evil in the world and in the heavenly realms. The battleground for spiritual warfare is in our hearts and minds. The apostle Paul urges us to resist being taken captive by worldly philosophies (Col 2:8). Spiritual battles take place as the enemy attacks our thoughts about the truths of God and our relationship with God (Dt 13:13). We are encouraged to remember that Satan and his forces have already been defeated and disarmed by Christ (Col 2:15). Paul tells believers that they have access to spiritual authority, knowledge and power in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 1:18-21). Believers in Christ, therefore, need not fear God's enemies—spiritual or physical. Satan may still have limited freedom to harass followers of Jesus, but he has no direct authority over them. The armour of God (6:10-17) is a picture of the protection Jesus gives us against spiritual attack. Believers who fill their minds with God's truth and remain alert through prayer will guard their hearts and minds against attack, resulting in a peaceful spirit (Php 4:6-7). Two passages which serve as marching orders for those in God's army are Romans 12:1-21 and James 4:1-12. The best way to avoid being frightened by darkness is to walk in the light (1 Jn 1:5-7).

**What can Christians do to become more like Jesus? (Philippians 3:7-11)**

Changes in behaviour always start with a radically new way of thinking, because what we believe shapes what we do. The same is true of becoming more like Jesus (Ro 12:2). Therefore, in order for us to change our thinking, we must learn about the spiritual treasures that are part of our salvation—things like freedom in Christ, free access to God's rich spiritual resources, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the immeasurable love of God. The Bible says that as followers of God, we have every spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph 1:3). As Christians we become more like Jesus by drawing on these Christ-given riches to enable us to behave like the new creations that we are (2Co 5:17). We determine to be humble, loving, pure, grace-giving people. When we make mistakes and bad decisions, we confess our sins and repent, which keeps our relationship with the Lord strong. When we discover our weaknesses, we draw on God's wisdom and power for help. No one can become more like Jesus without having close relationships with other believers. As the body of Christ, Christians need one another to grow. We need a church in which fellow believers are speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15) and in which the Bible is being preached so we know how to do works of service in Jesus' name (Eph 4:12). In addition, Christians have always found that practicing spiritual disciplines—such as regular Bible reading, prayer, fasting, solitude and giving, among others—provide deep insights into their own souls and open pathways into Christlikeness. Finally, we must reckon with God's discipline (Heb 12:6). As a loving Father, God sometimes invests in our growth by allowing us to experience painful situations that arrest us in our sinfulness, reveal our weaknesses and build into our lives a deeper reliance on Christ and his Word (Heb 12:4-13).

**In what ways can people experience God today? (James 4:8-10)**

In some respects, experiencing God is like experiencing air. We rarely think about air, yet our lives are fully dependent on its unseen presence. It's the same with God: although we may ignore God (Isa 1:2-4; 17:10), deny his existence (Ps 14:1) or even be ignorant of who he is (Ac 17:22-23, 30), we remain as connected to God as a fish is connected to the water in which it thrives. However, people certainly do experience God on many different occasions and in many different ways: seeing the power of creation (Ps 29:1-11); experiencing the warmth of a caring community (Gal 6:2); being the recipient of specific acts of kindness (Eph 4:32); hearing the testimonies of others (Mt 5:13-16); observing God's work in the lives of others (1Th 1:2-10); having dreams or visions (Da 7:1-8:27); reading the words of Scripture (Ps 119:1-176); observing miracles or mighty wonders (Jn 12:20-33); or having direct interaction with the divine presence of God (Ex 33:1-23). Some of these are fairly common experiences, while others happen only occasionally or under special circumstances.

**13**

**Biblical Timeline**

This is an overview of the history of the bible. Some dates are not precisely known and are therefore estimated. Read down the left column first.

