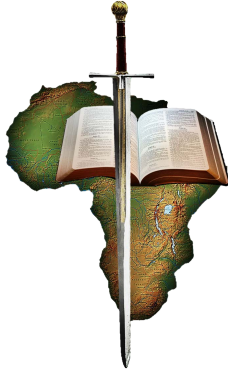


# **ANSWERING SKEPTICS**

**Peter Hammond**



**Frontline Fellowship  
Cape Town**



# ANSWERING SKEPTICS

Peter Hammond

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## **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to

***Erin Georgiou***

the Editor of JOY! Magazine and a good friend.

Thank you for inspiring these series of articles  
to answer the most frequently asked questions of skeptics.  
May God continue to multiply the tremendous impact of your  
dynamic media ministries for the strengthening and extending  
of God's Kingdom throughout South Africa and Namibia  
and to the ends of the earth.

# Answering Skeptics

by Peter Hammond

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# FOREWORD

by Rev. Erlo Stegen

Answering Skeptics may become another classic by Peter Hammond. The content of Answering Skeptics seems bound to become a "*must read*" for Christians.

Skeptics, atheists, secular humanists, or whatever name is given to godless philosophies, are on the march with a new militancy.

Just in this year the following was reported by the secular press: At the World Humanist Congress in Oslo in August, delegates from India, Uganda, Nigeria, Argentina and Brazil — all countries where belief in a supreme deity or deities has a strong hold — reported mounting interest in their philosophy. Like their counterparts in Europe and North America, they argue that morality is based in human nature and does not need a father-figure god to back it up with punishment in an afterlife, in which they do not believe.

"There are more godless groups in the world than ever before," Sonja Eggerickx, a Belgian schools inspector who is president of the International Humanist and Ethical Union, told the Congress.

US delegates, including a serving army major who has just established an organisation for atheists in the military, spoke of a surge of rejection of religion in all its forms among young Americans — a point some recent opinion surveys back up.

In Manchester in May, British Humanists — one of the world's oldest such groupings — were told of a sharp rise in humanist birth, marriage and death ceremonies, and strong growth in their association's four-year-old student wing.

In Ireland, a country where the influence of the Catholic Church was for decades dominant in all areas of life, including politics and government

## Answering Skeptics

decision-making, an optimistic national humanist association met in Carlingford in late August.

In Nigeria, where the openly non-religious face Christian preacher-inspired public opprobrium as "immoral reprobates" or "Satanists" and in the Islamic north are treated as apostates, the humanist movement held its Congress in Abuja in September.

How is that for a taste of militant skepticism? Peter Hammond's book is designed to meet these skeptics head-on.

May the Lord's blessing be upon this book. I pray that it would inspire Christians to trust more in the Book of books, the Bible. And above all, may our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified.

**Rev. Erlo Stegen**

Director of KwaSizabantu Mission



# INTRODUCTION

by **Ray Comfort**

God bless Peter Hammond for his deep commitment to the cause of the Great Commission. It was the father of science, Sir Isaac Newton, who once said, “Opposition to godliness is atheism in profession and idolatry in practice. Atheism is so senseless and odious to mankind that it never had many professors.”

If he was alive today, he may like to revise his last six words. We live in an age of skepticism, where there is a revival of the foolishness of atheism. But he certainly put his finger on the cause of atheism. Normally those guilty of the sin of idolatry pick and choose the attractive characteristics of the nature of God—“My God is a God of love and mercy. He would never create hell.” And they are right. He would never create Hell because he couldn’t. He doesn’t exist. He’s a figment of their over active imagination—the place of imagery. The nature of the Creator of the Universe, as revealed in Holy Scripture, is not only love and mercy, but also justice and truth, holiness and righteousness.

The atheist, however, reverses idolatry and creates a god from the characteristics he finds unattractive—“The God of the Bible is a judgmental, homophobic, unloving, wrath-filled, merciless tyrant. If that’s your ‘God of love,’ I want nothing to do with him!” But the god he doesn’t believe in doesn’t exist! He is also a figment of the human imagination. The atheist is in truth the offspring of Adam, still imitating his first forefather, by trying to hide from God. And the best hiding place he can find is in atheism.

But not all skeptics are hardened atheists. Some are prepared to think and listen. It is to these ears that Peter Hammond writes - and to the faithful Christian who wants to reach them.

**Ray Comfort**

Way of the Master

Answering Skeptics



# PREFACE

## ALWAYS READY TO DEFEND THE FAITH

*“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”* 1 Peter 3:15

### **Be Prepared**

The motto of the Scouts is: **“Be prepared.”** Similarly, we as Christians must be prepared to answer those who would ask us to explain **what** we believe, and **why** we believe.

We are exhorted to: *“... contend earnestly for the Faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”* Jude 3

The apostle Paul declared that he had been appointed: *“for the defense of the Gospel.”*

*“But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And the servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”*

2 Timothy 2:24-26

### **Be Not Deceived**

In the book of Revelation we are told that an angel will be sent to cast satan into a bottomless pit where he will be shut up and sealed *“so that he should deceive the nations no more...”* Revelation 20:3

We are constantly warned throughout Scripture not to be deceived. The Scriptures make clear that satan is deceiving the nations. We are commanded to study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15). To contend for the Faith, and to patiently teach and correct those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

### **The Battle for the Mind**

We are involved in a world war of worldviews. The battle for the mind is at the heart of this war. It is a battle for truth. We need to know God's Word and God's work so that we can give carefully reasoned answers to those who are challenging the Christian Faith. Some of them are honest skeptics who are genuinely looking for answers. We need to patiently answer them, remembering that we sometimes took many years to come to the convictions that we now hold.

## Chapter 1

# WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD?

Some people see Christianity as some kind of intellectual suicide. A blind leap of faith.

However, Christianity is a reasonable Faith. It is based on incontrovertible, historical facts. Christianity is not a blind leap into the dark. It is an intelligent step into the light. There is nothing virtuous about gullibility. We are not proclaiming faith in faith. It is all too possible to be sincerely wrong. Our faith needs to be in the facts that God has revealed in Scripture and in Creation.

Any skeptical enquirer is to be commended for wanting to examine the foundations of our faith. And the Bible forms the solid foundation for our Faith. The Bible stands as the greatest Book ever written. It is unique in its circulation. The first book to ever be printed was the Bible. The Bible has been read by more people, and printed more times, than any other book in history. No other book has been translated into so many languages.

### **The Forbidden Book**

It is unique in its survival. No other book has been so viciously attacked throughout history as the Bible. In AD300 the Roman emperor Diocletian ordered that every Bible be sought out and burned. He was determined to destroy Christianity by destroying the Scriptures it was founded on. Anyone caught with a Bible would be executed.

### **War Against God**

Throughout history other tyrants have waged a war against God, seeking to annihilate the Christian Church. Just in the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone well over 60 million Christians were killed by atheistic regimes. Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union closed down or

destroyed over 48,000 churches and imprisoned more than fifty million Russian Christians. Mao Tse Tung's Marxist regime in Red China also sought to annihilate the Christian Church. Enver Hoxa declared Albania the first truly atheistic country in the world after closing every church and killing every minister in the country. Every Bible was destroyed and people were imprisoned in labour camps for merely mentioning the Name of God. Samora Machel similarly attempted to turn Mozambique into the first truly atheistic country in Africa. Yet, despite the most extraordinary campaigns to destroy Bibles, the Bible has survived to continue to be the world's Number One best selling book of all time.

### **Unique**

Despite the intensive campaigns over many centuries to destroy the Bible, there are still an incredible 24,000 manuscripts of the New Testament dating back to the time of the early church. By way of comparison there are only 7 manuscripts of Plato's *Tetralogies*, 49 manuscripts of Aristotle's *Ode to Poetics*, 8 copies of the Historian Herodotus writings. By these standards of antiquity, the Bible is in a class of its own. No other ancient writing has as many manuscripts, and certainly no other book has been so scrutinised and subjected to such critical analysis, and yet survived the most withering campaigns of criticism.

### **Impressive Credentials**

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in cliff top caves at Qumran, in 1949, provided manuscripts dating from the 3rd Century BC to the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD. It included a complete book of Isaiah and thousands of fragments representing almost every other Old Testament book of the Bible. Students were astounded to find that the manuscripts and translations which we have available to us today were accurate and reliable in every way. The Bible, on any level you might wish to examine it, is the most impressively credentialed work of ancient literature.

What Proof do you have that the Bible is the Word of God?

Now, you may say, that's all very well, but how can I know that the Bible is the Word of God?

### **A Critical Test**

The Law of God sets up a litmus test for prophecy: *“When a prophet speaks in the Name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen, or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”*

Deuteronomy 18:22

### **Prophecy**

It is a fact that, of the twenty six books of the world, that either claim to be, or have been proclaimed to be, Scripture, the issue of specific prophecy is glaringly absent. You do not find specific prophecies concerning events, far in the future, in the writings of Buddha, Lao-Tsu, Confucius, or Muhammad. However, the Bible is absolutely unique in that, in the Old Testament alone, there are more than two thousand specific prophecies that have already been fulfilled. There has never been anything else in all of history to compare with the Bible's prophecies.

You may say, weren't they just lucky guesses, or vague generalities that could be interpreted in any way? Well, you be the judge. Consider these:

### **Egypt**

At the time when Egypt was the greatest nation in all the world, the king of nations, the richest country on earth, Ezekiel prophesied: *“There shall no longer be princes from the land of Egypt”* (Ezekiel 30:13).

It is a fact of history that, until a few decades ago when the monarchy was overthrown, Egypt was always ruled by a prince, but during the 2,500 years since this prophecy was given, the princes of Egypt were

never Egyptian. Their kings and queens have been Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs and Ottoman Turks. Egypt has even been ruled by the English. But since the prophecy, given through Ezekiel no Egyptian monarch has ruled over Egypt. When Egypt was the world's superpower, no one would have predicted that.

## **Babylon**

Iraq has been much in the news lately, so let us consider the Biblical prophecies concerning Babylon. The Bible contains over 100 specific prophecies concerning Babylon's fate.

Babylon was not only the greatest empire in ancient times, its capital city was the greatest city in the world. The historian Herodotus recorded that the city consisted of 196 square miles of the most beautiful architecture, hanging gardens, palaces and temples. The walls were 15 miles long and 200 feet high. The towers were 300 feet high. The walls were 187 feet thick at the base. Every authority at the time would agree that the city of Babylon was impregnable. Yet the Word of God came that: *“The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken ...it shall be desolate forever.”* Jeremiah 51:58-62

Now, the Great Wall of China is not nearly as wide, nor as strong, as the walls of Babylon were, and although it is older it still stands today. The walls of Jerusalem still stand. But today there is no doubt that the walls of Babylon have been destroyed.

Determined to make this the capital of his worldwide empire, Alexander the Great decided that he would rebuild Babylon. Alexander issued 600,000 rations to his soldiers and ordered the rebuilding of the city of Babylon. Yet, Alexander died at the age of 32 and his enterprise of rebuilding Babylon was abandoned.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD, Julian the Apostate, who attempted to restore paganism to Rome was engaged in a war with the Persians. To prevent



What Proof do you have that the Bible is the Word of God?

the Persians re-establishing the defenses of Babylon, Julian ordered the remnants of the wall of Babylon completely broken down. In this surprising way, one of Scriptures greatest antagonists of all time became the agent to fulfilling one of the clearest and most repeated prophecies in the Old Testament.

*“Because of the wrath of the Lord it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate ...it shall be no more inhabited forever.”*

Jeremiah 50:13, 39

Today the ruins of Babylon are a wilderness inhabited only by scorpions and snakes. Although the fertility of the lands around Babylon was legendary, today it is a barren desert.

## **Tyre**

The city of Tyre was to the sea what Babylon was to the land. Tyre was the greatest port city in the ancient world. Yet, at the height of its power, God declared that this city would be destroyed, that its towers would be broken down, and that its stones and timber, and even its dust, would be laid in the midst of the water and it would become like the top of a rock, a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea (Ezekiel 26:4-14).

This very strange prophecy began to be fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon marched his army to the walls of Tyre and for 13 years besieged the city. When finally the walls of the city crumbled before the persistence of the Babylonians they found that many of the inhabitants had moved to an island half a mile out into the Mediterranean. There they built an even more impregnable city.

For hundreds of years one might have said that the prophecy given through Ezekiel was not completely fulfilled. Then Alexander the Great came, defeated the Persians and demanded the surrender of the port cities of the Eastern Mediterranean. Tyre alone refused to open its gates

to him, so Alexander then conceived the boldest and most daring plan in siege history. He ordered a causeway built across half a mile of the Mediterranean Sea to the island of the new Tyre. All the walls of Tyre were torn down, the timber, the stones, the rubble and the logs and they were cast into the sea. They scraped the very dust of the city itself into the sea to make this highway to destroy the new island city of Tyre. In this way the prophecy in Ezekiel 26 was completely fulfilled.

### **Sidon**

The prophecy against Sidon (Ezekiel 28:21-23) was that the inhabitants would be decimated, but the city would continue. History records that the city of Sidon was attacked, betrayed by its own king, and 40,000 of its inhabitants were killed. But the city of Sidon continues.

### **Samaria**

The Scripture records a prophecy that Samaria, the capital of the Northern kingdom of Israel, would be destroyed, it would be turned into a vineyard and its foundations would be uncovered (Micah 1:5-6). In fact the walls of Samaria were cast down and today vineyards grow where once stood the capital of the Northern kingdom. Archeologists have excavated to expose the foundations of the city.

### **Jerusalem**

There were numerous other prophecies, that Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom of Judah would be destroyed, its inhabitants carried away and its wall broken down (Jeremiah 24:9; 29:21; 35:17). There were further prophecies that the city and the walls would be rebuilt and the people would be brought back (Isaiah 4:3-6). History records that all of this indeed happened, as prophesied.

### **Petra**

When Petra was one of the great cities of the ancient world, and Edom was a powerful nation, the Word of God came to Edom: *“I am against thee, and I will stretch mine hand against you and I will make thee most*

What Proof do you have that the Bible is the Word of God?

*desolate. I will lay thy cities waste, and thou shalt be desolate, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord ...I will make thee a perpetual desolation, and thy cities shall not return; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.”*

Ezekiel 35:3-4,9

To visit the desolate land that once was Edom, and the deserted ruins of Petra today it is hard to imagine the power and prestige that these places once had when the prophecy was given.

### **Incomparable**

Those people who say that the Bible was just written by men are simply expressing their own ignorance on the subject. There is nothing comparable to the Bible in all the literature of the world. The power revealed through the Scriptures is none other than the power of God.

*“Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done.”*

Isaiah 46:9-10

Answering Skeptics



**The builders of the Tower of Babel were confused and scattered.**

## Chapter 2

### HOW CAN A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL?

The question of why there is evil in the world was never discussed by the ancient philosophers of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece or Rome. They were polytheists who had a pantheon of gods. Evil was the result of conflicts between the gods. For example, the historical account of the war on Troy was reported by the Greeks to be the result of jealousy and rivalry between three goddesses.

However, with the understanding of a Holy and loving God, which was a Hebrew concept revealed through the prophets of Israel, the question of how there could be evil in the world began to be discussed. The book of Job is the oldest Theodicy that we know of. A Theodicy is a defence of the justice of God in the light of evil in the world. How can evil and suffering exist when God is all powerful and all good?

#### **Sin and Suffering**

The friends of Job had a legalistic explanation that the reason Job was suffering so terribly was because he must be guilty of terrible sin. God severely rebuked these false counsellors and vindicated Job as a blameless man targeted by satan.

When the disciples saw a man who was blind from birth, they asked Jesus: ***“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*** ***Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.”*** John 9:1-3

#### **The Fall**

Suffering and evil is a result of the Fall. God made a good and perfect world. Before Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and give in to the temptation of satan, the world was without pain, suffering and death. Evil came into the world as a result of mankind’s rebellion against the Creator.

All of Creation continues to suffer as a result of the sinfulness of human beings. Pain, disease, sorrow and death are the terrible consequences of human wickedness.

### **False Religions**

We can also say that false religions cause most of the suffering in the world today:

**Animism**, witchcraft, or voodooism, has produced terrified, superstitious followers who have engaged in ritual killings, cannibalism and cruelty. Witchdoctors have routinely blamed individuals for natural disasters such as a bolt of lightning striking a hut, or a death by disease. With the drums playing and the witchdoctor swaying, in a trance, he will identify some poor innocent soul as responsible for any given event. That person would then be forced to jump off a high cliff, drink poison, be fed to crocodiles, or clubbed to death. In many parts of Africa young girls have been forced to have their front teeth sawn off by the witchdoctor as part of their “*beautification*” ceremonies. In one area that I know of the most beautiful girl in the district would be sacrificed to the crocodile god! Poor people have frequently sacrificed their last chicken to ancestral spirits, instead of providing nourishment to their starving children. There is no doubt that animism causes untold suffering.

**Hinduism** has produced idolatrous followers who have engaged in infanticide, widow burning and the burning of lepers. Missionary William Carey documented how widows as young as eleven years old were burned alive on the funeral pyre of their husband. On one occasion over thirty widows of one man were burned alive at the cremation of their deceased husband. Lepers would be burned in order to ensure “*a better reincarnation!*” Many mothers sacrificed their children by throwing them into the Mother Ganges River to be eaten by crocodiles.

## How Can a Good God Allow Evil?

Because of Hinduism's belief in reincarnation, rats may not be killed. It would take a train five thousand kilometres long to haul the grain eaten by Indian rats in single year. And Hindu temples contain vast fortunes of gold, rubies, sapphires and other precious stones in their statues, which are worshipped as idols. It is actually Hinduism's reincarnation beliefs, protected rats, idols made of gold and jewels, wasted resources and superstitions that are causing much of the poverty and starvation in that country.

**Islam** has produced callous males who abuse females, engage in polygamy, slavery, slave raids, kidnapping, terrorism and suicide bombing.

**Communism** has produced commissars and comrades who have slaughtered tens of millions of people in the gulags and killing fields, in the name of freedom. Marxists have oppressed and impoverished millions more under their dictatorships, in the name of liberation.

**Socialism** has impoverished countless countries and eroded economies, in the name of uplifting the poor.

**Secular humanist education** is producing increasingly selfish, shallow, stupid and superficial socialists.

### **Ideas and Actions Have Consequences**

All suffering ultimately is a result of mankind's sin and rebellion against Almighty God. Suffering is intrinsically related to the Fall. There was no suffering prior to sin. Suffering in this world is part of the complex of God's judgment on the world. Everything has consequences.

**Sexual sin** often leads to sexually transmitted diseases, herpes, gonorrhea, AIDS, etc. **Gambling** often leads to poverty and bankruptcy. **Adultery** often leads to divorce. **Gossip** separates friends.

Our **selfishness** hurts others. **Lies** lead to bondage. **Selfishness, cowardice, pride, greed, envy and hate** cause untold suffering and pain. **Passivity** and **neutrality** causes even more suffering. Inactivity and a heartless refusal to get involved compounds the problem. *“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.”*

### **But Why do the Innocent Suffer?**

We all have personally seen many examples of this principle of what a man sows that shall he reap. However, we also know many cases of people suffering as a result of no fault of their own. So, many people ask: **Why do bad things happen to good people?**

Many are innocent victims of other people’s unrighteous behaviour. Yet the Christian, confident in the Sovereignty of God, can declare: *“**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those are the called according to His purpose.**”* Romans 8:28

### **What You Meant for Evil God Used for Good**

In the book of Genesis we read of the treachery of Joseph’s brothers selling him to slave traders. For twelve years Joseph suffered unjustly as a slave and as a prisoner in Egypt. Yet God raised him to being the Governor of Egypt to save the lives of millions from starvation. Later Joseph could declare to his brothers: *“**But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.**”* Genesis 50:20

### **No One is Good Except God Alone**

Of course, we could point out that no one is really good, not in the light of a Holy God as revealed in His Law. *“As it is written: **There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none that understands; there is none that seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. ...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**”* Romans 3:10-23



Instead of asking why do bad things happen to good people we should rather ask: **why do so many good things happen to bad people?** We generally receive much better than we deserve. God is most patient and gracious.

### **Why Did Jesus Suffer?**

Another question which we should ask: Why did Jesus Christ have to suffer? He was the only truly good and righteous person who ever lived. Yet Jesus was misunderstood, slandered, falsely accused and lied about, hated and betrayed. He was forsaken by His followers, unjustly arrested, illegally tried and wrongly condemned. Jesus was mocked, beaten, whipped, insulted, slapped and crucified. Why did the Righteous One have to suffer? He suffered on behalf of us, He died for our sins. The just in the place of the unjust (1 Peter 3:18).

### **Love in Action**

God is compassionate. He entered into this world and suffered everything that we have suffered, and much more. He even experienced the wrath of hell, so that we would not have to. During His ministry on earth our Lord Jesus gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, He made the crippled walk, cleansed the lepers, and even raised the dead.

The shortest verse in the Bible is: "*Jesus wept*" (John 11:35). The Bible tells us to weep with those who weep and laugh with those who laugh. Although Jesus was about to demonstrate His power to raise Lazarus from the dead, He was moved in Spirit and grieved over the suffering that His friends were going through. We do not serve a God who is unmoved by our afflictions.

