

# CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE



**By Gaston Cogdell**

## **Welcome**

***We are glad you have chosen to study the word of God and to delve into the depths of His Word. By studying His word, one can grow in knowledge and in maturity and understanding of what is required by God in living our daily lives and our journey towards heaven.***

***These lessons were written by Gaston Cogdell, a faithful Christian dedicated in his service to God and in helping children and teenagers who attend Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp, Hillsboro, Ohio.***

***These lessons may be used for classroom instruction or as resource material. Permission to reprint is granted IF NO PORTION of this lesson book or other lesson books in this 6 year study cycle are changed, edited or adapted in any form. This page must remain a part of this book when reprinting.***

***We pray you will enjoy your study of God's Word.***

**Board of Trustees  
Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp  
Hillsboro, Ohio**

# CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES

## PREFACE

**INTRODUCTION** The purpose of this brief series of lessons is not only to produce faith in God, His word, and His Son, but a "saving faith"...a loving, obedient faith.

## **LESSON 1 ATHEISM – AND WHAT IT PRODUCES**

- I. The importance of this study
- II. What this study means to you personally
- III. A consideration of some of the major arguments of those who say the Bible is not true
  - A. The age of the earth and the universe
  - B. The Evolutionary Hypothesis vs. Creationism
  - C. The alleged contradictions of the Bible
  - D. The problem of the existence of injustice, evil, and suffering in the world

## **LESSON 2 HOW WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD . . . AND HOW WE CAN KNOW HIM, AND KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM**

- I. How we know there is a God
- II. Why we can know Him
  - A. Proof from reason
  - B. Proof from revelation
  - C. Proof from experience
  - D. Proof from intuition
- III. How we can know that we know Him

## **LESSONS 3 & 4 HOW WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD**

- I. Man could not have written the Bible and he would not have written it, even if he could have done so
  - A. The Bible views all things from a point of vantage far different from and higher than man's
  - B. Thirty characteristics of the Bible which mark it as a product of the mind of God and constitute irrefutable proof of its divine origin

- II. The wonderful influence for good that the Bible has, and has had, upon all those who believe and obey it, proves its divine and supernatural origin
- III. Fulfilled prophecy proves the Bible to be the word of God. Only God can foreknow the future.
  - A. Prophecies concerning Christ
  - B. Prophecies concerning the Jews
  - C. Prophecies concerning the nations of the ancient world
- IV. We know that the Bible is the word of God because it is the only source of satisfactory answers to the ultimate questions facing man, and it gives the only possible real solutions to man's basic problems
- V. The scientific foreknowledge of the Bible proves that it was not a product of the wisdom and knowledge of the day and age in which it was written, but had to have come from the mind of God
- VI. We know that the Bible is the word of God because it is historically, geographically, and in every way factually correct. The manuscript evidence for its truthfulness is unimpeachable. The Bible is true.

## **LESSON 5 HOW WE KNOW THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD**

- A. The New Testament . . . 27 historical documents
- B. Jesus' fulfillment of prophecy
- C. The stupendous miracles that Jesus works
- D. Jesus' matchless teachings
- E. The Holiness and perfection of Jesus' life and character
- F. Jesus' God-like aims and God-like claims
- G. The authority and certitude with which Jesus spoke and taught
- H. Jesus' universal appeal
- I. The sublime hope that Jesus offers-unique
- J. Jesus' resurrection from the dead . . . the most fully authenticated fact of history
- K. Jesus' cataclysmically powerful impact upon human history
- L. Jesus' unequalled power and influence in this 20th century . . . an accelerating influence that will one day engulf the world . . . "as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9; Hab. 2:14).
- M. Additional undeniable facts which prove that Jesus was different from and superior to all other men – and that he was and is the Christ, the Son of God

## PREFACE TO "CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES"

We know that there is a God because all creation points to Him. There could be no creation without a creator, just as there could be no watch without a watch-maker, no picture without an artist, no house without a builder. There is evidences of infinite intelligence, wisdom, power and purpose, not only in our world and all that is in it, but throughout the natural order – in every leaf and blade of grass, as well as in our solar system, and in every star and heavenly body of the innumerable galaxies and constellations of outer space.

The Psalmist has well said: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard"* (Psa. 19:1-3). And again: *"The fool has said in his heart, There is not God"* (Psa. 14:1; 53:1).

Truly, nature and the cosmic order tell us that there is a God . . . but they do not tell us who God is, or what he wants, or what his plans for the future and for eternity are, or what He wants us to do and to be, or how we can establish a personal relationship with him. Only the Bible reveals these things to us.

Although, of course, it is important that we believe in God, yet a mere faith that there is a God will do us no good whatsoever. In fact we are told, *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well, the devils also believe, and tremble"* (Jas. 2:19). It is not only necessary for us to believe that there is a God. We must believe in the true and living God – the God who has spoken to us through Christ and the Bible.

And it is not only necessary to believe in the one true and living God; we must also love and obey Him, and establish a personal relationship with Him in His spiritual family, the Church.

God is not only the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; Neh. 9:6; Acts 17:24; Heb. 11:3; etc.), but He is our Father (Isa. 64:8; I Pet. 1:17; Matt. 6:9; Matt. 23:8,9), so that we have a unique relationship with Him that the rest of the creation does not and cannot possess. We alone are made in God's spiritual image and likeness (Gen. 1:26,27), so that spiritually, we and we alone are made like God. We come forth from Him, and we return to Him (Eccl. 12:7; Rom 8:16,17).

Alas, man has become tragically alienated from God, by his sins and his sinfulness (Isa. 59:1,2; Eph. 2:12; Rom 3:23; 6:23), and must be adopted back into the divine family from which he has severed and estranged himself by his rebelliousness against and disobedience to God. This alienation and severance from God and the divine family of God began in the Garden of Eden with the disobedience of Adam and Eve. While we still possess the potential for union with God, we can not reclaim that lost relationship until our sins have been pardoned and this pardon and redemption is offered through Jesus Christ. It is necessary, of course, for us to repent, and return to God . . . for us to accept the sacrifice made for our sins at Calvary by acknowledging Jesus as our Savior and Lord, and being baptized into his body, the Church; and living holy lives, faithful to Him until death (Jn. 3:16; Mark 16:15,16; Gal. 3:26-29; Heb. 10:14; Rev. 2:10).

The purpose of this brief series of lessons is, therefore, not only to produce faith in God, in His Word, and in His Son, but a "saving faith" . . . a loving, obedient faith. Without faith, we cannot please God or come to Him, for we are told: *"Without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"* (Heb. 11:6).

## ATHEISM – WHAT IS PRODUCES, AND REWARD IT PROMISES:

While it is true that the Christian "*walks by faith and not by sight*" (II Cor. 5:7), it is also true that the atheist and unbeliever walks by faith and not by sight. The atheist does not **know** that there is no God, that the Bible is not true, that he has no soul, that there is no such thing as sin, that there is no final judgment bar of God, that there is no heaven and no hell. He just **believes** all these things. He also believes that the Bible is a pack of lies; that Jesus was an imposter and, therefore, should have been crucified; that death and sin are triumphant over man and there is no life beyond the grave, that life is, therefore, essentially without meaning or purpose; that there is no final punishment for evil-doing or final reward for righteousness; and that the universe is without justice; that prayer is stupid and ridiculous and worship an absurdity. This is the faith of the atheist and unbeliever . . . things he must believe in order to reject Christ, God, and the gospel. Such a faith produces a godless, sinful life and a hopeless and despairing viewpoint. It promises nothing, produces nothing, except hatred, bitterness, and evil. Compare this with the faith of the Christian, which produces righteousness, love, joy, hope, peace, and eternal life in heaven above – a union with God and perfection, here and hereafter.

# LESSON 1

## ATHEISM – AND WHAT IT PRODUCES

Memory verses: Heb. 11:6; Jn. 20:30-31; I Jn. 5:13

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS STUDY

- A. A study of the evidences for the truth of Christianity is the most exciting and important study in which one can engage; because what we believe, and who and what we believe in, determines everything else about our lives . . . our goals and objectives in life, our value-system and priorities, our behavior-patterns and life styles. Every aspect and phase of our lives and every major decision we make, is shaped and colored by our faith.
- B. If one does not believe the Bible, of course he will not and cannot be a Christian. He, therefore, cannot have the relationships with God and with the family of God which goes with being a part of the Lord's spiritual body and kingdom on earth, nor can he possess those spiritual blessings which are to be found only in Christ – for we are told that *"all spiritual blessings are in Christ"* (Eph. 1:3). Among these spiritual blessings which we can possess only in Christ Jesus are pardon for our sins; freedom from the dominion of sin over our lives; freedom from the eternal consequences of sin in the hereafter; the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we possess the divine and eternal Spirit of God indwelling within us; the status and identity of children of God . . . sons and daughters of the most high; constant and immediate access to the throne of God, through prayer, with the assurance of response from God, and divine help in time of need; union with God and with His Son, Jesus Christ, and with the saints of all ages, in the Church here and now, and throughout eternity; and the promise of endless life in that perfect realm called heaven where there will be no sin or death, no suffering, sorrow, or separation, but endless joy and fulfillment forever. These, and many other spiritual blessings, are given by God to the obedient believer, for *"He became the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him"* (Heb. 5:9).

### II. WHAT THIS STUDY MEANS TO YOU PERSONALLY

- A. The Bible tells us that God is a personal God. He is not merely an impersonal force . . . an intelligent and almighty power and process working within nature and the universe. The Deity who reveals Himself to us through Christ and the Bible is a person and a personality. He seeks to establish an intimate and personal relationship with each one of us . . . the relationship of a father to a child – a close, loving, and communicating relationship. The purpose of this study is to instill within you the faith in God's Word, the Bible, and in God's Word which became flesh, Jesus Christ, which will bring you to repentance from your sins, and obedience to the gospel – baptism into Christ and His spiritual body,

the Church – which will bring you into that close and loving relationship with God, which He seeks, and the establishment of which should be the chief aim of your life.

- B. The universe is cold and unloving. Within the natural order, we see only cruelty, ruthlessness, and the sovereignty of death reigning over all things. There is not the slightest trace of morality, much less of a transcendent moral order. One must look higher than the physical realm, and deeper than the material reality, to find love, morality, meaning and purpose, spiritual truth, and fellowship with the creator.
- C. The holy scriptures are a message from the creator of the universe to all mankind, and to you personally – a message about Himself, and about you – and about His infinite love for you, about what He wants you to be and to do, and about His creation of a new divine order to replace this one . . . a perfect and flawless world that He wants you to be a part of. There are some simple instructions that you must follow in order to claim the place in heaven that Christ has prepared for you, and those instructions are set forth in the New Testament. The very first prerequisite to possessing eternal life in heaven above is faith, and the purpose of this series of studies to produce faith, for *"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom 10:17).
- D. *"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"* (Jn. 3:17, 18).
- E. *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on Him"* (Jn. 3:36).

### **III. A CONSIDERATION OF SOME OF THE MAJOR ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO SAY THE BIBLE IS NOT TRUE:**

- A. The age of the earth and the universe.
  - 1. Science claims that the earth and the universe are billions of years old, whereas, according to the biblical narrative, everything was created in six days, and it has only about six-thousand years since the creation.
- B. The Evolutionary Hypotheses vs. Creation.
  - 1. Those who do not want to accept the biblical account of the creation by God of the universe and all that is in it, believe what is called "the theory of evolution," or "the evolutionary hypothesis" (a "hypothesis being a conjecture, assumption, or speculation), and advance it as an explanation as to how all things came into being. In regard to the biological realm, (i.e., the realm of living organisms, including man), the theory of evolution may be defined as: "The hypothesis that millions of years ago, lifeless matter,

acted upon by natural forces, gave origin to one or more living organisms which have since evolved into all living and extinct plants and animals, including man."

2. In other words, according to the theory of evolution, non-living matter . . . dirt, rocks, and clods . . . produced life; non-intelligent forces produced intelligence; chaos produced order and synchronization; that which was blind produced sight; that which was dumb, witless, and insensate produced rationality, feeling, and all the qualities of mind and spirit . . . and this whole process of creation was accomplished by mindless forces, and completely by accident, and random chance! This is the faith of the evolutionist in a nutshell. We set forth below a few of the many reasons why we know that the **evolutionary faith is a fallacy**.
3. Non-living forces could not have produced life from non-living matter. That which is dead cannot produce that which is alive; death cannot produce life. Life produces life, and that which is living can only come from that which is alive. Man, with all his scientific knowledge and elaborate equipment, has not yet been able to produce life from non-living substances and chemicals, although he has constantly made the effort through the centuries. If man ever produces life – which is doubtful – it will only prove that it requires a living, supremely intelligent being, with willful purposefulness and carefully directed effort, to produce life . . . which is what the Bible says.
  - a) Surely, it requires immeasurably more faith to believe that aimless, brainless forces, acting by random chance and accident on dumb, dead matter, produced man, and all the other infinitely complex and interrelated organisms and phenomena of the universe, than it does to believe that it was done by a supreme being and personality called "God."
4. Something cannot come from nothing . . . neither can one get the greater from the lesser, or a gallon from a quart. We all know that if the magician pulls a rabbit out of a hat, the rabbit had to be in the hat to begin with, because one can't pull a rabbit or anything else out of an empty hat. Yet, the theory of evolution calls for an endless series of greater entities coming from lesser ones, so that a frog does become a prince, and an amoeba (simplest of all one-celled organisms) does finally become a man, after an endless series of transformations (called "mutations") – each change of the simpler organism into a more complex one, involving a "something out of nothing" event.
5. An emergent life could not have sustained itself in a world of sterile, totally inorganic matter, even if by the miracle of "spontaneous generation" such life had appeared. It not only takes life to produce life; it takes life to sustain life. The enzymes, amino acids, and proteins which are necessary to the sustaining of life, even in its simplest forms, would not be existent in a lifeless world, for only living things can produce these. Living things depend

upon each other for life, and we are only now beginning to realize how delicate the ecological balance is. Any solitary manifestation of life upon an otherwise dead planet would be doomed to instantaneous extinction, for each form of life is dependent upon numerous other forms and organisms for its existence.

6. The evolutionary hypothesis contradicts the second law of thermodynamics, and so could not have taken place. The second law of thermodynamics states that in every transfer or change of energy, even though the total amount of energy remains the same, the usefulness and availability of energy is decreased and degraded – some of the energy is transferred into a category called "heat energy," which is unusable. So with every transformation that takes place in nature, there is a loss of usable energy in the natural order. This loss of usable energy is called "entropy." The second law of thermodynamics calls for, and explains the continual decrease of order, organization, size and complexity, and the continual increase in disorganization and disorder in nature. In nature, the tendency is downward. Water runs downhill. Metal rusts. Wood decays. Man too grows old and dies. All things, left to themselves, tend to deteriorate, run down, break down, and disintegrate. The universal tendency in nature is towards imperfection, disorder, and disorganization. The theory of evolution contradicts the second law of thermodynamics because it involves a continual increase in order, organization, complexity and perfection within nature. There is no known exception to the second law in the universe.
7. Evolution is not taking place now. If the evolutionary hypothesis were true, evolution would still be observable both in our own species, and in all the other millions of species of life around us.
8. The fossil record supports creation – not evolution, and fully bears out the creationist contention that the major groups of organisms were created fully developed, rather than being developed gradually.
9. The basis of the evolutionary hypothesis is that various organism evolved as they did so that they could adapt to their surrounding environment and survive. However, increasing the complexity of any organism makes survival more difficult. It is obvious that an amoeba can survive in environments where a multi-cellular organism would perish, because with an increase in size and complexity comes an increase in needs which must be satisfied. There is no environment which supports or could support a complex or multi-cellular organism which does not or could not support a simple or single celled organism! So the very basis of the evolutionary hypothesis is false.
10. Mutations do not produce improvements, new organs, or new species . . . yet evolution is based upon the fallacy that they do. (A mutation, in the biologic sense, is "a sudden departure from the parent type, as when an individual differs from its parents in one or more heritable characteristics, caused by a change in a gene or a chromosome").

11. All organs must have come into existence completed in order for them to be useful – and if they were not useful, they would be impediments to the survival of the organism, rather than aids. So they did not develop gradually, over a period of millions of years, as the evolutionary hypothesis maintains. What good would an undeveloped eye, ear, or heart do any organism . . . or any other undeveloped organ?
12. The finished male and female of each new species would have had to come into being simultaneously in order for the new species to perpetuate itself. Remember that a species is a category of organisms which can reproduce only themselves. This obvious requirement renders the evolutionary hypothesis even more far-fetched and impossible.
13. The moral nature of man proves the evolutionary hypothesis to be false, because it is not needed for survival, and in fact, it can be an impediment to physical survival. Furthermore, this conscience and moral nature, which is the chief characteristic of the human species has no roots or origins in nature, or the natural order, showing that man is not a product of that order.
14. The intellectual development and potential of man at all stages of civilization and culture disprove the evolutionary hypothesis. The brainpower and intellectual potential of the savage, the aborigine, and of the least civilized and most primitive members of the human race is not less than that of the most learned and advanced. Why should "nature" give the most primitive man a vast brain – power he never used or needed?
15. There are many phenomena in nature which contradict the evolutionary hypothesis – evidences of design, pointing to a designer . . . to God. For example:
  - a. It has been estimated that there are 16 trillion cells in the human body – each cell containing from 500 to 100,000 mitochondria, which are minute rod-like bodies, each one of which contains about 50,000 tripartite unites which oscillate up and down 1500 times a minute. These microscopic structures consist of a head, a stalk, and a base piece. Each cell is itself an independent, highly complex organism, and each cell serves a highly specific function. All these 16 trillion cells and their components, comprise one whole, perfectly coordinated organism. Is it reasonable to suppose that such complexity could have come into being by haphazard means or by mere chance?
  - b. The Honey Bee: In a beehive, there are three distinct classes of bees – queens, drones, and workers. Each of these classes is necessary to the life of the swarm, and each has a structure different from the others. The workers are undeveloped females, and they are the most important and most numerous. In both instinct and structure, they are different from both their parents, for they are the offspring of queens and drones, and neither of these has the instinct or the organization to make honey. Yet it is absolutely necessary to the theory of evolution

that the characteristics of the parents pass on to their offspring! The worker-bee has a proboscis instead of a mouth. She sticks this proboscis into a flower and sucks out the pollen. Occasionally, her proboscis get stopped up with pollen – but never mind – she **just happens** to have brushes on her knees, by which she cleans out her proboscis! And all this is the result of the blind chance and accident which the evolutionary hypothesis presupposes governs all things? Who can swallow that?

16. The Bible tells us that man was a special creation of God, "*from the dust of the earth*"; that he is made "*in the image and after the likeness*" of God (Gen. 1:26,27; 2:7), and that woman was made from man's rib (cloned?) so that neither of them evolved from any lower species. Our "roots" are in heaven – not the jungle; our ancestor is God – not some brute beast or creeping, slithering thing that crawled out of the swamp-ooze a billion years ago.

### C. The Alleged Contradictions of the Bible.

1. Some people reject the Bible because they say that it is full contradictions and errors . . . and besides, they say, the Bible was written by men and not by God. It, therefore, is the word of man, and not the word of God.
  - a. The answer to these claims is that there are no contradictions and no errors in the Bible, and while it is certainly true that God wrote the Bible through men, just as most business letters are written through secretaries to whom the letter is dictated by whoever is writing it, the author of the letter is not the secretary, but the person who told her what to write. The scriptures are called "*the utterances of God*" . . . *the "oracles" of God (I Pet. 4:11)*. "*Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Pet. 1:21)*. God dictates it; men wrote it. "*All scripture is given by the inspiration of God . . .*" (II Tim. 3:16).
  - b. Jesus told His apostles that, after he departed from the earth (i.e., in the resurrection and ascension into heaven), he would send them the Holy Spirit, who would "*guide them into all truth,*" who "*shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you*" (Jn. 16:13; 14:26).
  - c. God has spoken through Christ and Christ has spoken through divinely appointed ambassadors of His heavenly kingdom . . . and preachers of the gospel are delivering that divinely given word and message of God's love and salvation to a lost world (II Cor. 5:16-21)

*"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds" (Heb. 1:1,2).*

- d. Christ said that He gave the words which God, the Father, gave unto Him, to His apostles, who were, in turn, to give it to the world. He said, of His apostles . . . *"I have given them the words which thou (i.e., God, the Father), gavest me,"* and He said, *"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world"* (Jn. 17:18).
- e. Thousands of times, the men who wrote the Bible state that what they were writing is not from themselves, and is not an expression of their own thoughts, ideas, and perceptions, but is from God Almighty. *"Thus saith the Lord"*. . . they cried out. Even Jesus who came down from heaven from God (Jn. 3:13), stated repeatedly that the words He spoke and the teachings He propounded were not from Himself, but were given to Him by the Father (Jn. 8:26; 12:49; 14:10,24; 17:8). He said, *"He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent me"* (Jn. 14:24).
- f. Certainly, there are many things in the Bible which are difficult to understand. The apostle Peter said that, in the writings of the apostle Paul, *"There are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction"* (II Pet. 3:16). There are also some *apparent* contradictions in the Bible . . . things which appear to be contradiction, but which are not. Most of the alleged contradictions in the Bible come from the differing accounts of various events, given by the different authors of the scriptures. For example, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John give four different accounts of the life, teachings, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Which is correct? The answer, of course, is that they are all correct, and though they vary in detail, their records can be harmonized . . . and by harmonizing them, we get the whole picture, in depth, of the life of Christ. Why did God give us a plurality of records, about Christ, or about anything else? Why does God give us two eyes, and two ears, rather than just one? Because by the two, we receive an impression in depth and perspective. Through only one eye, we receive a flat image. The dimension of depth is given only through a plurality of impressions. These impressions which we receive through the two eyes are slightly different, but are harmonized and blended into one impression by the brain. So it must be with the multiplicity of accounts of various events, given in the scriptures.
- g. The real reason that men reject the Bible is not that it contradicts itself, but that it contradicts them, and their lives, which they don't want to change.
- 1) *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto Him: neither can He know them, because they are spiritually discerned"* (I Cor. 2:14).
  - 2) Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple,

and taught. And the Jews marvelled, saying, "*How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. If any man will do His will, He shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself*" (Jn. 7:14-17).

- h. There are many good books which have been written, answering fully and satisfactorily all of the hundreds of allegations of errors, contradictions, discrepancies, and inconsistencies in the Bible. Each teacher of this series of lessons will be provided with at least one such book of answers.

#### D. The Problem Of The Existence Of Injustice, Evil, and Suffering In The World.

- 1. Some say that they don't believe the Bible, or in the existence of the God who speaks to man through the scriptures, because there is so much injustice, evil, and awesome suffering in the world. They say that if there really **was** a righteous and just God enthroned over the universe, and directing the course of human History, He would not let all the terrible things happen in the world. They say, "If a God of love and goodness were running things, the world wouldn't be like it is." The answers that the scriptures give to these charges are:
  - a. In the end, we will understand why it was necessary for us to go through the tribulations that are a part of this life, and the suffering which is especially a part of the Christian life. No one suffered as did Jesus, and He told His disciples, "*In the world, ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world*" (Jn. 16:33). "*If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him*" (II Tim. 16:33). Paul said ". . . *the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*" (Rom 8:18). Again, He says, "*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*" (II Cor. 4:17).
  - b. The sin and evil that is in the world, which result in death of both the body and the soul, are present because God gave **freedom** to men and angels – freedom to disobey Him, who is the source of all good and goodness. Satan rebelled against God, and led other angels into rebellion, so that there was war in heaven (Rev 12:1-9). Satan also led man into sin and disobedience, and continues to do so which is the cause of all the sorrow, suffering, separation, and death in the world.
  - c. Obviously, God could have, in the beginning, removed man's freedom of choice so that man could not sin. He could have "programmed" man, as we program a computer, so that man would have been a kind of a robot – a prisoner of God's will. But God, in His love and goodness, chose to set man free, knowing full well that man would misuse His freedom, and bring ruin upon Himself. Nevertheless, from the very

beginning, man has been a free moral agent, able to choose between good and evil, and life and death. God has provided an antidote and panacea (medicine) for the sin of man . . . the blood of Christ. By His grace, we can escape the destruction that is the inevitable consequence of sin.