**Old Testament**

Date	Description	Bible Verses	Date	Description	Bible Verses
<b>Before Time</b>	In the Beginning was the Word	John 1	<b>979 BC</b>	Preparation of government	1 Chronicles 27
<b>Before 4000 BC</b>	The Creation	Genesis 1	<b>976 BC</b>	Absalom's Conspiracy	2 Samuel 15
<b>Before 4000 BC</b>	The Garden of Eden	Genesis 2	<b>976 BC</b>	David Flees Jerusalem	2 Samuel 15:13
<b>Before 4000 BC</b>	The Fall of Man	Genesis 3	<b>972 BC</b>	David and Ziba, Shimei	2 Samuel 16
<b>Before 3000 BC</b>	Cain kills Abel	Genesis 4	<b>972 BC</b>	Shimei Curses David	2 Samuel 16:5
<b>Before 3000 BC</b>	From Adam to Noah	Genesis 5	<b>972 BC</b>	David's Psalm of Trust for God (2Sa 16)	Psalms 63
<b>Before 2500 BC</b>	Wickedness Provokes God's wrath	Genesis 6	<b>972 BC</b>	Hushai's Warning Saves David	2 Sam 17
<b>Before 2500 BC</b>	The Great Flood	Genesis 7	<b>972 BC</b>	David Psalms of Deliverance (2Sa 17)	Psalms 41, 55
<b>Before 2500 BC</b>	The Flood Subsides	Genesis 8	<b>972 BC</b>	Absalom Slain by Joab	2 Samuel 18
<b>Before 2500 BC</b>	Covenant of the Rainbow	Genesis 9	<b>972 BC</b>	Joab Comforts David	2 Samuel 19
<b>Before 2500 BC</b>	Shem, Ham and Japheth	Genesis 10	<b>972 BC</b>	Sheba Rebels Against David	2 Samuel 20
<b>Before 2100 BC</b>	Job's Suffering and Faith	Job 1 - 42	<b>970 BC</b>	The Gibeonites Avenged	2 Samuel 21
<b>Before 2100 BC</b>	The Tower of Babel	Genesis 11	<b>970 BC</b>	David's Song of Deliverance	2 Samuel 22
<b>2091 BC</b>	God Sends Abram to Egypt	Genesis 12	<b>970 BC</b>	David's Last Song	2 Samuel 23
<b>2090 BC</b>	The Famine in Canaan	Genesis 12:10	<b>970 BC</b>	David's Psalm of Steadfastness (2Sa 23)	Psalms 108
<b>2085 BC</b>	Abram and Lot Part Ways	Genesis 13	<b>970 BC</b>	David Counts the Fighting Men	2 Samuel 24
<b>2085 BC</b>	Abram Promised Many Descendants	Genesis 13:14	<b>970 BC</b>	David's Last Days	1 Chronicles 28, 29, 1 Kings 1, 2
<b>2084 BC</b>	Abram Rescues Lot	Genesis 14	<b>970 BC</b>	David's Psalm of Salvation (1Ki 2)	Psalms 37
<b>2081 BC</b>	God's Covenant with Abram	Genesis 15	<b>967 BC</b>	Psalm for Solomon (2Ch 1)	Psalms 72
<b>2081 BC</b>	Sarah and Hagar	Genesis 16	<b>967 BC</b>	Solomon Asks for Wisdom	2 Chronicles 1, 1 Kings 3
<b>2080 BC</b>	Ishmael Born	Genesis 16:15	<b>967 BC</b>	Psalm of Korah (1Ki 3)	Psalms 45
<b>2067 BC</b>	The Covenant of Circumcision	Genesis 17	<b>967 BC</b>	Solomon's Wisdom	1 Kings 4
<b>2067 BC</b>	God Promises the Birth of Isaac	Genesis 18	<b>967 BC</b>	Solomon's Preparations for the Temple	1 Kings 5