### **Purpose in Pain**

We need to recognise that there may be a purpose behind our pains. Yes, we may be the innocent victim of somebody else's unrighteous behaviour. The Lord may also be chastising me for disobedience to His

Word. The suffering could also be part of the suffering for righteousness which all Christians are called to. The Lord does send circumstances and people to help us develop our spiritual muscle and character.

***“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”*** 2 Timothy 2:3

Military training is designed to shape characters, and teach skills to save lives.

***“Yes, and all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*** 2 Timothy 3:12

***“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour and glory at the Revelation of Jesus Christ ...”*** 1 Peter 1:6-7

***“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*** James 1:2-4

***“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His Glory is revealed, you will also be glad with exceeding joy.”*** 1 Peter 4:12-13

Suffering can be used by God to purify us and to prepare us for special service. All of God’s servants have known suffering while God purged and prepared them for His service. Moses was forty years in the

wilderness before becoming the deliverer of Israel. David was an outlaw and a fugitive for many years before becoming king of Israel.

***“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*** Romans 8:18

As pioneer missionary, C.T. Studd declared: *“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”*

### **Search Me O God!**

When we experience trials we need to search our hearts to see if there are some wicked ways in us that could be grounds for God to be correcting us. This chastisement is designed to lead us to repentance and to full restoration of fellowship. Is there something God is saying to you? Is there an error of your life that needs sorting out? You may not know why you are suffering, but it is important that you respond in a Godly way.

***“For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps.”*** 1 Peter 2:21

### **Serving the Suffering**

Our Lord, Jesus Christ taught in the parable of The Good Samaritan that we are to love our neighbour by alleviating the suffering of others. For this reason, throughout the last 2,000 years, millions of Christians have been rescuing abandoned babies, adopting orphans, opposing abortion, founding and maintaining hospitals in all corners of the globe (even in the most remote and dangerous areas), providing emergency relief, assistance and projects to uplift the poor and the needy. Christians have steadfastly opposed the slave trade and slavery, abolished infanticide, widow burning and cannibalism. Feeding the hungry and launching missions to bring countless millions to Christ are just some of the many

ways in which Christians throughout history have worked to reduce suffering worldwide.

### **The Worst Suffering Possible**

We also need to consider what is the worst suffering imaginable? The answer is nothing that we will experience in this life. The most extreme pain and suffering will be experienced in an eternity in Hell, separated from God forever. The Bible clearly teaches that those who reject Christ will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Some people raise issues of suffering and evil in the world as some kind of theoretical smoke screen that they can use to reject the free gift of Salvation from Almighty God. We need to warn people about the reality of a Holy God, whose Laws we have violated, and of the very real danger of an eternity of regrets in Hell. ***“..God...now commands all men everywhere to repent.”*** Acts17:30

### **Making Sense Out of Suffering**

All suffering ultimately is a result of mankind's rebellion against Almighty God. No one is sinless except Jesus Christ and He suffered so that we would not have to suffer eternally for our sins. There are no truly good people on the earth. We are all sinful in the light of God's Law. We can learn and grow through suffering. Pain can yield positive results in our character development. What others mean for evil, God can use for good. God works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Jesus Christ came and shared in human suffering - He suffered more than any man. We can, and we must, help alleviate the suffering of others. Human suffering is ultimately caused by human sin and God nailed that problem to the Cross almost two thousand years ago.

## Chapter 3

### WHY DOES GOD NOT STOP ALL THE SUFFERING?

*“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.” 2 Peter 3:9*

Oscar Wilde claimed that suffering proved that a good God does not govern the world. If God **cannot** stop the suffering, then He is not all powerful. If God **will not** stop the suffering then He cannot be good and loving.

The faulty logic and wrong conclusion evidenced by Oscar Wilde is quite common. Many question God’s goodness, power, or even existence, because of suffering in the world. Poverty, disease, war, natural and man-made disasters – why does God not bring it all to an end?

#### **Zimbabwe**

Even those who love God and do not doubt His Word, are often grieved and puzzled about why the Lord will not intervene, for example, to put an end to the tyrannical government in Zimbabwe which has caused so much havoc to the economy and widespread suffering amongst the Zimbabwean people, more than half of whom have fled the country.

#### **What is the Cause?**

So much of the world’s news media focuses on the **effects** of suffering, but seldom attempts to explore and explain the **causes**. What is the true meaning and purpose behind all of the world’s calamities and catastrophes?

#### **Creation and the Fall**

The Bible teaches that God is a good, Holy and loving Creator who has provided us with a magnificent world. However, man’s conscious,

deliberate choice to rebel against God and violate His Laws led to the Fall of man and the corruption of all Creation. Death and suffering entered the world because of sin.

### **Everything has Consequences**

Much of the suffering in the world today is a direct consequence of personal human choices. God has not made us immune from the consequences of our own and others choices. Most of the suffering in the world today is a consequence of the sinful choices of others where evil people and destructive ideologies cause untold misery.

### **National Suicide**

The humanitarian disaster in Zimbabwe is a classic case in point. What was once a peaceful, stable paradise, the bread basket of Africa, with the highest standards of literacy and education in the continent, has been destroyed by a communist dictatorship, socialist economics, rampant greed and corruption, Darwinian social engineering, all orchestrated by a brutal and malicious regime.

### **Communist Catastrophe**

This ZANU-PF government of Robert Mugabe, which has caused the greatest unemployment and highest inflation ever experienced in the history of the world, was brought to power by an unprecedented international campaign. The Organisation of African Unity, the Commonwealth, the United Nations, the US State Department and British Foreign Office co-operated together to sanction, isolate and wage economic warfare and support terrorist warfare to bludgeon the people of Rhodesia to accept Mugabe's one man – one vote government. Very soon Mugabe turned that into a one party dictatorship, complete with ethnic cleansing, massacres of the Matabele, raids on churches, farm invasions and the destruction of the homes of more than a million people.

### **Accessories to Tyranny**

The man-made disaster in Zimbabwe is not only the product of Mugabe's Marxist, ZANU-PF. Most of the world's mass media campaigned to bring him to power. Most of the governments represented at the OAU and UN voted for economic warfare to bring down Rhodesia and to make possible Mugabe's seizure of power. Apparently most of the citizens of Zimbabwe even voted for Mugabe, time and again, despite its abysmal human rights record, blatant corruption and racist brutality.

### **Reaping what was Sown**

The question could be asked: Why should God undo all the natural Laws of Creation to protect people from reaping the consequences of what they have sown? (Isaiah 59:1-2). Ideas have consequences. If we want God to heal Zimbabwe, then we need to mobilise God's people to humble themselves and pray and seek God's face and turn from their wicked ways (2 Chronicles 7:14).

### **Law Violated**

God gave us the Ten Commandments, not the ten suggestions: "Thou shalt not steal" and "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods" establishes the principles of private ownership of property. Socialism is institutionalised envy. It is legalised theft and it just doesn't work.

### **Failure of Socialism**

Historically, socialism has produced nothing but poverty, bureaucracy and corruption. Free enterprise, honest money and the Christian work ethic are essential to restore the economy in Zimbabwe. The Bible forbids unjust weights and measures/inflation (Leviticus 19:35-36). The devastating impact of unbacked currency/inflation on pensions and savings is criminal.

Every aspect of Zimbabwe has been undermined and ruined by secular humanism, Atheism, Marxism, greed, covetousness, malice, hatred, violating all the Laws of God and nature. As the Zimbabwean government so clearly illustrates: *“Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”* Zimbabwe provides an object lesson of everything that one should **not** do if one wants to build a stable, prosperous and peaceful society.

### **Hope for the Future**

Zimbabweans need to learn to respect people, respect property, respect God’s Creation and respect God’s Law. Biblical Law requires that we have honest money backed by real constant value (Proverbs 20:10; Micah 6:11-12). The only hope for Zimbabwe is to return in Repentance to God, rediscover the Biblical agenda and restore Biblical principles into every area of economic and community life, education, public ethics, the judiciary and public policy.

### **Foundations for Freedom**

Nations need to be built on the unchangeable Law of God’s Word. Instead of rulers, we must elect servants – civil servants, bound down with the chains of the Constitution. We need a system of checks and balances to divide power and responsibility between executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. For our nations to be strong, the families need to be strong. For governments to be good, their citizens need to be good. Those who cannot control themselves are not capable of ruling over a city (Proverbs 16:32). Those who cannot manage their household well are not qualified to lead others (1Timothy 3:4-5). *“You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.”* Nehemiah 2:17



## **Can God Stop Suffering?**

Can God stop all the suffering in the world? Yes. Why does God not stop all the suffering in the world?

## **The Day Will Come**

The Bible tells us that one day God will bring all human suffering to an end. *“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.”* Revelation 21:4

## **Why Not Now?**

So why does God not do that immediately?

To end all suffering in the world God would have to remove all people from the world. He would have to end free choice and independent thought and actions. Human sinfulness is the cause for most of the suffering in the world. Pride, greed, lust, envy, hatred, selfishness – these are what causes most of the grief and suffering in the world.

## **What Purpose?**

We need to ask: what is God’s purpose for mankind? We know that God cares. The Scripture tells us how God’s heart was *“grieved”* at the sinfulness of mankind (Genesis 6:6). The Lord is *“longsuffering”* (Numbers 14:18). In Jesus we see that God entered our fallen and suffering world. He was not immune to the pain and grief which we ourselves experience. Jesus suffered even greater pain than any of us could ever know. He knew what it was to be destitute and homeless, He knew what it was to be hated, rejected and despised by His own people. He knew the heartache of betrayal. He experienced injustice and trial by the mob. He was scourged and tortured by cruel men. More than all of that, He bore our sins upon Himself and suffered the torments of hell that we might go to Heaven.

***“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*** Romans 5:8

There can be no question that God cares. Christ’s death on the Cross proves that. But what possible purpose could be served by our following in His footsteps of suffering?

*“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”* 1 Peter 2:21

### **The School of Character**

**Suffering is directly linked to character building.** Mankind’s suffering is not an accident. The purpose for every human being’s life is to teach us the terrible consequences of sinful rebellion against the Laws of Almighty God and to build in us the character of children of God.

Since God Himself is longsuffering, this is one of the Fruit of the Spirit which needs to be developed into our life (Galatians 5:22-23). **God permits suffering because it is the school of character.** In fact some of the most outstanding heroes of the Faith have endured tremendous suffering. The Old Testament prophets, all the apostles of Christ, the early Christian Believers who suffered in the arenas of Rome, the martyrs and missionaries through the ages, have all demonstrated that suffering can be used by God to strengthen our Faith and refine our character.

### **The Advantage of Adversity**

**There is no quick fix to the problem of sin and suffering.** On the Cross our Lord Jesus Christ paid the ultimate penalty for sin – which is death (Romans 3:23). God is patiently using both the “*day of prosperity*” and the “*day of adversity*” (Ecclesiastes 7:14) to teach us vital eternal spiritual truths and to direct us away from the self-

## Why Does God Not Stop All the Suffering?

destructive paths of sin and rebellion. To refine and shape our characters to be God-honouring, unselfish, good neighbours who seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness.

### **Time and Experience**

Suffering is absolutely essential to character building because it is a process. Time and experience are a vital part of renewing minds and transforming behaviour. The Scripture even says that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ *“learned obedience by the things which He suffered”* Hebrews 5:8. If the only perfect Person who ever lived learned through suffering, how much more essential is it for each one of us to learn obedience by the things which we suffer?

*“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things in bringing many sons to glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation perfect through sufferings.”* Hebrews 2:10

### **National Repentance**

When a whole nation suffers to the extremes that Zimbabwe has been plummeted to it is an eloquent call to national repentance. In accordance with 2 Chronicles 7:14, Zimbabweans need to carefully, systematically work through the Ten Commandments and all the Biblical principles that have been violated. They must Repent, do restitution, rebuild and restore.

### **In the Light of Eternity**

There is no shortcut in the process of Discipleship and Sanctification. We need to live in the light of eternity, understanding that God can work all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

***“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. For the earnest expectation of the Creation eagerly waits...”*** Romans 8:18-19

### **Listen to God**

God is a holy God. Sin is serious. Everything has consequences. Are you listening to the Word of God? C.S. Lewis wrote that pain is God’s megaphone to arouse a slumbering world. What is God saying to you?

King David wrote: *“It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.”* Psalm 119:71

*“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your Word.”*

Psalm 119:67

### **Purpose in Pain**

Physical pain of sufficient intensity stops us in our tracks. We begin searching for the cause of pain. This often leads us to change destructive behaviour in order to alleviate the pain and to avoid it in future.

***“That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I the Lord, do all these things.”*** Isaiah 45:6-7

God has a great purpose and plan that extends beyond this life. Suffering certainly never feels good. But it can still be used by God for good purposes.

Ultimately, thousands of years of human suffering will eventually teach mankind the crucial lesson that we cannot ignore God, break His Laws and still be blessed.

## Chapter 4

### BUT AREN'T ALL RELIGIONS THE SAME?

**What is the difference between Christianity and all other religions?**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”* John 14:6

Time and again we hear people say: *“All religions are the same! Why do you insist that yours is the only right one?”* *“How can you be so narrow minded, bigoted and intolerant to believe that Jesus is the only way to God?”*

#### **The New Tolerance**

In this decadent and immoral society the main virtue seems to be tolerance, and the worst vice is intolerance. However, what they mean by tolerance is something very different to what tolerance used to mean. Today tolerance has gone beyond what any previous generation would have understood to acceptance and approval of deception and depravity.

#### **Intolerance and Hypocrisy**

The New Age tolerance seems to come to a screeching halt when confronted with Biblical Christianity. Any Christian who dares to stand up for basic Biblical beliefs are accused of intolerance! It seems a bit hypocritical of those who claim that all religions are right, that they spend so much time declaring that Christianity is wrong. And they do seem to be very intolerant of Biblical doctrine.

#### **Baha’i Syncretism**

The Baha’i religion has formalised the New Age spirit into a religion which incorporates all other religions. The Baha’i claim that all religions are the same and they claim to follow Jesus Christ, along with Buddha, Lao-Tzu, Confucius, Muhammad, Zoroaster and whole hosts of other gurus, ‘prophets’ and ‘holy men’.

## **Research Religions**

Yet, to those who claim that all religions are the same and all religious teachers basically teach the same principles, we need to point out to them what these religions actually do teach:

## **Contrasts and Contradictions**

Islam stands for a strict monotheism. They are adamant that there is only one God. However, Hinduism is polytheistic, recognising at least 330 million gods. How can monotheism and polytheism be the same?

Buddhism is pantheistic teaching that everything is god. Confucius recognised no god. How can atheism equal pantheism equal polytheism equal monotheism?

## **Life vs Nirvana**

Jesus Christ said that He came that we may have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). However, Hinduism and Buddhism teach that life is a great evil. These religions teach that we should be seeking for an end to all personal life through *Nirvana*. As a drop of water falls back into the ocean and loses all individuality, so, through successive reincarnations and meditation, we should seek the cessation of personal consciousness. As Buddhism and Hinduism regard life as miserable (that is something of a self-fulfilling prophecy as paganism always tends to make life quite miserable) their goal is the extinguishing of life. How can Christ's teaching about Spiritual Life, Eternal Life and Abundant Life be the same thing as *Nirvana*?

## **Incompatible Ethics**

Then there are the issues of ethics. Most religions teach polygamy – that a man may have numerous wives. Christianity has always stood for monogamy: one man married to one woman for life. Christ condemned divorce. Muhammad allowed for easy and quick verbal divorces. These two positions are incompatible.

### **Fellowship with Demons**

The Apostle Paul taught: *“Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.”* 1 Corinthians 10:20

### **Idolatry**

The Scriptures are clear that God is not pleased with all types of religious activity. The most condemned sin throughout the Scripture is that of idolatry. Most of the religions of the world are steeped in idolatry. *“Professing to be wise, they became fools and changed the Glory of the Incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man.”* Romans 1:22

### **Are You a Good Person?**

Most religions teach that people are basically good. The Bible is clear that people are basically evil. (*“As it is written: There is none righteousness, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. ... For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God”* Romans 3:10-23).

### **Beware of Religious Deception**

Jesus warned us of false prophets (Matthew 7:15), false teachers and false shepherds (Matthew 23). *“Take heed that no one deceives you.”*  
Matthew 24:4

### **Deceiving Nations**

In the book of Revelation we are told that at the end God will send an Angel to bind satan *“So that he should deceive the nations no more ...”* Revelation 20:3. Plainly satan is deceiving nations today. We are involved in a colossal conflict, a world war of world views:

### **A World War of Worldviews**

Atheism Vs Theism

Polytheism Vs Monotheism

Communism Vs Christianity  
Sharia law Vs God's Law  
Polygamy Vs Monogamy  
Slavery Vs Freedom  
Abortion Vs Pro-Life  
Pornography Vs Morality  
Homosexuality Vs Family Values  
Disease Vs Health  
Lies Vs Truth  
Poison Vs Purity  
Death Vs Life

### **Religion Vs Relationship**

Religions are man trying to reach up to God.  
Christ is God reaching down to man.  
Religions come from man.  
Christianity comes from God.  
Religions say: Try!  
Christ says: Trust!

### **Freedom of Conscience**

We, as Protestant believers believe in freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of worship. The Protestant Reformation gave birth to the very concept of religious toleration. However by tolerating the practice of other religions we are not saying that they are equally valid or true. That modern, New Age concept of tolerance is not what the word has historically meant.

### **Facing Reality**

What is the difference between the Christian God and the gods of other religions?



## But Aren't All Religions the Same?

Well, first and foremost, the God of the Bible is real. The others are not. God exists. The others are figments of the imagination and demonic deceptions.

### **Sin**

However, the differences between Christianity and all other religions is more that the way we look at everything and everyone, reality and responsibility, salvation and discipleship.

It is much more than the truth about God, man, eternity and salvation. It is even more than life, both life here and now, and life in the hereafter. The chief and most critical difference between Christianity and other religions is our understanding of the Holiness of God and the seriousness of sin.

### **Atonement**

What is absolutely unique about Christianity, among all the religions of the world, is its central doctrine of a once for all, never to be repeated, substitutionary atonement. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. His sacrificial death on the Cross made atonement for our sins and made possible the Redemption of His people. Other religions either have a lower view of God's Holiness or a lower view of the seriousness of mans' sin, or both. Only Christianity maintains the balance of God's perfect Holiness and merciful love.

### **Justice**

The crucial question is: how can a Holy God reconcile sinful and depraved people and still maintain His justice? Only someone who was sinless could be an atoning sacrifice and only God Himself, coming as a man, could be that perfect sacrifice.

### **The Life of Christ**

Other religions are based on the teachings of their founders. Christianity, however, is based on its Founder's life. At the core of the

Apostles Creed is Christ: *“Our Lord Jesus Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, He died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to Judge the living and the dead.”*

### **The Festivals of the Church**

That is why the great festivals of the Christian Faith are: Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Ascension Day. Christmas celebrates the Incarnation of God in human flesh, Emmanuel, God with Us, Good Friday, the atoning death of the Son of God for the sins of the world. Easter the victory of Christ over death, hell and the grave through the Resurrection. *“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of death”*

Revelation 1:18

### **Above All Authorities**

The Ascension proclaimed the Lordship of Christ over all human institutions and authorities. Christ *“has gone into Heaven and is at God’s right hand - with angels, authorities and powers in submission to Him”* 1 Peter 3:22 *“All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me, therefore go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. ...”* Matthew 28:18-20 *“For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”* 1 Corinthians 15:25 *“Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has gone through the Heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the Faith we profess.”*

Hebrews 4:14

### **At the Name of Jesus**

*“Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every*

But Aren't All Religions the Same?

*tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.*" Philippians 2:9-11

### **The Uniqueness of Christ**

Jesus Christ didn't claim to know the way, He is the Way. Jesus didn't just teach the truth, He is the Truth. He does not just have life, He is the Life.

Confucius did not die for the sins of the world. He did not even believe in sin.

Buddha did not rise from the dead.

Only Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, died an atoning death and rose from the dead. Confucius, Buddha, Muhammad, and all the rest, died, are buried and have never been heard from since. However the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a unique historical fact.

### **The Lifesaver**

All humanity is drowning in an ocean of sin. The religions of the world are throwing out swimming manuals and seeking to give the drowning some instructions on how to swim. However, Jesus Christ is the Lifesaver who has plunged into the ocean to rescue the perishing, at the expense of His own life.

*"Nor is there Salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved."* Acts 4:12

Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Saviour?

Or will He be your eternal Judge?

The question is not will you bow to Christ, but when will you bow to Christ?

***“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in Heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.”*** Philippians 2:9-11

The first time He came as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The second time, when He comes again, He will not come as a Saviour, but as a Judge, as the King of kings and Lord of lords, a conqueror, the eternal Judge.

We either bow to Him today in the day of Grace when Salvation is freely available, or we will be forced to bow to Him on the Day of Judgement, when the door of grace will be firmly closed, when all hope of forgiveness is extinguished. We either bow to Christ as Saviour and Lord now, or we will bow to Him as our Judge in condemnation on the Day of Judgement.