2. The answer to the sin and suffering that is in the world is here because of God's love and goodness – because God set us **free**, rather than making us robotic prisoners of His will, unable to disobey Him . . . and we have used our freedom to rebel against Him who created and sustains us, and all things.
3. The Bible also teaches us that suffering teaches us patience and that we are purified and perfected by the fires of suffering. It is also God's way of testing us and trying us. This is the message of the book of Job. It is a way that we identify with Jesus Christ, who was made perfect through suffering (Heb. 5:8-9). We are assured that, "*all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose*" (Rom. 8:28). We know that this includes the suffering and affliction that we endure in the world. It is for our ultimate good and benefit.
4. Those who reject God and the Bible because of the evil and suffering that are in the world, are blaming God for what Satan has done, and for what disobedient man has done. They are really blaming God for giving freedom of moral choice to men and angels . . . in other words, they are rejecting Him because of His love and goodness in setting us **free**.

## LESSON 2

### HOW WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD WHY WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD

Memory Verses: Genesis 1:1; Psalms 19:1-2; 53:1; Heb. 1:1-2

#### HOW WE CAN KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM

**Definition - God:** The infinite and eternal spiritual being who is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things. First we might ask, "What do we mean by 'God'?" We mean the invisible, eternal, omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all-wise and knowing), spiritual being, who is the original and first as well as the ultimate, and final reality – the source of all other realities, both spiritual and material; we mean the uncaused cause, the uncreated creator, the unmoved mover, the unsustained sustainer, the ungoverned governor of all things; we mean the source and originator of all life and light, of all intelligence and wisdom, of all energy, might and power, of all laws, processes, order and structure, of all freedom and redemption, in every realm of being . . . infinite in love, goodness, justice, holiness and truth. He is the ground of all being, the original source and force from which all sources and forces emanate.

When Christians speak of God, they are referring to the Deity who has revealed Himself and His eternal will and purposes to man through the Bible, and who has communicated His divine will to man in these last days through Jesus Christ, through whom also He has redeemed the world from sin, and through whom He will finally judge every soul. He seeks a union of Himself with every human soul, and promises eternal life, glory, and perfection to every soul that obeys Him. He is the one and only changeless absolute reality, to which all other realities are relative and dependent.

#### I. HOW WE KNOW THERE IS GOD

- A. There are four channels through which we receive knowledge of the existence of God: reason, revelation, experience and intuition. Let us examine these various sources of identification about the existence of God, in some detail.
- B. Behind the manifestations of infinite intelligence, design, beauty, and order in the universe, reason tells us there must be an infinite mind, power, designer and architect, artist and ruler.
- C. The world we inhabit, the universe of which it is a part, all things, animate and inanimate, including ourselves, must have had an origin. That origin had to have consisted of a cause. That cause must have been infinitely intelligent and powerful. That supreme intelligence and power we call "God."
- D. Does it make sense to say "Nothing created all things," or "All things created themselves," or "Accident and random chance created all things?" We know that accidents produce chaos. We also know that nothing can create itself . . . nor has it ever, nor will it ever. We are created beings, and although we are the very

highest in intelligence and power of all created things, we ourselves can create nothing . . . nothing at all! Every drop of water, every grain of dust, every ray of sunlight, every blade of grass, every breath of oxygen – everything, was created by some power far higher and mightier and wiser than man. The existence of the creation demands the existence of the Creator – God Almighty. And not only the origin of the cosmic order, but the operation and order within that order, demand a ruler and governor of infinite power and wisdom – God . . . because it is just as difficult to sustain and maintain anything as it is to bring it into existence.

- E. It makes sense to say "God created and governs all things" and this is the only plausible or possible answer to the question "How did the universe and all that is in it originate, and what causes it to operate as it does?"
- F. It is not only reasonable to believe in God . . . it is unreasonable not to do so. There is not one scientific fact or discovery which contradicts or disproves in anyway the concept of the existence of God. Belief in God is the very ground and starting place for reason itself – it is the first necessity for rationality. As Le Conte said, "A belief in God is so universal, so necessary, and so intuitive in man that his existence is more certain than anything can be made by mere process of reasoning. It lies back of all proof and so itself needs none." In other words, the existence of God is axiomatic, self-evident, and needs no proof, although there is no end of proof for it.
- G. Atheism is absurd, illogical, and runs counter to every rational inclination of man. Men want to believe in God, like they want water, sunlight, air, companionship, and meaning and purpose in life. It is natural for man to believe in God, and his desire to worship and communicate with God is as much a part of him as his desire to have companionship and communication with his fellow man. Both desires can be squelched and denied, but such a denial is unnatural, and results in a stunted, malformed human being – a pitiful spiritual and intellectual dwarf – a little monster.
- H. We are now seeing the collapse of Communism as a world-system. Communism (Marxism) is a philosophy of atheism. It is atheism translated into political and economic terms. For seventy years, Communism used every means possible to destroy a belief in God in Russia and elsewhere. And without success. Emerging from the ruins of the Marxist system are millions of believers in God. Neither Marxism nor any other system of oppression and atheism can eradicate from the human heart the innate knowledge that there is a true and living God, ruling and finally overruling all things!
- I. Because something cannot come from nothing, we know that something has always existed, because something exists now. The two great realities that exist now are the spiritual and the physical, (i.e., mind and matter). One of these has existed forever. We know that the physical realm has not existed forever.
- J. Science now confirms fully that the universe had a beginning. Professor Robert Jastrow, Founder-Director of NASA'S Goddard Institute of Space Studies and author of a number of celebrated scientific books, says: "Discoveries in astrono-

my in recent decades provide evidence that the universe came into existence abruptly. The evidence lies in the fact that all the galaxies – the great clusters of stars that populate the heavens – are moving away from us and one another at enormous speeds, as if they were recoiling from the scene of a great explosion . . . This picture of the beginning of the universe has been confirmed by the discovery of the remnants of the primordial fireball – the flash of light and heat that filled the universe in its first moments. The two scientists who made this discovery – Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson – received the Nobel Prize in 1978 in recognition of their momentous finding."

1. The Second Law of Thermodynamics precludes the possibility of the universe having always existed. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that the amount of usable energy in the universe is decreasing, hence there is continuing heat loss, and the universe is "running down." If the universe is and has always been running down, it had to have started from a point of maximal energy . . . in other words, it had to have a beginning.
2. All hydrogen in the universe is irreversibly being converted into helium, and all radioactive elements in the universe are irreversibly being converted into lead. If matter had existed forever, these processes would, of course, have been completed. The existence of hydrogen and of radioactive elements in the universe prove that it had a beginning, and that it will have an end.
3. Law governs matter and in every way takes precedence over matter, and therefore must have preceded matter. Law, invisible, intangible, immaterial – partakes of the nature of mind, will, purpose, spirit.
4. For these and many other reason, we know that mind – spirit – is the eternally existent reality and source of all being . . . and that eternal mind and spirit we call "God." We will discuss these four reasons that we can be sure that infinite mind (spirit) is the one eternally existent reality.
5. Professor Steven Schwarz, of the University of Rhode Island, has set forth the impossibility of spontaneous generation of life, the information patterns of DNA codes, and the Anthropic Principle (the unquestionable grand design of the universe to fit and accommodate human life), as proofs of the existence of God. We quote below from his article in the book, The Intellectuals Speak Out About God, Chicago, Ill., Regnery Gateway, Inc., 1984; pps. 101-102.
  - a. The Impossibility of Spontaneous Generation of Life From Non-life. Even with the universe somehow there, the atheist faces another great challenge: How did life arise? If we picture the universe as totally devoid of life, a kind of "prebiotic soup," can we rationally suppose it possible for biological life to arise spontaneously: by itself, without a cause or design, purely by chance? The probability against this is 1 in  $10^{40,000}$  a number so vast one can hardly begin to imagine it. But to give some indication of its vastness consider these facts. The number of atoms (tiny, tiny atoms!) in the universe (the entire universe, with

billions of stars, distances of millions of light years) is only  $3 \times 10^{74.3}$ , "only" merely by comparison. For each addition to the exponent (in our case 40,000) represents a mind boggling increase. For example, if  $10^{74}$  is a huge number then  $10^{82}$  is 100,000,000 times greater! And  $10^{90}$  is 100,000,000 greater than that or 10,000,000,000,000,000 greater than that or 10,000,000,000,000,000 greater than the original  $10^{74}$ . Now continue this process until you reach, not  $10^{1,000}$ , or  $10^{2,000}$  or  $10^{3,000}$ , each of them a mind boggling increase over the previous, but  $10^{40,000}$ ! Thus, the probability against life arising by chance amounts to a virtual impossibility.

6. Information Theory and DNA. Information theory shows that the information patterns of a written language can be expressed mathematically. When a study was made of the information patterns in a living organisms, coded in DNA, it was found that the mathematical patterns in language and in DNA were exactly the same. Now information cannot come about by chance. When you read something that gives you information – about the past, about far away places, about human behavior, about any other thing – you know that the source of that information is a mind, a being with intelligence. So if DNA codes are essentially information patterns, they too require intelligence as their source, that is, intelligence, God. Thus, as Professor Geisler puts it, "it is scientifically necessary to point to intelligence as the cause of the first living cell."
7. The Anthropic Principle. Modern discoveries in astronomy show that if the universe had been only slightly different, life, including human life, could not have arisen in it. Professor Jastrow explains how a slight increase in nuclear forces would have resulted in stars made almost entirely of helium, stars which have a much shorter "life" span, resulting in insufficient time for life, and man, to arise in the universe. On the other hand, a slight decrease in nuclear forces would have prevented the formation of carbon atoms and other necessary ingredients of life. Again, life, and man, could not have arisen in the universe. The same applies, in addition to nuclear forces, to other factors as well, such as the strength of electro-magnetic forces, and the force of gravity.
8. The conclusion is "that the universe was constructed within very narrow limits, in such a way that man could dwell in it," as Professor Jastrow puts it. This is strong evidence for saying that the universe was designed for man. And, of course, design requires a Designer – God. Thus, the atheistic materialistic picture of the universe as the accidental product of pure chance receives a devastating blow, from science itself.

## II. WHY WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD

- A. There are four channels which we receive knowledge of the existence of God:
  1. Reason – Behind the manifestations of infinite intelligence, design, beauty, and order in the universe, reason tells us there must be an infinite mind,

designer and architect, artist, and ruler.

2. Revelation – God has revealed Himself to us in (a) nature, (b) mankind and human history, (c) ourselves and our own consciousness, (d) the Bible, and (e) Jesus Christ.
3. Experience – Many have experienced God in their lives – have communicated with Him, through prayer which has been answered in miraculous ways.
4. Intuition – There is in man an innate tendency to turn to the source of his being, especially in times of crisis, as the birds instinctively fly south in winter.

B. Proofs of the existence of God drawn from reason.

1. Something – either mind or matter – has existed forever. There is absolute proof that matter has not always existed. Therefore, we know that mind – infinite mind, which we call "God," has existed throughout eternity, and is, therefore, the ultimate cause of all that is.
2. We know that matter has not always existed because:
  - a. The Second Law of Thermodynamics precludes such a possibility;
  - b. The hydrogen in the universe would by now have all been converted into helium.
  - c. Radioactive elements would all be lead.
  - d. Law governs all matter and processes, and therefore, must have preceded matter and the processes by which it is transformed into energy, and back into matter. Law partakes of the nature of mind, not matter. Mind therefore is the eternally existent reality and source of all being.
3. The law of cause and effect says that an effect cannot be greater than its cause. We know, therefore, that whatever caused man had to possess love, personality, rationality and morality, because man possesses these attributes. We know, also, for the same reason, that whatever caused the universe had to possess infinite wisdom, power, and glory, because we see these characteristics displayed in the universe.
4. The universal desire of man to believe in God and the supernatural realm, and to communicate with that realm, proves its existence.
5. The testimony of countless men and women that God has been and is, not merely a reality, but the supreme of their lives, is proof of his existence.

6. The logic of the ascending magnitudes of the categories of being, and the law of the necessity of opposites (sometimes called the law of parity, or the law of polarity) demand the existence of a supreme being.
  7. The only underived, unconditional, and independent entity which could have created the universe and be the ground of its being, is God – and the existence of a universe which is and every component of which is derived, conditional, and dependent demands the existence of God.
  8. Intelligence demands that we believe in theism rather than in atheism, because theism promises the only possible gain, and atheism promises nothing but loss, both in time and in eternity, to wit:
    - a. A belief in God is necessary to a belief in the ultimate triumph of justice of truth and of goodness. If there is no final judgment bar of God where wrongs are righted, good is rewarded, and truth is enthroned, then we live in an evil and unjust universe, and there is no reason why one who believes that this is the true nature of the universe should not adapt and conform himself to this reality, and become unjust and evil himself.
    - b. A belief in God is necessary to a belief in the existence of immutable moral laws based, not on the whims of men, but on the will of the Almighty God. If there is no God, then whatever man thinks is right, is right – whether it be the slaughtering of 6 million Jews in Germany, or whatever else man thinks will bring the "greatest good to the greatest number" at any given moment in history.
    - c. A belief in God is necessary to a belief in the intrinsic value and worthwhileness of life.
- C. Atheism is a faith in the sovereignty of evil and the triumph of death. Contrast the utter hopelessness of atheism with the faith in the true and living God, who has written across the skies in His own blood for all men to see, the glorious message – "I love you with an infinite and an everlasting love."
1. Before us are two roads – the road of atheism and the road of faith in the Almighty God. At the entrance of the road of atheism is a sign which says – "Abandon ye all hope, who enter here." And then the message, "This road goes nowhere." After a very short distance, it dead-ends in a bottomless pit called "oblivion" or "the grave."
  2. At the entrance of the road of faith in God is a sign which says: "Enter here with joy, all ye who seek life everlasting." And then the message, "This road leads to the city of God, seat of the government of the universe, and eternal dwelling place of God and the redeemed of all ages."
- D. Something, either mind or matter, has existed forever. There is absolute proof that matter has not always existed. Therefore, we know that mind, which we call "God," has existed throughout eternity, and is the ultimate cause of all that is.

1. To put it a little differently, we know that something exists now, and we know that, since something exists now, something has always existed. Why? Because something cannot come from nothing. Neither can anything have created itself, because then it would have had to exist prior to itself, which is an impossibility.
2. The fact that we know that something exists and that, therefore, something has always existed tells us that there are two realities which must be considered – the reality of mind which knows (in this case which knows that something exists), and the reality of matter, which knows nothing at all. The question before us is, which of these two great realities – mind or matter-is eternal, antecedent to and, therefore, necessarily the cause of all other realities?
3. The atheist says, "Matter is the eternal reality." The first dogma of atheism and materialism is that "From eternity, matter in continual movement, has existed and has created all things."
4. The theist says, "Infinite mind – God is the eternally existent reality and source of all causation."
5. For many reasons, we know that matter has not always existed. We will cite four such reasons, to which we have already alluded on the preceding page.
  - a. Reason #1. If it had, then due to the Second Law of Thermodynamics by now all the matter in the universe would have been converted to an unusable form of energy called "entropy," would be in a total state of disorder, and would be at an absolutely even temperature.
    - 1) Sir James Jeans, the great mathematician, physicist, and the astronomer says in The Mysterious Universe, p.154 – "Now, the entropy of the universe has not yet reached its final maximum: we would not be thinking about it if it had. It is still increasing rapidly, and so must have had a beginning: there must have been what we may describe as an act of creation at a time not infinitely remote."
    - 2) C.J. Van Wylen and R.E. Sonntag, well known authorities in the field of Thermodynamics, in the widely used University Text Fundamentals of Classical Thermodynamics, 2nd Edition,) which is the text on this subject used at the University of Cincinnati), state (p. 248) "the authors see the second law of thermodynamics as man's description of the prior and continuing work of a creator, who also holds the answer to the future destiny of man and the universe."
    - 3) We could quote many other scientific authorities to the effect that, due to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, we know that matter had a beginning. That leaves mind as the thing which has existed

forever.

- b. Reason #2. Hydrogen, which is the primary component of the universe, is undergoing constant conversion into helium, and would all have long since been converted into helium had matter existed forever. The astronomer, Frederick Hoyle, in his book, The Nature of the Universe, says - "To avoid the issue of creation, it would be necessary for all the material in the universe to be infinitely old. And this cannot be, for a practical reason. For if this were so, there could be no hydrogen left in the universe. As I think I demonstrated when I spoke about the insides of the stars, hydrogen is steadily being converted into helium throughout the universe, and this conversion is a one-way process, that is to say, hydrogen cannot be produced in any appreciable quantity through the breakdown of other elements. How is it then, that the universe consists almost entirely of hydrogen? If matter were infinitely old, this would be quite impossible. So we see that the universe being what it is, the creation issue simply cannot be dodged."
  - c. Reason #3. The radioactive elements of matter such as uranium, radium, and thorium, are steadily and irreversibly disintegrating into lead, and would all have, by now, been converted into lead had matter existed forever.
  - d. Reason #4. But even if we did not have these incontrovertible proofs that matter had a beginning, and that, therefore, mind has to be the eternally existent reality, we would know that this is true. And our fourth reason for saying this is that we know that operating throughout the material universe is a structure of law which absolutely governs everything within it, including all matter, energy, heat, light, motion, and every change of every kind that is taking place everywhere. The unseen but all-powerful and ever-present guiding fingers of this system of law, reach equally out to the farthest star, and down into the deepest recesses of sub-atomic matter. No event is too small to escape its sovereignty or too great to be under its control. Though all else is constantly moving and changing, this structure of law is immovable and immutable. While it rules all things in the material realm, it is completely unaffected by anything that happens in that realm. Matter is totally dependent upon and subservient to law, but law is totally independent of matter.
- E. This universal system of law in the cosmos had to exist prior to matter because it controls matter, from the time of its production from energy, through all the transitions it undergoes. While law possesses none of the properties of matter, it possesses all the properties of mind. It is invisible, intangible, orderly, coherent, and intelligible to mind. In every way, it partakes of the nature and essence of mind, and is mind, operating pervasively throughout the universe. The beast is aware of matter, but is totally unaware of mind, or of law. Only mind is aware of mind and of the universal system of law which is a manifestation of

the infinite, omnipotent, and omnipresent mind we call "God." This is the eternal reality which is unaffected by entropy or by any other change in nature. This is the supernal mind and being which is the source of all that is!

SYLLOGISM:

- 1) Either mind or matter has existed eternally and is the ultimate source of all being.
  - 2) We know that matter has not existed eternally, because of:
    - (a) The Second Law of Thermodynamics:
    - (b) The transformation of hydrogen to helium;
    - (c) The transformation of radio-active elements to lead:
    - (d) The invisible and intangible system of law that governs all matter and energy as well as the processes which pertain to them, and which, therefore, had to exist prior to them and be infinitely superior to them.
  - 3) Therefore, mind (God) has existed eternally and is the source of all being.
- F. The law of causality or of cause and effect, says that an effect cannot contain any perfection which was not in the cause, nor can anything be greater than its cause. We know, therefore, that whatever caused man had to possess love, personality, rationality, and morality, because man possesses these attributes. We know also, for the same reason, that whatever caused the universe had to possess infinite wisdom, power, and glory, because we see these characteristics displayed in the universe.
1. The law of cause and effect was expressed philosophically by Aristotle by the maxim – "There is nothing in the end which was not also in the beginning." It is expressed in almost every mathematical equation, and even  $1 + 1 = 2$ , or "the whole equals the sum of the parts" are representations of it. It is the basis of all science, of all logic, and of the reasoning process itself. The law of causality is the most general and basic of all laws. It undergirds all laws and has been called the "law of laws."
  2. In the realm of physics, and we are talking about physical reality, the law of cause and effect is expressed in Newton's 3rd Law of Motion – "For every action, there is an equal and counter reaction." In other words the reaction, or effect, must exactly correspond to and be commensurate with the action or cause. As we have stated, an effect cannot contain any perfection which does not belong to its cause, nor can anything be greater than its cause, because nothing can confer upon another what it does not itself possess. To deny this would be to assert that something can come from nothing.
  3. So then, since we know that man, the world, and the universe did not create themselves, nor did any component of them cause itself, and since we are

here trying to determine what did cause them, let us examine them carefully, and using the law of causality as our guide let us go from the known effect to unknown cause. By this means, we shall be able to arrive at some certain conclusions, both about what was the ultimate cause of all that is, and what was not.

4. It is obvious from the very outset, that man, the world, and the universe could not possibly be the products of purposeless forces acting by blind chance and accident upon dead matter which is what the atheists say caused it all. Chaos could not by accident produce the perfect order and harmony of the universe. The law of causality says that accident, or disorder can only produce more disorder. Only mind can produce order, and only order can produce more order, for obviously order is a higher perfection of being than disorder.
5. The law of causality says that lifeless electrons and protons could not be accident produce life, for life is obviously a higher perfection of being than non-life. Only life therefore, can produce life.
6. The law of causality says that unfeeling, unknowing matter could not by accident give birth to consciousness, and rationality, for obviously the ability to feel and think, to know and to reason, are far higher perfection of being than non-consciousness, and mindlessness.
  - a. Man possesses intelligence, rationality and personality. Matter is uncomprehending and impersonal. Since the law of causality says that a cause cannot give to an effect what it does not itself possess, we conclude that mindless matter could not have caused rational man, neither can man's ability to reason be the unintended by-product of an aimless process. The source of man's intelligence and personality must itself have possessed intelligence and personality. This intelligent personality which we know caused man, we call "God." *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out" (Rom. 11:33).*
  - b. Man possesses the capacity for love and compassion. The material universe, on the other hand, is completely unloving and uncaring, and is equally unmoved whether a bubble bursts or a world explodes, whether a sparrow falls or an earthquake wipes out a city. The law of causality says that a material universe which is as devoid of love as a computer, could not convey to man what it does not possess itself. In other words, atheism is wrong! The material universe could not possibly be the ultimate source of man's being. Man's creator must himself have possessed love and compassion in order to be able to confer this most wonderful of all capabilities upon man. God is love! (I Jn.4)
  - c. Man is a moral being. He possesses a conscience, an innate

awareness of moral and spiritual values. We not only know that there are such things as truth, justice, righteousness, duty, virtue, honor, unselfishness, and moral and ethical conduct, but we know that these values ought to be the "categorical imperatives" which control all our choices and decisions. These values have no existence at all in nature. So man has a vast moral and spiritual dimension to his being which could not have come from the natural realm because it just isn't there and because it isn't there, the law of cause and effect tells us that the ultimate source of man's being could not be the natural realm. Man must be the product of a creative power which itself possesses and gives highest priority to these values. Of the one who created us, the law of causality compels us to say with the psalmist – *"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness and thy law is the truth"* (Psa. 119:142). The theist and atheist are each serving what he believes to be truth.