<b>2067 BC</b>	The Destruction of Sodom	Genesis 19	<b>966 BC</b>	The Building of Solomon's Temple	1 Kings 6
<b>2067 BC</b>	Abraham, Sarah and Abimelech	Genesis 20	<b>966 BC</b>	The Building of Solomon's Palace	1 Kings 7
<b>2066 BC</b>	Isaac Born	Genesis 21	<b>966 BC</b>	The Ark Brought to the Temple	1 Kings 8
<b>2064 BC</b>	Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away	Genesis 21:8	<b>966 BC</b>	God's covenant with Solomon	1 Kings 9
<b>2057 BC</b>	The Treaty at Beersheba	Genesis 21:22	<b>966 BC</b>	Solomon Prepares for a Temple and Palace	2 Chronicles 2
<b>2054 BC</b>	The Offering of Isaac	Genesis 22	<b>966 BC</b>	Solomon Builds the Temple in Jerusalem	2 Chronicles 3
<b>2030 BC</b>	Death and Burial of Sarah	Genesis 23	<b>966 BC</b>	Temple Furnishings	2 Chronicles 4
<b>2026 BC</b>	Isaac Marries Rebekah	Genesis 24	<b>959 BC</b>	Ark Brought into the Temple	2 Chronicles 5
<b>2006 BC</b>	Birth of Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25	<b>959 BC</b>	Solomon's Prayer of Temple Dedication	2 Chronicles 6
<b>1991 BC</b>	Death of Abraham	Genesis 25:5	<b>959 BC</b>	God's Glory in the Temple	2 Chronicles 7
<b>1978 BC</b>	Esau sells his birthright	Genesis 25:29	<b>959 BC</b>	Psalms of Solomon (2Ch 7)	Psalms 135, 136
<b>1977 BC</b>	Isaac and Abimelech	Genesis 26	<b>959 BC</b>	Solomon's buildings	2 Chronicles 8
<b>1929 BC</b>	Jacob Gets Isaac's Blessing	Genesis 27	<b>950 BC</b>	Solomon Psalm of Blessing	Psalms 127
<b>1928 BC</b>	Jacob Flees to Laban	Genesis 28	<b>950 BC</b>	The Proverbs of Solomon	Proverbs 1 - 29
<b>1928 BC</b>	Jacob's vision of a ladder	Genesis 28:10	<b>950 BC</b>	The Words of Agur	Proverbs 30
<b>1928 BC</b>	Jacob Serves Laban	Genesis 29	<b>950 BC</b>	King Lemuel's Proverb	Proverbs 31
<b>1921 BC</b>	Jacob Marries Rachel	Genesis 29:28	<b>950 BC</b>	Solomon's Song of Songs	Songs 1 - 8
<b>1921 BC</b>	Jacob and His Sons	Genesis 30	<b>946 BC</b>	Mutual Presents of Solomon and Hiran	1 Kings 9:10
<b>1916 BC</b>	Rachel Bears Joseph	Genesis 30:22	<b>946 BC</b>	The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon	1 Kings 10, 2 Chronicles 9
<b>1908 BC</b>	Jacob Leaves for Canaan	Genesis 31	<b>939 BC</b>	Solomon's Wives and Idolatry	1 Kings 11
<b>1908 BC</b>	Jacob Wrestles with God	Genesis 32	<b>937 BC</b>	Ecclesiastes Words of the Preacher	Ecclesiastes 1 - 12
<b>1906 BC</b>	Jacob Meets Esau	Genesis 33	<b>931 BC</b>	Solomon's Death	1 Kings 11:40
<b>1906 BC</b>	Jacob Settles in Shechem	Genesis 33:18	<b>931 BC</b>	The Kingdom is Divided	1 Kings 12, 13