Is Jesus your Saviour, or your Judge?

Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

## Chapter 5

### “THERE IS NO GOD!”

One of the most famous atheists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, British philosopher, Bertrand Russell wrote: “*Why I am not a Christian.*” When he was asked what he would say if it turned out that there was a God after all, Russell replied that he would ask the Almighty: “Why didn’t you give us more evidence?”

This prompted a reaction from science teacher and author Ken Poppy that Russell “seems to be positioning himself in case he needs to shift the blame to God for not being more convincing. (Hmmm. Did he never see a bright moon setting in the blue western sky while the sun rose circular red through the eastern clouds? Did he never hold a newborn baby?)”

#### **A Hidden God**

17<sup>th</sup> Century French mathematician and scientist Blaise Pascal wrote: “What can be seen on earth indicates neither the total absence of God nor His manifest presence, but rather the presence of a hidden God.”

***“To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled, nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.”*** Titus 1:15

To the willfully blind God seems to be absent, or even worse if he is there, he is cruel. But to those whose eyes have been opened there are abundant evidences of God in Creation, in our consciences and in Jesus Christ.

The classic hymn: “Holy! Holy! Holy!” reminds us that the eye of sinful man does not see God’s glory and the darkness seems to hide him:

*“Holy! Holy! Holy!  
Though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinful man,  
Thy Glory may not see;  
only Though art Holy; there is none beside Thee;  
perfect in power, in love and purity.”*

God has not left Himself without a witness. There is nowhere on earth, or in the universe, where His fingerprints are absent.

### **Confrontation**

However, we are confronted today by a most virulent and aggressive form of atheism. One of the great ironies of militant atheists is how their whole existence seems to be consumed in fighting against what they claim does not exist.

### **Confusion**

If you have read many of these vicious atheistic attacks on God you will notice how they tend to blur the distinction between Christianity and Islam. They cite horrible atrocities done in the name of religion (most of which have been done by Muslim extremists against Christians!) and then they argue that the problem is with God!

### **Condemnation**

Firstly, it is completely unfair to blame the victims for what their persecutors have done. Secondly, these atheist writers ignore the vastly worse atrocities committed by atheists. Secular humanist, atheistic political regimes turned the 20<sup>th</sup> century into the bloodiest century in all of history. The death toll left behind by secular humanist, atheist dictators such as Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, Pol Pot, Haile Mariam Mengistu, Samora Machel, Agestino Neto, Fidel Castro and other communists exceed 160,000,000 victims. These were not soldiers killed in battle, but civilians killed in peace time, by their own governments, in the name of scientific socialism and atheism.

“There is No God!”

## **Contradiction**

Now, we would not want to make every atheist share the guilt of what some atheists have done to slaughter multiplied millions. Neither would it be fair, or rational, for any atheist to blame every Catholic, let alone Protestant Christians, for what intolerant Catholic regimes and Muslim extremists have done to their forefathers.

## **The Reality of God**

The fact is that there is a God. He made us. He has revealed his standards of right and wrong in the Ten Commandments. We are accountable to Him. One Day we will stand before Him and give an account of our lives.

## **Revelation**

God is not hidden. He has been revealing His power and majesty and truth in so many multitudes of ways. It is clearly seen in His Creation. He has spoken through the prophets. He has spoken in and through His Son, Jesus Christ.

*“The Heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”* Psalm 19:1

## **Watersheds**

If you have ever climbed the great Drakensburg Mountains then you have seen one of the watersheds of our continent. You can imagine drops of rain from the same cloud can fall on the same peak and one will flow West and end up in the great Orange River, flowing relentlessly to the Atlantic Ocean, another will end up in the Tugela River and flow East, ending in the Indian Ocean. At one point these two drops of water are a meter apart, and then a kilometer apart, then a hundred kilometers apart. Eventually they are over a thousand kilometers apart.

The Mountains of the Moon include the great Mount Ruwenzori which, although close to the Equator, has snow on the peak. From these Mountains of the Moon some of the water flows North into the Nile, the longest river in the world, stretching over 6,600 kilometers. It takes one drop of water over 4 months to travel the full length of the Nile River from Lake Victoria through to the Mediterranean Sea. However, some of the rain that falls on the Mountains of the Moon flows West into the Congo River and empties eventually into the Atlantic Ocean. In America the Rockies are the continental divide. In South America it is the Andes Mountains. In Asia the Himalayas. In Europe the Alps.

### **The Watershed Question**

These watersheds are important in geography. One watershed in Theology which impacts key beliefs more than any other is the question: Is there a God, or not? That question is pivotal.

The Bible begins: *“In the beginning God Created the Heavens and the earth.”* Genesis 1:1

Atheism is based on the assumption that there is no God.

Either one believes that the world created itself or one believes in a self-sufficient Supreme Being who always was, is and ever will be. Put another way, the question is: Is God self-sufficient and always existing? Or is the universe self-sufficient and self-existing? The point where you start will determine where you end up.

*“The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.”* Psalm 14:1

### **The God Who is There**

Every tribe and culture and nation has an idea about God and a name for God. Everyone knows that God exists, but some people foolishly try to suppress that fact.



“There is No God!”

The *Great Books of the Western World* comprise 60 volumes of the greatest writings of the greatest minds in western history. Dr. Mortimer Adler, the Editor in Chief, observed that almost all of the authors of the great books, from the ancient Greek writers through to writers of modern times, deal in some way with the subject of God.

*“The reason”, he said, “is obvious. More consequences for thought and action follow the affirmation or denial of God than the answering of any other basic question. The whole tenor of human life is affected by whether men regard themselves as the supreme being in the universe, or acknowledge a superhuman Being whom they conceive of as an object of fear or love and a force to be defied, or a Lord to be obeyed.”*

More than anything else, what you believe about God will make the most difference in your thoughts, your life and your eternal destiny.

### **The Crumbling Foundations of Atheism**

One of the reasons why we are facing such a militant and aggressive assault from atheists today is because all the pillars of atheism are crumbling. First they are crumbling from the tremendous advance of the Gospel as multiplied millions of people are being converted to Christ every year. Secondly, at the highest intellectual levels, increasing numbers of scientists are realising that, on every point, atheism is an untenable position.

### **Facts are Stubborn Things**

In *God, the Atom and the Universe*, scientist Dr. James Reid, declares: *“Science is preparing a surprise for mankind. At least it will be a surprise for those who have doubts about the Bible and its God. It will also come as a surprise for those who are labouring under the misapprehension that science undermines the Bible. In fact, it may even shock some scientists, who may be startled to find that their newly uncovered facts, or accepted theory, provide still another link in the*

*chain of evidence that is showing that the facts of the universe support the Bible's statements – including Creation.”*

### **Purpose in Design**

In 1973, on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Copernicus, at a special celebration in Krakow, Poland, the birthplace of Copernicus, one of the key note speakers was the highly respected astrophysicist Professor Brandon Carter from Oxford University. Professor Carter startled many by pointing out that Physics and Astronomy all seem to indicate that our world – indeed the entire universe – has been constructed and maintained for a purpose. That purpose could only be the sustaining of intelligent life on this planet.

Professor Carter noted such things as consistent symmetry in the mathematical equations for gravity and the fact that if the mass of the proton were just a fraction larger or smaller, the entire solar system would collapse. All of Physics points out the fact that somehow this universe appears to have been designed for mankind. This he called he called the Anthropic Principle. Now, to the evolutionists, purpose is one of the most repugnant of words. Evolutionism insists that everything is merely an accident. To recognise purpose in Creation is to acknowledge a Creator.

### **An Avalanche**

So many other scientists have made similar discoveries and observations that one can compare it to multiplied snowballs turning into an avalanche, which is sweeping away the pillars of evolutionism.

### **The Privileged Planet**

*The Privileged Planet*, written by scientists Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Richards, documents how earth has been uniquely positioned to sustain human and animal life. If the earth was significantly closer to the Sun, temperatures would be too high for any life to survive. If we were significantly further away from the Sun, the temperatures would be too

“There is No God!”

low to sustain life. The atmosphere around Earth is absolutely unique to sustain human and animal life.

### **Celestial Mechanics**

In his five volume work on *Celestial Mechanics*, Pierre Simon Laplace, concluded: “The proof in favour of an intelligent God as the author of Creation stands as infinity to zero against any other hypothesis of ultimate causation.” It is impossible to give a greater contrast than infinity to zero. Pierre Laplace observed that it would be infinitely more probable that a set of writing implements, thrown aimlessly against a huge parchment, would produce Homers *Iliad* than that the Creation originated by any other cause than an all knowing, all powerful God.

### **Mathematical Genius**

One of the greatest astronomers of all times, Sir James Jeans, observed that the more he studied the universe, the more the universe appeared to him to be one gigantic thought of a great mathematician. It has meaning, symmetry and reason.

### **The Moon**

Those scientists who embrace Intelligent Design point to many examples, such as the moon. If there were no moon, there could be no life on earth. For the moon is God’s appointed handmaiden for the earth. It cleans up the oceans with its tides. Without those tides, and without the moon, all our shores and bays would be filled with billons of tonnes of stinking garbage and debris. No one would want a seafront property and swimming in the sea, or fishing in the sea, would be unthinkable.

### **Oxygen**

The rate at which oxygen dissolves in sea water is increased by the motion of the water in waves. This dissolved oxygen supports the life of the seas, plankton, which forms the base of the marine food chain.

## **Intelligent Design**

For someone who believes in evolution it is inexplicable that the moon just “*accidentally*” happens to be there, and “*accidentally*” happens to be just the right size and distance from the earth for all of these things to happen in such a way as to sustain life on this planet.

## **Nitrogen**

Then consider the nitrogen in the atmosphere. The atmosphere is made up of 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and 1% of other components. Nitrogen exists in the inert elemental form in the atmosphere. The fact that this inert gas makes up such a large fraction of the atmosphere protects us from many harmful reactions. However, this inert gas must somehow be made to react to form the nitrate and nitrate compounds necessary for plant health. How does God make this happen?

## **Lightning**

Scientists inform us that the hundred thousand strokes of lightning everyday around the globe are essential to alter the elemental atmospheric nitrogen into compounds like ammonia and nitrates which are carried into the ground by rain. That system produces 100,000,000 tonnes of nitrogen plant food every year and keeps this world going. Every time we hear the thunder, and see a bolt of lightning, we should stop and think that were it not for that lightning, life would not be able to be sustained on this planet.

## **Dust**

Scientists also point to the intelligent design in dust. To many people dust is something unpleasant, which causes sneezing and runny eyes and various allergies. Why is there such an accumulation of dust on our desks, shelves and tables? Actually, Intelligent Design advocates point out we should thank God for dust. If it wasn't for dust, we wouldn't be alive either.

“There is No God!”

### **Blue Skies and Rain**

One of the benefits of dust is merely cosmetic. We are informed that the sky is not really blue, it only appears that way because of the effect of dust on light in our atmosphere. If you go 40km straight up into the atmosphere, where there is no dust, the sky appears pitch black. Perhaps you have noticed that photographs taken from the moon show black skies. But, we are informed by the experts, dust does something even more important: Every drop of rain contains approximately 8 million tiny droplets of water, and each of these droplets is wrapped around a tiny speck of dust. If it wasn't for the dust, it could never rain. If it never rained, this whole world would turn into something like the Sahara desert and all of us would die. Everything evidences design.

### **The Solar System**

Athanasius Kircher, a devout Christian astronomer, constructed a complex working model of the solar system showing the Sun and the planets circling around it. One day he invited his atheist friend into his study to see this model. His friend was intrigued by the model's incredible complexity. He exclaimed: *“How beautiful it is! Who made it?”*

Kircher responded: *“No one made it. It made itself!”*

The atheist stared at him in disbelief: *“That's absurd! You don't expect me to believe that! Do you?”*

Kircher answered: *“No. I don't. But what's even more absurd is that's what you believe about the real solar system, which is vastly more complex than this simple model.”*

When we consider the complexity and magnificent design of God's Creation in the universe we can see that He is not nearly as hidden as skeptics assert.

***“The Heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”***

Psalm 19:1



***“You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting.” Daniel explained the writing on the wall to the king of Babylon (Daniel 5:27).***

## Chapter 6

### HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE IS A GOD?

One of the great Church Fathers, Augustine of Hippo, in *Confessions*, wrote concerning God: “*You have made us for Yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.*”

#### **A God Shaped Vacuum**

Millions of frustrated people are trying to fill their hearts, minds and souls with everything except God. The resultant depression, disillusionment, despair, sense of meaninglessness and hopelessness, have become pervasive. Mental disorders and suicides are extreme examples of mankind’s failure to find meaning and purpose in life apart from God. It is a fact that there is a God shaped vacuum in each one of us. We are created by God and we are created for God. Nothing and no one can fill that void, except the eternal Creator.

#### **Frustration**

You cannot substitute coca cola for petrol and expect your motor vehicle to still function effectively. Many people try to find fulfillment in fame, fortune and fun, but the end result is always frustration.

#### **God and the Astronomers**

Astronomer Dr. Robert Jastrow, a former Director for space studies at NASA, wrote in *God and the Astronomers*: “Strange developments are going on in astronomy. They are fascinating, partly because of their theological implications, and partly because of the peculiar reactions of scientists.”

#### **Emotional Reaction**

Scientists still do not have an explanation for the origin of life. Theories of the origin of the universe are highly disputed. English astronomer Arthur Stanley Eddington declared early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: “*The*

*notion of a beginning is repugnant.*” That is hardly an intellectual reaction, but rather an emotional one.

### **The Summit**

As Jastrow observed: “The scientists have scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries!”

### **Life and Laws in the Universe**

*Cosmos, Bios, Theos* (these are the Greek words for universe, life and God) is a monumental book from 60 respected scientists, including 24 Nobel Prize winners. The co-editor of the book, Yale Physicist, Henry Margenau, concluded that there was “*only one convincing answer*” for the intricate laws existing in nature. And that one convincing answer is: “Creation by an omnipotent – omniscient God.”

### **Irrational and Unprovable**

Atheism is irrational. Atheism is a universal negative. It is impossible to prove. No one can possibly prove that there is no God in the universe. To do that they would have to be all-knowing and everywhere present.

### **Cause and Effect**

Every effect must have a sufficient cause to account for that effect.

### **Intelligent Design**

We see proof of Intelligent Design everywhere. Every day and every night.

*“The Heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day they utter speech, and night unto night reveal knowledge.”* Psalm 19:1-2



## **The Eye**

We see evidence of the Creator's design everywhere. For example, the human eye contains 400 million cones, 300 million minute fibers and 50 million tiny nerves called rods. Every one of these millions of cones, minute fibers and rods adjust themselves automatically so that we can see a full range of colours, in intricate detail from both near and far.

## **Prophecies**

The Bible contains more than 2,000 specific prophecies which predicted events which have already been fulfilled in detail. There is no close parallel in any other writings on the face of the earth.

## **Pascal's Wager**

French scientist Blaise Pascal proposed what has become known as Pascal's Wager. Pascal logically demonstrated that it is more intelligent to risk your life on God's existence than to bet against it. For, if there is no God, or eternal life, and we simply cease to exist when we die, then we have lost nothing by having believed in God. However, if there is a God, so that at death, believers go to Heaven and unbelievers go to hell, then there is absolutely everything to lose from gambling that God does not exist. Pascal concluded that no intelligent person should fail to see this. Christians have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Atheists have everything to lose and nothing to gain.

## **The Philosophy of Meaninglessness**

Aldous Huxley, the famous 20<sup>th</sup> century humanist and evolutionist declared that atheism allowed for sexual liberation. By rejecting belief in God unbelievers could embrace "*the philosophy of meaninglessness*" and be freed from the old moral restraints. In *Ends and Means*, published in 1937, Aldous Huxley wrote: "For myself as, no doubt, for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation ...liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom. There was one admirably simple method of

confuting these people and at the same time justifying ourselves in our political and erotic revolt: we could deny that the world had any meaning whatsoever!”

### **Justifying Immorality**

Those who reject God often have a very selfish reason for doing so. Normally to justify their sinful lifestyle. Bertrand Russell, one of the most prominent advocates of atheism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was also a flagrant adulterer. He said that his atheism freed him up to his erotic desires.

The Lord Jesus declared: *“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depths of the sea.”*

Matthew 18:6

### **Hostility to God and His Law**

It would appear that many who are fighting against God, against the Bible and against any public expression of Biblical ethics, such as public displays of the Ten Commandments, are doing so because they themselves are living in sin and breaking many of these Commandments.

### **Foolishness and Corruption**

*“The fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God’. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.”*

Psalms 14:1

### **Darkened Hearts**

Romans 1:18-32 summarises today’s cultural war and the emotional reactions it evokes. Those who reject the knowledge of God and are not thankful to God, evidence darkened hearts and turn to idolatry, immorality and perversion.

### **Rejecting the Facts**

For most people, their passionate rejection of Christianity and embracing of atheism has nothing at all to do with facts of science or history. Rather, it is often an emotional reaction to justify something in their own lives.

### **Without God**

As Russian author, Dostoevsky, wrote; if God did not exist then everything could be permitted. Historian Will Durant wrote: “*The greatest question of our time is not communism versus individualism, nor Europe versus America, nor even the East versus the West; it is whether men can bear to live without God.*”

### **Excluding God**

And that, of course, is exactly what secularists are trying to achieve. They are trying to exclude God and His Word from educational institutions, from political institutions, from the judiciary and from the national news media.

### **Cheapening Life**

However, atheism makes life cheap and it deprives life of any meaning or significance. Atheism also deprives life of freedom. Those who declare that there is no God also teach that there is no such thing as your mind. It is just the brain that secretes thoughts like the liver secretes bile. They teach that you have no real control over the brain bile that you ooze out. In *Beyond Freedom and Dignity* B.F. Skinner concluded that we are biologically determined in absolutely all that we do, we therefore have no dignity and no freedom, and we are not responsible. As we have no real freedom, we have no real guilt. Richard Dawkins suggests that Christianity is a “*mind virus.*”

### **The God Who Would Not Die**

However, in historian Paul Johnson’s book *The Quest for God*, he writes of “The God who would not die”: “From one perspective – the

perspective of human spirituality – the most extraordinary thing about the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the failure of God to die. The collapse of mass religious belief, especially among the educated and prosperous, had been widely and confidentially predicted. It did not take place. Somehow, God survived, flourished even. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the idea of a personal, living God is as lively and real as ever, in the minds and hearts of countless millions of men and women throughout our planet.”

***“He has put eternity in their heart.”*** Ecclesiastes 3:11

### **The Country of the Blind**

H.G. Wells is best known for his science fiction books such as *The War of the Worlds* and his history book: *A History of the World*. In his classic short story *The Country of the Blind*, he writes about a tribe of people living in a large valley. A plague had rendered them all blind and this blindness was passed onto their children, to their children’s children, to their great-grand children, for generations. For centuries the tribe had lived in perpetual darkness so that even the very concept and memory of sight had disappeared. They were cut off from the surrounding world by high mountains. But one day, an adventurous member of the tribe tried to find his way over a high pass in the mountains. He slipped and fell a long way until at last he lay unconscious on the valley floor. Because the hearing of the people in the valley was most acute, they heard his landing and hurried toward the sound.

### **Delusional**

When they found the man and revived him they were astonished to hear him babbling about sight and colours. Something must have happened to his head when he fell because he was talking about things that obviously didn’t exist such as blue skies and colourful flowers. What on earth is ‘blue’? What is a ‘colour’? As he talked about his eyes, his vision, and what he could see, the people concluded that he was

obviously out of his mind. He was delusional and the people learnt to put up with his continual babblings. He was treated as the village idiot.

### **Removing the Source of the Problem**

As months passed the one seeing member of the community was much affected by the beauty of the chief's daughter and asked for her hand in marriage. Of course the request was denied. It just wasn't right for the daughter of the chief to marry the village idiot. Nor did she understand what he could be talking about by beautiful. However, as the daughter felt sincere love for him it was decided that they could get married, as long as the man's eyes were gouged out. As the man's eyes were the cause of his problem, they could restore him to his right mind by removing them. Then he could marry the chief's daughter. Incredibly, he agreed.

When the day approached for the surgery on his eyes and he lay on the operating table, the man came to his senses, jumped up, ran out, climbed the mountain and disappeared.

Now, of course, this story is fictional. H.G. Wells was by no means a Christian. However, this story appears to be a most remarkable parable reflecting the reality of the world in which we live.

### **Spiritual Blindness**

Because of the Fall and the depravity of man, the whole human race has tumbled into a valley of the spiritually blind. Because of sin, the natural mind is darkened, the will corrupted. Through sin we have lost our spiritual sight and our spiritual hearing. ***“The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”***

1 Corinthians 2:14

### **Psychosis or Neurosis**

So Sigmund Freud declared that all religions are either “psychosis or neurosis”. Secular humanists have worked hard to exclude spiritual reality from textbooks, films and news media, and to ridicule those who believe in God.