7. We don't agree as to what the truth is, but we do agree that whatever it is, one should defend it and promote it. What does this tell us? It tells us that we all know that there is truth and there is falsehood: there is right and there is wrong, and we should try to determine what is the truth and stand for it, and do what is right to no matter what it costs us. Man is a moral being. Even a lie must claim to be the truth, and the worst evil must claim to be good, to have any influence on man at all. He is so constructed that his very nature is drawn to the good, the true and the beautiful as the compass needle is drawn toward the magnetic pole. This then is the dominant and most distinctive characteristic of man – a characteristic which has absolutely no roots in the material cosmos.
8. When an atheist says that atheism is the truth, and when he uses logic to prove that it is a moral imperative for one to believe in atheism, he is using moral faculties and appealing to a moral value system the very existence of which prove that there is a God. Why? Because neither man's power to reason, nor his power to exercise moral judgements, nor his power to formulate a system of abstract ideas and concepts such as atheism, nor his power to believe in and repose his faith in such a system, nor his power to communicate abstract meaning by means of the verbal symbols we call "words" – none of these five powers that the atheist uses to prove that there is no God, could possibly have come from the inanimate matter and natural processes that atheism says created man, because they do not possess these powers. They could not give to the atheist nor to any of the rest of us what they do not possess themselves. So, the very fact that the atheist is trying to prove to us that there is no God, is the strongest sort of evidence that he exists.
9. Man has many other marvelous capabilities and powers which we know cannot have been derived from nature where the materialists say man originated, for they are non-existent there. Whatever created man had to possess all these powers, because no effect can be qualitatively extrinsic to its cause. As the Psalmist has said, *"He that planted the ear, shall he not*

*hear? He that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that teaches man knowledge, shall he not know?" (Psa. 94:9,10).*

11. The ultimate causation of man must be greater than the sum total of all men who ever live must be greater than the totality of mankind, because no effect can be greater than its cause.
12. Imagine a man who is a composite of all the very best, greatest, wisest, most brilliant and talented human powers and capacities are developed to their very fullest extent. What that dazzling personality would be, the law of cause and effect says the creator of mankind would have to at least be, because man could not possess any perfection even potentially which the creator of man does not possess actually-because nothing can confer upon another what it does not possess itself. Only a God who is in some ways like man could create a man who is like a God, which is, of course, exactly what the scriptures say (Gen. 1:26,27).
13. Let us turn now from man to nature, in our search for the attributes and qualities of the great ultimate cause of all things.
  - a. Nature is teeming with vibrant life and consciousness, in myriads of wonderful forms. "Whether we look or whether we listen, we hear life murmur or see it glisten." The law of cause and effect says that the non-living cannot by itself give birth to the living, neither can dumb, insensate matter give birth to awareness, and that which can experience sensations of fear and anticipation, need and satiety, of pleasure and of pain. The law of cause and effect says that the source of life, consciousness, and feeling, must itself of course, possess life, consciousness and feeling.
  - b. Our God is the true and living God, who alone could be the cause of all that.
  - c. The unbeliever lives in the hope that scientists will some day create life. Even if this is done it will not prove that the non-living ever created life. All that it will prove is that a living, intelligent being, in this case, man, can create life – which is what we are maintaining occurred in the beginning.
14. The infinite beauty, design, order and purposefulness of the universe prove that it is the product of superhuman intelligence and power, rather than of blind, random forces, acting upon inanimate matter. There is indescribable grandeur and majesty, order design and purposefulness evidenced in every tiny fragment of the universe, in every leaf and bud, every sunrise and sunset, every cloud and star. Truly, every common bush is aflame with God. Truly, we are surrounded by miracles! There are a million things going on each moment, both within each one of us, and in the world and the universe about us, that we aren't even aware of, much less have any control over, yet our lives are dependent upon their happening. Consider the

intricacy of the human eye, consider the wonder of that invisible energy we call "light", consider the marvel of procreation, by which the species are constantly renewed. Go to the snow-capped mountains, or into the depths of the ocean, and behold the infinite genius of the creator. How can one fail to fall on his knees in awe and reverence before Him?

- a. The universe is intelligible to mind. It's not a mad-house. It makes sense. Its secrets can be unraveled by mind, its mysteries probed. This could not be if it did not have unity, consistency, and intelligent, purposeful cause. The universe does not jabber incoherently – it speaks a language that man can comprehend – the physicist, the astronomer, the chemist, the mathematician. An intelligent and intelligible effect cannot come from a mindless cause. The precision of the universe far surpasses that of the finest machine that man can make. Shall we say that the marvelous machines made by man show design, and engineering skill, and craftsmanship, but the infinite machine made by God just happened?
  - b. Shall we say that a painting of our artists show genius, but the grandeur of the nature they depict shows nothing?
  - c. There is purposeful design revealed in all the intricate and orderly cycles and sequences of life and nature. The grass grows not only because seed, earth, rain and sunshine, meet in proper order, but it fulfills the purpose of feeding animals, which are of use to man.
  - d. The logic of the drama of existence, and of all human experience, compels us to agree with the poets and seers, who intuitively perceive that "far-off divine event towards which the whole creation moves."
15. We know that there is a God because there is overwhelming evidence of intelligently directed executive power and government throughout the universe. We live in a universe, not a multi-verse; a cosmos, not a chaos. It not only possesses organization, but it is an organization – an organized, systematic unit, whose laws are constant and dependable. The regularity of the cycles and the seasons, the unfailing precision of the movements of the heavenly bodies, the reliability and predictability of the laws of nature, the endless diversity within the uniformity of kind and type showing that there is a large measure of freedom and flexibility within the rigid boundaries of law – all these things tell us that there is an intelligently directed executive power and government operating over, in and through every aspect and phase of the universe. The law of causality tells us that exactitude and order are not the products of accident and coincidence. The dance of the electrons is not a wild, disordered pandemonium, but a perfectly organized, measured minuet. Without the sustaining power of an omnipotent and omniscient cosmic government, the whole cosmic system would collapse – the whirling spheres would cease their turning, the laws would clash, the worlds collide, the light of a trillion suns would go out, and the infinitely cold corpse of a dead universe would be wrapped in its shroud

of unfathomable darkness and chaos forever.

16. We know that there is a God because of the purposefulness that permeates every aspect of life, the world, and the universe. There is not only "order in the courtroom" of the universe, showing that the Almighty is seated and reigning, but there is something going on that is fraught with meaning of immeasurable and immensity.
  - a. There are innumerable forces and powers at work within us and around us which are beyond the power of mind or matter to alter or even understand – forces which we can use but not defy. Vegetables and animals, and we ourselves grow and develop, but our growth is limited, and our development is defined. We grow so tall – no taller. Our head gets big – no bigger. The nose grown so long – no longer. Why? Because the architectural power of an unseen force is controlling, directing, limiting, defining all things. Whatever consciousness may be in the creature has nothing to do with the determining rate, form, direction or extent of this growth and development – or even whether it takes place at all or not. There must, therefore, be a power outside of matter – outside the minds that are in matter – which governs matter and uses it as a medium of design and development
  - b. What we call "nature's laws" are God's laws, and God's laws are God's mind and will, exercising sovereignty over all things.
  - c. We cannot overthrow the subordination of visible matter to invisible forces. The involuntary actions and functions of the organs of the body are a self-evident proof of the supremacy of invisible forces over matter – and the combined harmony of these forces in a unity of purpose under one controlling invisible power is evident.
  - d. Arthur H. Compton, one of the greatest scientists and physicists who ever lived, wrote, "Science is the glimpse of God's purpose in nature. The very existence of the amazing world of the atom and radiation points to a purposeful creation, to the idea that there is a God and an intelligent purpose back of everything."
  - e. We are not on a road to nowhere, and our world is not a lost and derelict spaceship, adrift in the depths of space, without chart of helmsman and bound for no port.
  - f. The atoms that come raining out of the world, come not as a mob to form chaos, but as an army to perform the prearranged task of building the world. The natural processes appear to be harnessed to an idea, and what is called "evolution" is like a stream running uphill, from less complex to more complex; from inorganic to organic; from instinct to reason. All the movements of nature give the impression of definite direction and progress toward a foreseen and predetermined goal. Within and controlling each organism, and each organ of each

organism, is a purposive force which sets a goal and carries it out.

- g. The Naturalist, Romanes, wrote: "Where ever we tap organic nature, it seems to flow with purpose.
- h. Through the ages one increasing purpose runs and that purpose is the eventual and permanent establishment of the ideal and perfect universal order. The goal of life and of all that exists, is to make progress towards this goal.
- i. Design and purpose are the products of mind, of thought and of volition. To say, as does atheism, that there is no designer behind the design is as contrary to reason as to say there is no cause preceding the effect.

#### SYLLOGISM:

- 1. The law of cause and effect says that an effect cannot be greater than its cause, or contain any perfection which was not in its cause or any quality outside its cause.
  - 2. Man possesses love, rationality, morality, spirituality, and the universe contains life, consciousness, feeling, and overwhelming evidence of intelligent government, order, design, purpose and progress towards an ideal goal.
  - 3. The law of cause and effect tells us that the ultimate cause of man and the universe must be living, loving, rational, spiritual, moral, omniscient and omnipotent.
17. The universal desire of man to believe in God and to communicate with him, proves that he exists.
- a. By "universal" we do not mean that every person has that desire, but that it is to be found in man in all times and places and under all conditions from the earliest recorded history until now.
  - b. Creatures are not born with desires unless the means of fulfilling those desires exist. Every single basic urge and desire of every living creature has fulfillment and means of satisfaction in the realm of objective reality. All experience shows that **needs** are balanced by corresponding **satisfactions**. We hunger, we thirst, we are weary, we have intellectual needs, athletic needs, social needs, and all our basic needs, as well as those of all other creatures, point to realities which are the fulfillment of those needs.
    - 1. Man is incurably, incorrigibly religious. Religion of some sort is universal, persuasive, human, natural, not a local or special thing but a racial and general phenomenon. From the earliest times,

region occupied a central place in life and history.

2. Lecky, in his *"History of European Morals"* says, "The instinct of religion is as deeply ingrained in human nature as the instincts of hunger and sex."
3. Comte says, "Religion embraces the whole of existence, and the history of religion resumes the entire history of human development."
4. Max Muller said, "The true history of man is the history of religion."
5. Pidget and Clavier, as a result of their studies of children, concluded that the child inherently gives the facts of the world a theistic interpretation. When given a chance, the child will almost inevitably arrive at a conception of God.
6. It was Voltaire who said "If there were no God, it would be necessary for man to invent one."
7. The Communists have discovered that it is impossible to eradicate faith in God.
8. The urge to believe in God is so compelling that when man denies the existence of the true God, he invariably creates false gods.
9. The Communists now admit that Stalin and Lenin have been deified. In his speech before the Twentieth Party Congress in Moscow, February 25, 1956, Krushchev said that for years the belief had been cultivated among them that Stalin was "a superman possessing supernatural characteristics akin to those of a god." U.S. News, 6/15/56, p.34
10. Man is theotropic. This characteristic of man, when reflected on, indicates something about man which cannot be explained by materialism. Man's religious and spiritual needs point to something in his nature which is beyond the material.
11. The late W. Cosby Bell said: "If God is not real, then there is a part of the human makeup which has nothing corresponding to it in reality. It is half-an-arch, suspended in the air; a cry without an answer; if there is no spiritual reality to match the instinct within. And that element in man's nature which through the long ages has made man religious is a false element, because there is nothing in reality corresponding to it. The prayers of all the ages are unanswered. There was no one to hear them. In these spiritual and religious powers we have felt our main significance consists. Through them have come our loftiest visions, our deepest, clearest insights into the meaning of life. But in fact, according to the

atheistic viewpoint, they have led us astray! All the faith in God, that crying out to Him, that holiness of life, that heroism, that selfless love, that martyrdom has been based on falsehood and hallucination, says atheism. The religious nature of man can be reasonably explained only on the basis of its validity. And the only adequate explanation of religion is to be found in God."

- a. Every prayer that has ever been uttered is a part of the proof that there is a God, for each prayer is evidence that there is a yearning within man to worship and communicate with the source of his being – an innate hunger to know God.
- b. It would be strange indeed for man's deepest need – his spiritual need, his need for a personal God, of all the basic needs of all creatures, to alone be denied fulfillment in reality. David said, *"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so my soul panteth after Thee, O God."* The water brooks are there for the hart. Is God missing, for the man?" (Psa. 42:1-2)

#### SYLLOGISM:

1. Every basic and universal need and desire points unerringly to the existence of an objective reality which meets that need and fulfills that desire.
  2. Man has a basic and universal need and desire to believe in and to communicate with God.
  3. Man's need to believe in and to communicate with God points unerringly to His existence, just as the needle of the compass points unerringly to the North Pole, and proves its presence and existence.
18. The testimony of countless men and women that God has been and is, not merely a reality, but the supreme reality of their lives, is proof of his existence.
- a. The testimony of those who have heard God's voice is overwhelming in magnitude. They have not always heard it clearly, and have never obeyed it perfectly, but in every country men have heard a call to follow the Highest without thought of profit or advantage.
  - b. In the Bible we find a succession of wonderful men, most of them conscious of profound unpopularity in their contemporary world who, despite the determined hostility of kings and priests, of courts and peoples, delivered what they proclaim to be God's message to man. This message they declared, with fullest conviction, to be derived not from their own reasoning and speculation, nor from tradition, nor from

any external source at all, but from God, the God of Israel and of all mankind, speaking in, to, and through their own souls so intensely and clearly that there could be no mistake about it.

- c. The reality of a personal God has been in the past and can now be attested to by countless multitudes – they have experienced God. A large number of men and women have put themselves on record as being in communion with unseen superhuman power – of having fellowship with divinity. The evidence is not limited to one age, or one stage of civilization, one race or culture. It is spread over all stages of culture and diversities of individual training and position. The evidence includes the names of very many who are recognized as the truest, noblest, and sanest specimens of our race.
- d. Many have trod the fiery path of persecution, crying out of the flames to an unseen presence that they have kept the faith.
- e. The book of Hebrews gives an honor roll of those *"who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises....of whom the world was not worthy"* (Heb. 11:33,38).
- f. The atheist denies all this evidence from the experience of millions and says that because he or she has not known God, no one could have and, therefore, God does not exist. But for one to say that "because I have not known God, therefore, no one has" is equivalent to saying "Anything that I don't know isn't worth knowing – in fact it doesn't exist!"
- g. If one doesn't see the sun, does that mean that the sun doesn't exist? No, it means that the person who doesn't see it is either blind, or is looking in the wrong direction. We are convinced that the latter is true of most atheists in regard to God.

#### SYLLOGISM:

- 1. The testimony of competent witnesses establishes the truth of any proposition.
  - 2. Multitudes of competent witnesses have testified that they know God, and have experienced Him in their lives.
  - 3. The testimony of multitudes of competent witnesses establish the truth of the existence of God.
19. The logic of the ascending magnitudes of the categories of being, and the law of the necessity of opposites (sometimes called the law of parity, or the law of polarity) demand the existence of a supreme being.
- a. All categories on the scale of being are filled except that of the superlative, the preeminent, the transcendent, the infinite, the absolute that

concerning which nothing could be greater. We know that, starting with the category of nothing, we move up the scale of the magnitudes of being, power, and perfection, to that which is the very least possible, and then to that which is by comparison, greater, than the greatest, and then finally to the superlative or absolutely great – that concerning which nothing could be greater. Only God could fill the category of superlative and absolute transcendence. We know that there is a reality which fills every other category of being, from nothingness on up through endless gradations of perfection and quality, to the very greatest. "Greatest" is a comparative term as are all the others except nothingness. Neither nothingness nor infinity is comparable to anything else, or exists in its magnitude in relationship to anything else. Therefore, because there is such a thing as nothing, there has to be such a thing as infinitude of being – a being which is incomparable to anything or everything else and this could only be God, fulfilling these categories in all the attributes, qualities and characteristics.

- b. There is another law of abstract reality, the law of parity or of polarity, sometimes called the law of necessity of opposite extremes, which demands the existence of God. This law of principle, states that for every physical process or form, there is a mirror image. The discovery of the positron by Dr. Karl Anderson for which he received the Nobel prize, is an example of the application of this law.
- c. Today, anti-matter is accepted as a fact by the scientific world. Applying this law or principle throughout the realm of reality we can know that if there is a finite, there must be an infinite. If there is a temporal, there must be an eternal. If there is imperfection, there must be perfection. If there is a comparable, there must be an incomparable. This law says there cannot be a right without a left, an up without a down, a white without black, a temporal without an eternal, a finite without an infinite being. Therefore, we can know because of the law of parity and of polarity, that God does exist.

#### SYLLOGISM:

- 1. The logic of the ascending magnitudes of the categories of being and the law of polarity, demand the existence of a being who is infinite, transcendent, absolute, superlative, and incomparable in all qualities, attributes and perfection.
  - 2. Only the existence of an eternal, omniscient, infinite God could meet these demands.
  - 3. God exists.
19. Everything in the universe is derived, contingent, conditional, dependent, and relative. Therefore, we know that the whole universe is derived contingent, conditional, dependent, and relative, because the whole cannot be

greater than or qualitatively other than the sum of its parts. The only underived, unconditional, absolute, and independent entity which could have created the universe and be the ground of its being is God.

- a. Einstein proved that all physical reality, that is to say, all frames of reference in regard to size, weight, position, time and motion, are relative, not absolute. This says that the universe cannot be an absolute in itself, and, therefore, cannot possess independent or absolute existence. We would know this anyhow, because we know that nothing created itself, or perpetuates itself independently. All existences in the universes are derived from something other than themselves, and are dependent upon something other than themselves. Since this is true of every part of the universe, we would know that it has to be true of the totality of the universe, even apart from Einstein's proof.
- b. The explanation of the existence of the universe, therefore, cannot be found within the universe. Its cause and its perpetuation has to be found in a power outside of it which is not derived, contingent, conditional, dependent, or relative, (i.e., in God).

#### SYLLOGISM:

1. Since the universe could not have created itself nor could it sustain itself, its existence is dependent upon some power outside itself which is absolute, underived, and independent.
  2. The only power which could be absolute, underived and independent is God.
  3. God is the power which created and sustains the universe.
20. Intelligence demands that we believe in theism rather than in atheism, because theism promises the only possible gain, and atheism promises nothing but loss, both here and in eternity.
- a. We have before us two faiths as to what is the source of all that is – the one a faith in the living God, and the other a faith in dead matter. Atheism is not merely a negation of the existence of God. Atheism is materialism – an affirmation that matter is the ultimate reality. Atheism is the religion of secular humanism. If God is not the supreme being, then man is. If there is no God, then there is no mind higher than man's; no will greater than man's; no morality other than that which man forges for himself. Yet, even while atheism seems to be accomplishing the deification of man, the dethronement of God and the enthronement of man as the supreme intelligence of the universe, it is actually accomplishing man's degradation. For if there is no God, then man is just another animal – just another accidental collocation of atoms and molecules. The fact that he is apparently the most

intelligent accident that has yet occurred is of negligible importance. In denying God, man, denies his own divine origin and acknowledges that his kinship is not with that which is spiritual, above, but with that which is material, below with the beasts and with that which is below the beasts.

- b. A belief in God is necessary to a belief in the ultimate triumph of justice, of truth, and of goodness. We know that the injustice, falsehood, and evil are often victorious here on earth. Goodness is seldom rewarded, and evil is seldom punished as it should be. "Truth is ever on the scaffold; falsehood, ever on the throne." If there is no final judgment bar of God, where wrongs are righted, good rewarded and truth is enthroned, then we live in an evil and unjust universe, and there is no reason why one who believes that this is the true nature of the universe, should not adapt and conform himself to this reality, and become unjust and evil himself.
- c. A belief in God is necessary to a belief in the existence of immutable moral laws based, not on the whims of men, but on the will of the Almighty God. If there is no God, then whatever man thinks is right, is right, whether it be the slaughtering of six million Jews in Germany, or the confiscation of all private property by the Communists in Russia or China, or whatever else man thinks will bring "the greatest good to the greatest number" at any given moment. Whatever will accomplish a desirable purpose, be it falsehood, theft, murder, or whatever, is good and moral because the end justifies the means. If it works, do it. "If it feels good, do it."
- d. Jean Paul Sartre, famous French atheist and existentialist has said: "The existentialist finds it very distressing that God does not exist, because all possibility of finding values in a heaven of ideas disappears along with Him. Everything is permissible if God does not exist, and as a result, man is forlorn, because neither within him nor without does he find anything to cling to".
- e. Theism is the triumph of a faith in changeless moral principles based on the authority of God. Atheism is the victory of ethical relativism, or nihilism, and finally of evil.
- f. If there is no God, there are no moral laws, no spiritual realities.
- g. A belief in God is necessary to a belief in the intrinsic value and worthwhileness of life. If there is no God, then nothing that happens on this insignificant little mud ball earth is of the least consequence. According to atheism, life is not real or earnest, because the grave is its goal, and the only reason that "dust thou art, to dust returnest" was not spoken of the soul is that there is no soul. According to atheism, life is a hopeless exercise in futility. If there is no God, there is "no light at the end of the tunnel." Faith in God is the necessary foundation of any

optimism or hope for the future. Atheism is the victory of pessimism and despair.

- 1) Bertrand Russell, that brilliant British atheist (the American Atheist Society) proudly displays a framed letter from him hanging on the wall at the American Atheist Center) honestly admitted the total pessimism of the atheistic viewpoint. He said: "That man is the product of causes which had no provision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and beliefs, are but the outcome of accident collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labors 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, and the debris of a universe in ruins – all these things if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built."
- i. Atheism is a faith in the sovereignty of evil and the triumph of death. Contrast the utter hopelessness of atheism with the faith in the true and living God, who has written across the skies in His own blood for all men to see, the glorious message "I love you with an everlasting love."
  - 1) Shortly before he died, Sartre abandoned his own philosophy and said: "I do not feel that I am the product of chance, a speck of dust in the universe, but someone who was expected, prepared for, prefigured. In short, a being whom only a creator could put here; and this idea of a creating hand refers to God." National Review. 6/11/82. p. 677.
  - 2) Before us are two roads – the road of atheism and the road of faith in the Almighty God. At the entrance of the road of atheism is a sign which says, "Abandon Ye All Hope, Who Enter Here" – and then the message, "This road goes nowhere." After a very short distance, it dead ends in a bottomless pit called "oblivion" or "the grave."
  - 3) At the entrance of the road of faith in God is a sign which says, "Enter Here With Joy All Ye Who See Life Everlasting," and then the message – "This road leads to the city of God, seat of the government of the universe, and eternal dwelling place of God and the redeemed of all ages."
  - 4) In the words of Moses to the Children of Israel: *"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set*

*before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore, choose life, that you and your descendants may live." (Deut. 30:19)*

### **III. HOW WE CAN KNOW GOD, AND KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM.**

- A. An obedient faith in God leads to a certain knowledge of Him. The child of God knows his Father. He walks with Him and talks with Him, and experience God within his heart and life. Jesus said, *"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him and make our abode with him" (Jn. 14:23)*. He said *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20)*.
- B. The Prophets of Israel foretold the coming of a New Covenant, which God would with them and with all mankind, in which God would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28), and all would know him. *"And they shall not teach again each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, know the lord, for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them" (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:11)*.
- C. If ours is not an obedient and loving faith, it will not lead to this establishment of a personal relationship with God, as a member of His diving family and called-out body of people, which is His Church, and will be a vain and empty faith. Jesus equated knowing God and Himself with possessing eternal life, and said, *"And this is life eternal that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent" (Jn. 17:3)*. It is stated emphatically in the scriptures that a failure to know God will result in everlasting destruction and separation from God forever for *"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power" (II Thess. 1:7-9)*.
- D. Jesus told his disciples that they would be persecuted, and that whoever killed them would think he was doing God's will, and *"These things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me" (Jn. 16:3)*.
  - 1. Jesus said, *"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (Jn. 10:14)*.
  - 2. Thus we see that knowing the Father and knowing Christ is all-important, and a failure to establish a close personal relationship and partnership with God in Christ, will result in our being lost forever. Is it possible for us to be absolutely sure and certain that we know the Lord? Yes! We are told by God that if we keep His commandments we can be certain that we know Him.