<b>1906 BC</b>	Shechem Defiles Dinah	Genesis 34	<b>930 BC</b>	Israelites Rebel against Rehoboam	2 Chronicles 10
<b>1906 BC</b>	Jacob Returns to Bethel	Genesis 35	<b>930 BC</b>	Rehoboam's Reign over Judah	2 Chronicles 11
<b>1906 BC</b>	Jacob Named Israel	Genesis 35:10	<b>927 BC</b>	Rehoboam's sin	2 Chronicles 12
<b>1906 BC</b>	Descendants of Esau	Genesis 36	<b>925 BC</b>	Ahijah's Prophecies against Jeroboam	1 Kings 14
<b>1903 BC</b>	Rachel Dies	Genesis 35:18	<b>913 BC</b>	Rehoboam's Wicked Reign	1 Kings 14:21
<b>1898 BC</b>	Joseph's Dreams and Betrayal	Genesis 37	<b>913 BC</b>	Ahijah's wicked reign	1 Kings 15
<b>1898 BC</b>	Joseph Sold into Slavery	Genesis 37:25	<b>913 BC</b>	Civil War against Jeroboam	2 Chronicles 13
<b>1898 BC</b>	Tamar deceives Judah	Genesis 38	<b>913 BC</b>	Asa Destroys Idolatry	2 Chronicles 14
<b>1898 BC</b>	Joseph Prospers Under Potiphar	Genesis 39	<b>909 BC</b>	Jehu's prophecy against Baasha	1 Kings 16
<b>1889 BC</b>	Joseph's Wife Accuses Joseph	Genesis 39:7	<b>895 BC</b>	Asa's Reforms	2 Chronicles 15
<b>1889 BC</b>	Joseph Imprisoned	Genesis 39:20	<b>894 BC</b>	Haman's rebuke	2 Chronicles 16
<b>1887 BC</b>	The Cupbearer and the Baker's Dreams	Genesis 40	<b>886 BC</b>	Elah, Zimri, Omri	1 Kings 16:5
<b>1884 BC</b>	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams	Genesis 41	<b>874 BC</b>	Ahah's wicked reign	1 Kings 16:27
<b>1884 BC</b>	Joseph Put in Charge	Genesis 41:33	<b>869 BC</b>	Jehoshaphat Succeeds Asa	2 Chronicles 17
<b>1884 BC</b>	Seven Years of Plenty Begin	Genesis 41:47	<b>863 BC</b>	Elijah Prays for Drought	1 Kings 17
<b>1875 BC</b>	Famine Begins	Genesis 41:53	<b>863 BC</b>	Elijah Fed by Ravens	1 Kings 17:3
<b>1875 BC</b>	Joseph's Brothers Sent to Egypt	Genesis 42	<b>863 BC</b>	The Widow at Zarephath	1 Kings 17:7
<b>1875 BC</b>	Simeon Detained by Joseph	Genesis 42:24	<b>863 BC</b>	Elijah on Mount Carmel	1 Kings 18
<b>1875 BC</b>	The Return with Benjamin	Genesis 43	<b>858 BC</b>	Elijah Flees Jezebel	1 Kings 19
<b>1875 BC</b>	Benjamin and the Silver Cup	Genesis 44	<b>858 BC</b>	Elisha Called	1 Kings 19:19
<b>1875 BC</b>	Joseph Reveals His Identity	Genesis 45	<b>857 BC</b>	Ben-Hadad Attacks Samaria	1 Kings 20
<b>1875 BC</b>	Joseph Sends for Jacob	Genesis 45:9	<b>857 BC</b>	Ahah Defeats Ben-Hadad	1 Kings 20:14
<b>1875 BC</b>	Jacob and Family to Egypt	Genesis 46	<b>855 BC</b>	Ahah Takes Naboth's Vineyard	1 Kings 21
<b>1875 BC</b>	Jacob to Goshen	Genesis 47	<b>855 BC</b>	Israel and Judah against Syria	1 Kings 22