### **Generation, Degeneration and Regeneration**

The natural man is degenerate, depraved, sinful, lost, deaf, blind and spiritually dead. In a nutshell, the Bible tells us of generation (Creation), degeneration (the Fall), and regeneration (Redemption and Restoration). Jesus Christ makes all things new (Revelation 21:5).

### **Disguised and Rejected**

Author C.S. Lewis wrote that Christianity is the story of how the real King of the universe came to earth in disguise. “*He came unto His own and His own received Him not.*” John 1:11

### **Where is God?**

Those who reject God do so despite the witness of Creation. They reject Christ despite the witness of His Resurrection. They reject the Holy Spirit even when He convicts them of their sin. And then they protest: Where is God?

### **Rejecting God**

Jeremiah the Prophet declared that the people had apostatised from God. They worshiped false gods, defied the Laws of God, ignored the Revelations from God, and when His Judgment inevitably fell they asked where God was!

### **Vain Hope**

The Prophet Jeremiah’s response was: “*Let the idols you worship come and save you.*” Jeremiah 2:28

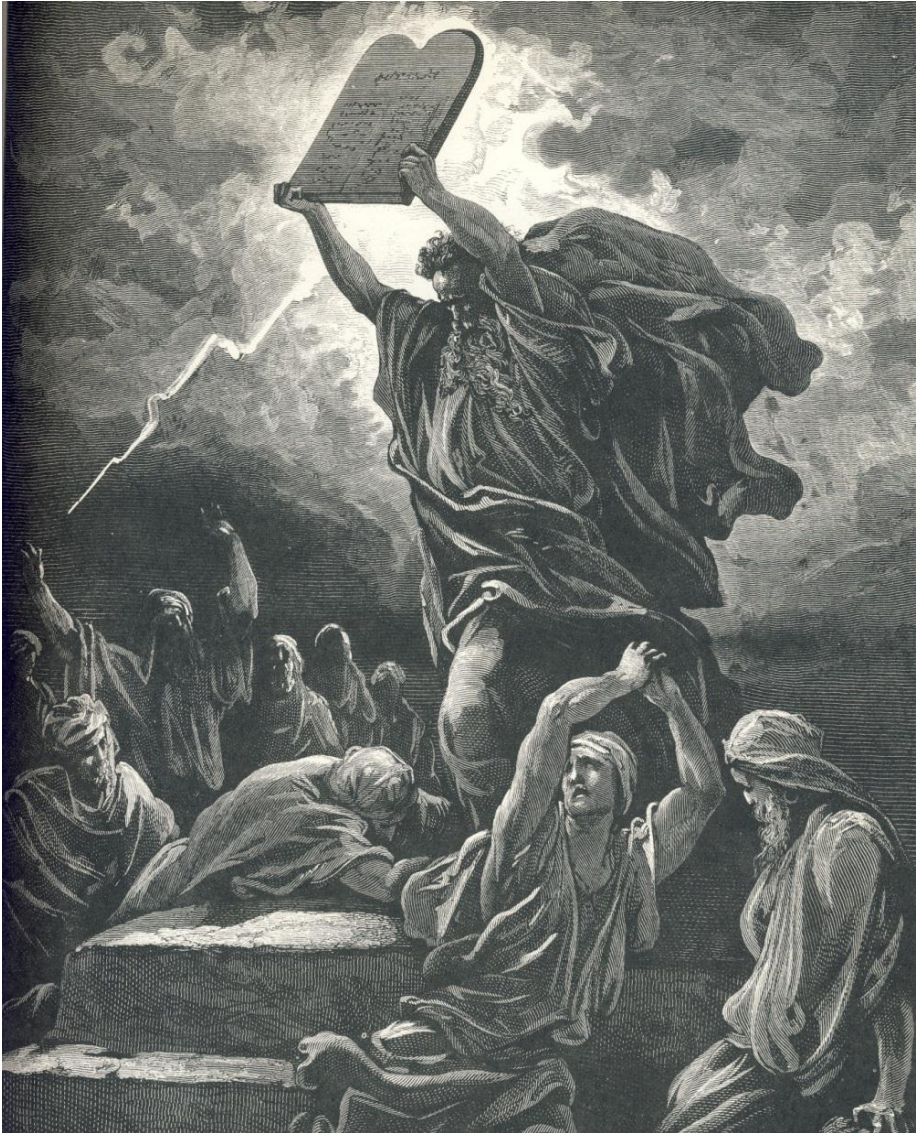
How Do you Know There is a God?

*“A man’s own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord.”* Proverbs 19:3

### **Sin Separates us from God**

God is not hidden. He has been revealing Himself in Creation, through our conscience, and in and through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our sin makes God seem hidden. However, just because a blind man doesn’t see something doesn’t mean it isn’t there.

Answering Skeptics



*“Therefore the Law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.” Galatians 3:24*



## Chapter 7

# HOW CAN A LOVING GOD CONDEMN ANYONE TO HELL?

One of the common objections that are thrown at Christians can be summarised in these words:

*How can a loving God send anyone to hell? What about the Eskimos and Pygmies and other primitive, remote tribes who have never heard the Gospel? Would God condemn them just because they haven't believed in someone they have not yet heard of?*

The short answer to that last most emotionally laden question is: No! Of course nobody is going to be condemned for not believing in whom they have never heard. We are all judged according to the light that we have received.

### **Those Who Suppress the Truth**

*“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 wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 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, 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...”* Romans 1:16-21

### **General Revelation**

Everyone has the benefit of General Revelation in nature. We can see something of the Creator in His Creation. *“The Heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork...”* The

existence of God is revealed and clearly perceived through the things that He has made. The invisible qualities of God can be understood by looking at the visible things of Creation. In the light of this General Revelation, the whole world is without excuse if they reject God. No one can claim ignorance of God as an excuse for refusing to honour Him, or to be grateful to Him. That is the main emphasis of Romans chapter one. We all have the light of **Creation** and the light of our **conscience**.

### **Eternity in Their Hearts**

Perhaps you have read Don Richardson's book: "*Eternity in Their Hearts*." Don Richardson documents in case after case how even the most primitive tribes, in the most remote regions of the world, have basic understandings of the Creator, Creation, right and wrong, and the need for Redemption.

### **More than Dreams**

Perhaps you have seen the film: *More Than Dreams*. In these and many other testimonies we hear of Muslims who had no access to missionaries or formal evangelistic work. They had no access to the Scriptures. However, (no doubt in answer to the prayers of God's people) they came to great conviction of sin, and were confronted by the reality of Jesus Christ in vivid dreams. Their visions of the man with nail pierced hands and feet, with the spear thrust in His side, led them to seek Christian missionaries and the Scriptures, and they came to full Salvation. Of course, these examples are rare. Even though all people have access to the light of Creation and conscience, the vast majority still live in rebellion to Almighty God.

### **By What Standard?**

When we have been engaged in personal evangelism in the streets and in the market places, we sometimes come across those who say that they do not believe in the Bible, or in the Law of God, or in the Lord Jesus Christ. At this point, I normally ask them by what standard they

live? Generally these people will present some high standards of ideal conduct, often a variation on the golden rule of Christ found in the Sermon on the Mount.

### **Condemned Even by Their Own Standards**

Then when I ask them if they have always lived up to these standards, they invariably answer: No! On no occasion have I ever found someone who dared to claim that they had never violated their own standards! So, while all people have the light of Creation and conscience, no one even lives up to this light.

### **Special Revelation**

We need Special Revelation in Holy Scripture. The Bible is the Book of God's Words, just as Creation is the Book of God's Works. General Revelation leaves all men without excuse. We are guilty law breakers.

### **The Depravity of Man**

*“As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”* Romans 3:10-18

This is reality. The presupposition underlying the question of “how can a loving God send anyone to Hell?” is a misunderstanding about the nature of God and man. It portrays a lack of understanding of the holiness and justice of God and the sinfulness and depravity of man.

## **The Holiness of God**

Unfortunately, many Christian ministers have presented such a consistently unbalanced portrayal of the attributes of God that most people only think of God as merciful and loving. However, the angels in Heaven are singing: **“Holy! Holy! Holy!”** The Holiness and the Justice of God demands that unrepentant murderers, blasphemers, rapists, thieves, liars and persecutors of the church be dealt with.

## **What do you Think God Should do with the Wicked?**

Perhaps we should turn the tables and ask our enquirer: **What do you think God should do about unrepentant murderers? Baby killers? Rapists? Blasphemers? Persecutors of the Church? Marxist mass murderers? Muslim terrorists? Wife beaters? Poachers? Cruel vivasectionists? Liars? Thieves? Hate mongerers? Gossipers? Two-timing hypocrites and deceivers?**

## **The Wrath of God**

How can a Holy and living God not punish evil? God is a God of love and light. He is a God of mercy and a God of justice. God is gracious, but He is also a God of wrath.

*“... for great is the wrath of the Lord that has been aroused against us, because our Fathers have not obeyed the Words of this Book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”* 2 Kings 22:13

*“Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.”* Psalm 2:12

***“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*** John 3:36

***“... but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath.”*** Romans 2:8

***“Let no one deceive you with empty words because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”*** Ephesians 5:6

### **But Doesn't God Love Everyone Equally?**

Not only do most that question how God can send anyone to hell presuppose the goodness of man and fail to understand the Holiness and justice of God, but most tend to presuppose the egalitarian heresy expressed in these words: *But doesn't God love everyone, equally?*

The answer is clearly, No! The Bible is quite clear that there are actually many whom God hates. ***“These six things the Lord hates, yes seven are an abomination to Him; a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.”*** Proverbs 6:16-19

### **Does God Hate You?**

The proud, liars, murderers, the wicked, those who rush to do evil, false witnesses and those who sow discord among brethren are among those who God declares that He hates.

### **The Fear of God is the Beginning of Wisdom**

***“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.”*** Proverbs 8:13

***“I hate the double minded, but I love Your Law.”*** Psalm 119:113

***“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”*** Romans 12:9

***“Who will rise up for Me against evildoers? Who will stand up for Me against the workers of iniquity?”*** Psalm 94:16

## **The Love of God**

Of course: *“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

## **Common Grace**

God does love the world in the sense that He sends common grace, He makes the sun shine on the righteous and on the unrighteous. He causes the rain to fall on the fields of the wicked and of the just. He loves the world so much that He came in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ and whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Everyone has benefited because of the coming of Christ and all the tremendous blessings that have come from the Word of God and the work of God’s Holy Spirit. Hospitals, schools, the abolition of slavery, the rule of law, Christian charity, missions and so much more have immeasurably improved the life of everyone on earth.

## **Egalitarianism is Unbiblical**

However, common grace does not mean that God loves everybody equally. Not even a declaration from the United Nations could enforce egalitarianism on God! Nothing in all of creation is equal. Pigeons are not equal to eagles and zebras are not equal to lions. No one is equal. Not in opportunity, nor in skills, nor in talents, nor in gifts. People are not equal in their abilities, in their energy, or in their motivation. Some people work hard and sacrifice much. Others squander their resources and energy in gambling and vices.

## **Forcing Everyone to be Equal is Unworkable**

Secular humanist philosophers may wish that everyone be forced to be equal, but it has proven to be unworkable. As Winston Churchill declared: “Socialism could only work in Heaven, where it is not needed, or in Hell, where they already have it.”

### **Socialism is Legalised Theft**

As Margaret Thatcher observed: “The problem with Socialism is that sooner or later you run out of other people’s money.”

### **Rewards and Punishments**

Those who work hard are rewarded. Those who are unprofitable servants are cast into outer darkness. In the parable of the talents (Luke 19:12-27), our Lord taught that He would generously reward those who were faithful and wise in serving Him, but the unproductive, He condemned. *“For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”* Luke 19: 26

### **Freedom to Fail or Succeed**

There is nothing egalitarian about the Bible. Equality before the law is commanded (Numbers 15:15-16). However no one can enforce equality of effort, nor equality of results.

### **Inequality in Scripture**

In the Scriptures we read that Enoch walked with God, that Abraham was chosen to be the Father of God’s people. Abraham is described as the friend of God. Moses spoke to God face to face. David was described as *“a man after God’s own heart”*. John, the Apostle is described as *“the disciple whom Jesus loved”*. The Lord made it clear that there would be different degrees of judgment. He warned that it would be better for the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah than for Capernaum on the Day of Judgment. How could that be? Because, evil as Sodom and Gomorrah were, they never had a Bible. Nor did the Messiah walk their streets. However, Capernaum had the Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles working miracles in their streets and yet they rejected His grace and mercy.

### **The Day of Judgment**

We will be judged according to the light that we have received. To whom much is given, much is required. To whom much more is given, much more is required. The Scriptures also make clear that there will be different degrees of rewards in Heaven. *“Each one’s work will become clear for the day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”* 1 Corinthians 3:13-15

### **What About the Eskimos and Pygmies?**

So, back to the question of what about the Eskimos and Pygmies and other primitive, remote tribes that have never heard the Gospel?

Actually there are many Pygmies in the Congo who have come to Christ. We’ve even had one at one of our Biblical Worldview Summits in Cape Town. There are many millions of Christians in the Congo. There are, in fact, many hundreds of times more Evangelical, Bible-believing Christians in the Congo than there are in Belgium, which once ruled this territory.

### **The Reality of Heathenism**

If any one doubts the depravity of man they need to read David Livingstone’s accounts of what central Africa was like prior to the advent of the Gospel, as well as Henry Morton Stanley’s writings: *Through the Dark Continent (1878)* and *In Darkest Africa (1890)*. The reality of heathenism before the advent of the Gospel and civilisation is clearly portrayed in the works by these pioneer explorers. Treachery, cannibalism and slavery were rife. In village after village down the original heart of darkness, the Congo River, Stanley and his companions saw villages decorated with the skulls and bones of tens of thousands of victims of cannibalism.



## **Hearts in Darkness**

No, there are no sincere, good people, earnestly seeking God, who will be condemned just because they haven't heard the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has plainly manifested His eternal power, being and character to every human being on the planet. Through General Revelation in Creation, and through their conscience, every human being knows that there is a God and that he is accountable to God. Yet every human being disobeys God. Jesus Christ came into a world that was already condemned, lost, on its way to Hell. Christ came to redeem a world that was already guilty of rejecting the Creator and of violating His Holy Laws.

## **A Call to Action**

The best form of defence is attack. The Gospel is under attack. We need to counter attack. We dare not be passive, neutral or inactive. The situation is desperate. The needs are urgent. Christian civilisation itself is under attack. The essential foundations for faith and freedom are being undermined.

## **War Against God**

Everywhere we see evidence of the paganisation of society and of the criminalisation of our communities. In this battle for the mind, it is the battle for truth itself that is at stake. The war against the family includes attacks on the institution of marriage itself. There is a war against the unborn. Ultimately, all of these are symptoms of a greater war against God Himself.

## **The First Battlefield**

Karl Marx declared: "*The first battlefield is the re-writing of history.*" Secular humanist textbooks and Hollywood films are trying to rearrange reality and discredit our Christian ancestors. We need to know the Word of God and we need to know the Works of God in history. Study to show yourself approved unto God, and be ready

always, to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.

**Contend For the Faith**

May God grant them repentance so that they may know the Truth, come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil. Contend earnestly for the Faith once delivered to the saints.

## Chapter 8

### HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT JESUS IS ALIVE?

*“And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead.”* Romans 1:4

#### **Who Moved the Stone?**

The Resurrection is so important and foundational to Christianity that it has been targeted for the most relentless attacks. Frank Morison, a lawyer, determined to disprove the Resurrection and thereby undermine Christianity. The result of his exhaustive investigations was his conversion to Christ and the publication of his book: *“Who Moved the Stone?”* which decisively demonstrates the overwhelming evidence for the Resurrection.

#### **Evidence that Demands a Verdict**

A skeptical university lecturer, Josh McDowell, determined to disprove Christianity by investigating evidence against the Resurrection. The result was his conversion to Christ and publication of the monumental: *“Evidence That Demands a Verdict”* which exhaustively and conclusively presents documentation and evidence upon evidence substantiating the historical truth, factual accuracy, archeological evidence, manuscript evidence, fulfilled prophecies, transformed lives, and other indisputable evidences which support the fact of the Resurrection of Christ from the dead and the truth claims of Christianity.

#### **Facing the Facts**

Thomas Arnold, Professor of History at Oxford University, one of the greatest historians of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century wrote: *“I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better, fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair enquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose from the dead.”*

## **Examining the Evidence**

Simon Greenleaf, recognised as one of the most skilled legal minds ever produced, developed the Harvard Law School. He is recognised as the top authority on what constitutes sound evidence. Simon Greenleaf made a thorough and exhaustive examination of the objective evidence and the testimony of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In his book: *“The Testimony of the Evangelists”* (Baker, 1874) he concluded: *“It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.”*

Simon Greenleaf declared that any court of law, if presented with the evidence of the Resurrection, would have to give a verdict in favour of the integrity and accuracy of the Gospel writers and the fact of the Resurrection.

One of the most popular books ever written and most successful films ever produced, *Ben Hur*, was a result of a skeptical challenge to General Lew Wallace to the authenticity of Christ’s Resurrection, and a careful examination of the evidence.

## **What are the Facts?**

The religious leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees, who had campaigned and conspired to have Christ arrested and executed on trumped up charges, had a compelling interest in disproving any claims of the Resurrection. They had presumed that the execution of Jesus would eliminate this threat to their religious power base and silence His supporters. These Jewish religious leaders had great concerns about the corpse of Jesus and they approached the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, for a military detachment to secure the tomb (Matthew 28:62-64).

The Roman governor's priority in the volatile province of Palestine was to preserve peace and stability. He recognised the political problems that would ensue if anything happened to this religious Teacher whom he had three times declared innocent, and ultimately washed his hands in front of the crowd declaring, *"I'm innocent of this Man's blood"* (Matthew 27:24).

Pilate was only too aware that a travesty of justice had taken place, and the last thing he needed was a review of his shameful conduct and dereliction of duty in this case. Ensuring that the victim's corpse remained buried was definitely in Pilate's political interests as well. *"Take a guard", Pilate answered. 'Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how'. So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard."* Matthew 27:65

### **The Roman Guard**

As the chief priests had approached the Roman governor, and as the Greek word *Koustodia* is used to describe the detachment of soldiers, it was evidently a Roman guard. If only a temple guard had been used, there would have been no need to approach Pilate to issue the order. Additionally the concern of the guards after the Resurrection to be protected from consequences from the governor (Matthew 28:14) confirms that those guarding the tomb were Roman soldiers. The detachment would have consisted of at least 16 soldiers with 4 men placed directly in front of the entrance of the tomb, on duty, at any time. Under Roman military law any guard who deserted his post, or who fell asleep on duty, would face crucifixion. Anyone breaking a Roman seal without permission would be tracked down and executed.

Although the intention of the religious and political leaders had been to ensure that the phenomenon of Jesus ended at the tomb, their extraordinary security measures have only served to confirm the truth that they had murdered an innocent Man and that Jesus Christ was truly the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.

### **Would you Die for a Lie?**

To explain away the empty tomb, the enemies of the Gospel have had to resort to some desperate deceptions. The first was to suggest that the disciples had stolen the body. This incredible theory suggests that those same disciples who had slept in the garden, fled at His arrest, denied Him before a young woman, were hiding in fear behind locked doors, could have unitedly overcome sixteen professional Roman soldiers, dared to break a Roman seal, moved a two tonne tomb stone, just to steal a corpse! A dead Messiah would have served absolutely no purpose for the disciples. What possible motivation could they have had, even had they possessed the ability to overcome the military, political and logistical obstacles? They had nothing to gain and everything to lose. Every one of the disciples suffered severe persecution, most dying as martyrs for the Faith. **Would you die for a lie?**

### **Did Jesus Really Die?**

Others have questioned whether Christ had really died on the Cross. Perhaps He only fainted? This swoon theory would have us believe that the Roman soldiers, who were professional killers, (the centurion in charge, would most probably have supervised dozens if not hundreds of executions), had failed to ensure that this high profile political prisoner was not actually dead. Considering the vicious flogging which the Lord had already endured, the excruciating torture of crucifixion, and the spear thrust into His side, with blood and water flowing out, all provide convincing evidence of death.

Yet, those advocating the swoon theory would have us believe that One Who had endured such savage flogging, crucifixion, and a spear thrust to the heart, could not only have survived the legendary Roman military efficiency, but that He was revived on a cold slab in a cold tomb. Further that He somehow disengaged from the grave clothes, and one hundred pounds of spices, ointments and wrappings which had effectively mummified Him, rolled away the two tonne stone,

overpowered, or eluded, the Roman soldiers, and somehow found and impressed the disciples with His Deity? These suggestions have only to be mentioned in order to be dismissed as unbelievable.

### **The Empty Tomb**

Another desperate attempt to explain away the Resurrection of Christ has been that they went to the wrong tomb. All of them, Mary Magdalene, Peter, John, the other women, all went to the wrong tomb. And somehow neither the Pharisees, nor the Sadducees, nor the Roman soldiers, nor Joseph of Arimathea, whose tomb it was, thought to point out that the tomb was in fact still occupied! However, this theory is also impossible, as the tomb was not in a cemetery, but in a garden privately owned by Joseph of Arimathea. There was no other tomb in that garden.