3. *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith I know him and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: Hereby we know that we are in him" (1 Jn. 2:2-5).*
4. So we see that it is not only possible for us to know God. It is possible for us to know that we know Him, and that we have an organic union with Him in Christ.

## LESSONS 3 & 4

### HOW WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

Memory verses: Psa. 119:104,130; Matt. 24:34; Heb. 4:12; II Tim. 3:16,17; I Pet. 1:23-25 (a quote of Isa. 40:7-8); II Pet. 1:21.

#### I. MAN COULD NOT HAVE WRITTEN THE BIBLE – AND HE WOULD NOT HAVE WRITTEN IT, IF HE COULD HAVE DONE SO:

A. The Bible condemns man in his natural, unregenerate state, and the moral, spiritual, and ethical standards of the Bible are at every point contradictory to man's carnal nature. The Bible views all things from a point of vantage far different from and higher than man's. The perspective of the Bible is that of God, who dwells in eternity and sees the end from the beginning . . . who know the heart of man who knows all things.

1. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither but watereth the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: It shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isa. 55:8-11).*
2. The Christian is commanded to be perfect . . . *"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48).* Heaven is a perfect place for perfect people, and one single sin, or flaw, would disbar one from entering there. So then, how can we human beings, so flawed and imperfect and sinful, ever go to heaven? Through the sacrifice of God's Son at Calvary, where the perfect and all-sufficient offering was made for our sins, *"For by one offering, he has perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).* Man is tolerant of sin and evil, but God isn't.
  - a. We are told that Jesus took the guilt of our sins upon himself, so that they are imputed to him, and not to us. *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21).* Our sins, then, are charged to Christ and not to us. We assume His innocence; He assumes our guilt.
  - b. Even as David also describes the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputes righteousness without works, saying, *"Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is*

*the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Rom. 4:8).*

- c. *"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28).*
  - d. *"Who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye are healed" (I Pet. 2:24)*
3. Jesus died a sinner's death . . . not because He was a sinner, but because we are, and He died for our sins. He died in our stead, a substitutionary victim for the demands of the just law of God that *"the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4,20).*
  4. Only God could or would hate sin so much as to decree the death of every soul stained with its guilt; only God would or could love us enough, or be capable of Himself paying the penalty for our transgressions. All praise and glory be to Him *"who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).* *"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin" (I Jn. 1:7).*
  5. Only the Bible tells us of God's infinite love for us, so that He has provided a *"fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins; and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."* Man would never dream of such a God, or imagine such a plan of redemption and salvation, or invent a Deity who would die for us and then beg and plead with us to accept His indescribable gift! The Bible is not a product of the mind of man. On every page, it bears the signature of the Almighty God who wrote it through holy men!
  6. To the casual observer, a meteorite appears to be just another rock in no way different from any other stone one might pick up in any field or creek-bed, or find on any mountainside, or in any cow-pasture. The scientist, however, knows that the meteorite is a product of different forces and processes than those which formed the rocks on this planet. He knows that the meteorite came from outer space – that the elements comprising it are blended and amalgamated in a radically different fashion from anything found on the earth. In the same way, to the casual observer, the Bible is just another book – not different from any other in its origin in the mind of man. Careful analysis, however, shows that the Bible is drastically different from any other book on earth, and that its differences point unanimously to a heavenly origin and a divine author. We list here thirty of those differences, very briefly.
- B. Thirty characteristics of the Bible, any one of which would mark the Bible as unique among all the books on earth, and most of which by themselves, constitute irrefutable proof of its divine origin.

1. **Unity** – 66 books; 40 authors; 1500 years; One Theme. The rule of God and the redemption of man, accomplished and consummated through and in one marvelous person, Jesus Christ, Ruler and Redeemer of the world. The Bible is the work of ONE DIVINE MIND!
2. **Claims to be the word of God** – 2,000 times in the Old Testament, 500 in the New Testament. Either God spoke through Moses, Jesus, the prophets and apostles, or these men were liars. Liars could not have written the Bible, which condemns all lies as the work of Satan, and all liars to hell. Whoever rejects the Bible as untrue is saying that it was written by liars and that Jesus Christ, Moses, and all the holy apostles and prophets were liars and frauds!
3. **Prophecy** – 27% of the Bible is predictive (8,532 verses of the Bible's 31,124 verses contain predictive material), 737 separate events predicted; 1,817 predictions on 55 subjects. Most fulfilled – remainder are being fulfilled. Only God foreknows the future.
4. **Miracles** – Stupendous manifestations of divine power. God's authentication and validation of His Word performed before the whole nation of Israel, as He delivered them "*with a might hand and an outstretched arm . . . with signs and wonders*" (Deut. 26:8). Jesus' miracles shook the Jewish nation to its foundations, and caused vast multitudes to follow him.
5. **Scientific foreknowledge** – Positive proof that the Bible could not have been a product of the education and culture of thousands of years ago. The Bible contains none of the mythology or superstition of that day or this. It is not only in keeping with modern science – it is ahead of it.
6. **Historically** – three quarters of the Bible is narrative – factual, not legendary. The archaeologist with his spade has fully established the reliability of the Scriptures. Renowned archaeologist Nelson Glueck wrote, "It can be categorically stated that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements of the Bible." (*Rivers in The Desert*, p. 31).
7. **Revelation of another dimension of reality** – The spiritual and supernatural. Angelic beings mentioned nearly 300 times in the Bible. One would expect a book having a superhuman origin to disclose a realm beyond human knowledge and experience. The visible cosmos is only "the tip of the iceberg" of the total reality of the cosmic order.
8. **Theocentricity** – Permeated by, centered in, and focused on God from start to finish. Everything has meaning, values, and permanence to the exact extent that it is related to God and His purpose of establishing a perfect, eternal, and universal moral and spiritual order.

9. **Divine perspective** – Sees things as God would see them. Looks backwards to the beginning, forward to the end and beyond. Peers deep into the heart of man. Its standards, priorities, and ideals are not man's, and in fact are contradictory to man's nature.
10. **Authority** – Says things as God would say them, with absolute authority, finality, certitude, yet with simplicity and reticence. No extremism or "overkill."
11. **Joins what man would separate** – Religion and morality. Jew and Gentile, and all races, cultures, and conditions of men. Body and soul for eternity.
12. **Separates what man would join** – Church and State. Religion from materiality. No "holy" days, seasons, foods, places, or things; No "religious objects" (In the New Testament). Religion from priest craft.
13. **Paradoxes and tensions** – Christ to be lion and lamb, suffering servant and conquering King; salvation by grace, yet not without obedience; justice and mercy, freedom and determinism, harmonized. Otherworldly, yet this worldly. Individual all-important, but worthless apart from the body, the Church, which is a part of Christ and God.
14. **Truthfulness** – Tells many things man wouldn't tell at all; Noah's drunkenness; Abraham lied; Jacob cheated; patriarchs sold Joseph into slavery; Moses killed a man – barred from promised land for disobedience to God; David's sin; Solomon's polygamy and compromise with polygamy and idolatry; Peter's denial of Christ; Jesus' family didn't believe him; John the Baptist and Thomas doubted; Jesus revealed His messiahship to a sinful Samaritan woman; Paul's persecution of the Church. Jesus – *"Why callest thou me good?"* His prayers – *"Let this cup pass from me"* . . . *"Why hast Thou forsaken me?"* Man wouldn't tell these things.
15. **Omissions** – That man just wouldn't make. No descriptions of how anyone looked or dressed. No attention to marriages, funeral ceremonies. No pets. No humor. No value given to sex, money, power, organization, art, intellectual brilliance, physical strength, adornment. No details about first 30 years of Christ's life. What happened to the apostles and their families and to Mary? Complete unconcern about the things that concern men the most.
16. **Literary excellence** – It would have been impossible for uneducated fishermen, herdsmen, shepherds, vine-dressers, small-tradesmen, and a carpenter from a tiny mountain village, to have produced a literature far surpassing the world's greatest literary geniuses. What other book becomes more interesting, the more often it is read? What other book has become the source of inspiration for the world's greatest music, poetry, art, and drama?

17. **Answers and solutions** – Gives the only plausible answers to the most profound questions confronting man, (e.g., What is man's true origin, identity, and destiny? Who is God, and what does He want from me?) Addresses itself to the basic cause of such problems as war, slavery, despotism, recognizing them as effects of man's sinful nature.
18. **Portrayal of God and man** – Not a portrayal such as man would make. "God is Love" . . . knows and cares infinitely about each one of us; has become one of us, humiliating Himself before us and dying for us, has invited us to become a part of Himself. Man is portrayed for what he is – a tragic and pathetic creature, hopelessly enmeshed in sin, a prisoner of death and despair . . . yet has the spark of divinity within him and can be saved.
19. **Morality and spirituality** – Motivation is as important as the deed itself. Turn the other cheek; return good for evil; love your enemy; forgive seventy times seven. Hatred is a kind of murder . . . lustful glances a kind of adultery. Perfection demanded? These are not man's standards.
20. **Covenantal structure** – All the action in the scriptures revolves around a series of contractual agreements, initiated by God through Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Christ. By these covenants, God has limited His own freedom, yet given man the liberty to accept or reject the covenant relationship. Strange! Wonderful!
21. **Power** – Transforming men and nations. The Bible has a divine life of its own which it is able to impart; power to make men holy, happy, and free! Power to save (Rom. 1:16), and power to destroy. It is the living word of the living God. No other book possesses this mysterious, wonderful, supernatural power.
22. **Universal relevance and appeal** – The only book for every race, nation, age, culture, and condition of man – translated into more than 1200 languages and dialects. Countless billions of Bibles, Testaments, and books of the Bible have been distributed . . . many gratis by various Bible Societies – and the work has just begun!
23. **Indestructibility and durability** – Not as a fossil, but as a mighty force! Its influence grows with every passing century, and it remains far ahead of the column of human progress. Consider the enemies that have arrayed themselves against it. *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall never pass away" (Matt. 24:35; Mk 13:31).*
24. **Fruits** – Many people can attest that they were lifted out of filth and sin by the gospel. The closer any people come to the ideals set forth in this book, the more humanized, the sweeter, the purer and more moral, the happier, the freer they become. Truly, this book the Bible, is the *"Tree of Life."*

25. **The flawless plan of redemption** – The certain penalty for violating God's moral law is spiritual death, just as the penalty for violating the laws by which physical life is sustained is physical death. The Bible tells us that *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* for us (*Jn. 3:16*). Christ paid the penalty for our sins, if we will but accept His substitute death in our stead, as our atonement.
26. **The holiness and humility of the writers** – Humbly confessing themselves unworthy of their sacred task, the writers of the scriptures deliver God's message without regard to consequences. In no case did they receive any material reward. In many cases, it cost them everything, including their lives. The vessels God chose to deliver His precious word to a lost world are the holy vessels we would expect him to choose.
27. **Its sublime hope** – a heavenly hope – a flawless and eternal life with God in perfect surroundings, with the redeemed of all ages! Only God could offer such a hope, of course. And in the Bible, He does! What does atheism offer? The grave, eternal nothingness. That is what it offers, but alas, it can not deliver what it offers. Hell is not nothingness. Those who go there will certainly wish that it was nothingness.
28. **Self-authentication** – Jesus said: *"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself"* (*Jn. 7:17*). The primary difficulties that stand in the way of accepting the Bible as God's word are moral and not intellectual. The real battleground between faith and unbelief is the heart and not the head. The spiritual truths of the Bible are spiritually apprehended (*1 Cor. 2:14*).
30. **Jesus Christ** – The matchless person of the Bible, the subject and the embodiment of its theme, the fulfillment of its prophecies, the manifestation of its glory, the "condescension of divinity and the exaltation of humanity" – "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." Impossible to invent Him. We know nothing of Him, of what He did or said apart from the Bible. To reject the Bible is to reject Christ. To receive Him is to receive the Bible. He proves the Bible to be the word of God. The Bible proves Him to be *"the word made flesh."*

**The alternative to accepting the Bible as God's Word is a Christ-less,  
Godless, hopeless, meaningless world.**

**II. THE WONDERFUL INFLUENCE FOR GOOD THAT THE BIBLE HAS, AND HAS HAD, UPON ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND OBEY IT, PROVES ITS DIVINE AND SUPERNATURAL ORIGIN.**

- A. Jesus said, *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles. Even so, every good tree brings forth*

*good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth bad fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire. Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:15-20).*

1. Because the Bible has brought forth marvelously good fruit, where ever it has gone, we know that it is a good tree. Only the Bible transforms the human heart so that it becomes pure, holy, and virtuous, and the human character so that it becomes moral, Godly, and loving, and the human life so that it becomes honest, righteous, and faithful.
- B. The Bible is the greatest liberating and the greatest integrative force operating within human society and human history. Jesus said to the Jews who believed on him – *"If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:31,32)*. He further said, *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be freed indeed" (Jn. 8:36)*.
- C. Wherever Christianity has gone, it has freed the slave. When Christ came into the world, over 60 million of the 125 million people in the Roman Empire were slaves. No one who believes in the universal fatherhood of God, and the universal brotherhood of man . . . who believes that one must *"love his neighbor as himself,"* who practices the "Golden Rule" of *"All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye unto them" (Matt. 7:12)* can hold another human being in slavery and involuntary servitude. No one wants to be a slave, so since he is commanded by Christ to treat everybody else just like himself, he cannot hold any other man in slavery.
1. But there is more than one kind of slavery. Those who are enslaved to sin, to alcohol or drugs, to gambling or debauchery or immorality of any kind – are just as much slaves spiritually as were those who were sold on the auction block of the slave-marts, who were slaves physically. Christ came to liberate us from the chains of sin and Satan, to free us from death and hell, to emancipate us from spiritual bondage to ignorance and evil.
  2. *"God be thanked that though you were slaves to sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and being freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17,18).*
- D. That part of the world which has come under the influence of Christianity, is called "the Free World," because Christianity produces those attitudes and relationships, and the kind of behavior among men that makes freedom possible – not only spiritual and religious freedom, but economic, social, and political freedom as well.
1. No one reading this would want to live in any part of the world where the Bible has not gone, or has been rejected. What we call "civilization" is inextricably linked to this book – God's word.

2. The Law of Cause and Effect says that no effect can be intrinsically or qualitatively different from its cause, which is another way of saying the "like produces like." Pigs don't give birth to watermelons, nor do chickens grow on gourd vines. Pigs come from pigs, watermelons from watermelons, chickens from chickens and gourds from gourds, and from nowhere else. If the Bible were not a good book, it could not produce good lives and a good society. Christianity comes from the Bible, and when a man becomes a Christian, he quits beating his wife; quits lying, stealing, cheating; quits drinking, gambling, cursing, and performing immoral acts; he becomes a good husband, father, and neighbor; he becomes a good person, in every way – kind and loving, forgiving and trustworthy.
3. If the Bible is full of lies, then it certainly is not a good book – and the Bible claims itself to be the word of God dozens and hundreds of times, from the start to finish. Furthermore, the Bible records hundreds of miracles that God worked through His servants, the prophets and apostles, and through His Son, Jesus Christ miracles which only God could perform. If these miracles really happened, the Bible is God's word. If they did not take place, then the Bible is full of falsehoods, and all its claims to be God's word are false, and the Bible is not a good book, but an evil book. But an evil book could not possibly create good – the highest good and standard of morality that the world knows or could know. The greatest good the world possesses comes from Christianity – the Bible.
4. By the unerring test, *"By their fruits ye shall know them"* . . . *"An evil tree cannot bring forth good fruit," "like produces like"* – we know the Bible is what it claims to be, and what the best and wisest members of the human race have believed and do now believe it to be the living word of the living God!

## WHAT THE BIBLE DOES AND IS

By William Magill

The Bible is the book for humanity, not only because it contains all necessary truth and a perfect moral code – things of which all other religions are destitute – but because there is a resistless energy in it to renew and purify the moral nature of our species, an energy which it has proved on a thousand fields of fame, over thirty centuries of time, in every variety of human condition, and in open conflict with all the powers of earth and hell. Employing as its only weapon, truth, it repudiates the force and despotism of other religions. It presents God in all the radiancy of an infinitely holy log; and this suits the heart of man. It sheds light on morals, on men, on salvation, on the life to come – a clear and certain light; and this fits in to his reason. It reveals an absolution from sin, which founded on the loving self-sacrifice of a divine substitute, does not compromise perfect rectitude or blot the divine character and law, and that suits all the requirements of conscience. It imparts from its divine author a new life which consisting in love, lifts its possessor into the fellowship of the absolute one; and, embracing eternity in its provisions, runs up the road of perfection, scattering every gift that can make existence a blessing – thus fitting divinely in to the needs of His immortal essence. For forty centuries and more this tree of life has been wafting holiness, life and happiness through this sinful world; and its saving odor is still exhaustless. It has taught men all that time how to live; it has enabled them to direct. It has brought real happiness into the world; and, wherever it has been received, it has drained the fountains of human misery. It has saved the felon in his cell, the savage in his war-paint, and Augustine in his vice. It has been the pillow of the martyr's peace – the parent of humility, self-sacrifice and hope. It has beautified whatever it touched, quickened souls innumerable, and imparted consummate finish to ideas, to taste, and to genius. The purest comfort of earth drops from its word into hearts broken by bereavement or indigence. It is the key of knowledge. It has conducted pilgrims innumerable to the celestial mansions; for it alone possesses the secret of salvation.

This holy book is the manna of the world. It is the map of a river in which whosoever washes is healed of the leprosy of sin; and in the radiant bloom of health he comes forth to a life which soars above the highest seraph, and is ever stretching towards God. Milton grandly described the Archangel Uriel as descending to the earth in a sunbeam. The revelation of the Bible is a beam on which the Father of lights descends into men to dwell with them. Sweeter than the dew of six thousand summers is the living bread which the Bible brings to a perishing world. What though it rained gold and pearls and king's crowns on our guilty race, it were better to give them the Bible. Salvation! Weigh it against all created things. Measure it by eternity. Lay the plummet of infinity to its blessings. Appeal to Him who weighs the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance to teach you its worth. Climb to the throne of the eternal, where the universe collects her glories to decorate the palace of our King; and thence, survey all things that are made. Salvation excels all you know and see; for it makes God Himself your everlasting portion.

And if the time should ever come when it will rain infidels, there is a truth which no science can impeach, no learning undermine, no hate can annihilate; and that truth is – oh, that I could carry it round the world! – that they are a happy people who know the joyful sound and whose God Jehovah is. Give the revelation of the Bible in its simplicity, holiness and majesty – the inspired word of God – to the mind and heart of the human race, till they taste and see its grace and truth, its light and life; and soon the red dawn of that day of applied redemption for the whole world, to which seers and saints looked forward, will be seen on the mountains; for every joy the wilderness shall rejoice and

blossom as the rose; this sigh for renewal, which this groaning creation has emitted, shall find its response in the bloom of new heavens and a new earth, in which, as in a mountain-lake, heaven will mirror itself; man shall replace on his brow the crown of fine gold, undimmed, that had long since fallen from his head; this perturbed world shall become a Beulah of beauty, the calm home of peace, a Goshen of abundance, the worth avenue of an immortal paradise; and from the throne of His triumphant mediatorship, He who has the keys of hell and of death shall look down in complacency, and the light of his countenance beam full upon it.

### **III. FULFILLED PROPHECY PROVES THE BIBLE TO BE THE WORD OF GOD. ONLY GOD CAN FOREKNOW THE FUTURE:**

- A. It has been estimated that approximately 27% of the Bible is prophetic and predictive of things to come, directly or indirectly. (Of 31,124 verses in the Bible, 8,532 verses either contain predictions concerning the future, or are related to such predictions). One writer on the subject has counted 1,817 predictions on 55 different subjects . . . 737 separate events predicted.
1. Most of these prophecies have been fulfilled; the rest are in the process of being fulfilled. In Deuteronomy 18:21,22, God's requirements for a true prophet are set forth. The prophet of God must be totally correct and accurate. We attach here lists of prophecies concerning the world and the nations of the earth, concerning the Jews, and concerning the Messiah, the Christ, our Lord and Savior, whose coming was the central event of the Bible and of human history.
  2. Halley's Bible Handbook, pages 387-401, contains an excellent compendium of the messianic prophecies and foreshadowings of the Old Testament, a portion of which is reproduced below, and on the following pages. (*Halley's Bible Handbook*, by Henry H. Hall Zondervan Publishing House; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 24th Edition, 1965).
- B. Messianic strain of the Old Testament fore-Shadows any predictions of the coming Messiah. The exact time of His coming was foretold.
1. He was to be born of a virgin at Bethlehem.
  2. Part of His childhood was to be spent in Egypt.
  3. He would be brought up at Nazareth.
  4. He would be introduced to His nation by an Elijah-like forerunner.
  5. Galilee was to be the scene of His ministry.
  6. He would work miracles of healing and speak in parables.

7. He would be rejected by the leaders of His own nation.
  8. He would be a smitten shepherd, a sufferer, a man of sorrows.
  9. He would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt.
  10. He would be betrayed by a friend, for thirty pieces of silver, the thirty pieces of silver to be spent for a potter's field.
  11. He would be led as a "lamb to the slaughter."
  12. He would die with the wicked, opening a fountain for sin, removing sin in one day.
  13. Even His dying words foretold.
    - a. He would be given gall and vinegar in His agony.
    - b. His hands and feet would be pierced.
    - c. Not a bone to be broken.
    - d. Lots were to be cast for His garments.
    - e. Would be buried with the rich.
    - f. Would be in the tomb three days.
    - g. Would rise from the dead, and ascend to heaven at God's right hand.
  14. It was foretold that He would introduce a new language into the earth, that is, a new idea – salvation.
  15. That He would offer a new covenant to mankind, and give God's people a new name.
  16. That He would introduce an era of the Holy Spirit.
  17. That His Kingdom would include Gentiles, and be universal and endless.
  18. The pre-written story of Jesus, recorded centuries before Jesus came, is so astonishing in detail that it reads like an eye-witness account of His life and work.
- C. Suppose a number of men of different countries, who had never seen nor in any way communicated with one another, would walk into a room and each lay down a piece of carved marble, which pieces when fitted together, would make a perfect statue – how would you account for it in any other way than that some one person had drawn the specifications, and had sent to each man his part?

And how can this amazing composite of Jesus' life and work, put together by different writers of different centuries ages before Jesus came, be explained on any other basis that one super-human mind supervised the writing? The miracle of the ages!