<b>1859 BC</b>	Jacob's illness	Genesis 48	<b>853 BC</b>	The Vision of Obadiah	Obadiah 1
<b>1859 BC</b>	Jacob's Blessing and Death	Genesis 49	<b>853 BC</b>	Jehoshaphat Allies with Ahab	2 Chronicles 18
<b>1859 BC</b>	The Burial of Jacob	Genesis 50	<b>853 BC</b>	Jehosaphat's deeds	2 Chronicles 19
<b>1806 BC</b>	The Death of Joseph	Exodus 50:26	<b>853 BC</b>	War with Ammon and Moab	2 Chronicles 20
<b>1800 BC</b>	Jacob's Family Stays in Egypt	Exodus 1	<b>852 BC</b>	Jehoram's Wicked Reign in Judah	2 Chronicles 21
<b>1700 BC</b>	Israelites Multiply in Egypt	Exodus 1:6	<b>852 BC</b>	Moab Rebels	2 Kings 1
<b>1600 BC</b>	Israelites Oppressed by New King	Exodus 1:8	<b>851 BC</b>	Elijah Taken up to Heaven	2 Kings 2
<b>1539 BC</b>	Pharaoh's Order to Kill Firstborn	Exodus 1:22	<b>851 BC</b>	Elisha Succeeds Elijah	2 Kings 2:12
<b>1525 BC</b>	The Birth and Adoption of Moses	Exodus 2	<b>850 BC</b>	Jehoram Meets Moab Rebellion	2 Kings 3
<b>1486 BC</b>	Moses Flees into Midian	Exodus 2:11	<b>849 BC</b>	The Widow's Oil	2 Kings 4
<b>1446 BC</b>	Israelites Groom in Slavery	Exodus 2:23	<b>849 BC</b>	Elisha Rescues The Shunammite boy	2 Kings 4:8
<b>1446 BC</b>	Moses Sent to Deliver Israel	Exodus 3 - 6	<b>849 BC</b>	The Healing of Naaman	2 Kings 5
<b>1446 BC</b>	The Ten Plagues on Egypt	Exodus 7 - 12	<b>848 BC</b>	Elisha Floats an Ahead	2 Kings 6
<b>1446 BC</b>	The Exodus Begins	Exodus 13 - 18	<b>848 BC</b>	Elisha Promises Plenty in Samaria	2 Kings 7
<b>1446 BC</b>	The Israelites At Mount Sinai	Exodus 19	<b>847 BC</b>	The Shunammite's Land	2 Kings 8
<b>1446 BC</b>	Moses Receives the Commandments	Exodus 20	<b>841 BC</b>	Jehu Reigns in Israel	2 Kings 9
<b>1446 BC</b>	Moses Receives the Law	Exodus 21 - 24	<b>841 BC</b>	Jehu Kills Joram	2 Kings 9:11
<b>1446 BC</b>	Preparations for the Tabernacle	Exodus 25 - 31	<b>841 BC</b>	Ahah's Family Killed	2 Kings 10
<b>1446 BC</b>	The Golden Calf and Moses' Anger	Exodus 32	<b>841 BC</b>	Baal Worshipers Killed	2 Kings 10:18
<b>1446 BC</b>	The Journey Resumes	Exodus 33 - 39	<b>841 BC</b>	Joash escapes Athaliah	2 Kings 11
<b>1445 BC</b>	The Tabernacle is Erected and Filled	Exodus 40	<b>841 BC</b>	Ahaziah Succeeds Jehoram in Judah	2 Chronicles 22
<b>1445 BC</b>	Laws for Sacrifices and Offerings	Leviticus 1 - 7	<b>841 BC</b>	Jehoiada Makes Joash King	2 Chronicles 23
<b>1445 BC</b>	Aaron and His Sons Consecrated	Leviticus 8, 9	<b>835 BC</b>	Joash Reigns Well	2 Chronicles 24, 2 Kings 12
<b>1445 BC</b>	The Sin of Nadab and Abihu	Leviticus 10	<b>835 BC</b>	The Word of the LORD to Joel	Joel 1 - 3