### **The Absence of the Body**

And all that the Roman and Jewish leaders had to do in order to end Christianity forever was produce the corpse of Jesus. But they couldn't do it. Even when the Apostle Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and proclaimed: *"Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ"* Acts 2:36. *"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus"* Acts 4:33. Many thousands in Jerusalem, including many Pharisees, came to faith in Jesus Christ.

### **The Crisis of Credibility**

To the Jewish religious leaders, this was their worst nightmare, a disaster. The proclamation of the Resurrection of Christ undermined their power and credibility. Thousands of their followers now believed that they had condemned an innocent Man, the Messiah Himself. The new religion of Christianity was undermining the power base and credibility of the Pharisees and Sadducees. If the body of Jesus could have been found, Christianity could be stopped dead in its tracks and the threat to the religious status quo would have ended. Since they desperately needed Jesus' corpse, the Jewish leaders would have used

every means at their disposal to hunt it down and find it – if that was possible.

### **The Testimonies of Eye Witnesses**

However, we are not only dealing with the empty tomb, and the absence of the body, but the testimony of eyewitnesses. On at least twelve separate occasions Jesus Christ was seen after rising from the tomb. Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18; Mark 16:9); the other women (Matthew 28:8-10); Peter (Luke 24:34); the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35); ten of the disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-24); all eleven disciples, eight days later (John 20:24-29); seven disciples by the Sea of Tiberius (John 21:1-23); to 500 at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6); to James (1 Corinthians 15:7); to all 11 apostles, and others, at the Ascension (Acts 1:3-12); Paul (Acts 9:3-8); and John (Revelation 1:12-18), all saw the Lord bodily raised from the dead.

To explain away the testimony of all these eyewitnesses, enemies of Christianity suggest that these were merely hallucinations, perhaps as a result of hypnosis or hysteria. However, while hallucinations tend to be unique psychological experiences of an individual, we are here dealing with a large number of individuals, who at different times, in different groups, in different places, both indoors and outdoors, on a hilltop, along a roadside, by a lake shore, all saw the Lord. They saw Him, they ate with Him, they saw the wounds in His hands and in His side.

And far from being gullible, it would appear that His disciples were very skeptical and slow to believe. Thomas declared that he would not believe that Christ had risen unless he personally placed his fingers in the nail prints in His hands and feet and his hand in the wound in His side.

### **Transformed Disciples**

Not only do we have the testimony of the eyewitnesses, but the dramatic transformation of the disciples. The Resurrection of Christ



## How Do you Know that Jesus is Alive?

from the dead transformed the disciples' grief to joy, their cowardice to boldness, their skepticism to faith and their doubt to determination. It turned Saul, the persecutor of the Church into Paul the apostle of the Church.

It also transformed society and history. It changed the Jewish Sabbath into the Christian Lord's Day. What else could explain the replacement of Saturday as the Jewish day of rest into Sunday as the Christian Lord's Day? The Resurrection transformed a Jewish remnant into the worldwide Christian Church. Over 2 billion people worldwide describe themselves as Christians who believe in the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. The very existence of the largest religious movement in the history of the world is another powerful evidence of the truth of the Resurrection.

Jesus Himself had prophesied His Resurrection from the dead. And because of His fulfillment of this, we can be absolutely certain that Jesus Christ is God with us, as He claimed. By His Resurrection we can know that our sins are forgiven through His blood sacrificed on the Cross of Calvary.

Because of Christ's death on the Cross we can rejoice that our sins are paid for – we are forgiven, justified by faith. Because of Christ's Resurrection from the dead we can rejoice in the prospect of eternal life. Because of Christ's Ascension we can know that He has all authority and that His Great Commission will be accomplished on earth. Because of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost we do not need to trust in our own abilities, but in His power alone. *“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord.”*

**We serve a Risen Saviour!** Death is defeated. Christ has risen – victorious over death, hell, satan and the grave. Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25).

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

1 Peter 1:3

## Chapter 9

### HOW CAN I KNOW THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH?

*“Which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead.”* Romans 1:2 - 4

#### **Careful Investigation is Encouraged**

There is nothing wrong with being cautious and careful when it comes to eternal matters. Indeed there is much in the world that we should be skeptical about. We should not be gullible. There is far too much superstition and ignorance in the world. We should carefully investigate and establish what the facts are. We need to have the courage to face the facts.

#### **Faith in Facts**

Christianity does not require one to make a blind leap into the dark. False religions require blind faith. Christianity is an intelligent step into the light, in response to facts.

#### **The Testimony of Thomas**

Thomas declared: *“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.”* John 20:25

Yet, when Thomas was confronted with the risen Lord Jesus, he dedicated the rest of his life to proclaiming the truth of the Resurrected Messiah. Thomas died establishing churches in India. The Bar Thomas churches in India remain to this day.

### **The Absence of Prophecies**

Of the twenty-six books of the world that claim to be some kind of holy book, specific prophecies concerning the future are glaringly absent. You will not find specific, predictive prophecy in the writings of Buddha, Lao-Tzu, Confucius or Mohammad. The reason for the lack of prophecies is that they require supernatural ability.

### **The Fulfillment of Prophecies**

The Bible is a unique book in every way. From the Old Testament alone, more than two thousand specific prophecies have already been fulfilled. Most of the three hundred and thirty-three prophecies concerning the Messiah were fulfilled in the First Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The others will be fulfilled at His Second Coming.

### **Identifying the Messiah**

Some years ago, when I was conducting outreaches in Hillbrow, I had a conversation with two Jewish people who claimed that they were waiting for the promised Messiah. I read to them from Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. Then I asked them who they understood these passages to be referring to. Both agreed that obviously these Scriptures were talking about Jesus of Nazareth. However, one added, “But, that’s from your New Testament!”

“No”, I pointed out to them. “The two passages that I read to you are from your Bible, The Old Testament. Psalm 22 was written by King David a thousand years before the birth of Christ. Isaiah 53 was written by the prophet Isaiah some six hundred years before the time of Christ.” They were shocked. I handed them the Bible so that they could read for themselves and urged them to go back home and look in their own Scriptures to see that this was so.

There are 333 passages of the Old Testament that make predictions about the Messiah. 451 details are given in these passages. They were all fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth.

### **How to Identify a False Prophet**

The Law of God revealed through the prophet Moses declared: *“When a prophet speaks in the Name of the Lord if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you shall not be afraid of him.”*

Deuteronomy 18:22

### **The Incomplete Old Testament**

The Old Testament Scriptures are the Word of God. However, they were definitely incomplete. The Old Covenant speaks of a King from the line of David, whose Kingdom would never end. It spoke of all the families of the nations of the earth being blessed by the Seed of Abraham. It spoke of a Prophet like Moses, arising from among the people, whose teaching would be unparalleled. It spoke of a Servant of the Lord, whose death would atone for the sins of His people. Of One who would make a New Covenant between God and men. One who would put the Spirit of the Lord into the hearts of men, so that they could know God personally and have their sins wiped out. It spoke of a Stone, despised by the builders, which would become the chief Cornerstone. It spoke of One like the Son of Man who would receive authority, honour and royal power so that the people of all nations, races and languages would serve Him. It spoke of a Priest of the order of Melchizedek whom the Almighty would call Lord and welcome to His throne. It spoke of a coming Messiah who would be born of the tribe of Judah, from David’s line, in Bethlehem. He would be despised and rejected by the very people He came to deliver. He would die among wicked men and His tomb would be supplied by a rich man. Yet He would live again, forever, and the Lord’s purpose would succeed through Him. All of this was fulfilled by Jesus! Not some of it. Not much of it. All of it! Prophecies made by many prophets over a thousand years and more were all fulfilled in One historical Person.

### **Proclaiming the Future in the Past**

*“Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done ...”*

Isaiah 46:9-10

*“I have declared the former things from the beginning; they went forth from My mouth and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass, even from the beginning I have declared it to you; before it came to pass I have proclaimed it to you ...”* Isaiah 48:3-5

### **The Old Testament Proclaims Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ, during his earthly ministry, declared: ***“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”*** Matthew 5:17

After He had risen from the dead, Jesus appeared to some of His followers on the road to Emmaus *“and beginning at Moses and all the prophets He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”* Luke 24:27

To His disciples Jesus explained: *“These are the Words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”* Luke 24:44

*“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me ... if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me ...”* John 5:39-47

Again and again in the Scriptures we read of how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. *“But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”* Matthew 26:56

## How Can I Know That Jesus is the Messiah?

Jesus began His public ministry by reading a Messianic prophecy from the book of Isaiah and declaring: ***“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*** Luke 4:21

In the book of Acts we read that the Apostles taught that Jesus Christ fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. *“But those things that God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”* Acts 3:18

***“To Him all the prophets witness ...”*** Acts 10:43

### **Festivals Fulfilled**

The Levitical feasts of the Old Covenant are fulfilled in Christ. For example, The Passover is fulfilled in the death of Christ (1 Corinthians 5:7). The feast of First Fruits is fulfilled in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:23). The feast of Pentecost is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5; 2:4).

### **Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus**

So, what are some of the Messianic prophecies fulfilled in the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth?

After the fall of Adam and Eve into sin, God promised a Redeemer, **born of the seed of woman**, who would suffer but He would defeat satan: *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.”* Genesis 3:15; *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.”* Galatians 4:4; *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His Name **Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins.”*

Matthew 1:21

The Messiah was to be **born of a virgin**: *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son*

*and shall call His Name Emmanuel.*” Isaiah 7:14; *“Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a son and they shall call His Name Emmanuel, which is translated **God with Us.**”* Matthew 1:23

The Messiah shall be a **descendant of Abraham**: *“In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice”* Genesis 22:18 (Genesis 12:2-3); *“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”* Matthew 1:1

It is most significant that Jesus is called the Son of Abraham, as this points out that He was called to the altar of the Cross. He is also called the Son of David, because He is destined to the Crown and the throne. King of kings and Lord of lords. The first time He came as the Lamb of God, a sacrifice. God himself has provided the Lamb: *“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”* The second time He comes, He will come not as the suffering Servant, the sacrificial Lamb, but as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Messiah was to be born **of the line of Isaac**: *“But God said to Abraham ... In Isaac your seed shall be called.”* Genesis 21:12; *“Jesus ... the Son of Isaac.”* Luke 3:23, 34

So these prophecies identify that the Messiah would come from the Hebrew race and of the line of Abraham and Isaac.

The Messiah would be a **descendent from Jacob**: *“A star shall come out of Jacob, a scepter shall rise out of Israel ...”* Numbers 24:17; *“Jesus ... the Son of Jacob.”* Luke 3:23, 34

The Scripture prophesied that the Messiah would come from **the tribe of Judah**; *“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a Lawgiver from between His feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the*



## How Can I Know That Jesus is the Messiah?

*obedience of the people*” Genesis 49:10 (“*Jesus ... the Son of Judah*” Luke 3:23, 33).

The Messiah would come from **the family of Jesse**. “*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*” Isaiah 11:1 (“*Jesus... the Son of Jesse*” Luke 3:23, 32).

The Messiah would come from **the house of David**. “*Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute Judgement and righteousness in the land.*” Jeremiah 23:5 (“*Jesus ... the Son of David...*” Luke 3:23, 31).

So, these prophecies tell us that the Messiah would be born of a virgin, from the line of Abraham, descended from Isaac (not Ishmael), from Jacob (not Esau), from the tribe of Judah (eliminating 11/12th of the tribes of Israel as possibilities.), from the family of Jesse, and from the house of King David. Now the prophecies become even more specific as to where the Messiah will be born:

The Messiah would be **born at Bethlehem**. “*But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, 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*” Micah 5:2 (“*Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea.*” Matthew 2:1) In Matthew 2:6 the scribes informed King Herod with great assurance that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. It was only fitting that Bethlehem, meaning the house of bread, should be the birthplace of the One who is the Bread of Life.

There are also prophecies that the Messiah would be **presented gifts from kings** (Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:6). This was partially fulfilled when the wise men from the East came and fell down and worshiped

Him, opened up their treasures and presented gifts to the young Jesus (Matthew 2:1-11).

The prophecy of lamentation for **slain children** (Jeremiah 31:15) was fulfilled when King Herod ordered that all the male children under 2 years old in the district of Bethlehem be put to death, in order to wipe out the prophesied Messiah (Matthew 2:16-18).

Other Messianic prophecies included that: **He shall be called Lord.** *“The Lord said to My Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies your footstool.”* Psalm 110:1 (*“For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.”* Luke 2:11 *“He said to them, how then does David in the Spirit call Him Lord, saying; the Lord said to My Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool? If David then calls Him Lord, how is He his Son?”* Matthew 22:43-45).

He shall be **a Prophet** (*“I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.”* Deuteronomy 18:18 (*“So the multitude said, this is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee”* Matthew 21:11).

It can be noted that Christ and Moses were both delivered from a violent death in their infancy, both exercised control over the sea, both fed multitudes of people miraculously, both mediated between Jehovah and Israel and made intercession on behalf of sinful people.

*“For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”* John 1:17

The Messiah would also be **a Priest** according to the Order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4) *“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the*

## How Can I Know That Jesus is the Messiah?

*heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.” Hebrews 3:1*

*“So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become a high priest, but it was He who said to Him, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten You ... You are a priest forever, according to the Order of Melchizedek.’”*

Hebrews 5:5-6

The Messiah would be **Judge**. *“For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.”* Isaiah 33:22 (*“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from any lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works”* Titus 2:13-14).

The Messiah will be **King**. *“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.”* Psalm 2:6 (Jeremiah 23:5; Zachariah 9:9), (*“And He has on His robes and on His thigh, a Name with Him: King of kings and Lord of lords”* Revelation 19:16).

The Messiah shall have a **special anointing of the Holy Spirit**. *“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”* Isaiah 11:2 (*“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the Heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. Suddenly a voice came from Heaven saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’”* Matthew 3:16-17).

The Messiah shall be **preceded by a messenger who will prepare the way in the wilderness**: *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert, a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill will go low; the crooked places shall be made*

*straight and the rough places smooth; the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed ...”* Isaiah 40:3-5 (“*John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’ For this is He who was spoken of by the prophet of Isaiah, saying the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight ...”* Matthew 3:1-3).

His ministry would begin **in Galilee**. “*...the land of Zabulon and the land of Naphtali ... by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.*” Isaiah 9:1 (“*Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. On leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zabulon and Naphtali. From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand’”* Matthew 4:12-17).

He would work **miracles**. “*Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will sing for joy.*” Isaiah 35:5-6 (“*And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in the synagogues, and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness”* Matthew 9:35 “*... the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the Gospel preached to them”* Luke 7:22).

He would teach in **parables**. “*I will open My mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old.*” Psalm 78:2 (“*All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them”* Matthew 13:34).

He would **enter Jerusalem on a donkey**. “*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having Salvation, humble, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of donkey.*” Zechariah 9:9 (“*And they brought*

*him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road ...” Luke 19:35-37).*

The Messiah would **enter the Temple**. *“And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple.” Malachi 3:1 (“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple” Matthew 21:12).*

He would be **zealous for God’s House**. *“Because zeal for Your House has eaten Me up ...” Psalm 69:9 (“When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple ... and He said ... take these things away! Do not make My Father’s House a house of merchandise!” John 2:15-16 “Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, it is written, ‘My House shall be called a House of Prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves’” Matthew 21:12-13).*

The Messiah was to be **a Stone of Stumbling**. *“The Stone which the builders rejected has become the chief Cornerstone.” Psalm 118:22 “He will be as a sanctuary, but a Stone of Stumbling and a Rock of offence to both the houses of Israel and a trap and a snare to be inhabitant of Jerusalem, and many among them shall stumble...” Isaiah 8:14-15 (“The Stone which the builders rejected has become the chief Cornerstone. Whoever falls on that Stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls it will grind him to powder.” Luke 20:17-18 “Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, the Stone which the builders rejected has become the chief Cornerstone” 1 Peter 2:7).*

He would be **betrayed by a friend**. *“Even my familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate My bread, has lifted up his heel against Me.” Psalm 41:9 (“Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him” Matthew 10:4).*

He would be **betrayed for 30 pieces of silver** (Zechariah 11:12), “*What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him 30 pieces of silver.*” Matthew 26:15

The money would be **thrown into God’s House**. “*So I took the 30 pieces of silver and threw them into the House of the Lord for the potter.*” Zechariah 11:13 (“*Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and he parted*” Matthew 27:5 “*And they had consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field to bury strangers in*” Matthew 27:7).

He would be **forsaken by His disciples**. “*Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.*” Zechariah 13:7 (“*Then they all forsook Him and fled*” Mark 14:15).

He would be **accused by false witnesses**. “*Fierce witnesses rise up ...*” Psalm 35:11 (“*Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the Council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none*” Matthew 26:59-60).

He would be **silent before His accusers**. “*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth.*” Isaiah 53:7 (“*And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing*” Matthew 27:12).

He would be **wounded and bruised**. “*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.*”

Isaiah 53:5

He would be **beaten and abused**. “*I gave My back to those who struck Me and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide*

## How Can I Know That Jesus is the Messiah?

*My face from shame and spitting.*” Isaiah 50:6 (“*Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and the others struck Him ...*” Matthew 26:67).

He would be **mocked**. “*All who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake their head, saying, ‘He trusted in the Lord; let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!’*” Psalm 22:7-8 (“*When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and a reed in His right hand; and they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him ...*” Matthew 27:29).

**His hands and His feet would be pierced**. “*They pierced My hands and My feet.*” Psalm 22:16 (“*And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him*” Luke 23:33).

He would be **executed with thieves**. “*Because He poured out His soul unto death and He was numbered with the transgressors.*” Isaiah 53:12 (“*Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left*” Matthew 27:38).

He would **intercede for His persecutors**. “*And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*” Isaiah 53:12 (“*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*” Luke 23:34).

He would be **rejected by His own people**. “*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.*” Isaiah 53:3

**His friends would stand afar off**. “*My loved ones and My friends stand aloof from my plague and My relatives stand afar off.*” Psalm 38:11 (“*But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee stood at a distance, watching these things*” Luke 23:49).

**People would shake their heads at Him.** *“I have also become a reproach to them; when they look at Me, they shake their heads.”* Psalm 109:25 (*“And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads”* Matthew 27:39).

**His garment would be gambled for.** *“They divide My garments among them and for My clothing they cast lots.”* Psalm 22:18 (*“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. They said ‘let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be’* John 19:23-24).

**Gall and vinegar would be offered to Him.** *“They also gave Me gall for My food, and for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.”* Psalm 69:21 (*“They gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink and when He had tasted it He would not drink”* Matthew 27:34).

**He would cry out: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”** Psalm 22:1 (*“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lamasabachthani?’ That is, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”* Matthew 27:47).

**He would commit His Spirit to God.** *“Into Your hand I commit My Spirit.”* Psalm 31:5 (*“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit’”* Luke 23:46).

**None of His bones would be broken.** *“He guards all His bones; not one of them is broken.”* Psalm 34:20 (*“But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs”* John 19:33).

**His side would be pierced.** *“They will look on Me whom they pierced.”* Zechariah 12:10 (*“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear”* John 19:34).



**His heart would break.** *“My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me.”* Psalm 22:14 (*“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and immediately blood and water came out”* John 19:34).

**There would be darkness over the land.** *“And it shall come to pass in that day, says the Lord God, that I will make the sun go dark at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight.”* Amos 8:9 (*“Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land”*, Matthew 27:45). Because they calculated the hours from sunrise to sunset this should make the sixth hour to the ninth hour from noon to three o'clock in the afternoon.

He would be **buried in a rich man’s tomb.** *“And they made His grave with the wicked – with the rich at His death.”* Isaiah 53:9 (*“There came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph ... and he asked for the body of Jesus ... when Joseph had taken the body he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb”* Matthew 27:57-60).

**He would rise from the dead.** *“For You will not leave My soul in sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”* Psalm 16:10 (*“... He would raise up the Christ to sit on His throne, He, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the Resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in hades, not did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses”* Acts 2:30-32).

**He would ascend on High.** *“You have ascended on High.”* Psalm 68:18 (*“He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight”* Acts 1:9).

He would be **seated at the right hand of God** (Psalm 110:1). *“When He had by Himself purged our sins He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High.”* Hebrews 1:3

**Many Gentiles, including kings, would come to His light.** *“The Gentiles shall come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your rising.”* Isaiah 60:3 (*“For so the Lord has commanded us, I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for Salvation to the ends of the earth. Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the Word of the Lord”* Acts 13:47-48).

These are only some of the over 300 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. The place of His birth (Micah 5:2), the time of His birth (Genesis 49:10 and Daniel 9:25), the unique manner of His birth (Isaiah 7:14), the manner of His death (Psalm 22:16), and so much more, was prophesied in great detail from 500 to over 1000 years before His birth. All of these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ and they establish a solid confirmation of His credentials as the Messiah.