- D. The Old Testament was written to create an anticipation of, and pave the way for, the coming of Christ. It is the story of the Hebrew nation, dealing largely with events and existences of its own times. But all through the story there runs unceasing expectancy and provision of the coming of one majestic person who will rule and bless the whole world. This person, long before He arrived, came to be known as the Messiah.
- E. The predictions and foregleams of His coming constitute the messianic strain of the Old Testament. They form the golden thread extending through, and binding together, its many and diverse books, into one amazing unity.
  - 1. Starting with vague hints, there soon begin to appear specific definite predictions, which, as the story sweeps onward, become more specific, more definite and more abundant.
  - 2. And as definite predictions multiply, accompanying symbols, pictures, types and indirect foregleams, also increase.
  - 3. So that by the time we come to the end of the Old Testament, the entire story of Christ has been pre-written and pre-figured in language and symbol, which taken as a whole, cannot refer to any other person in history.
  - 4. In addition to predictions and types which are most evident, there may be many hidden Messianic intimation which are not clearly visible on the surface.
  - 5. And some incidents or passages may have meaning or bearing on later developments, not noticeable till after the later developments came to pass.
  - 6. However, we think it best not to overdo the matter types, except they are so explained in the scripture, or are so apparent as to be unmistakable.
  - 7. Our purpose here is to give, in their own order, a brief outline of Old Testament passages which most plainly point forward to the coming of Christ.

**Genesis 3:15. Seed of the Woman**

*"Seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Serpent shall bruise HIS heel."* This seems to say that God is determined, in spite of man's sin, to bring His creation of man to a successful issue. As through woman, man fell, so through woman shall man be redeemed. It will be by a man, "His," who will be of the seed of the woman, that is, born of woman without the

agency of man. It seems like a primal hint of the virgin birth of Christ, for there has been only one descendant of Eve who was born of woman without being begotten by man.

#### **Genesis 4:3-5. Abel's Offering**

*"Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord. And Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock . . . And the Lord had respect unto Able and his offering. But unto Cain and his offering he had not respect."* This looks like the institution of blood sacrifice, right at the start, as the condition of man's acceptance with God – a primal hint, and the beginning of a long line of pictures and predictions of Christ's atoning death for human sin.

#### **Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18 Call of Abraham**

*"In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."* Here is a clear definite statement, repeated three times to Abraham, that in him God was founding a nation for the express purpose of, through the nation, blessing all nations. By and by, it came to be called the Messianic nation.

#### **Genesis 14:18-20 Melchizedek**

Melchizedek, King of Salem, priest of God, brought bread and wine and blessed Abraham. And Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek. In Psalm 110:4, it is said of the coming Messiah: *"Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."* In Hebrews, Chapter 7, Melchizedek, as a king-priest, is called a type of Jesus. So, here we have a sort of historical shadow-picture of the coming super-human person whom Abraham's nation was being formed to bring into the world as Saviour of mankind. And it was in Salem, that is Jerusalem the same city where Jesus was crucified. And the bread and wine: what a beautiful primeval picture of the Lord's Supper and all that it means!

#### **Genesis 22:1-19 Abraham Offers Isaac**

A Father offering His Son; the Son, for three days, in the Father's mind, as good as dead (22:4); a substitutionary sacrifice (22:13); and it was on Mount Moriah (22:2), same mount on which Jesus was crucified, same place where Abraham had paid tithes to Melchizedek (14:18), Salem being on Mount Moriah. As Melchizedek seems to have been a primeval shadow in Abraham's life of the person Abraham's nation would bring into the world, so here seems to be a shadow of the event in the coming person's life by which He would do His work. What an apt picture of the death and resurrection of Christ!

#### **Genesis 26:4; 28:14 The Promise Repeated**

Made three times to Abraham, it is here repeated to Isaac, and then to Jacob, that their seed would be a blessing.

#### **Genesis 49:10,11 Shiloh**

*"The scepter shall not depart from Judah till Shiloh come. And unto Him shall the gathering of the people be."* He washed His garments in the blood of grapes. Here is the first clear, definite prediction that one person would

rise in Abraham's nation to rule all nations. Shiloh, He whose right it is. He must be the one of whom Melchizedek was a shadow. He would appear to the tribe of Judah. His garments washed in the blood of grapes may be a metaphorical fore-hint of His crucifixion.

### **Exodus 12 Institution of the Passover**

Israel's deliverance out of Egypt's first-born. Israel's houses marked with the blood of a lamb. The Lord passed over those so marked. The feast to be kept annually throughout all their generations. It became Israel's principal feast. Observed in memory of deliverance from Egypt. Kept for 1400 years, as the very heart of the Hebrew nation. Unmistakably, it was designed of God to be a gigantic, historical fore-picture of the basic event of human redemption, the death of Christ, the Lamb of God, who expired on the cross, at Passover Feast, bringing eternal deliverance from sin for those marked with His blood, even as the first Passover brought deliverance from Egypt for Israel. It shows how much God's mind was on the coming of Christ long before He came.

### **Leviticus 16 The Day of Atonement**

Once a year. 10th day of 7th month. Two goats. One killed as a sin-offering. High priest laid hands on head of other, called scapegoat. Confessing over him the people's sin. Then scapegoat was led away, and let go in the wilderness. This, and the whole system of Levitical sacrifices as continuing features of Hebrew life, are clear historical fore-pictures of the atoning death of the coming Messiah.

### **Numbers 21:6-9 The Fiery Serpent**

In the wilderness serpents bit the people. Many died. Moses made the serpent of brass. Whoever looked at it lived. Jesus took this to be a picture of Himself being lifted up on the cross (Jn. 3:14). Mankind, bitten with sin in the Garden of Eden, may look to Him, and live.

### **Numbers 24:17,19 The Star**

*"There shall come a star out of Jacob. A scepter shall rise out of Israel....He shall have dominion."* Here is another definite prediction of a person, a brilliant ruler: evidently meaning the same person as the Chillah of Genesis 49:10, who is to rule the nations.

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-19 A Prophet Like Unto Moses**

God would raise up a prophet like unto Moses, through whom God would speak to mankind. Evidently another characterization of the Chillah and the star aforementioned. Thus, in the first five books of the Old Testament, there is specific prediction, repeated five times, that the Hebrew nation was being launched into the world for the one express purpose of blessing all nations. And also specific predictions that there would arise in the nation one person called Chillah, a Star, a prophet, with rather plain intimations that it would be through this one person that the nation would fulfill its mission. Also, there are various hints about the nature of the person's work,

especially featuring His sacrificial death. Thus early, 1400 years before Christ came, there were drawn in fairly distinct lines, some leading characteristics of Christ's life.

### **Joshua**

This book seems to have no direct prediction of the Messiah, though Joshua himself is thought, in a sense, to have been typical of Jesus. The names are the same, "Jesus" being the Greek form of the Hebrew "Joshua". As Joshua led Israel into the promised land, so Jesus will lead His people into heaven.

### **Ruth**

Ruth was the great grandmother of David: beginning of the family in which the Messiah would come. Boaz was of Bethlehem. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. An old tradition has it that Boaz took Ruth to be his bride and started the family which was to bring Christ into the world, in the very same room in which, 1100 years later, Christ was born.

### **I Samuel 16 David**

David anointed king over Israel. From here on David is the central figure of Old Testament history. The most specific and most abundant of all messianic prophecies cluster around his name. Abraham founder of the messianic nation. David founder of the messianic family within the nation.

### **II Samuel 7:16 David Promised An Eternal Throne**

*"Thy throne shall be established forever."* Here begins a long line of promises that David's family should reign forever over God's people. This promise is repeated over and over throughout the rest of the Old Testament with an ever increasing mass of detail, and specific explanations, that the promise will find its ultimate fulfillment in one great King, who will Himself personally live forever and establish a kingdom of endless duration. This eternal King, evidently, is the same person previously spoken of as priest after the order of Melchizedek, Shiloh, Star, and Prophet like unto Moses.

### **I Kings 9:5 The Promise Repeated To Solomon**

*"I will establish the throne of thy kingdom forever."* Repeated over and over to David and Solomon. However, the books of Kings and Chronicles relate the story of the fall of David's kingdom and captivity of the Hebrew nation, apparently bringing to naught God's promise to David's family of an eternal throne. But in the period covered by these books many prophets arose crying out that the promise would yet be fulfilled. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther relate the story of the return of the fallen and scattered Hebrew nation, without direct messianic predictions. However, the re-establishment of the nation in its own land was a necessary antecedent to the fulfillment of promises about David's throne.

### **Job 19:25-27**

The book is a discussion of the problem of suffering without much direct

bearing as far as we can see on the messianic mission of the Hebrew nation, except it be in Job's exultant outburst of faith, *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."*

## **Psalms**

The book of Psalms, written mostly by David himself, is brim full of predictions and fore-shadowings of the eternal king to arise in David's family. Some of them, in a limited and secondary sense, may refer to David himself. But, in the main, they are inapplicable to any person in history other than Christ: written 1000 years before Christ came.

### **Psalms 2 The Lord's Anointed**

*"The Lord's anointed. (2) . . . I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. (5) . . . Thou art my Son. (7) . . . I shall give thee the nations for thine inheritance. (8) . . . Kiss the Son. (12) . . . Blessed are all they hath put their trust in Him."* Evidently meaning the eternal king to arise in David's family. A very positive statement as to His Deity, His universal reign, and the blessedness of those who trust Him.

### **Psalms 16:10 His Resurrection**

*"Thou wilt not . . . suffer thy Holy One to see corruption."* This is quoted in Acts 2:27,31 as referring to the resurrection of Christ. There had been many hints of the coming Messiah's death. Here is a clear-cut prediction of His victory over death. And life forevermore.

### **Psalms 22 A Fore-Picture of the Crucifixion**

*"My God, My God, why hast Thou Forsaken Me?"* (1) Even His dying words foretold (Matt. 27:46). *"All that see me laugh me to scorn, saying . . . He trusted in God, let God deliver Him"* (7,8). Sneers of His enemies, in their exact words (Matthew 27:43). *"They pierced my hands and feet"* (16). This indicates crucifixion as the manner of His death (Jn. 20:20,25). *"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture"* (18). Even this detail is forecast (Matt. 27:35). What can all this refer to except the crucifixion of Jesus? Yet it was written a thousand years before it happened.

### **Psalms 41:9 To Be Betrayed By A Friend**

*"My own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who did eat my bread, lifted up his heel against me."* Apparently, David is referring to his own friend, Ahithophel (II Sam. 15:12). But Jesus quoted it as a picture-prophecy of His own betrayal by Judas (Jn. 13:18-27; Lk. 22:47,48).

### **Psalms 45 Reign of God's Anointed**

*"Thy God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellow"* (7). *"Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever"* (6) *"In majesty ride on prosperously"* (4) *"All generations . . . shall praise thee forever and ever"* (17). Here is depicted the glorious reign of a King, bearing the name of God, seated on an eternal throne. It can refer to no other than the eternal king to arise in David's family. A nuptial song of Christ and His bride, the Church.

**Psalms 69:21 Gall and Vinegar**

*"They gave me gall for my food; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."* Another incident in the fore-picture of the coming Messiah's sufferings (Matt. 27:34,48).

**Psalms 72 His Glorious Reign**

*"In His days the righteous shall flourish" (7) "He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth" (8) "All kings shall fall down before Him: all nations shall serve Him" (11) "Blessed be His glorious name forever. Let the Whole Earth be Filled with His Glory" (19)* This Psalm seems, in part, to have been a description of the reign of Solomon. But some of its statements, and its general tenor, surely refer to one greater than Solomon.

**Psalms 78:2 To Speak In Parables**

*"I will open my mouth in parables."* Another detail of the Messiah's life: His method of teaching in parables. (Quoted in Matt. 13:34,35, as fulfilling this verse.)

**Psalms 89 Endlessness of David's Throne**

*"I have made a covenant with David" (3) "I will build up thy throne unto all generations" (4) "I will make Him, my first-born. Higher than the kings of the earth" (27) "And my covenant shall stand" (28) "By my holiness I have sworn . . . David's throne . . . shall endure forever" (35-37).* God's oath. Repeated over and over for the endlessness of David's throne, under God's firstborn.

**Psalms 110 Messiah To Be King and Priest**

*"The Lord said to my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool" (1) "Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (4)* Eternal dominion and eternal priesthood of the coming King, Jesus quoted this as referring to Himself (Matt. 2:42-44).

**Psalms 118:22 Messiah To Be Rejected By Rulers**

*"The stone the builders rejected is become head of corner."* Jesus quoted this as referring to himself (Matt. 21:42-44).

**Isaiah 2:2-4 Magnificent Pre-Vision of Messianic Age**

*"In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains . . . and all nations shall flow unto it. Any many people shall say, Come, let us go up to . . . the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths." "The word of the Lord shall go forth from Jerusalem . . . and the nations . . . shall beat their words into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"* Isaiah predominantly, the Old Testament book of Messianic Prophecy, in language unsurpassed in all literature, goes into ecstasy over the glories of the reign of the coming Messiah.

### **Isaiah 4:2-6 The Branch of the Lord**

*"In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious" (2) "A cloud by day . . . and a fire by night" (5) . . . "A tabernacle . . . and a place of refuge" (6) The Messiah is here represented as a branch growing up out of the stump of the family tree of David, becoming a guide and refuge for his people (explained more fully in Isaiah 11:1-10.)*

### **Isaiah 7:13,14 Immanuel**

*"O house of David . . . a virgin shall conceive, and shall bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." This seems to say that some one, to be called Immanuel, will be born in David's family, of a virgin: evidently meaning the same person as the branch of 4:2 and 11:1, and the wonderful child of 9:6. the Deity of the child is implied in the name Immanuel, which means "God with us." Thus, the virgin birth and Deity of the Messiah are here foretold. It is quoted in Matthew 1:23 as referring to Jesus.*

### **Isaiah 9:1,2,6,7 The Wonderful Child**

*"In Galilee . . . the people have seen a great light" (1,2). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, from henceforth even forever" (6,7). This Child, unmistakably, is the eternal King promised to David's family (II Sam. 7:16): the same person spoken of centuries earlier as Challah, the Star, and the Prophet like unto Moses. His Deity is here emphasized. His ministry to be in Galilee. A very accurate forecast of Jesus.*

### **Isaiah 11:1-10 Reign of the Branch**

*"There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, a branch shall grow out of his roots" (1) That is, a shoot out of the stump of David's family tree, meaning the Messiah. "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the spirit of Wisdom and Understanding" (2) . . . "He shall stand for an ensign to the peoples, and to Him shall the nations gather" (10) "He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth" (4) "And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb. The leopard shall lie down with the kid: and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together. And a little child shall lead them." "The cow and the bear shall feed: their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox . . . They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (6-9). A magnificent description of universal peace in the world-to-be under the reign of the coming Messiah.*

### **Isaiah 25:6-9; 26:1,19 Resurrection of the Dead**

*"In this mountain the Lord . . . will swallow up death in victory, and wipe away tears from off all faces" (6,8) "In the day . . . thy dead shall live, my dead body shall rise . . . and the earth shall cast forth the dead" (26:1,19). A forecast of the resurrection of Jesus in Mt. Zion, and also of a general resurrection.*

### **Isaiah 32:1,2 Again the Reign of the Coming King**

*"A King shall reign in righteousness . . . a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest, as streams of water in a dry place, and as the shade of a great rock in a weary land."* In Isaiah 9:6, the Deity of the coming King was predicted. Here it is His humanity (2). A man who is a personal refuge to each one of His people from every trouble.

### **Isaiah 35:5,6 Messiah's Miracles**

*"Eyes of the blind shall be opened; ears of the deaf shall be unstopped . . . the lame shall leap . . . the tongue of the dumb shall sing"* (5,6). An exact description of Jesus' ministry of miracles.

### **Isaiah 35:8-10 Messiah's Highway**

*"A highway shall be there . . . called the way of holiness"* (8) *"The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness: sorrow and sighing shall flee away"* (10) Holiness, happiness, singing, joy, no more sorrow, tears forever gone, for the coming Messiah's people.

### **Isaiah 40:5,10,11 Messiah's Tenderness**

*"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together"* (5) *"The Lord God will come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him"* (10) *"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young"* (11) Another preview of the glory of Jesus, His power and His gentleness toward the weak of his flock.

### **Isaiah 42:1-11 Gentiles**

*"Behold my servant (1) . . . I give him for a light to Gentiles (6) . . . The Isles shall wait for his law (4) . . . And from the end of the earth they sing unto the Lord a new song"* (10) Israel's coming king will rule over Gentiles also, and cover the whole earth with songs of praise and joy.

### **Isaiah 53 The Messiah's Sufferings**

*"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief . . . He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows . . . He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities . . . With his stripes we are healed."* *"The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all . . . he was oppressed, he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter...he poured out his soul unto death . . . and bore the sin of many. . ."* *"It pleased the Lord to bruise him . . . to make his soul an offering for sin . . . and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand . . . by knowledge of him shall many be justified."* The most conspicuous feature in the prophecies about the coming King is that He would be a sufferer. It was hinted in Able's sacrifice, and in Abraham's offering of Isaac and vividly fore-pictured in the institution of the Passover Feast, and in the Annual Day of Atonement, and some of its details described in Psalms 22. And here, in Isaiah 53, detail upon detail is added,

making the picture more complete. And in chapters 54, 55, 60, 61 the suffering king fills the earth with songs of joy. Marvelous forecasts of the Christian era.

### **Isaiah 60 To Be Light of the World.**

*"Darkness shall cover the earth" (2) "Arise, shine: for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee" (1) "The Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended" (20)* In the New Testament, Jesus is repeatedly called the *"light of the world."*

### **Isaiah 62:2; 65:15 A New Name**

*"Thou shalt be called by a new name" (62:2). "The Lord will call his servants by another name" (65:15).* In Old Testament times, God's people were called Israelites. Since the days of Christ they have been called Christians.

### **Jeremiah 23:5,6 The Branch**

*"The days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise up unto David a righteous branch . . . a King . . . this is his name whereby he shall be called, God of righteousness."* As Isaiah, chapters 4 and 11, speaks of the coming King as a branch out of the family of David, so here Jeremiah repeats the name and asserts his Deity.

### **Ezekiel 34 The Prince of the House of David.**

*"My servant David . . . shall be . . . shepherd . . . of my flock . . . King over them . . . and be their prince forever" (34:22-24; 37:24,25).* In describing the reign of the prince, there is given a transcendently beautiful picture of the blessed influences arising out of Jerusalem under the imagery of the life-giving stream issuing from the temple and flowing out to the whole world as recorded below in Ezekiel 47:1-12.

### **Ezekiel 47:1-12 The Life-Giving Stream**

*"In visions of God . . . waters issued from under the temple eastward. A man who has a measuring line . . . measured a thousand cubits, and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were up to the ankle." "Again he measured a thousand . . . and waters were up to the knees . . . another thousand, and the water were up to loins." "Afterward he measured a thousand, and it was a river that could not be passed through. And he said to me, Son of man, these waters shall go on and on to the sea. Whithersoever the waters come everything shall live."*

### **Daniel 2 The Four Kingdoms**

*"In the days of these kings . . . of the fourth kingdom . . . the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom . . . which shall stand forever" (2:40,44).* In the 600 years from Daniel to Christ, there were four world empires: Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. They are exactly described in the imagery of this 2nd chapter of Daniel. In the 7th chapter of Daniel, the same four world empires

are more fully described. It was in the days of the Roman Empire that Christ appeared.

**Daniel 9:24-27 The Time More Exactly**

*"From the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem unto the Messiah, the Prince, shall be seven weeks and three score and two weeks . . . And after the three score and two weeks . . . in the midst of the one week . . . shall Messiah be cut off . . . to make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness" (24-27).* Here Daniel set the exact date for the coming of the Messiah. And further said, 600 years before the Messiah came, that the Messiah after a three and half year public ministry would be cut off in atonement for sin. An amazing prediction!

**Hosea 1:10 Gentiles To Be Included**

*"In the place where is was said, Ye are not my people, it shall be said unto them, Ye are sons of the Living God."* Here Hosea repeats what has already been said time and again, that the Messiah's kingdom will include all nations. *"I called my son out of Egypt" (11:1).* A way of saying part of Messiah's childhood would be spent in Egypt (Matt. 2:15).

**Joel 2:28,32; 3:13,14 The Gospel Era**

*"I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh . . . Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered . . . Put in the sickle. The harvest is ripe . . . multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision."* The Messiah to institute an era of world evangelization, under leadership of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:16-21).

**Amos 9:11,12,14 David's Fallen Throne to Rise**

*"I will bring back the captivity of my people . . . and I will plant them in their own land . . . And in that day I will rise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen . . . to possess all the nations that are called by my name."*

**Jonah 1:17 A Sign of Nineveh**

*"Jonah was in the fish three days and nights."* Jesus took it to be a three day picture miracle of his own resurrection from the tomb, as a sign to the world (Matt. 12:40).

**Micah 5:2-5 Bethlehem To Be Messiah's Birthplace.**

*"Thou, Bethlehem . . . out of thee shall he come forth that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been . . . from everlasting . . . He shall be great unto the ends of the earth. And this man shall be our peace."* Evidently meaning the King so often mentioned before.

**Zephaniah 3:9 A New Language**

*"Then will I turn unto the nations a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent."* That is, a correct system of thought about God, evidently meaning the gospel of Christ.

### **Haggai 2:6,7 The Desire of All Nations**

*"Yet a little while . . . and the desire of all nations shall come, and . . . Fill this house with glory."* That will be crowning day for David's son, here typified in Zerubbabel (2:23).

### **Zechariah**

*"I will bring forth my servant the branch" (3:8). "O Jerusalem, thy King cometh to thee . . . Lowly, riding upon a colt" (9:9). "In that day the house of David shall be as God" (12:8). "I will remove the iniquity of the Land in one day" (3:9). "They weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver . . . and cast them to the potter" (11:12,13). "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (12:10). "In that day a fountain shall be opened . . . for sin and uncleanness" (13:1).*

### **Malachi 3:1; 4:5 A Forecast of John the Baptist**

*"Behold, I will send my messenger . . . Elijah the prophet before the great day of the Lord . . . and He shall prepare the way before me."* Jesus, in speaking of John the Baptist, in Matthew 11:7-14, quotes this passage from Malachi and expressly states that it referred to John the Baptist.

## **SUMMARY**

Near the beginning of the Old Testament it is stated that the Hebrew nation was being counted for the purpose of blessing all nations. Then there begins to loom the figure of one person through whom the nation will accomplish its mission.

First He is called Challah, to arise in the Tribe of Judah, and rule the nations. Then He is called a Star, who will have dominion. And next, a Prophet like unto Moses, through whom God will speak to mankind.