979 BC	Preparation for building the Temple	1 Chronicles 22	444 BC	Israelites Seal the Covenant	Nehemiah 10
979 BC	Preparation of Priesthood	1 Chronicles 23	444 BC	People Settle in Jerusalem	Nehemiah 11, 12
979 BC	Divisions of Levites	1 Chronicles 24	432 BC	Nehemiah Restores Laws	Nehemiah 13
979 BC	Preparation of sanctuary singers	1 Chronicles 25	430 BC	The Word of the LORD by Malachi	Malachi 1-4
979 BC	Preparation of gatekeepers, treasurers	1 Chronicles 26			
New Testament					
6 BC	Birth of John the Baptist	Luke 1, John 1:6	30 AD	Apostles Preach and Heal	Acts 5:11
6 BC	Augustus Taxes the Roman Empire	Luke 2	31 AD	Stephen's Speech, Stoning and Death	Acts 6, 7
5 BC	Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1, Mark 1, Luke 2:6, John 1:14	31 AD	Saul Persecutes the Church	Acts 8
5 BC	Visit of the Magi	Matthew 2	31 AD	Philip in Samaria	Acts 8:3
5 BC	Escape to Egypt	Matthew 2:13	31 AD	Simon the Sorcerer	Acts 8:9
4 BC	Slougher of Infants	Matthew 2:16	31 AD	Philip and the Ethiopian	Acts 8:26
4 BC	Return to Nazareth	Matthew 2:23	34 AD	Saul's Conversion	Acts 9
8 AD	The Boy Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2:41	37 AD	Peter Preaches to the Gentiles	Acts 10, 11
26 AD	John the Baptist Prepares the Way	Matthew 3, Mark 1:4, Luke 3, John 1:15	42 AD	Barnabas Sent to Antioch	Acts 11:22
26 AD	The Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3:13, Mark 1:9, Luke 3:21	42 AD	Peter Led from Prison by the Angel	Acts 12
27 AD	Temptation of Jesus	Matthew 4, Mark 1:12, Luke 4	44 AD	Herod Agrippa Dies	Acts 12:20
27 AD	Jesus Calls his First Disciples	Matthew 4:18, Mark 1:16, Luke 5	45 AD	James Writes his Letter	James 1 - 5
27 AD	Wedding at Cana	John 2	48 AD	Paul's First Missionary Journey	Acts 13
27 AD	Jesus Teaches Nicodemus	John 3	48 AD	Paul preaches in Pisidian Antioch	Acts 13:14
27 AD	Jesus Testifies to the Samaritan Woman	John 4	48 AD	Paul and Barnabas in Iconium	Acts 14
27 AD	Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5 - 7	48 AD	Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe	Acts 14:8
28 AD	Instructions on Prayer	Luke 11	48 AD	Paul and Barnabas Return to Syrian Antioch	Acts 14:21
28 AD	Jesus Ministers in Galilee	Matthew 8, Mark 2, Luke 4:14	48 AD	Return to Syrian Antioch	Acts 14:24
28 AD	The Pool of Bethesda	John 5	48 AD	The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15
28 AD	Jesus Lord of the Sabbath	Matthew 12, Mark 3, Luke 6	49 AD	Paul's Second Missionary Journey	Acts 15:36
28 AD	Jesus Answers John's Disciples	Matthew 11, Luke 7	49 AD	Paul in Philippi	Acts 16
28 AD	Jesus Speaks Many Parables	Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8	49 AD	Paul in Thessalonica, Berea, Athens	Acts 17
28 AD	Jesus Heals a Demoniac	Matthew 8:28, Mark 5, Luke 8:26	51 AD	Paul in Corinth	Acts 18
28 AD	Jesus Heals a Paralytic	Matthew 9	51 AD	Paul Writes to the Thessalonians	1 Thess. 1 - 5
29 AD	Jesus Sends out His Twelve Apostles	Matthew 10, Mark 6	52 AD	Paul Writes again to the Thessalonians	2 Thess. 1 - 3
29 AD	John the Baptist Beheaded	Matthew 14, Mark 6:14	54 AD	Paul in Ephesus	Acts 19
29 AD	Jesus Feeds the 5,000	Matthew 14:15, Mark 6:30, Luke 9,	54 AD	Paul Writes to the Corinthians	1 Corinthians 1 - 16
29 AD	Teachings on Clean and Unclean	Matthew 15, Mark 7	54 AD	Paul Writes to the Galatians	Galatians 1 - 6
29 AD	Peter's Confession of Christ	Matthew 16, Mark 8, Luke 9:18	57 AD	Paul in Macedonia and Greece	Acts 20
29 AD	The Transfiguration	Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9:28	57 AD	Paul Writes to the Romans	Romans 1 - 16
29 AD	Greatest and Least in the Kingdom	Matthew 18	57 AD	Paul Writes again to the Corinthians	2 Corinthians 1 - 13
29 AD	Jesus Sends out the Seventy-two	Luke 10	59 AD	Paul Returns to Jerusalem	Acts 21 - 23
29 AD	Jesus Teaches at the Feast of Tabernacles	John 7	60 AD	Paul imprisoned in Caesarea	Acts 24
29 AD	The Woman Caught in Adultery	John 8	62 AD	Paul Before Festus	Acts 25