***“To Him all the prophets witness ...”*** Acts 10:43

### **Jesus is The Messiah**

Jesus is the Seed of the woman, born of the virgin, Emmanuel, the Son of God, the Son of Abraham, the Son of David, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Prophet, Priest and King, eternal Judge. He made the blind see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk and the dumb to sing for joy. He cleansed the lepers, healed the sick and raised the dead. He taught in parables. At the appointed time He entered Jerusalem on a donkey and suddenly came to His temple, cleansing it. He was a rock of offence and a stone of stumbling to the Jews, but He became a light to the Gentiles. He was betrayed by a friend, for 30 pieces of silver, forsaken by His disciples, accused by false witnesses, wounded and bruised, smitten and spat upon, mocked and crucified. Yet He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. He is seated at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven and He will come again to Judge the living and the dead.

## How Can I Know That Jesus is the Messiah?

He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the eternal Judge before whom each one of us will stand. Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies.

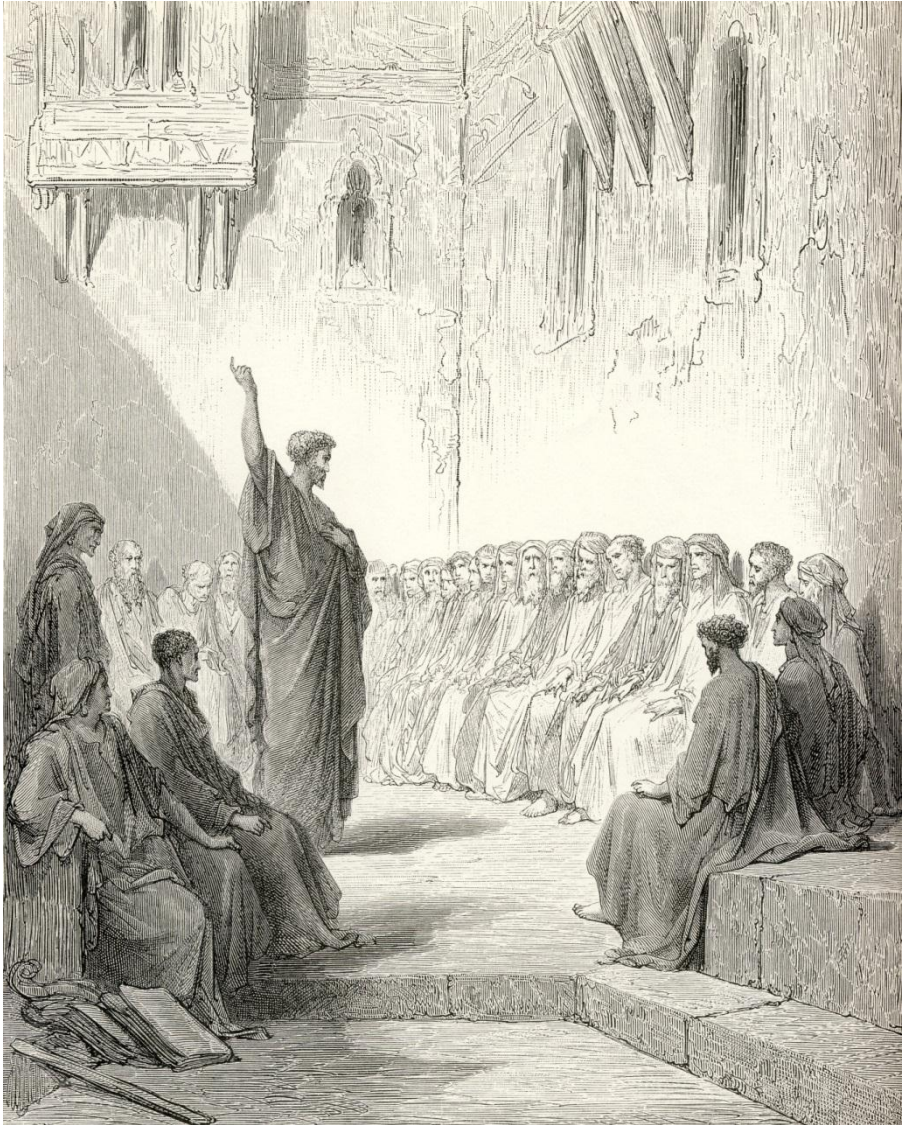
**Have you surrendered your life to Him?**

**Are you living in obedience to Him?**

**Do you love Him with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind, and with all of your strength?**

**Is Jesus Christ your Saviour and Lord,  
or is He your Eternal Judge?**

## Answering Skeptics



***“God has appointed a Day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:31***

## Chapter 10

# JESUS ON TRIAL

### A Travesty of Justice

The trial of Jesus was a travesty of justice. It is a terrifying thing to be judged by a mob. Can you imagine being judged by your worst enemies?

### Character Witnesses

However, we can call forward some hostile character witnesses to testify of Jesus. Of course, we could call forth millions of Christians throughout the ages who would eagerly testify to the incomparable goodness and greatness of our Lord and Saviour. However, in this chapter, we will call forward only skeptics, many of them enemies of Christ:

### Hostile Witness For Jesus

**Thomas Paine**, who was an outspoken opponent of Christianity, still admitted in writing: *“Jesus Christ was a virtuous and amiable man. For the morality that He preached and practiced was of the most benevolent kind; and while those similar systems of morality had been preached by Confucius, and by some of the Greek philosophers, many years before; by the Quakers since, and by many good men of all ages, it has not been exceeded by any.”*

### The Christ

The first century Jewish historian, **Josephus Ben Mattathias**, the author of *The Antiquities of the Jews*, wrote: *“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call Him a man, for He was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ and when Pilate at the suggestion of the principle men among us, had condemned Him to the Cross, those who loved Him at the first, did not forsake Him; for He appeared to them*

*alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand wonderful things concerning Him. The tribe of Christians so named from Him are not extinct to this day.*” (Antiquities XVIII, 33)

### **The Greatest Example and Inspiration**

**William H. Lecky** was one of the leading historians of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the author of *The History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*. Lecky spent his life advancing the cause of rationalism, attacking Christianity and the supernatural. Yet, he admitted: *“It was reserved for Christianity to present to the world an ideal character, which through all the changes of eighteen centuries has inspired the hearts of men with an impassioned love, has shown itself capable of acting on all ages, nations, temperaments, and conditions, and has been not only the highest pattern of virtue, but also the strongest incentive to its practice, and has exercised so deep an influence that it may truly be said that the simple record of three short years of active life has done more to regenerate and soften mankind than all of the dispositions of philosophers and exhortations of moralists.”*

### **Pre-Eminent**

**John Stewart Mill** was perhaps the most influential and respected economist of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He often spoke out against Christianity, yet he had to acknowledge: *“Christ is still left – a unique figure, not more unlike all of His precursors than all his followers. Even those who had the direct benefit of His personal teaching. It is of no use to say that Christ, as exhibited in the Gospel, is not historical in that we know not how much of what is admirable has been added by the tradition of His followers ... who among His disciples, or among their proselytes, was capable of inventing the sayings attributed to Jesus, or of imagining the life and character revealed in the Gospels? Certainly not the fisherman of Galilee. ...When this pre-eminent genius is combined with the qualities of probably the greatest moral Reformer and Martyr to that mission who has ever existed on earth, religion cannot be said to*

*have made a bad choice in pitching on this Man as the ideal representative and guide of humanity; nor even now would it be easy, even for an unbeliever, to find a better translation of the rule of virtue from the abstract into the concrete than to endeavour to so live that Christ would approve our life.”*

### **Recognising Reality**

Even as determined an enemy of Christianity as **Charles Darwin**, who popularized the theory of evolution, had to concede in an article written for a newspaper in London: *“Those who minimize the work of missionaries in pagan countries, forget, or will not remember, that human sacrifices and the power of an idolatrous priesthood; profligacy; infanticide; bloody wars where conquerors spared neither women nor children – that all of these have been abolished in these savage islands. And that dishonesty, intemperance and licentiousness have been greatly reduced by Christianity. In a voyager, to forget these things is base ingratitude. For should he chance to be at the point of shipwreck on some unknown coast, he will most devoutly pray that the lesson of the missionary may have reached thus far!”*

### **Civilising**

On another occasion, Darwin wrote: *“The lesson of the missionary is the enchanter’s wand. The house has been built, the windows framed, the fields ploughed and even the trees grafted by the New Zealander. The march of improvement, consequent on the introduction of Christianity throughout the seas probably stands by itself in the records of history.”*

### **Irreplaceable**

Another hostile witness that could be brought to testify of the uniqueness of Christ was Darwin’s bulldog, **Thomas Huxley**. It was Huxley who first coined the word agnostic, which is what he claimed to be. Huxley did more than any other to popularize the theories of Darwinism - he was steadfastly opposed to almost every aspect of

Christianity. Yet, in 1870, he wrote for *The Contemporary Review*: “*I have always been strongly in favour of secular education, in the sense of education without theology. But, I must confess that I have been no less seriously perplexed to know by what practical measures the religious feeling, which is the essential basis of conduct, was to be kept up in the presently utterly chaotic state of opinion on these matters - without the use of the Bible. The pagan moralists lack life and colour. Take the Bible as a whole, make the severest deductions which their criticisms can dictate and there still remains a vast residuum of moral beauty and grandeur. By the study of what other book could children be so much humanized and made to feel that each figure in that vast historical procession fills, like themselves, but a momentary space and interval between two eternities and earns the blessings, or curses, of all time, according to its efforts to do good and evil?*”

### **Conceited Ignorance**

When a fellow agnostic philosopher debunked the Bible, Huxley rebuked the man for putting on display his “*conceited ignorance.*”

### **Indispensible**

Huxley even had to go further in admitting: “*The Bible has been the Magna Carta of the poor and the oppressed down to modern times. No state has had a constitution in which the interests of the people are so largely taken into account, in which the duties so much more than the privileges of rulers are insisted upon, as that drawn up for Israel. Nowhere is the fundamental truth that the welfare of this state, in the long run, depends upon the uprightness of the citizen so strongly laid down. I do not believe that the human race is yet, and possibly never will be, in a position to dispense with the Bible.*”

### **Immeasurably in Advance**

Another vocal skeptic who can be called upon to testify of Christ was **George Romanes**. He wrote many articles against Christianity during his lifetime. Yet, in his book *Thoughts on Religion*, Romanes observed:



*“Not only is Christianity thus so immeasurably in advance of all other religions, it is no less so of every other system of thought that has ever been promulgated in regard to all that is moral and spiritual. Whether it be true or false, it is certain that neither philosophy, nor science, nor poetry has ever produced results in thought, conduct or beauty in any degree to be compared with it. It is the greatest exhibition of the beautiful, the sublime, and all else that appeals to our spiritual nature which has ever been known upon our earth. What has all the science, or all the philosophy of the world, done for the thought of mankind to be compared to this one Doctrine – God is Love?”*

### **The Dominant Figure in History**

**H.G. Wells** who wrote *Outlines of History* is best known for his science fiction and film making. However, by profession he was an historian. Despite being a very outspoken critic of Christianity, H.G. Wells wrote: *“Jesus of Nazareth is easily the dominant figure in history. I am speaking of Him, of course, as a man. For I can see that the historian must treat Him as a man, just as the painter must paint Him as a man. To assume that He never lived and that the accounts of His life are inventions is more difficult and raises more problems in the path of the historian than to accept the essential elements of the Gospel stories as fact. Of course, you and I live in countries where to millions of men and women Jesus is more than a man. But the historian must disregard that fact. He must adhere to the evidence which would pass unchallenged if His book were to be read in every nation under the sun. Now, it is interesting and significant, isn't it, that an historian setting forth in that spirit, without any theological bias whatsoever, should find that he simply cannot portray the progress of humanity honestly without giving the foremost place to a penniless teacher from Nazareth.”*

### **Unparalleled**

The final hostile witness who I would like to call to testify of Christ is the brilliant and volatile journalist and writer **H.L. Mencken**. Mencken dipped his pen in acid whenever it came to writing on Christianity.

Mencken was the journalist who transformed the evolutionist's legal defeat in the courtroom at the Scopes trial to a victory in the court of public opinion. In his work: *Treatise on the gods*, Mencken declared: *"This historicity of Jesus is no longer questioned seriously by anyone, whether Christian or unbeliever. The main facts about Him seem to be beyond dispute... it is not easy to account for His singular and stupendous success. How did it come about that one who in His life had only the bitter cup of contumely to drink should have lifted Himself in death to such vast esteem and circumstance, such incomparable and world shaking power and renown?... It seems to be certain that many persons saw Him after His supposed death on the Cross, including not a few who were violently disinclined to believe in His Resurrection. Upon that theory, the most civilized sections of the human race have erected a structure and practices so vast in scope and so powerful in effect that the whole range of history shows nothing parallel."*

### **A Unanimous Verdict**

So, here we have testimonies of some famous skeptics, some of them Christ's enemies, over almost two thousand years, including: rationalist philosophers, a Jewish historian, some famous evolutionists, a secular humanist journalist, a world renowned economist, a religious skeptic and a famous science fiction writer and Hollywood director. None of them were Christians. They all rejected Christianity. Yet, they all had to acknowledge that Jesus Christ was the greatest person to ever walk on earth. His impact on history and the Bible's contribution to life and civilization are incomparable. The verdict of these skeptics is unanimous. This One who was born in obscurity, who lived in poverty and who died in agony, became the most important and positive influence in the history of the world. No one has influenced the world for the good more than Jesus Christ.

### **Condemning the Eternal Judge**

The chief priests in the Sanhedrin conspired against and condemned Christ. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, acquitted Christ three

times, declaring Him not guilty and yet he ordered Him to be whipped and crucified to appease the mob in the streets. Pilate then had the audacity to wash his hands in public declaring that he was innocent of this just man's blood.

### **The Day of Judgement Will Come**

Today many presume to sit in Judgement upon Christ. But the day will come when each one of them, and each one of us, will stand before the Judgment throne of Jesus Christ to give an account of our lives to Him.

***“It is appointed unto men once to die and after that the Judgement,”***

Hebrews 9:27

### **Jesus Will Judge You and Me**

The question is not so much what you think of Christ – but **what does He think of you?**

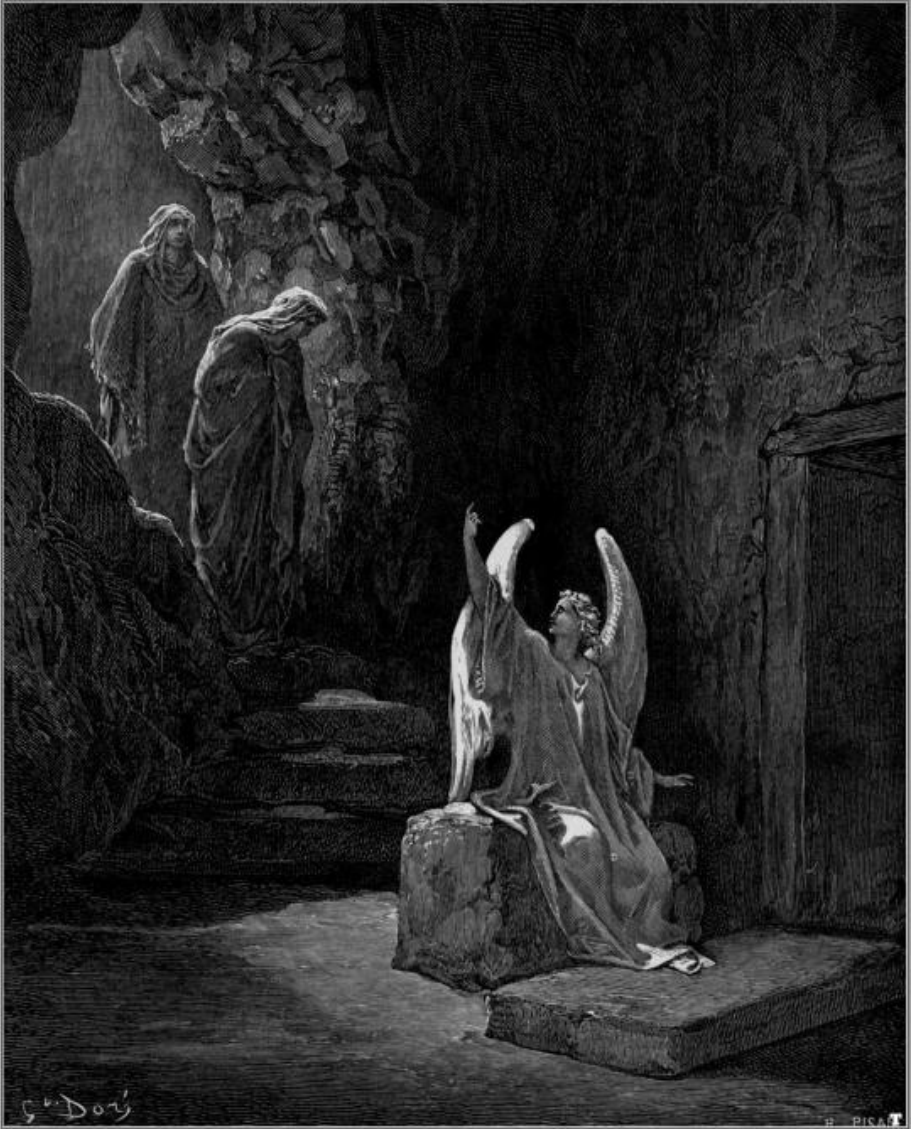
The question is not so much what will you do with Christ – but **what will He do with you?**

On the Day of Judgment will you hear: *“Well done! Good and faithful servant.”*

Or will you hear: *“Depart from Me ye cursed, into the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”*

***“For we must all appear before the Judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*** 2 Corinthians 5:10

Answering Skeptics



***“Why do you seek the living among the dead?  
He is not here, but is risen!”*** Luke 24:5

## Chapter 11

# IS THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY REALLY TAUGHT IN THE BIBLE?

### One God in Three Persons

Christians believe in the Trinity because there is only one God. ***“Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord.”*** Deuteronomy 6:4. ***“Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.”***

Isaiah 44:6

Because the Bible clearly teaches that the Father is God, that the Son is God and that the Holy Spirit is God, Christians are compelled to accept that God is eternally existent in three Persons. The Christian doctrine of the Trinity states that there is only one God, eternally existent in three Persons.

### Who is Jesus Christ?

During His ministry on earth, our Lord Jesus Christ performed acts that only God could do. Jesus Christ commanded the forces of nature, stilling the storm, walking on water, turning water into wine and multiplying a handful of food to feed thousands (Matt 8:23-27; 14:22-33; Luke 8:22-25). Jesus Christ forgave sins (Mark 2:1-12); He claimed to be superior to the Sabbath Law (John 5:17-18); and He gave life to whomever He pleased (John 5:19-23). He raised the widow’s son to life (Luke 7:11-15), He raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:25-44).

The Apostle Paul taught that God purchased the Church with His own Blood (Acts 20:28).

Paul also declared that the rulers of this world had unwittingly crucified the Lord of Glory (1 Cor 2:8). ***“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”*** Colossians 2:9

***“God who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person and upholding all things by the Word of His power...”*** Hebrews 1:1-3

In so many ways, our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated the attributes of Deity:

### **Everywhere Present**

***“For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them.”*** Matthew 18:20

***“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*** Matthew 28:18-20

### **All Knowing**

***“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”***

Matthew 11:27

***“I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”*** Revelation 2:23

### **Eternal**

***“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”*** John 8:58

***“I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”*** John 16:28

***“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”*** John 17:5

### **All Powerful**

***“Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? ...For with authority He commands even the unclean spirit and they obey Him!’”*** Mark 1:27

***“So the men marveled, saying, ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’”*** Matthew 8:27

***“For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”*** John 5:21

### **Sinless**

The holiness and perfection of Christ’s life confirms His Deity. The Scriptures clearly state: ***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*** Romans 3:23. Yet our Lord Jesus Christ could say: ***“Which of you convicts Me of sin?”*** John 8:46

### **Jesus Forgave Sins**

The Old Testament makes it clear that only God has the power to forgive sins, yet during His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus forgave sins. To the paralytic lying on his bed the Lord Jesus declared: ***“Your sins are forgiven you.”*** Matthew 9:2

Jesus declared to one woman: ***“Your sins are forgiven.”*** Luke 7:48

To the woman caught in adultery Jesus declared: ***“Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.”*** John 8:11

## Saviour

The very Name of Jesus means Yahweh Saves. *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:21

*“I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no Saviour.”*

Isaiah 43:11

*“...And there is no other besides Me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”* Isaiah 45:21-22

*“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12

Both God’s role, and His Name, as Saviour, are attributed to Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Our Lord Jesus claimed the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:7-10; Luke 7:48) and He is the Saviour of sinners (John 3:17; Acts 4:12; Gal 1:4; Heb 9:26). He raised the dead (Mark 5:35-43; Luke 7:11-17; John 11) and He gives eternal life to all who now believe in Him (Mark 10:21; John 3:16; 5:24; 1 John 5:11-12).

*“Our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us...”* Titus 2:13

## The Eternal Judge

In the Old Testament Yahweh alone is the Judge (Dan 7:9-10; Psalm 99; Deut 32). Yet Jesus Christ claimed this uniquely Divine function in the New Testament (Matt 25:31-46; John 5:22-30).