And then, over and over, he is spoken of as a King, to arise in David's family, to be called The Branch, The Prince, The Anointed One, God's Firstborn, Wonderful, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## **BIBLICAL PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE JEWS**

- A. The seven prophetic promises made by God to Abraham and to his descendants after him, forever:
1. Abraham will be the father of a "*great nation*" (Gen. 12:2).
  2. Abraham's name will be great (i.e. famous) (Gen. 12:2).
  3. Abraham would be a blessing to all of mankind ("*. . . in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*") (Gen. 12:3.)
  4. God would bless those that blessed Abraham (i.e. his seed), and curse those who cursed them (Gen. 12:3)

5. God would give the land of Canaan to Abraham and to his seed forever (Gen. 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:7,18-21; 17:8; 24:7).
  6. Abraham's descendants would be as numberless as the stars of the heaven (Gen. 15:5) or as the dust of the earth (Gen. 13:16).
  7. Abraham would be the "*father of many nations,*" and "*Kings shall come out of thee*" (Gen. 17:4-8). Repeated to Sarah (Gen. 17:15,16).
- B. Balaam's prophecies concerning the greatness of Israel (Num. 23-24). "*Lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations*" (Num. 23:10). "*Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee*" (24:9). "*I shall behold him, but not near: there shall come a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel... Out of Jacob shall come him that shall have dominion . . .*" (24:17-19). The fulfillment of these prophecies is seen throughout subsequent history.
- C. The fall of Jerusalem and captivity of Judah (foretold by Hosea, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, and Zephaniah, and the principal subject of Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's prophecies) – II Kings 21:12-15. The captivity to continue for seventy years – Jer. 29:10. (Fulfilled II Chron. 36:20,21). The treasures of the temple and palace to be returned – Jer. 27:22. (Fulfilled Ezra 1:7-11). Cyrus to be the deliverer of Israel from captivity – Isa. 45:1. (Fulfilled Ezra 1:1,2). A remnant of Israel to return (foretold also by Moses, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zephaniah) – Ezek. 34:11-16. (Fulfilled Ezra 1:1-11).
- D. Israel to reject Christ. Psalms 118:22,23 – "*The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.*" See also – Isa. 6:9-12; 29:9-14; 53:1-12; Mal. 1:10-11.
- E. Israel to be uprooted from her land and dispersed among all the nations of the earth, where they will be persecuted. Yet God will not utterly cast away his ancient people. Even before the Israelites came into their land, Moses foretold their ultimate disobedience to God and dispersion among the nations. Deut. 28:37-66; 30:1-10; Lev. 26:43-46.
- F. Jesus foretold that in the lifetime of some of those who heard him, Jerusalem would be compassed about with armies and made desolate, the temple destroyed so that not one stone would be left upon another, the Jews would be "*led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled*" (Luke 21:20-24).
- G. These prophecies began to be fulfilled in A.D. 70 when the Roman armies under Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. The modern city of Jerusalem was reclaimed by the Jew in 1948, and the ancient city in 1967 ("the six-day war").

#### **IV. PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE JEWS AFTER THEIR REJECTION OF CHRIST AND THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM**

- A. The Bible repeatedly foretells the rejection of the Messiah by the Jews, their dispersion into all the nations of the earth.
1. Israel to reject Christ. Psa. 118:22-23: *"The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."*
  2. Isa. 6:9-12; 29:9-14; 53:1-12, Mal. 1:10-11.
  3. Malachi, the last of the prophets of ancient Israel, hints at a rejection of Israel, contemporaneous with the calling of the Gentiles. *"I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of hosts."*
- B. Israel to be uprooted from her land and dispersed among all the nations of the earth, where they will be persecuted. Yet God will not utterly cast away his ancient people. Even before the Israelites came into their land, Moses foretold their ultimate disobedience to God and dispersion among the nations.
1. *"And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have know, even wood and stone. And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the Lord shall give thee a trembling heart and failing eyes, and sorrow of mind. Any thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life." Deut. 28:64-66.*
  2. *"And thou shalt become an astonishment and a proverb, and a byword among all nations whither the Lord shall lead thee" (Deut. 28:37).*
  3. *"The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes. And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the Lord their God. But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the Lord."*
  4. *"These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the Lord made between him and the children of Israel in Mt. Sinai, by the hand of Moses" (Lev. 26:43-46).*
  5. See also Deut. 28; 30:1-10. Even before the Israelites came into their land,

Moses foretold their ultimate disobedience to God and dispersion among all nations.

### **BIBLICAL PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD**

1. ARABS        Ishmael, Abraham's son by Hagar, to become a great nation (Gen. 17:20).
2. EGYPT        Diminished but not destroyed. Shall no more rule the nations, "*I will diminish them . . . they shall be the basest of kingdoms*" (Ezek. 29:12-15).
3. BABYLON     To be destroyed "*as Sodom and Gomorrah*" . . . *desolate, never to be inhabited again* (Isa 13:1-5; 17-22; 14; Jer. 50,51).
4. PERSIA        To overthrow Babylon (Dan. 5:24-31).
5. GREECE       To follow Persia as world empire (Dan. 2:39; Dan. 8:5-21).
6. ROME         Fourth world-empire to be final world empire of ancient world (Dan. 2:44).

### **50 PROPHECIES ABOUT THE NATIONS AND ABOUT THE WORLD**

1. Womankind to bear children "*in sorrow*" (Gen. 3:16).
2. The husband to rule the wife (Gen. 3:16).
3. The earth to bring forth thorns and thistles more readily than good fruit, as a result of man's sin (Gen. 3:17,18).
4. Man to be forced to work laboriously for his living (Gen. 3:19).
5. The earth and every creature on it to be subject to man's dominion (Gen. 1:28; 9:13).
6. The regular cycle of the days and the seasons ("seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night") will continue uninterruptedly, no matter how wicked man becomes as long as the world shall stand (Gen. 8:22).
7. The world will never again be destroyed by water (Gen. 9:11-17).
8. The descendants of Japheth to " *dwell in the tents of Shem*" (seemingly meaning that they would occupy the spiritual dwelling-places of and with the Semites) (Gen. 9:27).
9. Sodom and Gomorrah to be destroyed (Gen. 18:20-33).

10. Ishmael, Abraham's son by Hagar, would become a great nation (the Arabs), and 12 princes would emerge from him (Gen. 17:20 – Fulfilled Gen. 25:13-15).
11. Egypt to have 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine (Gen. 41:26-36 – Fulfilled Gen. 41:47-57).
12. Egypt to receive signs and wonders from the Lord that would persuade Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave (Gen. 6:1-7 – Fulfilled Gen. 7-12).
13. through 17. Subsequent prophecies concerning Egypt:
  - A. *"Egypt . . . and . . . her cities shall be a desolation forty years . . . At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the peoples whither they were scattered; and I will bring back the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return . . . into the land of their habitation, and they shall be there a base kingdom. It shall be the basest of the kingdoms . . . and I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations"* (Ezek. 29:12-15).
    1. **Fulfillment:** Egypt was made captive and desolate under Nebuchadnezzar for forty years. It was later conquered by the Persians in 525 B.C. and made a vassal for a century. Alexander the great subjugated it to the dynasty of Ptolemics. It has gradually been diminished until today it is a poverty -stricken nation.
  - B. *"I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers . . . And there shall be no more a prince from the land of Egypt"* (Ezek. 30:12, 13).
    1. **Fulfillment:** Egypt has had a king for most of the time since the prophecy, but none were native Egyptians. The country has been ruled by a series of foreigners: Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, French and English.
  - C. *"I will make the rivers dry" (Ezek. 30:12). "And the water shall fail from the sea and the river shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn the rivers far away; the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up"* (Isa. 19:5,6).
    1. **Fulfillment:** Originally about one-third of the nation's revenue was spent keeping canals clear. Since the Mohammedan conquest, the canals have been neglected. Even today canals do not serve nearly as much territory as formerly.
  - D. *"The reeds and flags shall wither"* (Isa. 19:6).
    1. **Fulfillment:** Foliage has all but disappeared from the Nile.
  - E. *"And the fishers shall mourn and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the water shall languish"* (Isa. 19:8).
    1. **Fulfillment:** Fish are few today and the industry unimportant.

18. through 21. Prophecies concerning BABYLON:

A) Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, to suffer madness for 7 years and then to regain his right mind (Dan. 4:25-27).

1. **Fulfillment:** Daniel 4:31-37

B) Babylon to be overthrown by the kingdom of the Medes and Persians (Dan. 5:24-31).

C) Babylon shall become "*as Sodom and Gomorrah*" (Isa. 13:1-5, 17-22).

D) Babylon would never be inhabited nor dwelt in from generation to generation. The Arab would not pitch his tent there, nor would shepherds spend the night there with their flocks and herds. Wild bears would dwell there (Isa. 14; Jer. 50-51).

22. Babylon to be followed by Persia as a world empire (Dan. 2:33-39).

23. Persian rule over the civilized world to be followed by that of Greece (Dan. 2:33-39).

24. Grecian ascendancy to be followed by that of Rome (Dan. 2:33-43).

25. God to establish his own government over the earth in the days of the 4th kingdom (Roman empire) – Daniel 2:44.

26. God's government, or kingdom, would begin small, as a "*little stone cut out without hands,*" which would grow, and grow, into a mountain that would "*fill the whole earth*" and last forever. Thus it would be both a universal and an eternal kingdom (Dan. 2:35-44).

1. This prophecy began to be **fulfilled** with the establishment of God's spiritual kingdom, the Church, in A.D. 33 (Acts 2).

27. through 34. Prophecies concerning TYRE (1-7) and SIDON

A. "*Thus saith the Lord God, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses and with chariots, and with horsemen . . . He shall slay thy people by the sword, and thy strong garrisons shall go down to the ground*" (Ezek. 26:7-11).

1. **Fulfillment:** Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city of Tyre for thirteen years, according to the Jewish historian, Josephus, who cited the Greek historian, Menander.

B. "*Pass ye over to Tarshish, howl ye inhabitants of the isle*" (Isa. 23:6). "*The isles that are in the seas shall be troubled at thy departure*" (Ezek. 26:18).

1. **Fulfillment:** Tyrians later settled many colonies including Carthage and Tartessus in Spain.
- C. *"And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten for seventy years, according to the days of one king" (Isa. 23:15-17; cf. Jer. 25:11,12).*
1. **Fulfillment:** This was the duration of the Babylonian ascendancy.
- D. *"Howl ye inhabitants of the isle" (Isa. 23:6). "What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?" (Ezek. 27:32).*
1. **Fulfillment:** Tyre moved to the island after the destruction of the mainland city by Nebuchadnezzar.
- E. *"And they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the waters" (Ezek. 26:12).*
1. **Fulfillment:** Alexander the Great built a half-mile causeway using the ruins of the old Tyre and even scraping up the dust.
- F. *"I will bring forth a fire from the midst of thee . . . I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee" (Ezek. 28:18; cf. Zech. 8:1).*
1. **Fulfillment:** After besieging and taking Tyre, Alexander set it on fire (Quintus Curtius, *History of Alexander the Great*, Bk. 4, Ch. 3). Eight thousand were killed, two thousand crucified and thirty thousand sold for slaves.
- G. *"I will make thee like the top of a rock, thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more" (Ezek. 26:14).*
1. **Fulfillment:** Tyre not rebuilt to this day.
- H. *"I will send into her pestilence and blood into her streets; and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her, by the sword upon her on every side" (Ezek. 28:22,23).*
1. **Fulfillment:** In 351 B.C., when the Sidonians rebelled against the Persians, their own king betrayed them and 40,000 shut themselves up in their houses to which they set fire. The city has been rebuilt and re-raized many times. It has about 15,000 inhabitants today.

35. and 36. Prophecies concerning Nineveh:

- A. The prophet Nahum (circa 713 B.C.) prophesied that while the rulers of the city were drunken, their foes would destroy them. (*"For while they be folded together as thorns and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry"* (Nah. 1:10). The city met its final downfall at the hands of the

Medes and Persians. Diodorus, the ancient historian, tells how the rulers and defenders were too drunken to cope with the enemy.

B. Zephaniah (612 B.C.) foretold utter desolation of Nineveh . . . "He will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness . . . flocks shall lie down in the midst of her" (Zeph. 2:13-15).

1. This prophecy was **fulfilled** when Cyazares the Mede advanced against Nineveh. In 401 B.C., 10,000 Greeks of Zenophon's Anabasis found Nineveh to be a mere mound.

37. The Assyrians who swooped down upon Jerusalem, with Sennacherib, would depart the same way they came, without shooting an arrow against the city (Isa. 37:33).

1. **Fulfilled:** Isa. 37:36,37.

38. Sennacherib would return from Judea to Assyria, and would perish there by the sword in his own land (Isa. 37:7).

A. **Fulfilled:** When Sennacherib was assassinated by his own sons while he was worshipping in the Temple of Nisroch, his god (Isa. 37:38).

39. Xerxes, ruler of Persia, would stir up the Persian empire against Greece, and would be degraded (Dan. 11:2).

A. This was **fulfilled** in the Graeco-Persian war, the crucial battle of which was at Salamis, Sept. 28, 480 B.C.

40. The ruler of Greece (Alexander the Great) would conquer Persia (331 B.C.), and establish a world empire, which, after his death, would be divided into 4 sections (Dan. 2:39; Dan. 8:5-7). Daniel 8:21 definitely identifies the goat as Greece. The horn was broken off, four little horns came in its place. Even so, we know that after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C., the empire fell to his leading General, Antigonus, and was subsequently divided into four major areas, controlled by Greek generals.

A. Macedonia – Cassander

B. Asia Minor – Lysimachus

C. Syria and Eastward – Seleucus

D. Egypt – Ptolemy

41. Thebes, the ancient capital city of Egypt (called by the Greeks Diospolis and by the Egyptians No-Amon), would be "broken up." God said:

1. *"I will execute judgements in No,"*

2. *"I will cut off the multitude of No,"* and
3. *"No shall be broken up" (Ezek. 30:14-16).*

A. This prophecy written in the time of Nebuchadnezzar (about 571 B.C.), obtained partial fulfillment after Chaldea had passed into the hands of the Persians, when Cambyses invaded Egypt about 525 B.C.

1. The final **fulfillment** was accomplished in about 89 B.C. when Ptolemy Lathyrus, Cleopatra's grandfather, laid siege to the city for three years, and, after it capitulated, almost leveled it to the ground. It continues to exist as a multitude of small hamlets.

42. Memphis (Pa-Nouf) would be judged and God would cause her idols and images to be destroyed (Ezekiel 30:13). Memphis was the great temple-city of ancient Egypt. All that remains of her now are a few heaps of rubbish. Even in the middle ages, her stately ruins extended over a space estimated at a half day's journey in every direction, according to Abdul-Latif, an Arab traveler of the 13th Century.

43. Samaria would become a heap of ruins. *"For I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the open country, planting places for a vineyard. I will pour her stones down into the valley, and lay bare her foundations" (Micah 1:6).*

A. This prophecy has been fulfilled in its entirety.

44. The cities of Edom (Idumea), in the Seir Mountain Range, would become a perpetual desolation, from the city of Teman in the north to Dedan in the south, including Bozrah the capital, and their ruins would become an astonishment to those who viewed them (Jer. 49:13,17; Ezek. 25:13; 35:3-9).

A. The Idumean stronghold of Petra was conquered and destroyed by the Moslems of 632 A.D., and even its site was forgotten and remained unknown until its now famous ruins were discovered in 1812 by Burchardt. In 1188, the remaining cities of Edom, lying between Teman and Dedan, were left wasted and in ruins by the armies of Saladin.

B. Because of their state of preservation, the ruins of Petra have become one of the most astonishing archaeological sites known. The sites of the ancient cities of Edom, which have been desolate for centuries, are a testimony from God of the truth of His Word.

45. through 47.

A. The Philistines, as a people would perish,

B. One of their capital cities, Gaza, would be forsaken and *"baldness would come upon it."*

C. Another of their capital cities Ashkelon would become desolate, and it and its

sea-coast would become the dwelling place of shepherds with their sheep folds.

1. Amos 1:8: *"The remnant of the Philistines will perish, says the Lord God" (800 B.C.).*
2. Zephaniah 2:4,6: *"For Gaza will be abandoned, and Ashkelon a desolation; . . . So the seacoast will be pastures, with caves for shepherds and folds for flocks (630 B.C.).*
3. Jeremiah 47:5: *"Baldness has come upon Gaza; Ashkelon has been ruined."*

D. These prophecies were made when the Philistines were one of the most powerful nations in the area. The name "Palestine" means, "Land of Philistines." In 96 B.C., the Maccabees of Israel, led by Alexander Jannaeus, completely exterminated the Philistines in a series of seventeen battles. Ashkelon had existed for over 2500 years as a major coastal city. Herod the Great had built a large summer resort there. This city was destroyed by Sulton Bibars in 1270 A.D. and has never been rebuilt. In 1921 A.D., old Gaza was found by an archaeological exploration group buried under a large dune of sand along the Mediterranean coast.

E. Today, the Philistines are the only ancient race of people of the area, from among about twenty races, that were so completely destroyed that they have no descendants among today's nations. Today the vicinity of Ashkelonn no longer has the traditional grain fields, but shepherds use the remains of old structures to build sheep folds and shepherd hovels. The city and its sea-coast are otherwise desolate. Gaza truly remains desolate being completely covered with sand. Such a dune of sand is a fitting description for, *"baldness has come upon Gaza"*. The most troublesome people to ancient Israel were the Philistines. Now among all the former races, they alone have disappeared. Out of the five major Philistine capitals, one has become a large sand dune, one deserted and salvaged for pasture fences and hovels, while the remaining three are populated today with another people. The prophetic accuracy is phenomenal! (From *Has God Spoken*, by A.O. Schnabel.)

48. The church would apostatize, and this falling away from the true faith would bring it under the dictatorial sway of one who would oppose the truth, and would *"exalt himself above all that is called God, or is worshipped" (II Thess. 2:1-12).*

49. The Gentiles would abandon their idols and would crowd into God's kingdom, worshiping, and sitting down to the banquet of God with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the prophets, and the Messiah. The rule and government of the one true God of Israel, through Christ, will continue to spread irresistible through the nations, until the whole lump is leavened and *"the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the water cover the sea"* (Isa. 11:9; Hab. 2:14 Isa. 9:2-7; 11:1-12; 56:7; 42:1; 44:5; 49:6-14; 55:5; 60:3; Dan.2:35; 7:14; Hos. 2:23; Psa. 22:37; 86:9; Amos 9:12; Zech. 2:11; Mal. 1:11-12; Matt. 8:10-12; Lk. 14:16-24; Eph. 3:6).

50. The "dragon," the "beast," and the "false prophet," to wage war on the kingdom of God and to be eventually judged and destroyed forever by the one who is called "the word of God," who is to reign triumphantly throughout eternity (Rev. 12-13; 19-22).

**IV. WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO THE ULTIMATE QUESTIONS FACING MAN, AND IT GIVES THE ONLY POSSIBLE REAL SOLUTIONS TO MAN'S BASIC PROBLEMS.**

- A. The Bible is a book of answers and explanations to the most profoundly important questions confronting mankind in general, and each individual in particular. It contains the only solutions to man's deepest problems. We are speaking of the questions concerning our ultimate origin and final destiny, concerning our true identity as children of God, rather than children of nature, and merely products of the processes at work within the natural order. When we speak of our deepest problems, we are referring to the problems of sin and death . . . the problems connected with the evil that is in the world and within the human heart.
- B. The answers, explanations, and solutions that the Bible gives to these questions and problems, are clear, precise, coherent, and consistent with human history and experience, and with all the facts as we know them. They are answers and solutions which only God could or would give, and are not like any at which man, by his own reason, would ever arrive.
- C. Some of the ultimate questions to which the Bible gives satisfying answers are:
1. Is there a God, and if so, who is He? What is the nature and character of God? Why did he make the world, the universe, and mankind like He did? What does He want mankind to be and what does He want me to be and do? What are His plans for the future concerning the world, the universe, mankind in general and me, in particular?
  2. Who am I? Where are my ultimate roots in the ooze and mire of the jungle swamp or in heaven above? What is my true identity, and what should I be and do in keeping with that identity?
  3. Do I have, or can I have, any kind of a special or personal relationship with God and if so, how, and under what circumstances? How is my relationship with God any different from that of a maggot or a serpent, a horse or a pig, or that of any other living thing that He has created?
  4. Has God communicated with man? With me? If so, when, where, how and through whom or what, and what did he say?
  5. Can I communicate with God? Does He hear and answer prayer or some prayers or all prayers? Are there any conditions that He has laid down for

successful prayer, and if so, what are they?

6. Will physical death be the end of my existence, or do I have an immortal soul that will live eternally, somewhere; and if so, where?
7. Is there anything that I can be, or do, here in this life that will determine my eternal destiny, so that I will know where I will spend eternity?
8. Is there any absolute standard of right and wrong, good and evil; and if so, what is that standard?
9. Is there a final judgement of all souls . . . a heaven and a hell? If so, who will be the judge, and what will be the basis of that judgement?
10. To what extent am I free . . . a free moral agent, and to what extent am I predestined and fore-ordained to be what I am, and what I will become? What are my choices and options, and to what extent am I a product of hereditary and environmental factors over which I have no control? Exactly what is predestined, and what isn't, in time and eternity, and who, or what, determines what is and is not predestined?

D. These are some of the all-important questions which the Bible answers. The basic problems for which the Bible provides the only possible solutions all revolve around man's imperfection and mortality, (i.e., around sin and death). All other of man's major problems are simply extensions of these two problems, and these two problems are really but two aspects of only one problem, since death is the consequence of sin, a problem solved for us by God in the death and resurrection from the dead of His Son, our redeemer.

E. Christ died as the substitutionary victim for our sins and freed us from both the guilt and consequences of our transgressions (Heb. 2:9; 9:28; I Pet. 2:24; I Cor. 15:3). When we accept Him as our Savior and Lord, repent of our sins, and are baptized for the remission (removal) of our sins into His death, we are added to His spiritual body, the Church, and are given the Holy Spirit. Thus, we receive a new nature, to replace the old carnal, sinful nature that we have crucified. We become new creatures in Christ, having undergone a new birth into His divine kingdom.

F. The Bible meets man's deepest needs for knowledge of God, and for assurances of God's love and of the worthwhileness of life, and of the possibility of a better life than this world offers, beyond the grave. We instinctively know that it is God's Word and that it meets all our spiritual needs, just as an infant knows that his mother's milk satisfies the yearning that he feels.

**V. THE SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE PROVES THAT IT WAS NOT A PRODUCT OF THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE DAY AND AGE IN WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN, BUT HAD TO HAVE COME FROM THE MIND OF GOD.**

- A. When Moses and the Prophets wrote the Old Testament, it was commonly believed that the world sat on the back of a huge turtle – or perhaps it was a giant, Atlas, who carried the world on his back or maybe the earth was floating on a huge sea. Job, however, said: ". . . *He hangeth the earth on nothing*" (Job 26:7)
- B. When the Bible was written, it was universally thought that the earth was flat. In Isaiah 40:22, however, we read, "*It is God who sitteth upon the circle of the earth.*"
- C. When the Bible was written, it was believed that there were very few stars in the heavens. In 150 B.C. Hipparchus said that there were not more than 3,000 (Gen. 13:16; 15:5; Jer. 33:22, and other verses in the Bible say the stars are "*innumerable*" . . . like the sands of the seashore. We cite here some of the other many examples of the scientific accuracy and foreknowledge of the scriptures.