29 AD	Jesus Affirms He is the Son of God	John 9	62 AD	Paul Before Agrippa	Acts 26
29 AD	The Shepherd and His Flock	John 10	62 AD	Paul Sails for Rome	Acts 27
30 AD	Jesus Speaks More Parables	Luke 12 - 16	62 AD	The Shipwreck	Acts 27:13
30 AD	Jesus Cleanses the Ten Lepers	Luke 17	62 AD	Paul Ashore at Malta	Acts 28
30 AD	Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11	62 AD	Paul Preaches at Rome	Acts 28:11
30 AD	Final Journey to Jerusalem	Matthew 19, Mark 10, Luke 18	62 AD	Paul Writes to the Ephesians	Ephesians 1 - 6
30 AD	The Triumphal Entry	Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12	62 AD	Paul Writes to the Philippians	Philippians 1 - 4
30 AD	Closing Ministry in Jerusalem	Matthew 22-25, Mark 12, 13, Luke 20,	62 AD	Paul Writes to the Colossians	Colossians 1 - 4
30 AD	Thursday Before Passover	Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13	62 AD	Paul Writes to Philemon	Philemon 1
30 AD	Jesus Comforts His Disciples	John 14	63 AD	Paul Writes to Timothy	1 Timothy 1 - 6
30 AD	Jesus the True Vine	John 15	64 AD	Peter Writes his First Letter	1 Peter 1 - 5
30 AD	Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit	John 16	66 AD	Paul Writes to Titus	Titus 1 - 3
30 AD	Jesus' Intercessory prayers	John 17	67 AD	Paul Writes Again to Timothy	2 Timothy 1 - 4
30 AD	Jesus' Betrayal, Trial, Crucifixion	Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John	67 AD	Peter Writes his Second Letter	2 Peter 1 - 3
30 AD	Jesus' Resurrection	Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John	68 AD	Letter to the Hebrews	Hebrews 1 - 13
30 AD	The Ascension	Acts 1	68 AD	Jude Writes his Letter	Jude 1
30 AD	Matthias Chosen by Lot	Acts 1:12	70 AD	The Temple Destruction	
30 AD	The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost	Acts 2	90 AD	John Writes his First Letter	1 John 1 - 5
30 AD	Peter Heals and Preaches	Acts 3	92 AD	John Writes his Second Letter	2 John 1
30 AD	Peter and John Arrested and Released;	Acts 4	94 AD	John Writes his Third Letter	3 John 1
30 AD	Believers Share All	Acts 4:32	95 AD	John's Revelation on Patmos	Revelation 1 - 22
30 AD	Deaths of Ananias and Sapphira	Acts 5			
The Gap					
360	Mongols invade Europe		1914	World War I Starts	
1095	First Crusades		1918	World War I Ends	
1348	The Black Death		1933	Start of the Holocaust	
1415	Battle of Agincourt		1939	World War II Starts	
1455	War of the Roses		1945	World War II Ends, End of the Holocaust	
1509	Reign of Henry VIII		1947	The Cold War Starts	
1517	Lutheranism / Protestantism Founded		1948	Israel becomes a nation, War of Israel's Independence	
1534	Anglican Communion Founded		1956	Sinai War	
1534	Calvinism Founded		1967	Six Day War, Start of the War of Attrition	
1560	Presbyterianism Founded		1973	Yom Kippur War	
1605	Baptist Churches Founded		1982	First Lebanon War	
1665	The Great Plague		1989	Berlin Wall Comes Down	
1739	Methodism Founded		1991	The Cold War Ends	
1830	Latter-day Saints Founded		2006	Second Lebanon War	
1840	Seventh Day Adventists Founded		2008	Gaza War	
1865	Salvation Army Founded		2014	Operation Protective Edge	
1870	Jehovah's Witnesses Founded		2020	Jews flock back to Israel due to COVID-19	
1879	Christian Science Founded		20xx?	The Rapture	
1900	Pentecostalism Founded				
The Rapture On					
<b>Future Events</b>	The bible contains many references to the future prophecies, many of which have already been fulfilled. These can be found in the MASS DESTRUCTION > The Rapture section.				

## 14

## Further Reading

**Further Reading**  
 If you're reading this Christianity section on TPE and you're interested in reading the full guide, head to [www.fluidicice.com/TRSG](http://www.fluidicice.com/TRSG) for "The Rapture Survival Guide" which is my much more comprehensive guide on the end times. If you're reading TRSG and want a comprehensive end times survival guide, see [www.fluidicice.com/TPE](http://www.fluidicice.com/TPE).



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