*“For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* 2 Cor 5:10, (Matt 25:31-32; John 5:22-24; Rev 19:11-16).



## Creator

Yahweh alone is the Creator of all things (Gen 1; Psa 33:6-9; Isa 42:5). The New Testament reveals that ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*** John 1:1-5

***“For by Him all things were created that are in Heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible... All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”*** Colossians 1:16-18

## Worship

Yahweh alone is worthy of worship and to worship anyone other than the Lord God would be the worst and most fundamental of all sins (Exod 20:3-6; Deut 6:4-16). Yet, prayers are addressed to Christ (Acts 7:59; 9:13; 1 Cor 16:22; Rev 22:20); doxologies are ascribed to Christ (Rom 9:5; 2 Tim 4:18; 2 Pet 3:18; Rev 1:5-6); Old Testament worship passages are transferred from Yahweh to Christ. For example: Isa 8:13-15 in ***“Behold I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*** Romans 9:33

The disciples worshipped Jesus (Matt 28:17; Luke 24:52). When Thomas declared to Jesus: ***“My Lord and my God!”*** (John 20:28), far from rebuking him, the Lord Jesus merely suggested that he should have believed earlier.

The Book of Revelation presents the most unambiguous worship of Jesus Christ: ***“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing!”***

Revelation 5:12-14

## Yahweh

The name of *Yahweh* is ascribed to Christ. The sacred Name of God, YHWH, by which God revealed Himself to Moses in the Burning Bush,

occurs 7,000 times in the Old Testament. In the Greek New Testament *Yahweh* is translated *Kyrios* (Lord). This exalted Name of *Yahweh* is attributed directly to Christ. ***“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*** Romans 10:9

Certainly the title Lord of lords cannot be interpreted in any other way that Jesus Christ is God incarnate (1 Tim 6:14-15).

***“These will war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.”*** Revelation 17:14

There are many occasions where the New Testament applies Old Testament passages concerning *Yahweh* directly to Jesus: For example Psalms 110:1 in ***“The Lord said to My Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”*** Acts 2:34-35 (Rom 8:38; Heb 10:12-13; 1 Pet 3:22).

Isaiah 45:23 in ***“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in Heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”***

Philippians 2:9-11

Joel 2:32 in ***“For whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.”*** Romans 10:13

Psalms 68:18 in ***“Therefore He says: when He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to man.”*** Ephesians 4:8

Isaiah 40:3 in ***“For this is He who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the***

***way of the Lord; make His paths straight.***” Matthew 3:3 (Mark 1:3; John 1:23). These passages unmistakably refer to *Yahweh* Himself.

Of great significance is Jesus’ self-designations as the ***I Am*** (John 6:35; 8:12, 24, 58; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1, 5; 18:5). These are deliberate identifications with God’s revelation of Himself in Exodus 3:14 as ***“I Am.”***

When Phillip asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus replied: ***“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Phillip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”*** John 14:8-11

When the high priest questioned the Lord Jesus under oath: ***“Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?”*** Jesus answered, ***“I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the power, and coming with the clouds of Heaven.”*** Mark 14:61-62

When the Jews accused Jesus of blasphemy He responded: ***“... believe the works that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me and I in Him.”*** John 10:36-38

***“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”*** 1 John 5:20

### **The Holy Spirit is God**

The Bible clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit is God. ***“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?...you have not lied to men but to God.’”*** Acts 5:3-4

***“...Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”*** 2 Corinthians 3:16-17

## God Triune

There are more than 60 Bible passages which mention the three Persons of the Trinity together. For example: *“When He had been baptised, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were open to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove that alighted upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from Heaven saying ‘This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.’”*

Matthew 3:16-17

*“For there are three who bear witness in Heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are One.”* 1 John 5:7

*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one Faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

Ephesians 4:4-6

*“But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward men appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.”* Titus 3:4-6

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”*

2 Corinthians 13:14

## God With Us

The very Names of Jesus (*Yahweh Saves*), *Messiah* (God’s anointed one), *Son of Man* (Dan 7:13-14), *Emmanuel* (God with us) and the *Son of God*, point to His Deity. His uniquely perfect and sinless life, and His teaching – which is unsurpassed, in authority, clarity, insight and power. All of this is conclusive, and the accumulative proof of all these evidences of the Deity of Christ is overwhelming. Yet even further

proof could be sought in the Resurrection: ***“And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead.”*** Rom 1:4. The empty tomb, the eyewitness accounts of those hundreds who saw Jesus alive again (1 Cor 15:4-8), the transformation of the disciples and even the existence of the Church worldwide, can only support the Biblical claims for the Deity of Christ!

***“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His Name Immanuel.”***

Isaiah 7:14

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

The Trinity can also be seen in Isaiah’s vision of the Lord, in Isaiah 6 the angels were singing: ***“Holy! Holy! Holy! is the Lord of Hosts.”*** The Deity of Christ, the incarnation, the personality of the Holy Spirit, regeneration, justification, sanctification, the meaning of the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection cannot be understood rightly without understanding the doctrine of the Trinity. ***“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*** John 17:3

### **The Incarnation**

The glorious truth of the Incarnation is that God has made Himself known personally, specifically and fully by taking our human nature unto Himself, by coming amongst us, yet without ceasing to be the infinite, transcendent and eternal God.

God in Christ has taken upon Himself the responsibility and penalty for the sins of the world. *Yahweh* has borne the brunt of suffering and evil by subjecting Himself to its cruelty and horror.

The Incarnation reveals the reality, depth and costly nature of His love, holiness, justice and mercy. Jesus is the eternal Son of God, who

became incarnate to reveal God to us and to reconcile us to Himself. He is the second Person of the Trinity. God revealed in human form. Jesus is God, and so we have a full and final Revelation and Redemption in and through Him.

## Chapter 12

# WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE INQUISITION

One of the re-occurring accusations against Christianity is that Christians are responsible for: "*The Inquisition!*"

Frequently, while trying to love one's neighbour and share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, Christians receive some tirade against "*The Church*" and "*The Inquisition!*" The Inquisition is used as some kind of general-purpose club with which to bludgeon Evangelical Christians.

On one occasion while I was being interviewed on a national secular radio programme, on the publication of my book: *Biblical Principles for Africa*, the first caller attacked me and my new book over something that the book doesn't even deal with - she claimed that Christians were responsible for "*the Inquisition*" which "*burned thousands of witches!*"

### **The Anti-Christian Inquisition**

When I finally had the chance to respond to this emotional outburst, I had to point out that a vast majority burned at the stake by the Spanish Inquisition were not witches at all, but Protestant believers. Should one study the court records of the inquisitors it becomes very clear that the inquisitors were by no means Christians at all. They would vindictively condemn to death Christians who believed in, who translated, or who taught, the Holy Scriptures. Often the inquisitors contemptuously tossed the victim's Bible into the fire to be burned with the martyr.

Anyone who has read *Foxes Book of Martyrs*, or similar historical records of the cruel persecutions endured by the Waldensians, the Huguenots and other Protestant reformers, will know that the Inquisition was anti-Christian. The Inquisition occurred at a time of blatant corruption, when priesthoods, bishoprics and even papal seats

were bought and sold. There were many ungodly men dominating all levels of leadership in the medieval Roman church. Far from the Inquisition being Christians persecuting non-Christians, the reality is that it was the very opposite. The Inquisition was an anti-Christian persecution of Protestant believers.

### **The Judas Factor**

The church has never been perfect. Even amongst the twelve Apostles there was a Judas Iscariot who betrayed Christ. Yet it would not be fair to make Judas a representative of the twelve Apostles! The total record of the church needs to be examined, and the good far outweighs the bad. Besides of which the Christian Faith is centered in Christ, not in Christians.

When someone brings up the question of evil perpetrated in God's Name, we need to first examine whether the people involved were true Christians or not. Our Lord Jesus Christ made it abundantly clear: *"Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name and done many wonders in Your Name, and then I will declare to them, I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"* Matthew 7: 21-23

Our Lord Jesus Christ made it clear that some people are truly part of His Church, the elect are all those who are regenerated by His Holy Spirit. However, not all of those in the larger, visible church are members of the true, invisible Church of Christ. The Lord warned that there would be weeds among the wheat and goats amongst His sheep. Many who claim to be Christians are not Christians at all.



### **The Historical Facts**

When people bring up the Inquisition we need to ask them what they actually know about the Inquisition? Seldom has the individual done any research on the matter at all. The Spanish Inquisition began in the year AD1233. This is almost three hundred years before the Protestant Reformation. So, Protestants had no part in the Inquisition except as victims. Bible-believing, Evangelical Protestants were often on the receiving end of the Inquisition, tortured and killed for their beliefs. This included tens of thousands of Waldensian Christians tortured and murdered in the most brutal ways and the Lollards of England, the field workers of the Reformation, who were mercilessly persecuted. The English Reformer, William Tyndale, was burned at the stake in Belgium for the crime of having translated the Bible into the English language.

Protestants were burned at the stake as "*heretics*" in Spain, Italy, France, England and Scotland. Yet the Dutch Protestants suffered even worse persecutions at the hands of the Catholic Inquisition. Under King Phillip II of Spain, more than 18,000 Protestants were executed in the Netherlands. In an attempt to force them to confess to "*heresy*", both men and women were mercilessly tortured.

### **Excommunicating Holland**

At that time, Spain was the most powerful country in the world. Holland was occupied by Spain. In 1566, Phillip II issued a proclamation demanding that all his subjects, accept the decrees made by the Council of Trent. Early in 1567, to crush the flourishing Protestant Faith in Holland, Phillip sent in the Duke of Alva, who unleashed a reign of terror upon the Dutch Protestants. In 1568, the Inquisition condemned all three million inhabitants of the Netherlands to death as "*heretics*".

Under the courageous leadership of William Prince of Orange, the Dutch Protestants rose up in resistance against the oppression of

Catholic Spain. Prince William the Silent and his brave Dutch resistance fighters became the inspiration of Protestants world wide, particularly in England.

### **Bible Banned**

After the Council of Valencia placed the Bible on The Index of Forbidden Books, in 1229, the papacy viciously persecuted the Waldensians. The hostility of the inquisitors to the Bible is clearly seen in their pronouncements such as in the condemnation of English Bible translator, Professor John Wycliffe of Oxford University: "*Pestilent and most wretched John Wycliffe, of damnable memory ... crowned his wickedness by translating the Scriptures into the mother tongue!*"

### **Reformer Burned**

Similarly, the Inquisition condemned the Professor of Prague University, John Hus to be burned alive, for his Reformation works.

### **Bible Translator Condemned**

Foxes Book of Martyrs records the condemnation of prominent Protestant preacher, Reformer and Bible translator, John Rogers, who was burned at the stake, January 1555. Asked by the inquisitor to recant his beliefs, Rogers replied that what he had preached from the pulpit he would seal now with his blood.

"Then thou art an heretic!" exclaimed the inquisitor.

"That shall be known on the Day of Judgement," replied Rogers.

"Well, I will never pray for you", said his judge.

"I will pray for you", responded Rogers. As he walked to the stake in Smithfield, Rogers sang the Psalms.

### **Parents Executed**

On one day in 1519, seven men and women in Coventry were burned alive by the Inquisition for the crime of teaching their children: The Lords Prayer, The Ten Commandments and The Apostles Creed - in English!

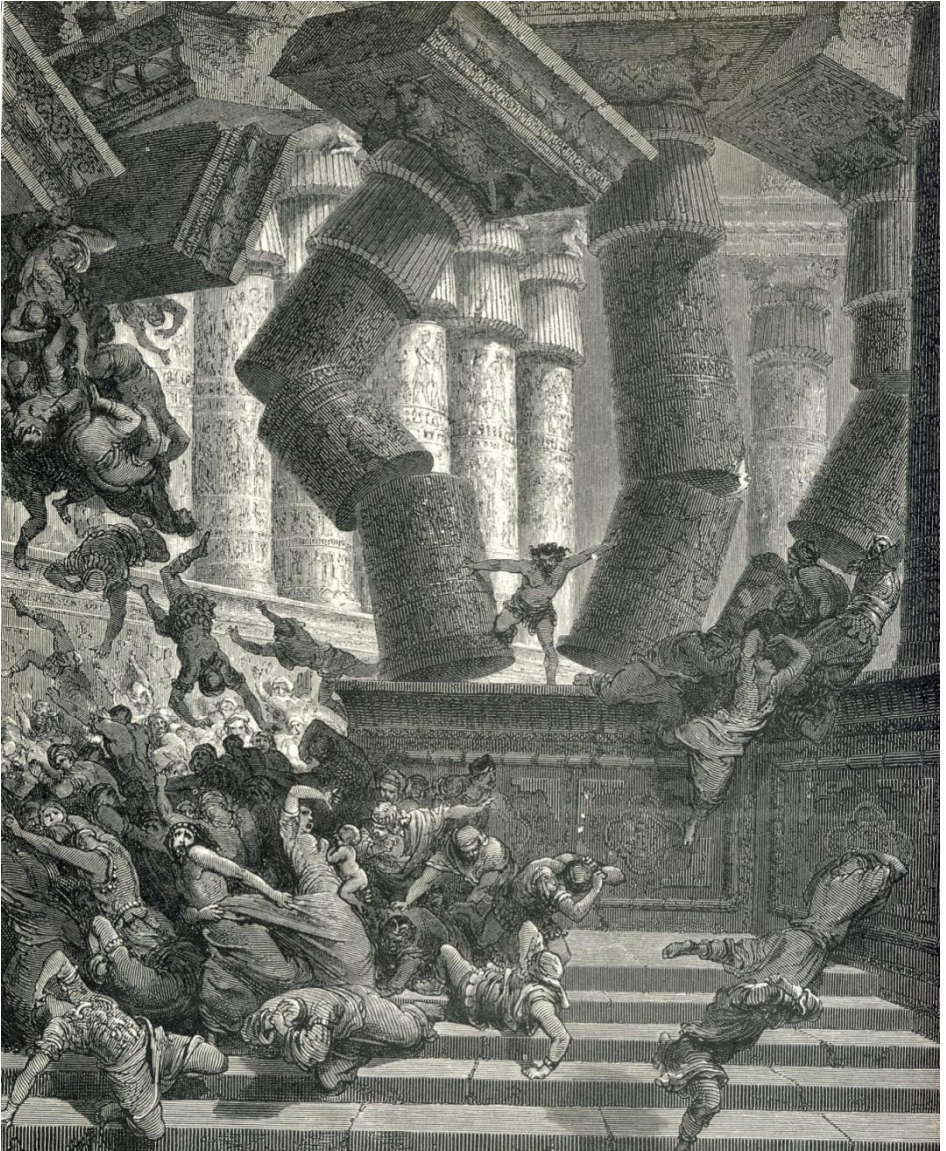
### **Christian Courage**

At his trial, Bishop Ridley was urged to reject his Protestant Faith. His reply: "As for the doctrine which I have taught, my conscience assureth me that it is sound and according to God's Word ...in confirmation thereof I seal the same with my blood."

### **Blaming the Victims**

Anyone attempting to blame Christians for the Inquisition is obviously ignorant of the historical record. It is an utter distortion to blame the victims for the tortures and murders, which were inflicted upon them. So, the next time non-Christians attempt to blame believers for the Inquisition, point out to them that in reality the Inquisition was an anti-Christian persecution of Protestant believers.

*"Woe to those who call evil good; and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness..."* Isaiah 5:20



**And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple and he pushed with all his might, and the temple of Dagon fell. (Judges 16:29-30)**

## Chapter 13

### WHAT ABOUT HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH?

*“I would never become a Christian! Look at all the hypocrites in the church! Look at all the scandals of tele-evangelists, the Health and Wealth preachers, the Name it! Claim it! Frame it! hyper-faith prosperity preachers, two-faced frauds and conmen! I don’t want to be part of hypocrisy!”*

#### **Hypocrisy Condemned**

God is far more offended by hypocrisy than you are. The Bible contains the greatest condemnations of hypocrisy ever recorded. The Apostle Paul wrote about: ***“False apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ, and no wonder! For satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light, therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”*** 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Paul also wrote of: ***“false brethren secretly brought in...”*** Galatians 2:4

The Apostle Peter taught that we are to lay ***“aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and all evil speaking.”*** 1 Peter 2:1

The writer of the book of Hebrews exhorts us to: ***“draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience...”*** Hebrews 10:22

Our Lord Jesus Christ exposed and condemned hypocrisy most famously in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18; 7:1-5). Matthew 23 records our Lord devastating condemnation of hypocrisy: ***“All their works they do to be seen by men... woe to you, ...hypocrites! For you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ...hypocrites! For you devour widows houses... hypocrites! You make him twice as much the son of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides... fools and blind!”***

*...blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ...full of extortion and self-indulgence... woe to you... hypocrites! For you are like white washed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness... serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"* Matthew 23:1-33

God clearly demands honesty and sincerity. Our yes must be YES! and our no, NO! Hypocrisy is consistently condemned throughout Scripture.

### **Medical Hypocrites**

There are of course hypocrites and charlatans in the medical profession too, who violate their Hippocratic Oath to never give an abortifacient to a pregnant woman, nor to do anything to harm a patient. There are innumerable scandals of organ harvesting from prisoners in China to provide kidneys, livers and hearts for transplants to patients willing to pay enough. There are doctors who kill babies through abortion and old people through euthanasia. However, none of us should allow the presence of tens-of-thousands of hypocrites in the medical profession to stop us from going to trusted doctors and dentists when we are ill.

### **Counterfeit Money**

There are many counterfeit banknotes, but that doesn't stop any of us from using genuine notes.

### **Infected Hamburgers**

We have heard the reports of hamburgers contaminated with, amongst other things, the ecoli virus, but people still want real burgers.

### **Jesus Christ Alone**

The church is not perfect. But Jesus Christ is perfect! Jesus Christ is probably the only person who has perfectly lived what He preached. He said what He meant. He meant what He said. He did all that He promised.

## What About Hypocrites in the Church?

He perfectly lived up to God's standards of righteousness. You can point out many failings, and even frauds, in the established church. However, nobody could ever point out any such failure or fraud in our Lord Jesus Christ. Even hardened atheists have acknowledged that.

### **Smoke Screen**

Typically, hypocrisy in the church is used as an excuse for not repenting of our sins or surrendering our lives to Christ. By pointing out the sins of others, we try to justify our own sins, lifting ourselves up by pulling others down.

### **Sinners in the Church**

It needs to be pointed out that not everyone who attends church services is a true Christian. Many have no saving knowledge of Christ. The true Church of Christ consists of born again believers regenerated by God's Holy Spirit. By definition a Christian has to admit that he is a sinner and is not good enough for Heaven. By virtue of being a Christian one has to acknowledge one's sinfulness and depravity. That one deserves the wrath of God in hell. The Christian Church requires a public acknowledgement of sin as a condition for membership.

### **The Ordinances of the Church**

The very ordinances of the church make this clear. **Baptism** is for the forgiveness of sins, symbolising burial and resurrection. **The Lord's Supper** reinforces this, emphasising that we are sinners needing God's mercy and salvation by blood Atonement. **The Lord's Prayer** includes the petition to forgive us our sins. **The Apostles Creed** includes the forgiveness of sins. The regular reading of **The Ten Commandments** in our churches reminds us of God's standards and how we have failed. **The General Supplication** and other aspects of church liturgy emphasises the public acknowledgement of sin and pleas for God's mercy.

## **Grace**

The church has never claimed to be a fellowship of perfect people. That would be hypocritical. The church is a fellowship of sinners who acknowledge their complete dependence upon the mercy of Almighty God to forgive and transform them. That is what grace means – God’s undeserved favour.

## **Wretched**

The Apostle Paul claimed: *“I am the worst of sinners.”* Authentic Christians claim to be so bad that they deserved to be sentenced to hell forever. John Newton’s popular hymn begins: *“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.”* That is why Todd Friel’s Radio and T.V ministry is titled **Wretched!**

## **Repent**

It may be a good thing that there are hypocrites in the church – they may hear the Gospel, repent of their hypocrisy and be saved. We don’t criticise hospitals for being full of sick people. That is exactly what hospitals are built for!

## **War Against Hypocrisy**

Nowhere will one find more consistent condemnation of hypocrisy than in the Bible. No one condemned hypocrisy more effectively than Jesus Christ. No one has lived a more sincere and righteous life than Jesus.

## **Illogical**

Therefore it is not logical to use the existence of hypocrites in the church as an excuse to reject Jesus Christ. No one could ever accuse our Lord Jesus Christ of being a hypocrite!

## **Face the Facts**

If you allow a hypocrite to come between you and God, then the hypocrite is closer to God than you are!



## **Eternity**

If you boycott church because you hate hypocrisy, then you could end up spending all eternity with all the hypocrites in hell!