### **SCIENTIFIC FOREKNOWLEDGE IN THE BIBLE**

<b><u>SCIENTIFIC FACT OR PRINCIPLE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE OF DISCOVERY</u></b>	<b><u>BIBLICAL LOCATION</u></b>
Both man & woman possess seed of life	17th century	Gen. 3:15; 22:18
There is a place void of stars in the north	19th century	Job 26:7
Earth is held in place by invisible forces	1650	Job 26:7
Taxonomical classifications of matter	1735	Gen. I
The earth is round	15th century	Isa. 40:22
Day and night occur simultaneously on earth	15th century	Lk. 17:31f
Certain animals carry diseases harmful to man	16th century	Lev. II
Early diagnosis of leprosy	17th century	Lev. 13
Quarantine for disease control	17th century	Lev. 13
Blood of animals carries disease	17th century	Lev. 17
Blood necessary for survival of life	19th century	Lev. 17:11
Oceans have natural paths in them	1854	Psa. 8:8
Earth was in nebular form initially	1911	Gen. 1:2
Most seaworthy ship design is 30:5:3	1860	Gen. 6
Light is a particle (has mass, a photon)	1932	Job 38:19
Radio astronomy (stars give off signals)	1945	Job 38:7
Oceans contain fresh water springs	1920	Job 38:16
Snow has material (economic) value	1905    1966	Job 38:22
Infinite number of stars	1940	Gen. 15:5
Dust is important to survival	1935	Isa. 40:12
Herbert Spencer's scientific principles	1860	Gen. 1
Air has weight	16th century	Job. 28:25
Light can be split up into component colors	1650	Job 38:24
Matter is made up of invisible particles	20th century	Rom. 1:20; Heb. 11:7
Plants use sunlight to manufacture food	1920	Job 8:16
Arcturus and other stars move through space	19th century	Job 38:32
Water-vapor cycle	17th century	Eccl. 1:7; Job 36:27-28
Life originated in the sea	19th century	Gen. I

Lightning and thunder related	19th century	Job. 38:25
Man was the last form of life created	15th century	Gen. 1
Sequence of creation agrees with science	20th century	Gen. 1
All life reproduces "after its kind"	1862	Gen. 1; 6:19-20
Universe is a continuously spreading expanse	1948	Gen. 1:6
Universe is immeasurable, limitless	19th century	Jer. 31:37
First Law of Thermodynamics	19th century	Gen. 2:2
Second Law of Thermodynamics	19th century	Psa. 102:25-27; Rom. 8:21-27; Heb. 12:26-28; Isa. 51:6
Mankind is of one origin	1775	Gen. 2; Gen. 9
Heavenly bodies are controlled by immutable law	17th century	Psa. 19:4; Jer. 31:33 Deut. 18:14; Isa. 47:13,14
The moon is a "witness" to the existence of the sun	16th century	Psa. 89:36-37
Entire earth has been under the water	1885	Gen. 1:2-9
All the oceans have one bed	16th century	Gen. 1:9-10
The earth has "foundation"	20th century	Job 38:4-6 Psa. 104:5; Prov. 8:2
All flesh is not the same flesh	20th century	I Cor. 15:39
Protective effect of the atmosphere	19th century	Isa. 40:22
The material universe is built of invisible components	20th century	Heb. 11:3
The oceans have channels, or canyons	20th century	Job 38:16; II Sam. 22:16; Job 38:25-27
Static electricity ("lightning") causes rain	20th century	Jer. 10:13
Circumcism important	20th century	Gen. 17:12
Circumcism not to be performed until 8th day	20th century	Lev. 13-15
Laws concerning excrement, quarantine, washing & sanitation	19th century	Num. 19:5-22; Lev. 17:12-14
Dietary Laws re: eating flesh of scavengers & blood	19th century	Lev. 3:17; 7:23
Need of people, animals, and land for rest	20th century	Exod. 20:8-11; 23:10-22; Lev. 25:20-22; II Pet. 3:10-12
Whole world to be destroyed by a fiery explosion		

**VI. WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD BECAUSE IT IS HISTORICALLY, GEOGRAPHICALLY AND IN EVERY WAY, FACTUALLY CORRECT. THE MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE FOR ITS TRUTHFULNESS IS UNIMPEACHABLE. THE BIBLE IS THE TRUTH.**

A. There are no myths, legends, fables or fairy tales in the Bible. From start to finish, it deals with reality . . . real happenings, real people, real places. In all the thousands of instances where statements of the Bible can be checked for accuracy against secular history, it is correct.

1. Famed archaeologist Nelson Glueck wrote, "It can be categorically stated that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted Biblical reference."

- B. "Since we do not have the originals of any book of the Bible, how reliable are the copies we have?"
1. This question is answered two ways:
    - a. By the number of manuscripts and;
    - b. By the time interval between the original and the oldest existing copy.
  2. In witnessing, it is not our purpose to give detailed thesis to any of this, but rather to give one good illustration of our point. If the person you are dealing with wants detailed information, there is a wealth of material written on this subject.
- C. Let's look at the bibliographical test for the reliability of the New Testament as it testifies to the historical Jesus. There exist today 13,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament. There are 5,000 Greek manuscripts that contain all or part of the New Testament. So figures Bruce Metzger in *Text of the New Testament* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1968).
1. John Warwick Montgomery, contemporary historian, says in his *History and Christianity* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1971), "To be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament."
  2. Now, can this be illustrated? Yes, it can. Dr. F.F. Bruce, in his notable book *New Testament Documents*, has shown the comparison between the New Testament and ancient historical writings. Perhaps we can appreciate how wealthy the New Testament is in manuscript attestation if we compare the textual material for other ancient historical works. For Caesar's Gallic War (composed between 58 and 50 B.C.) there are several extant MSS, but only nine or ten are good, and the oldest is some 900 years later than Caesar's day. Of the 142 books of the Romans history of Livy (59 B.C. - 17 A.D.), only 35 survive; these are known to us from not more than 20 MSS of any consequence, only one of which, and that containing fragments of Books III-VI, is as old as the fourth century. Of the 14 Books of the Histories of Tacitus (c. A.D. 100) only four and a half survive; of the 16 books of his Annals, 50 survive in full and two in part. The text of these extant portions of his two great historical works depends entirely on two MSS, one of the ninth century and one of the eleventh. The extant MSS of his minor works (Dialogue de Oratoribus, Agricola, Germania) all descend from a codex of the tenth century. The History of Thucydides (c. 460-400 B.C.) is known to us from eight MSS, the earliest belonging to c. A.D. 900, and a few papyrus scraps, belonging to about the beginning of the Christian era. The same is true of the History of Herodotus (B.C. 488-428). Yet no classical scholar would listen to an argument that the authenticity of Herodotus or Thucydides is in doubt because the earliest MSS of their works which are of any use to

us are over 1,300 years later than the originals. So, if the new Testament isn't accurate, reliable history, then there is no such thing as ancient history! This is only one test - the bibliographical!" (This taken from *Questions Non-Christians Ask Today*, by Barry Wood, pgs 27-28, Old Tappan, N.J., Fleming H. Revell Co., 1977.

- D. The testimony of secular history concerning the historicity of Christ and the early origin of Christianity.
1. **Tacitus** (60-120 A.D.) Referring to burning of Rome in 64 A.D. (annals XV. 44), relates that in order to stop the persistent rumor that he had ordered the burning of Rome himself, Nero set up as cuprits ". . . a class hated for their abominations, who are commonly called Christians. Christus, from whom their name is derived, was executed at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius."
  2. **Joseph** (37-95 A.D.) *The Jewish Antiquities* – finished in the 13th year of Domitian (93 A.D.), says "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 work, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was (the) Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day." There is also a reference to the execution of James, "the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ" in *Antiquities* XX.9.
  3. **Seutonius** (75-160 A.D.) writing in *Vita Claudii* (XXV,4) says ". . . Since the Jews were continually making disturbances at the instigation of Christus, he (Claudius) expelled them from Rome . . ." So, not only the existence of Christ, but that He had a multitude of disciples in Rome under Claudius, is verified. Seutonius furthermore states that under Nero, the Christians were persecuted (A.D. 64). *Vita Neronis* (XVI)
  4. **Pliny** (the younger) (62-113 A.D.) writes to the Emperor Trajan at length concerning how to interrogate and punish Christians. (Epistles X:96).
  5. **Thallus** (52 A.D.) His writings have disappeared, but Julius Africanus, a Christian writer of about 221 A.D. quotes him on the darkness which fell upon the land when Christ was crucified, as follows – "Thallus, in the third book of his histories, explains away this darkness as an eclipse of the sun – unreasonably, as it seems to me because a solar eclipse could not take place at the time of the full moon, and it was at the season of the Paschal full moon that Christ died."
  6. **The Jewish Talmuds** contain several outright references to Jesus, and his followers (e.g. Babylonia *Sanhedrin* 43a; Yeb IV. 3;49a) and a number of

veiled and oblique references which could hardly refer to anyone but Him and his disciples. The Jewish scholar, Joseph Klausner, confirms this in *Jesus of Nazareth*, N.Y., McMillan Co., 1925, p. 38.

- a. There are other early sources, but these are adequate to prove that Jesus was a historical figure, and that Christianity was forced to be dealt with in the Roman empire before the end of the first century.
- b. F.F. Bruce has said: "The historicity of Christ is as axiomatic for an unbiased historian as the historicity of Julius Caesar. It is not historians who propagate the 'Christ-myth' theories."
- c. Of course, the internal evidence of the books of the New Testament is itself irrefutable proof of the time and circumstances of the origin of Christianity and of the New Testament.

### **PROOFS THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS WRITTEN AND WAS RECOGNIZED AS SCRIPTURE IN THE 1ST CENTURY**

1. **Clement of Rome** (A.D. 95) in his letter to the church at Corinth, written while he was a bishop in Rome, quotes or refers to Matthew, Luke, Romans, Corinthians, I Timothy, I Peter, and repeatedly quotes Hebrews.
2. **The Didache** (A.D. 80-120) quotes Matthew 22 times, refers to Luke, John, Acts, Romans, Thessalonians, and I Peter.
3. **Melito** (circa A.D. 170) bishop of Sardis -- quoted from ALL the New Testament books except James, Jude, and II & III John.
4. **Justin Martyr** (A.D. 100-165) gave important testimony concerning Revelation, knew of Hebrews, referred to Mark's gospel under the title "Memoirs of Peter." He showed knowledge of Acts and 8 epistles.
5. **Clement of Alexandria** (A.D. 155-215) quoted and accepted all the books of our present New Testament.
6. **Origen** (A.D. 185-253) likewise quoted or referred to all the books of our present New Testament.
7. **Marcion** (A.D. 140) -- through a heretic, he accepted Luke's gospel and ten of Paul's epistles.
8. **Hermas** (A.D. 150) authenticated Matthew, Ephesians, Hebrews, James and Revelation.
9. **Irenaeus** (A.D. 140-203) was a student of Polycarp who was a disciple of John, bears witness to all the four gospels, Acts, I Peter, I John, all of Paul's letters except

Philemon, and Revelation.

10. **The Muratorian Canon** (A.D. 170) attests all the New Testament except I & II Peter, James and Hebrews.
11. **Tertullian** (A.D. 150-222) a voluminous Latin writer of Carthage, attests the four gospels, 13 Pauline epistles, Acts, I Peter, I John, Jude and Revelation. He makes 1800 quotations from the New Testament and called it the "New Testament".
12. **The Old Latin Canon** (Before A.D. 170) attests all the books except Hebrews, James and I & II Peter.
13. **Cyprian** (A.D. 200-258) bishop of Carthage, quoted as scripture all the New Testament books except for Hebrews, Philemon, II & III John, and Jude.
14. **Polycarp**, in his letter to the Philippians (A.D. 110) quotes Philippians and reproduces phrases from 9 other of Paul's epistles, and I Peter.
15. **Ignatius**, in his seven letters (A.D. 110), quotes Matthew, I Peter, I John, cites 9 of Paul's epistles.
16. **Papias**, (A.D. 70-155), a pupil of John, quotes John and refers to Matthew and Mark.
17. **Barnabas** (A.D. 90-120) epistle, quotes from Matthew, John, Acts, II Peter.
18. **Tatian** (A.D. 160) made a "Harmony of the Four Gospels" called "the Diatessaron" -- proof that four and only four gospels were recognized by the early church.
19. **Athanasius** (A.D. 367), **Jerome** (A.D. 340-420) and **Augustine** (A.D. 354-430) all concur in listing the same 27 books of the New Testament that we have today.

The test of canonicity for a book was apostolic authorship or approval, content, and universality of acceptance. The Council of Hippo, (A.D. 393) and the Third Council of Carthage (A.D. 397) in stipulating the 27 books of the New Testament that were to be regarded as canonical did not confer any authority on those books that they did not already possess.

## **EARLY MANUSCRIPTS OF THE BIBLE AND THE NEW TESTAMENT PRESENTLY EXTANT**

There are some 76 second century papyri manuscripts of the New Testament presently extant, from the first 200 years after the New Testament was written, and including the content of most of the New Testament.

Among these are:

1. The **John Rylands Fragment** (117-138 A.D.), discovered in Egypt is of a portion of

the gospel of John. It is certainly from the first half of the 2nd century. Adolf Deissmann argues for an even earlier date.

2. The **Chester Beatty Papyri** (A.D. 250) contains almost all the New Testament.
3. The **Bodmer Papyri**, containing portions of John, all of Luke, Jude and I & II Peter. This collection dates from the year 200 or earlier.
- 4-5. The three oldest, most complete and best known vellum manuscripts of the whole Bible are the **Sinaitic** (340 A.D.), **Vaticanus** (325-350 A.D.), and **Alexandrinus** (c. 450 A.D.).
6. The **Dead Sea Scrolls** – hundreds of copies of books of the Old Testament, discovered 1947-1956 in eleven caves near the Dead Sea . . . dating from more than a century before Christ to near the end of the first century A.D. In no instance is there any variation from the Masoretic text, from which our present day translations are made, which would at all change the religious teaching of the Bible as we have had it all along. Amazing!

We now possess nearly 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, stretching all the way back to the second century. Add to this 8,000 manuscripts of the Latin Vulgate, and approximately 1,000 other versions – 14,000 manuscript copies of the New Testament or portions thereof.

Compare this wealth of manuscript evidence and its antiquity with that of other authors of antiquity – Plato, Tacitus, Thucydides, Herodotus, Lucretius, Catallus, Euripedes, Aristotle, Aristophanes – in each of which cases, our total collection of ancient manuscripts are separated from the time of the original writing by 1,000 or more years. Yet we accept these works without question as genuine and authentic representations of what the authors wrote.

Sir Frederick Kenyon, whose scholarship in the field of ancient manuscripts was second to none, said: "The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the **authenticity** and the **general integrity** of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established." (Kenyon, F., The Bible and Archeology, Harper Bros., New York, 1940, p. 228).

## LESSON FIVE

### HOW WE KNOW THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD

**Memory Verses:** Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; Jn. 1:1-3, 14:14:6; Heb. 1:1-2

Jesus Christ, the central figure of the Bible and of all human history proves the claims of the holy scriptures, just as the scriptures substantiate His claims. He who is God's Word made in the flesh is the strongest proof that the Bible is the living Word of God.

Napoleon said, "The nature of Christ's existence is mysterious, I admit; but this mystery meets the needs of man. Reject it, and the world is an inexplicable riddle; believe it, and the history of the human race is satisfactorily explained."

Renan said, "All history is incomprehensible without Christ." He is the hinge of history . . . the focal point at which all lines of force converge. He never wrote a book, held a public office, had a bank account, owned a home or anything else of substance of things necessary to and associated with the achievement of earthly fame or fortune. Yet it is safe to say that all the armies that ever marched, all the kings that ever reigned all the parliaments that ever sat, all the books that were ever written – all of them together and combined, have had less influence for good upon the life of man upon this planet than this one lone, single, solitary individual, Jesus Christ! Why?

Phillips Brooks called him "the condescension of divinity and the exaltation of humanity." French said, "Jesus stands alone at the absolute center of humanity, the completely harmonious man, unfolding all which was in humanity, equally and fully on all absolute and perfect truth, the highest that humanity can reach; at once its perfect image and supreme Lord."

**More than nineteen hundred years ago** *"the angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary the wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:20,21).*

He was born in a supernatural way contrary to the laws of life. He came from the bosom of the Father to the bosom of a woman. He put on humanity that we might put on divinity. He became Son of Man that we might become sons of God.

He lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

He had neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous and uninfluential, and had neither training nor formal education.

He had no college education; yet the profoundest wisdom of men had never equaled His Sermon On The Mount or His last discourses in John 13 to 17. *"Never man spake like this man."*

He laid aside His purple robe for a peasant's gown. He was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor. As to how poor? Ask Mary. Ask the wise men. He slept in another's manger; He cruised the lake in another's boat. He rode on a borrowed beast. He was

buried in another's tomb.

In infancy He startled a king; in the childhood he puzzled doctors; even at twelve years of age, proving He was far in advance of the theologians, for He was taught of God; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the water as if pavements, and hushed the raging sea.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He fed the hungry multitudes with a boy's lunch, broke up funerals, and restored to life those that were dead.

He never wrote a book and yet all the libraries of the world could not hold the books that have been written about Him.

He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined.

He never founded a college, yet all the schools together cannot boast of as many students as He has.

He never marshaled an army, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more soldiers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot being fired.

He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors who ever lived.

Great men have come and gone, yet He lives on. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet he still lives. Satan could not seduce Him, Herod could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold him.

He conquered death, rose on the third day as He said He would, ascended into heaven, is now at the right hand of the throne of God, and will one day come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory for His own born-again, blood-bought ones to be forever with Him according to promise. After which He will judge the world in righteousness, "*when every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue shall confess Him as Lord*" – His friends gladly, but His enemies seeking for a place to hide from His face.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living personal Saviour.

The ever perfect one – He is the chief among ten thousand – the Lily of the Valley – the Bright and Morning Star – the Rose of Sharon – the Bread of Life – the Water of Life – the Way, the Truth, the Life – the Foundation – the Chief Corner Stone – the Door to Heaven.

He is not only the Son of God – He IS God! He is the only one who can redeem and satisfy the soul and give everlasting life to those who have it not. His gracious invitation is: "*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" (Matt. 11:28). His blessed assurance is: "*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out*" (Jn. 6:37).

**He is altogether lovely, and He is my Lord and Saviour!  
Is he yours?**

## I. **HOW WE KNOW THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.**

There are many reasons why we can be absolutely sure that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of mankind, the Son of God. A few of those reasons are:

- A. The New Testament – comprising 27 historical documents from the first century written by eye-witnesses or companions of eye-witnesses.** They had no motive to deceive. If they told the truth, Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If they didn't, they were liars.

QUESTION: Could liars have given the world the highest standard of morality it has ever known?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

SYLLOGISM:

1. Major Premise: It is unreasonable to think that liars wrote a book which condemns lying and which exalts truth as the highest good.
2. Minor Premise: The New Testament is a book which condemns lying and exalts truth as the highest good.
3. Conclusion: It is unreasonable to think that liars wrote the New Testament.

- B. Fulfillment of Prophecies:** Jesus fulfilled or is the process of fulfilling all the hundreds of predictions made by prophets of ancient Israel concerning the Messiah, the divine Savior and King who would come into the world through Israel.

SYLLOGISM:

1. Major Premise: Whoever fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah, the divine King of Israel and the world would be Christ, the Son of God.
2. Minor Premise: Jesus fulfilled, or is in the process of fulfilling, all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah, the divine King of Israel, and the world.
3. Conclusion: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

- C. Miracles –** Jesus worked many wonderful miracles when he was on earth, establishing his divine identity. There are evidences of this supernatural power in the world today which are fully as convincing as were the miracles he worked while on earth.

1. He made a handful of ordinary men the great teachers of mankind.

2. He daily transforms lives.
3. He lifts up the fallen, heals the sick and broken hearted.
4. He has brought the Gentiles to faith in God; abolished polytheism, idolatry, and polygamy; introduced a new a superior morality into the world.
5. He had given verification to the Old Testament and existence to the New.

Question: Which one of these marvelous works of Christ, all of them performed after his death, would you deny?

- D. Jesus' matchless teachings** incomparable to all others in their morality, spirituality, universality, simplicity, love, and severity.

Question: Name one important moral or spiritual truth, idea or principal in the world which is not found in the gospel of Christ (There are dozens which are found no place except in the gospel).

- E. The holiness of Jesus' life and character** – He alone was sinless, perfect. Who else possessing immense power could be called "the Lamb," except Jesus?

Question: Point out one single flaw or blemish in Jesus' life or character.

- F. Jesus' Godlike aims and Godlike claims.** His announced goal was nothing short of the spiritual regeneration and recreation of mankind and the establishment of the rule of God over the world . . . a kingdom which would endure forever. He claimed to possess all authority in heaven and on earth, and asserted that no one could go to God except through him.

Question: Name another person who ever had the Godlike aims or made the Godlike claims that Jesus made.

- G. The authority and certainty with which Jesus spoke** if matters beyond the knowledge of man – of the secrets of eternity and the mysteries of the invisible realm of the spirit, were the authority and certainty with which only God could speak (i.e., Jesus spoke as God would speak).

Question: What would you expect God to do or say if he came personally as a missionary from heaven to save us poor mortals, that Jesus did not do and say?

- H. His universal appeal** gives Jesus alone the right to be called the "Son of Man" – Son of mankind – not a product of any one race or culture, time or place. He is the only one to whom we all, young and old, men and women, black and white, can relate.

Question: Who else possesses anything like magnetism and universality of appeal of Jesus Christ?

- I. **The sublime hope of salvation from sin and death** is extended to us only by Jesus Christ. God will accept Christ's death as full payment for the penalty due us for our sins, if we will accept that payment. Of course, He doesn't force salvation on anyone.

Questions: (1) How do atheists remove the guilt for their sins?

(2) What hope do atheists have for life beyond the grave?

- J. **Jesus' resurrection from the dead** . . . seen by dozens, hundreds, attested both by words and by the permanently changed lives of those who saw him.

Questions: If he wasn't raised, what happened to the body? Why did they say they saw him, and received instructions from him? Why did Saul the persecutor suddenly become Paul the Apostle? Why the sudden incalculably enormous spiritual explosion called "the Church" which happened after Christ's death, if he was not risen?

- K. **His stupendous impact on history.** No effect can be greater than its cause. Jesus Christ produced a cataclysmically powerful impact on history, which broke time itself in two – "B.C." – "A.D." The landscape is dotted with edifices built to honor him – the libraries filled with books about him and matters related to him: more songs have been written about him than about all other men who were ever on earth, combined. Billions of Bibles have been distributed for just one reason – they tell about Him. Could an uneducated Galilean peasant, who spent a brief "cosmic event" which set in motion this incalculably immense force in history? How ridiculous! Only if he was indeed "Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God" would he have been the unprecedented cause which brought about the unprecedented effect we see everywhere.

Question: How do you account for the fact that Jesus Christ has had a by far greater impact upon history than any other person who ever lived?

- L. **Jesus amazing power and influence** in this, the 20th Century, gives the final incontrovertible proof of his superhuman identity. This very discussion here – your reading this, is an evidence of His influence and power. His name is on the tongue of every person, either in prayer or in profanity. He is loved and hated at this moment more than any other person alive or who has ever lived. There is a divine energy, a mysterious and wonderful spiritual force, working in human history, regeneration, cleansing, illuminating, reviving – that goes back to and flows directly from Jesus and proving Him to be, indeed the Christ, the Son of God.

The ages have a solemn testimony to give about Jesus Christ, and that testimony is that his claims were true. Lo, he has done what the prophets said

the Messiah would do. He has accomplished, by Himself the work God assigned to the whole people of Israel. He has destroyed the idols. He and he alone has communicated to mankind God's message of love and redemption, of justice and truth. He has called-out of the world a people to be like himself, *"holy, harmless, and undefiled."*

He came into a world which was without hope and without God, and he gave it a divine hope, and by himself, reconciled it to God. Behold, *"the stone that the builder's rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. (Ps. 118:22,23). "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor.3:11).*

The root of much of the skepticism in the world is that Christ is "too good to be true" – or that the alternative to accepting him is too bad to be true. Mankind cannot bring itself to believe that God is as good as he is, or that man is as bad as he is, or that sin is as destructible as it is, or that acceptance of the atonement which took place at Calvary is a necessary as it is , or that the sacrifice by God of his Son there is as powerfully efficacious as it is. But it is all true – and it is the most important truth we can proclaim.