## **Hypocrisy in the World**

There is a lot of hypocrisy in this world. Islam claims to be a peaceful and tolerant religion, while many of its members declare *Jihad*, issue death threats, murder and mutilate vast amounts of people in the name of their religion. Newspapers claim to stand for freedom of speech while censoring pro-life obituaries. Communists condemn oppression and uphold themselves as “*liberators*” and “*champions of justice*” while communist regimes have been the most oppressive in all of history. No other regimes have imprisoned as many people, executed as many victims, deliberately starved so many millions, erected such huge institutions of oppression, employed more secret police, imprisoning whole nations behind an Iron Curtain of barbed wire, mine fields, electric fencing and machine gun towers. Just in the 20<sup>th</sup> century over 160 million people were killed by communist governments, even while they claimed to be devoted to “*World Peace!*” “*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption.*” 2 Peter 2:19

## **Bizarre Hypocrisy**

The African Union continually talks about “*democracy*” and “*human rights*” whilst the vast majority of government leaders represented at the OAU are dictators. Many condemn racism while consistently supporting the most racist regime on the continent, Robert Mugabe’s ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe.

## **Humanist Hypocrisy**

Humanists claim to stand for “*tolerance*”, yet are thoroughly intolerant of Evangelical Christians. Humanists champion “*diversity*” and “*pluralism*”, and yet they work steadfastly to exclude Christian views from the public sphere. Teachers who believe in the sanctity of marriage are expected to go against their own conscience to teach their students “*Situation Ethics*”

and perverse “*Alternative Lifestyles*”. Evolutionists who claim to be for “*freedom of speech*” regularly ban any dissension, or discussion, and fire those scientists who question Darwinian Evolutionism, or who seem to consider Intelligent Design. The fact is humanism is the most destructive religion of all time, and the most intolerant.

### **The Judas Factor**

Even amidst the original twelve Disciples of Christ, there was Judas – the ultimate hypocrite and traitor. Yet that has not stopped millions of Christians, throughout the ages, from finding Grace and peace at the foot of the Cross.

### **Beyond Betrayal**

If you have been let down or betrayed, by a professing Christian, do not let that come between you and God. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

### **Reject the Counterfeit**

Many people despise and reject what they think is Christianity when they are merely rejecting the hypocritical churchianity that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself rejected and condemned. **Do not let the counterfeit and the false keep you away from the genuine and the real.**



APPLYING THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST  
TO ALL AREAS OF LIFE

## Chapter 14

### ISN'T RELIGION JUST A CRUTCH FOR THE WEAK?

Humanist and atheist, Bertrand Russell, wrote in *Why I am Not a Christian*: “*Man is the product of ...accidental connections of atoms ...no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thoughts and feeling can preserve an individual life beyond the grave, and ... all the labour of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system. The whole temple of man’s achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin. All these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, **only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair** can the souls’ habitation henceforth be safely built.*”

#### **Is Religion a Crutch?**

Russell maintained that man is an accident of the cosmos, formed by chance and chaos, directionless in life, and in the end, nothing but food for worms. Russell maintained that religion is simply a crutch for weak people, who cannot bear to face up to reality.

Some religions may be a crutch. Certainly atheism is a crutch. However Christianity is no crutch and many Christians throughout history could hardly be classified as weaklings.

#### **Not for Weaklings**

In some of the worst of circumstances Christianity has produced the greatest courage, the greatest achievements, progress, prosperity and freedoms ever known.

#### **The Courage of Polycarp**

When Polycarp, the bishop of Smyrna, was arrested and brought before the Roman consul, he was told: “*Pity your grey hairs, old man, just burn some incense before the emperor and you can go free.*”

Polycarp responded: *“If you think for a moment that I would do that, then you pretend not to know who I am. Hear it plainly, I am a Christian!”*

*“Then do this, old man, just curse Christ, and I will set you free.”*

Polycarp responded: *“86 Years I have served my Christ, and He has never done me any wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who has saved me?”*

*“I have wild beasts”* threatened the pro-consul.

*“Bring them”* Polycarp replied. *“I would change my mind if it meant going from the worse to the better, but not from the right to the wrong.”*

*“If you despise the wild beasts I will have you burned,”* warned the consul.

*“You threaten me with a fire that burns for but an hour, and then is extinguished. But you know nothing of the fire of eternal judgment which will never be extinguished. Bring what you will.”*

As Polycarp was led into the arena he was heard to pray: *“Lord God, Father of our Blessed Saviour, I thank Thee that I have been deemed worthy to ... die for Thee and Thy cause.”*

### **Steadfast unto Death**

Perpetua was a Christian noblewoman living in Carthage in North Africa. In AD 202 when Perpetua was a 22 year old mother she was arrested for being a Christian. When her pagan father visited and pleaded with her to deny that she was a Christian, Perpetua responded that it was impossible that she be: *“called anything other than what I am, a Christian.”* When the governor ordered Perpetua to worship the emperor her response was decisive: *“I will not!”*

*“Are you a Christian then?”*

*“Yes I am!”* Perpetua’s determined response brought immediate condemnation. She was condemned to be thrown to the wild beasts and to die in the arena. Perpetua and her fellow Christians entered the stadium singing Psalms in such a joyful demeanour, that the crowd demanded that they be scourged first. This was done.

As the mob screamed abuse, Perpetua was heard to say clearly: *“You have condemned us, but God will condemn you.”*

Perpetua encouraged the other Christians: *“You must all standfast in the Faith and not be weakened by what we have gone through.”*

Witnesses in the stands described Perpetua in the arena as: *“Young and beautiful”, “A pure and modest Christian lady”, “with shining countenance and calm step, as the beloved of God, as a bride of Christ, putting down everyone’s stare by her own intense gaze.”*

Her bold testimony: *“I am a Christian and cannot deny Christ”* was repeated throughout the empire. Her example of Christian resolve and courage, choosing to suffer and die with a clear conscience rather than deny her Saviour, inspired generations of Roman Christians to stand firm in the face of relentless persecution. In time even the emperor was converted to Christianity.

### **Confronting Reality**

Similarly, Lady Jane Grey refused to forsake her faith and was beheaded by her cousin *Bloody Mary*. None of these Christians could have been classified as weaklings. Their faith was hardly any crutch to avoid reality. Millions of Christians, over virtually 20 centuries, have endured false testimonies, unjust arrests, summary trials, floggings, beatings, imprisonment, stonings, burnings, crucifixions and beheadings for refusing to deny their Faith. One can hardly accuse people like Dr. David Livingstone (who courageously pioneered missions, walking across the

continent of Africa, confronting slave traders and setting captives free) of being “*a weakling*”, nor can one suggest that his faith was “*a crutch*”!

### **Escape from Reality**

However, it is in fact the atheists who are seeking to escape from reality. Atheism is actually a crutch for the immoral. Bertrand Russell lived an absolutely outrageously immoral life. His scandalous immorality and serial adulteries make it quite clear that he chose to create an alternate ‘*reality*’ in order to stifle his conscience.

### **Intelligent Design**

The reality is that all of nature evidences intelligent design. That this world was created is a manifest fact. As the great philosopher Emmanuel Kant observed: life without an afterlife would be like a marathon race with no finish line. Without eternity, life would be an absurd and meaningless joke. William Shakespeare put it eloquently: “*A tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.*”

### **Ethics and Eternity**

Kant reasoned that ethics proves a Creator. Everyone realises that right and wrong exist. We all have an innate sense of what is right, just and fair. Without ethics, life would become meaningless and chaotic. Ethics ultimately depend on justice. Because it is quite obvious that in this present world evil people often prosper and the good often suffer, there must be a life beyond death. For justice to be dispensed in the afterlife, it must be ruled over by a great and perfect Judge. For this justice to be effective, the eternal Judge must know all the facts, circumstances and motives of everyone. He must be all powerful in order to enforce His justice. Without all of this, life is meaningless, a cruel joke.

How any religion, or philosophy, views the afterlife (or lack of an afterlife) has a profound effect on how life is lived on this planet. If the Atheist believes that: “*You came from nothing, you are going nowhere, life is meaningless*”, this will affect all of his decisions, including ethical choices.

## **Atheism is a Crutch**

Swearing is the crutch of conversational cripples. Immorality is the crutch of spiritual cripples. Atheism is the crutch developed by those who seek an alternative reality to avoid the hard facts of Creation, the depravity of man, the Holiness of God, the immortality of the soul, the demands of God's Law, the Day of Judgment and the fact that we are accountable to a Just and Holy Creator.

## **What is your Purpose?**

In a recent research survey of 18 to 25 year olds, 81% said that getting rich was their most important, or second most important, life goal. 51% said being famous was their first or second most important life goal. 30% said their goal was to help people who needed help, and 10% to become more spiritual. So plainly, fortune and fame are what most young people are living for. Yet how many famous and wealthy people have committed suicide? Wealth and fame can never satisfy our deepest needs.

## **Slavery to Sin**

We have a sin problem and there are serious consequences to sin. ***“For the wages of sin is death.”*** Romans 6:23. When many people clamour for the freedom to do whatever they want, with whoever they want, whenever they want, and wherever they want, the result is moral chaos. Although they claim to be free, in reality those who indulge the sinful nature are slaves to sin. Sin is actually the root cause of much skepticism. Julian Huxley, famous as Darwin's bulldog, the one who made Darwinian evolutionism famous, was interviewed on television. He was asked why evolution was accepted so quickly. The answer of Julian Huxley was: *“The reason why we accepted Darwinism, even without proof, is because we didn't want God to interfere with our sexual mores.”*

Here is an uncharacteristically honest answer from a leading evolutionist. Huxley never mentioned anything resembling scientific evidence, but merely that the idea of God interfered with sinful choices! Either the Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.

Evolution is science fiction. It is a fairy tale for grown ups. Once upon a time there was nothing. And then there was something. And that something became everything! From goo to the zoo to you! From mud to monkeys to man!

If you are sick you need a physician. If you are ignorant you need a teacher. If you are spiritually lost you need the Saviour.

Jesus Christ came to set the captives free. *“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* John 8:32

### **Throw Away your Crutch**

Reject the rotten crutch of evolutionism and atheism. Face the facts of the real world. A strong Gospel makes a strong people. The Reformation produced generations of courageous and principled people who changed history. Strong doctrine puts backbone into us. The Reformation Faith puts backbones of steel into us and Puritan devotion inspires fire in our souls.

### **Take Up the Cross**

Reject the rotten crutch of atheism and evolutionary make-belief. Face the facts of the real world. God is Holy, man is depraved. There is a Day of Judgment and we all have an appointment with Almighty God. Each one of us will have to give an account for everything we do in this life. What you sow is what you will reap.

Throw away the crooked crutch of the world and take up your Cross. Deny yourself, forsake worldliness. Don't follow the crowd on the broad way. Turn away from what is popular and easy. Choose the steep high road of the Will of God. Take up the sword of the Spirit and fight the good fight of Faith.

*“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.”*

Matthew 10:28



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## Other Resources Available

### Books

Apostles Creed - Firm Foundations for Your Faith  
Angola by the Back Door  
Biblical Principles for Africa (Also available in Afrikaans and French)  
Biblical Worldview Manual  
Character Assassins - Dealing with Ecclesiastical Tyrants & Terrorists  
David Livingstone - Man of Prayer and Action  
Discipleship Handbook  
Fantastic but True - A Manual for Working with Children's Ministries  
Faith Under Fire in Sudan  
Fight for Life - A Pro-Life Handbook for Southern Africa  
Finding Freedom from the Pornography Plague (also in Afrikaans)  
Going Through - Even if the Door is Closed  
Great Commission Manual  
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Greatest Century of Reformation  
Holocaust in Rwanda (also available in French and Afrikaans)  
How'd You Hurt Your Hand?  
In the Killing Fields of Mozambique  
Make a Difference - A Christian Action Handbook for Southern Africa  
Pink Agenda - Sexual Revolution and the Ruin of the Family  
Practical Discipleship  
Putting Feet to Your Faith  
Reforming Our Families  
Security and Survival in Unstable Times  
Slavery, Terrorism and Islam - The Historical Roots & Contemporary Threat  
South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation?  
The Christian at War (also available in Afrikaans, German and Spanish)  
The Ten Commandments - God's Perfect Law of Liberty  
Victorious Christians - Who Changed the World  
War Against God

### DVDs

3 Days in Sudan (25min)  
Sudan the Hidden Holocaust (55 min)  
Terrorism and Persecution - Understanding Islamic Jihad (55 min)  
Evangelising in the War Zones (35 min)

### AUDIO CDs, Boxsets and MP3s

Answering Skeptics MP3  
Biblical Character Studies boxset and MP3  
Biblical Worldview Summit boxset and MP3s  
Great Commission Course boxset and MP3s  
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Hunger for Revival boxset and MP3  
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## About the Author

Peter was born in Cape Town (in 1960) and brought up in Bulawayo (in what was then war-torn Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe). He was converted to Christ in 1977, worked for Scripture Union and Hospital Christian Fellowship, served in the South African Defence Force and studied at Baptist Theological College, Cape Town. Peter is married to Lenora (whose missionary parents Rev. Bill and Harriett Bathman, have pioneered missionary work, mostly into Eastern Europe, for over 60 years). Peter and Lenora have been blessed with four children: Andrea, Daniela, Christopher and Calvin

Dr. Peter Hammond is a missionary who has pioneered evangelistic outreaches in the war zones of Mozambique, Angola and Sudan. Since 1982, often travelling by off road motorbike, Peter has travelled hundreds of thousands of miles to deliver Bibles to persecuted Christians in Africa and Eastern Europe. Peter has proclaimed the Gospel in 34 countries on four continents, debating Muslims in mosques, Atheists on university campuses and on radio and TV. He has undertaken open air preaching, door to door evangelism, prison ministry and over one hundred missions behind enemy lines in war zones. In the course of his missionary activities Peter has developed the Great Commission Course, Biblical Worldview Summit, Muslim Evangelism Workshop, the Discipleship Training Course and the William Carey Bible Institute to empower Christians to fulfil the Great Commission.

Rev. Peter Hammond is the Founder and Director of Frontline Fellowship, the Director of the Christian Action Network and the Chairman of The Reformation Society. He is the author of *Faith Under Fire in Sudan*, *Holocaust in Rwanda*, the *Great Commission Manual*, *Putting Feet to Your Faith*, *In the Killing Fields of Mozambique*, *The Greatest Century of Missions*, *Biblical Principles for Africa*, *The Discipleship Handbook*, *Slavery, Terrorism and Islam*, *The Greatest Century of Reformation*, *The Power of Prayer Handbook*, *Practical Discipleship* and *Victorious Christians Who Changed the World*. He has co-authored, or contributed to: *Reforming our Families*, *War Against God*, *Fight for Life*, *Make a Difference*, *The Pink Agenda*, *Character Assassins* and *South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation?*

He is the Editor of both Frontline Fellowship News and the Christian Action magazine, as well as Contributing Editor of JOY! Magazine. For over 16 years Peter has also presented *Salt and Light* on Radio Tygerberg.

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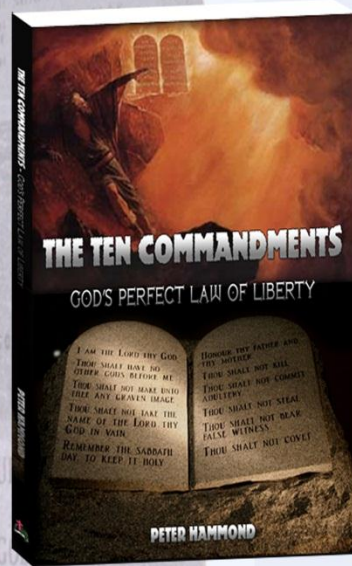
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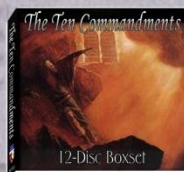
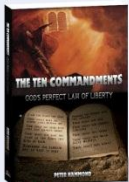
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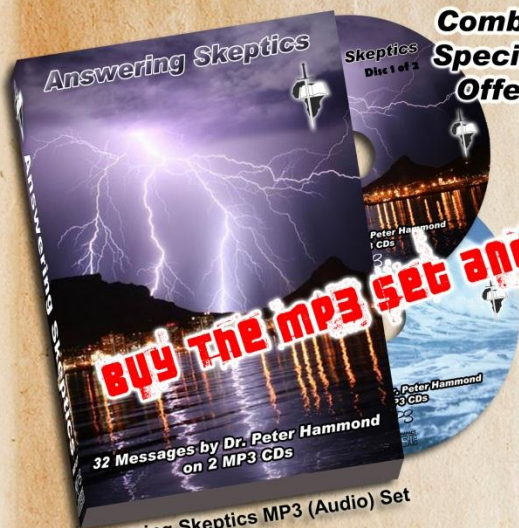
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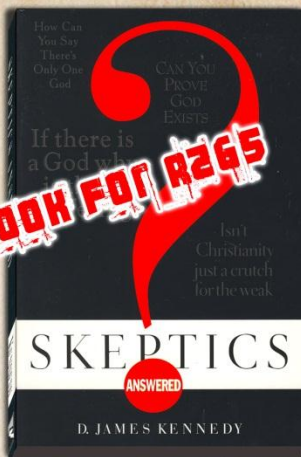


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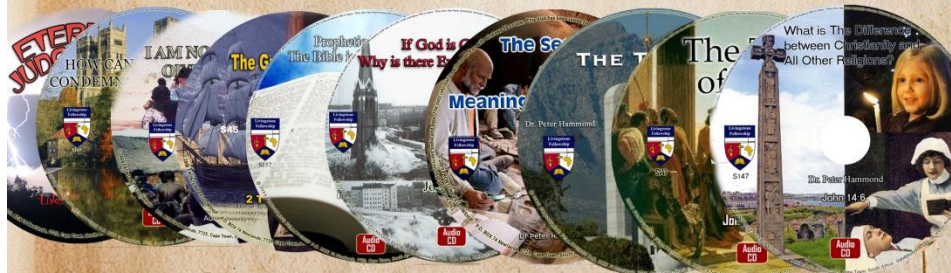
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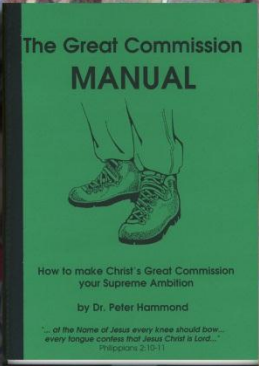
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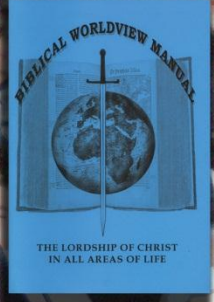
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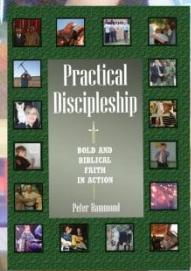
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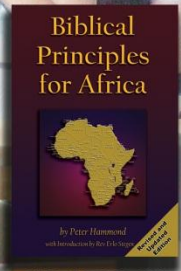
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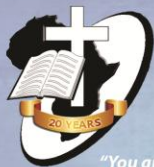
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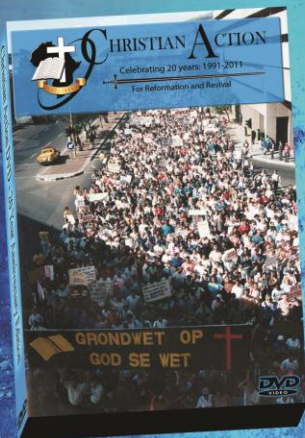
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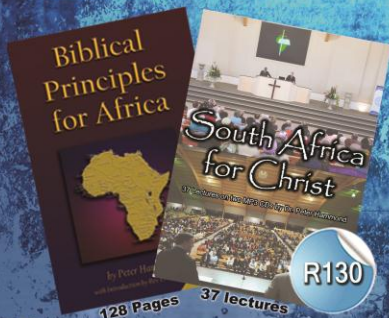


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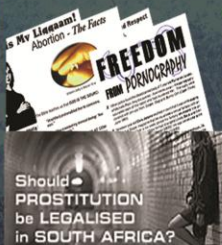


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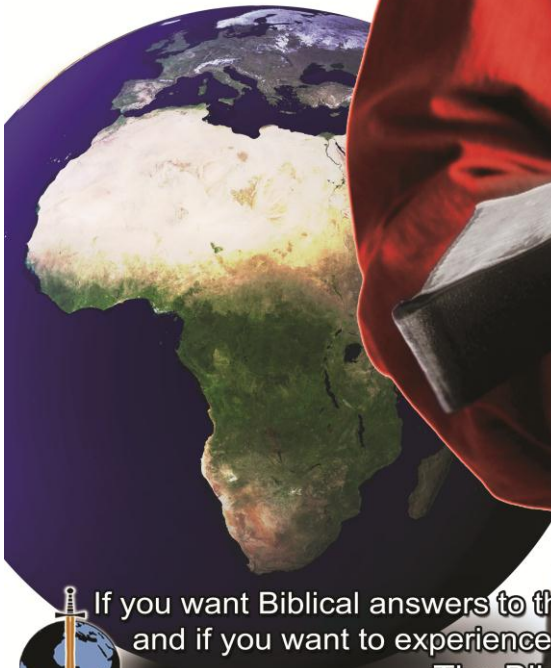
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