The gospel is "God's Good News" – the power of God unto salvation – *"to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Rom 1:16)*

**M. Undeniable facts which prove that Jesus was different from and superior to all other men – that He was and is the Christ, the Son of God.**

A mysterious individual appeared upon earth 2,000 years ago. He made his advent in a manger – a feed trough for animals – lived 30 years in obscurity as a carpenter in Nazareth, spent 3 years as a itinerant preacher and miracle worker, and dies on a Roman cross. Today, 20 centuries later, that young crucified Jew, whose earthly ministry just lasted 3 years and who was only 33 when He was put to death, looms as by far the most important person who was ever in this world.

His brief presence upon the earth caused an immense upheaval in the life of mankind, of a magnitude impossible to calculate because it is still going on. Not only is it still going on, but, unlike any other thing that ever happened, this event continues to send out shock-waves and release energy increasing rather than diminishing in strength with the passing of time.

To any impartial observer, the momentary appearance of Jesus Christ in the world was nothing less than a cosmic event – something so cataclysmic that it moved the stream of history out of its channel and started it flowing in a new direction. His coming gave birth to a new age of the world and He stamped His name upon it – the "Christian Age."

What stupendous force began to be unleashed there in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago that broke time itself in two, so that men use the appearance of Jesus Christ

into the world as the point of reference for everything else that has ever happened, or ever will happen – that it occurred at such a point B.C. – "Before Christ" – or A.D. – in the "Year of our Lord"?

It was, it could have been, nothing less other than the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Nothing else could account for what has happened since His death.

**Fact 1 The resurrection as a fully authenticated fact of history.** Attested to by dozens, in fact, by hundreds of credible witnesses. Here is the record. We can't deny it. Jesus appeared to:

- (1) Mary Magdalene (Jn. 20:14; Mk. 16:9).
- (2) Women returning from the tomb (Matt 28:9,10).
- (3) Peter (Lk. 24:34; I Cor. 15:5).
- (4) Disciples on way to Emmaus (Lk.24:13-33).
- (5) Apostles, Thomas absent (Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 20:19-24).
- (6) Apostles, Thomas present (Jn. 20:26-29).
- (7) To the seven at the Sea of Tiberias.
- (8) To a multitude of more than 500. I Cor. 15:6.
- (9) To James. I Cor. 15:7.
- (10) To the eleven (Matt. 28:16-20; Mk 16:14-20; Lk 24:33-52; Acts 1:3-12).
- (11) At the Ascension (Acts 1:3-12).
- (12) To Paul (Acts 9:3-6; I Cor. 15:8).
- (13) To Stephen (Acts 7:55).
- (14) To Paul in the Temple (Acts 22:17-21, 23:11)
- (15) To John on Patmos (Rev. 1:10-19).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important and best attested fact in history. Not only do we have the repeated statements of the witnesses, but we have their subsequent lives as irrefutable testimony. "Are these men, who helped transform the moral structure of society, consummate liars or deluded madmen? These alternatives

are harder to believe than the fact of the resurrection, and there is on shred of evidence to support. " (Paul Little)

- Fact 2 Jesus' impact upon history has been far greater than that of any other man or group of men who ever lived. He made no impact on history before His death, as do all others. His "footprints in the sands of time" were put there after His death.
- Fact 3 The power of Jesus' name and influence today is incomparable. We are here this afternoon because of Him. Most of what has taken place in this city today, this day of worship, has been because of Him and in His honor. Jesus Christ is the strongest force in the world. There are approximately 2 billion people in the world today who confess Christ as Savior and Lord. There are myriads who would willingly die for Him. There is no other man who lives now or who ever lived, that I know of, for whom anybody would willingly die. He elicits a love and devotion that none other ever did or could, and as a living personality – not as a "dear departed brother."
- Fact 4 Jesus took 12 men of the most ordinary sort – fisherman of Galilee, bits of very common clay and made them the teachers of all mankind . . . after His death.
- Fact 5 The ability of Jesus Christ to conquer all his foes, and transform them into passionate disciples . . . after His death . . . proves His supernatural power.
1. The Jews who cried to Pilate "Crucify Him!" were the same ones who a few weeks later, on Pentecost, were baptized (3,000 of them), and became the nucleus of the church (Acts 2:36-47).
  2. Saul of Tarsus was the leader of the persecution of the Church in the Jewish community. He became the great apostle to the Gentiles, where all his rabbinical knowledge meant nothing, and wrote half the books of the New Testament . . . because the resurrected Jesus appeared to him on the Damascus road.

## FIFTY PROPHECIES CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST, AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

1. Would be "the seed of a woman" (Gen. 3:15; Lk. 2:7; Gal. 4:4).
2. Promised seed of Abraham (Gen. 18:18; 22:17; Matt. 1:1; Lk. 3:34).
3. Promised seed of Isaac (Gen. 27:19; Matt. 1:2; Lk. 3:34).
4. Promised seed of Jacob (Gen. 28:14; Num. 24:17; Matt. 1:2; Lk. 3:34).
5. Will descend from Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Lk. 3:33; Matt. 1:2,3).
6. Of the family and dynasty of David (heir to his throne) (Isa. 9:7; 11:1-5; II Sam. 7:13; Matt. 1:1; 1:6).
7. To be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Matt. 2:1; Lk. 2:4-7).
8. Time of birth (Dan. 9:24-25; Lk. 2:1-7).
9. Born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:26-35).
10. Massacre of infants (Jer. 31:15; Matt. 2:16-18).
11. Flight into Egypt (Hos. 11:1; Matt. 2:14,15).
12. His forerunner (John the Baptist) (Mal. 3:1,2; Isa. 40:3; Matt. 11:9-11).
13. He would be a "light to the Gentiles" (Isa. 42:1-6; 49:6; 11:10; Isa. 60:3-11; 62:2; Acts 3:22; 7:37).
14. A "New Covenant" to be given to Israel, to replace the Mosaic (Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 26:28).
15. He would be "God," "Immanuel: God with us" (Mic. 5:2; Jer. 23:5-6; Psa. 110:1; Psa. 45, Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:23).
16. He would be rejected by Israel (Isa. 53:3; 49:7; Psa. 69:4-8; 118:22; Matt. 27:1-25; Jn. 1:11, 7:5).
17. He would be "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3, Jn. 11:35).
18. He would be "wounded for our transgressions" (Isa. 53:5-10; Matt. 27:26-66).
19. He would heal the sick (Isa. 53:4; Matt. 8:17).
20. He would teach in parables (Psa. 78:2; Isa. 6:9,10; Matt. 13:10-15,35).
21. He would be rejected, yet exalted (Psa. 118:22; Matt. 21:42, 44).
22. He would be hated (Isa. 49:7; Psa. 35:19; 69:4; Matt. 26:67; Jn. 15:25).
23. He would avoid public acclamation (Isa. 42:1-4; Matt. 12:15-21).
24. He would be "numbered with transgressors" (Isa. 53:12; Lk. 22:37).
25. He would be the Son of God (Psa. 2:7; Mk. 1:1; Lk. 1:35; Jn. 1:34-50).
26. He would be the Son of Man (Psa. 8:4,5; Dan. 7:13; Jn. 1:51; 3:13; 5:27).
27. He would be the Redeemer and Savior (Psa. 19:14; Isa. 41:14; Job 19:25-27; Matt. 1:21; Lk. 2:11).
28. He would be the Lamb of God, who would make "His soul an offering for sin" (Gen. 22:8; Isa. 53:7-10; Jn. 1:29; Acts 8:32-35).
29. He would be mediator, intercessor, advocate (Isa. 53:12; 59:16; Lk. 23:34; I Tim. 2:5).
30. He would be a Moses, a Prophet (Deut. 18:15-19; Jn. 6:14; 1:45).
31. He would be the High Priest, after the order of Melchizedek (Psa. 110:4; Heb. 5:6; 6:20).
32. He would be King and Messiah (II Sam. 7:12-17; Psa. 89:34-37; Ezek. 34:23; Matt. 2:2-4; Jn. 1:41-49).
33. His ministry in Galilee (Isa. 9:1,2; Matt. 4:12-16).
34. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Zech. 9:9; Isa. 62:11; Matt. 21:1-11; Jn. 12:13,14). (The exact time when he would come into Jerusalem to die was predicted – fulfilled exactly 483 years later, Dan. 9:24-26).

35. Betrayed by a friend (Psa. 41:9; Matt. 26:14-16; Mk. 14:10).
36. Betrayed ("sold") for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12,13; Matt. 26:15; 27:3-10).
37. Betrayal money to be returned for a potter's field (Zech. 11:13; Matt. 27:3-10).
38. The betrayer's office to be taken by another (Psa. 109:7,8; Acts 1:16-20).
39. Betrayed, the King shall be forsaken (Zech. 13:7; Matt. 26:31).
40. He shall suffer in silence (Isa. 53:4-7; Mk. 15:2-5).
41. He shall endure mocking and scourging (Isa. 50:6; Matt. 27:27-31).
42. His hands and feet shall be pierced (Psa. 22:16; Lk. 23:33).
43. He shall receive gall and vinegar (Psa. 69:21; Matt. 27:33,34)
44. His garments would be divided (Psa. 22:18; Jn. 19:23,24).
45. He would be mocked and insulted and die a shameful death (Psa. 22:1-21; Isa. 53:8; Matt. 27:39-46; Lk 23:46).
46. Not a bone of his body to be broken (Psa. 34:20; Ex. 12:46; Jn. 19:33).
47. He was to be buried with the rich (Isa. 53:9; Matt. 27:57-60).
48. He would be raised from the dead (Psa. 118:17; Hos. 6:2; Psa. 16:10; 30:3; 41:10; Matt. 27:57-60; Acts 2:23-28).
49. He would ascend to Heaven (Psa. 110:1; 68:18; Lk. 24:50-53).
50. His kingdom would be universal and eternal, a kingdom of righteousness and peace (Dan. 7:13,14; Psa. 72; Isa. 9:1-7; 11:1-9; Jer. 33:15; Zech. 9:10; Psa. 2:6; All subsequent history, since the resurrection, is proof of this).

Jesus fulfilled and is fulfilling all the prophecies concerning the Christ. No one else has ever fulfilled any of them. If Jesus was not the Messiah, there can never be a Messiah, because the Messiah had to belong to the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Mic. 5:2), be of the family of David (Jer 23:5; Psa. 132:11; II Sam. 7:12-16), and tribal and family identities have long since been obliterated among the Jews. Furthermore, the Messiah had to make His appearance in the days of the Roman empire (Dan 2:44; 9:24). If Jesus was not the Christ, not only is the New Testament false, but the Old testament is also, for the prophets of Israel testified falsely. If the Bible is false, we have no knowledge of God – no revelation of His will and purposes. One cannot dethrone Jesus as the Christ without at the same time dethroning God. The authority of the scriptures and the validity of all the claims of Israel and of the prophets of Israel, stand or fall with the authority of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

## THE RESURRECTION-HOAX OR HISTORY?

(From *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, Josh McDowell;  
Campus Crusade for Christ, 1972, pps. 199-201).

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853) was the famous Royal Professor of Law at Harvard University, and succeeded Justice Joseph Story as the Dane Professor of Law University, upon Story's death in 1846.

H.W.H. Knott says of this great authority in jurisprudence (Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. VII, New York, 1937, p. 584): "to the efforts of Story and Greenleaf is to be ascribed the rise of the Harvard Law School to its eminent position among the legal schools of the United States." 58/423

Greenleaf produced a famous work entitled *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence* (1842) which "is still considered the greatest single authority on evidence in the entire literature of legal procedure."

In 1846, while still Professor of Law at Harvard, Greenleaf wrote a volume entitled *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice* (Baker Book House, 1965, reprinted from 1847 edition). In his classic work the author examines the value of the testimony of apostles to the resurrection of Christ. The following are this brilliant jurist's critical observations: "The great truths which the apostles declared, were, that Christ had risen from the dead, and that only through repentance from sin, and faith in Him, could men hope for salvation. This doctrine they asserted with one voice, everywhere, not only under the greatest discouragements, but in the face of the most appalling errors that can be presented to the mind of man. Their master had recently perished as a malefactor, by the sentence of a public tribunal. His religion sought to overthrow the religions of the whole world. The laws of every country were against the teachings of His disciples. The interests and passions of all rulers and great men in the world were against them. The fashion of the world was against them. Propagating this new faith, even in the most inoffensive and peaceful manner, they could expect nothing but contempt, opposition, bitter persecutions, stripes, imprisonments, torments, and cruel deaths. Yet this faith they zealously did propagate; and all these miseries they endured undismayed, nay, rejoicing. As one after another was put to a miserable death, the survivors only prosecuted their work with increased vigor and resolution. The annals of military warfare afford scarcely an example of like heroic constancy, patience, and unblinking courage. They had every possible motive to review carefully the grounds of their faith, and the evidences of the great facts and truths which they asserted; and these motives were pressed upon their attention with the most melancholy and terrific frequency. 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. If it were morally possible for them to have been deceived in this matter, every human motive operated to lead them to discover and avow their error. To have persisted in so gross a falsehood, after it was known to them, was not only to encounter, for life all the evils which man could inflict, from without, but to endure also pangs of inward and conscious guilt; with no hope of future peace, no testimony of a good conscience, no expectation of honor or esteem among men, no hope of happiness in this life, or in the world to come.

"Such conduct in the apostles would moreover have been utterly irreconcilable with

the fact, that they possessed the ordinary constitution of our common nature. Yet their lives do show them to have been men like all others of our race; swayed by the same motives, animated by the same hopes, affected by the same joys, subdued by the same sorrows, agitated by the same fears, and subject to the same passions, temptations, and infirmities, as ourselves. And their writings show them to have been men of vigorous understandings. If then their testimony was not true, there was no possible motive for its fabrication." 23/28-30

"The evidence points unmistakably to the fact that on the third day Jesus rose. This was the conclusion to which a former Chief Justice of England Lord Darling, came. At a private dinner party the talk turned to the resurrection. Placing his fingertips together, assuming a judicial attitude, and speaking with a quiet emphasis that was extraordinarily impressive, he said, 'We, as Christians, are asked to take a very great deal on trust, I, for one, should be skeptical. The crux of the problem of whether Jesus was, or was not, what he claimed Himself to be, must surely depend upon the truth or otherwise of the resurrection. On that greatest point we are not merely asked to have faith. In its favor as a living truth there exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true.'" 22/53,54

## **CHRISTIANITY – THE INCOMPARABLE RELIGION**

It is possible to contrast Christianity with other religions, but it is impossible to really compare it with non-Christian religions, because Christianity is unique in every major respect. It is as different from all other religions as order is different from chaos, as light is different from darkness, as truth is different from falsehood.

There is nothing that is good in any other religion that is not to be found in Christianity, and there are many superlatively wonderful things in Christianity that are not to be found anywhere else.

Of course, the supreme difference in Christianity and all other religions is Jesus Christ, the central figure of the Bible who is altogether different from all other religious leaders in every way – in the ages-long preparation and prophecies concerning His coming, in His divinity and deity, His miraculous birth, His teachings, His sinless life, His stupendous miracles, His atoning death, His resurrection and ascension to glory, and His being seated now at the center of power and authority over the whole universe and all things in it, and in the teaching concerning His sitting in judgement finally on every soul and in judging them according to the words that He has given to us here on earth.

No other religion has any figure that remotely compares with Jesus Christ. He has no peers. He is the manifestation of the glory of God--the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity. *"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."*

Christianity has an incomparable Savior and Lord, and it portrays an incomparable faith, hope, and love. It has as its guide, map, and compass – the Bible, an incomparable revelation of God and His will. Only Christianity is based on a historical narrative of God's dealings with man, from the beginning of creation to the end of time, and beyond. The Bible is a factual record. At no point is it mythological or legendary, or detached from the stream of history and actuality. It never takes flight into the realm of fantasy and fairy tales. It deals with real happenings, to real people, in real places, within the stream of time. The spade of the archaeologist has fully established the reliability and

truthfulness of the scriptures.

Christianity and the oriental religions are in diametrical disagreement concerning:

- (1) the personality of God
- (2) the existence, separate and distinct from God, of man , the world, and all things therein
- (3) the freedom of the will
- (4) the nature of sin and it's consequences
- (5) the meaning of salvation
- (6) the finality of this life and the certainty of judgement and the world to come.

Only Christians sets forth moral and spiritual absolutes, and speaks in certainties of the events of the distant past, before man was created, and of the future , even of eternity. Only the Bible peers deep into the mind and heart of man and speaks with certitude of what is there is the secret well-springs of motivation and human action.

The authority for Christian religion is the Bible, a perfect book, the Word of God, which is unique in many respects, to wit:

1. Its unity – Sixty-six books; forty authors, fifteen hundred years – one theme . . . the rule of God and the redemption of man, consummated in one marvelous person, Jesus Christ, Ruler and Redeemer of the world.
2. Prophecy. Twenty-seven percent of the Bible is predictive. Seven hundred and thirty-seven separate events predicted.
3. Miracles. Stupendous manifestations of divine power . . . God's authentication of His Word.
4. Joins what man would separate – religion and morality, body and soul for eternity.
5. The Bible separates what man would join – Church from state, religion from priest – craft and materiality. The religion of the New Testament has no special priesthood, no holy days, seasons, foods places (shrines), or religious objects towards which veneration is directed. Christianity is the only truly spiritual religion which has no frame of reference within the physical realm. (Jn. 4:24).
6. Answers and solutions it gives to man's ultimate problems and questions . . . What is man's true origin, identity and destiny? Who is God, and what are His plans and purposes? What does he demand of man? How should I relate to Him and what does He want me to do?
7. Covenantal structure. All the events and action in the scriptures revolve around series of contractual agreements, initiated by God through Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Christ. By these covenants, God has limited His own

freedom, and irrevocably bound Himself to do certain things, regardless of what man does. Yet, He has given man the liberty to accept or reject the covenantal relationship. Strange! Wonderful!

8. The flawless plan of redemption. The certain penalty for man's failure to abide by God's moral and spiritual laws is spiritual death, just as the penalty for failure to keep the laws by which physical life is sustained is physical death. Yet, by paying the penalty for our sins Himself, by the giving of His only Son, God has enabled us to escape damnation . . . if we will but accept that payment (Jn. 3:16). The whole scheme of redemption and atonement, of sanctification and justification, of freedom of will and yet of God's election and predestination – all of this is unique in the scriptures, and make it absolutely certain that the Bible is not the word of man, but is in truth the living Word of the living God!

## **CONCLUSION AND SUMMATION OF THE STUDY OF "CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES"**

Is the Bible the word of God, or is it a pack of lies? Is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the resurrected Lord and Savior of mankind who sits enthroned on high at the right hand of God, ruling over all things – or was He a deluded lunatic, liar, and fraud, as His enemies claimed He was?

These are the most crucially important questions facing every person, and the answers we give will determine everything else about our lives, including our eternal destiny. If Jesus was indeed resurrected from the dead, and if He did indeed speak the truth when He said, "*All authority has been given unto me, in Heaven and on earth. . .*" (Matt. 28:18), then Jesus and the gospel and the Church which He established and of which He is the head, are the preeminently important realities confronting us. Jesus is the reality which is above all other realities, to which all other realities are subsidiary and to which they must accommodate themselves; He is the truth which every creature must confront, and with which every soul must come to terms!

The Bible and Jesus are mutually inter-dependent, and stand or fall together. If Jesus is the resurrected Lord, the Bible is true, because He said it is true, and He fulfilled all its promises and prophecies concerning a coming Messiah . . . "*the Arm of the Lord . . . whose name would be called "Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!" whose throne would be eternal (Isa. 9:6,7)*. If the Bible is true, Jesus is the resurrected Lord, because it says He is. The scriptures validate Christ, and Christ validates the scriptures. If either is true, the other is also. If either is false, the other is also.

There are many appalling conclusions which inevitably follow the rejection of Christ and the Bible:

1. If the Bible is not true, man is without a word from his maker. No other document or set of documents on earth, claiming to be a revelation of or from God, is even remotely credible, or possesses the coherence, rationality, historicity, relevance, or profundity necessary to its being given credence as Holy Writ.
2. If the Bible is not a revelation by God of Himself of His love for man and of His working and intervention into human history and into the life of every person, then we don't know whether there is a Deity, or a multitude of deities, or no deity

. . . or who he/she is, or they is /are . . . nor does it really matter, if they have made no revelation of themselves to man or shown any concern about man. If there is a deity who cares nothing for man, there is no reason why man should care anything about him/her/it/or them. Man's highest relationship is with himself, and man is his own God.

Without a God who communicates His will to man, and who will receive communication from man (prayer), without a God to whom man is ultimately responsible and to whom must finally answer for all his deeds on earth, that is to say without the Bible, for the Bible is the only revelation which a truly rational mind can accept – the world is in moral chaos and darkness. Religion is stupidity, and there is no basis for any true or permanent order, or moral or spiritual government of mankind.

3. If there is no revealed law from God, then there is no such thing as evil or sin, or righteousness, justice, or moral purity, since these terms express value-judgements which presuppose the existence of a moral law which can be violated, and a standard by which actions can be objectively judged.

If there is no God-given moral law, we live in a completely amoral (i.e., non-moral) universe, as do the animals and all the myriad sub-human creatures. Without a divinely-given moral law (i.e., without the Bible) man is no different from the animals . . . or we should say in this case, from the other animals – man being simply the most intelligent of the animals. And if that is true, then there is really no reason why he should not kill his fellow-man, or even eat him if he wants to, just as he kills and eats any other of his fellow-animals.

Without a moral law from man's creator, there can be no final judgment-bar, where that creator demands an accounting of each individual and finally rewards the good and punishes the evil, no final "balancing of the books" after this life is over. Since goodness is seldom rewarded as it should be on this earth, and in fact is often punished; and since evil is seldom punished as it should be, on this earth, and in fact, is often rewarded; then if there is no final judgment of all souls, we are living in a fundamentally unjust and evil universe – a lawless and morally chaotic universe if the Bible is not true!

4. If the Bible is not true, we live in a Christless, Godless, lawless, loveless, hopeless, meaningless world, engulfed in total spiritual darkness and despair and in the eternal shroud of death in which the cosmic order is wrapped (Isa. 25:6-8), as we hasten together to our universal doom.

To reject the Bible is to reject the authority of God over one's life, and to thus to dethrone God is to enthrone one's self and Satan. If the universe is essentially lawless, unjust, and evil – and those who reject God's word have concluded exactly that – then whatever unseen force or intelligence controls the universe is predisposed towards evil and injustice . . . sin and death have triumphed over all and Satan reigns supreme.

If, on the other hand, the Bible is true, then there is a loving and personal God

upon the throne – a God who has revealed His inmost nature to us, and His plans for eternity . . . plans which include us, if we are willing to be included . . . a God who loves each one of us with an infinite love, and who desires that each one of us shall be one with Him forever; a God who has redeemed us from our sins and opened the doors of eternal life and celestial glory through Jesus Christ, to all who obey the gospel.

*Jesus said – "He who rejects me and receives not my words, has one that judges him: The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father who sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting. Whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak" (Jn. 12:48-50).*

**THERE IS A GOD . . . A LIVING AND LOVING GOD;  
JESUS CHRIST IS HIS SON AND THE BIBLE IS HIS WORD!**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

***These lessons may be used for classroom instruction or as resource material. Permission to reprint is granted IF NO PORTION of this lesson book or other lesson books in this 6 year study cycle are changed, edited or adapted in any form. This page must remain a part of this book when reprinting.***