

**EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



# **LET'S TALK ABOUT HEAVEN**

**THE LORD IS CONFIDENT ABOUT HIS AND OUR  
ETERNAL DESTINY – ARE WE?**

by

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**[BOOK 107A]**

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**WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?**

Professor Simon Greenleaf was one of the most eminent lawyers of all time. His "Laws of Evidence" for many years were accepted by all States in the United States as the standard methodology for evaluating cases. He was teaching Law at a university in the United States when one of his students asked Professor Greenleaf if he would apply his "Laws of Evidence" to evaluate an historical figure. When Greenleaf agreed to the project he asked the student who was to be the subject of the review. The student replied that the person to be examined would be Jesus Christ. Professor Greenleaf agreed to undertake the examination of Jesus Christ and as a result, when he had finished the review, Simon Greenleaf personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Professor Greenleaf then sent an open letter to all jurists in the United States saying in part "I personally have investigated one called Jesus Christ. I have found the evidence concerning him to be historically accurate. I have also discovered that Jesus Christ is more than a human being, he is either God or nothing and having examined the evidence it is impossible to conclude other than he is God. Having concluded that he is God I have accepted him as my personal Saviour. I urge all members of the legal profession to use the "Laws of Evidence" to investigate the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and if you find that he is wrong expose him as a faker but if not consider him as your Saviour and Lord".

**HOW CAN I BE SAVED?****Salvation is available for all members of the human race.**

Salvation is the most important undertaking in all of God's universe. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God's merely passing over or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis consistent with the divine holiness of His character. This is called grace. It relies on God so man cannot work for salvation neither can he deserve it. We need to realise that the creation of this vast unmeasured universe was far less an undertaking than the working out of God's plan to save sinners.

However the acceptance of God's salvation by the sinner is the most simple thing in all of life. One need not be rich, nor wise, nor educated. Age is no barrier nor the colour of one's skin. The reception of the enormous benefits of God's redemption is based upon the simplest of terms so that there is no one in all this wide universe who need be turned away.

**How do I become a Christian?**

There is but one simple step divided into three parts. First of all I have to recognise that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 5:24).

Secondly, realising that if I want a relationship with Almighty God who is perfect, and recognising that I am not perfect, I need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16).

Thirdly, by the exercise of my free will I personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, believing that He died personally for me and that He is what He claims to be in an individual, personal and living way (John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 16:31; 4:12).

**The results of Salvation**

The results of this are unbelievably wonderful:

My sins are taken away (John 1:29),

I possess eternal life now (1 John 5:11,12),

I become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17),

The Holy Spirit takes up His residence in my life (1 Corinthians 6:19),

And I will never perish (John 10:28-30).

This truthfully is life's greatest transaction. This is the goal of all people; this is the ultimate of our existence. We invite and exhort any reader who has not become a Christian by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to follow these simple instructions and be born again eternally into God's family (Matthew 11:28; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

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## Biblical and Other Quotes

(That remind us that this subject was a “normal one” for the Lord and the Apostles)

“I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting”. Nicene Creed AD 325.

“The crux of the matter is really relationship. Heaven is the enjoyment of God’s presence forever, while Hell is eternal separation from Him.” Dave Hunt – *“Whatever Happened to heaven?”* – 1988 page 30.

Below are some of the key texts we will examine in this short book. They are a taster and a challenge, for I want to challenge you strongly in this book. Do you believe the Word of God, do you really believe the Lord’s words, and the testimony of the Apostles?

Do you rest in biblical certainties, or do you sit with your doubts, or (perish the thought) read paperbacks by dodgy money-making fakes and deceivers who claim to speak about heaven first hand?

The Lord is very clear, every time He speaks, that Heaven is a Place, and that all who love Him have an eternal destiny there.

**John 14:1-6**     *“1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
2. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.  
3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.  
4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.  
5. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?  
6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

Paul urges the churches to “set their hearts” on heavenly certainties above any temporary and decaying rewards of space-time.

**Colossians 3:1-4**     *“1. If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.  
2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.  
3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.  
4. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”*

The Psalmist was very clear thinking – Death is not to be feared, for God has us in His Mind and Heart and our death is specifically designed for us and we are in God’s arms all the way through death into the eternal blessing He has prepared for us. It is a transition, not an ending of anything except limitations.

**Psalms 116:15**     *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints”.*

**Deuteronomy 33:27**     *“The Eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms”.*

Death is a transition into the arms of Jesus and Eternity, with all the limits of space-time gone forever. Have you ever claimed the Lord’s promise to the disciples? Believer, hear Jesus words, for they were not just for the disciples, they are for you and me.

You will not see death; you will see Jesus! Jesus said it and Stephen believed it, and Luke records that at the point of his dying Stephen lived it out – he saw Jesus and wasn't even aware of the rocks that killed him.

**John 8:51**      *"51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."*

**Acts 7:54-60**      *"54. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

*55. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,*

*56. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.*

*57. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,*

*58. And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.*

*59. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*

*60. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."*

Paul's desire was to depart and enter heaven, but he knew he had a job to be done and that the Lord would keep him to the end to achieve the Plan of God for his life. (2 Timothy 1:7, 12, 4:1-6)

**Philippians 1:21-25**      *"21. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

*22. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.*

*23. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:*

*24. Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.*

*25. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;"*

Heaven is clearly a real place where we "go", and the godly dead are very much "alive forever" there, and they have an active interest in our worship and work. We are still at this point "in the arena" of space-time and we are here to witness, worship and work, and the godly dead cheer us on from the stands.

**Hebrews 11:9-16**      *"9. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

*10. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

*11. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*

*12. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*

*13. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

*14. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.*

*15. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*

*16. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."*

**Hebrews 12:1-2**      *"1. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

*2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

The best spiritual things we see here through the Holy Scriptures are at best a “glimpse” of the eternal reality we will be part of after this life transitions into eternity.

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10** “9 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*  
10 *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*”

**1 Corinthians 15:55-57** “55. *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*  
56. *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*  
57 *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

John “sees” this reality in vision, as does Paul, but John was told to record certain things for us and we have a “sure word” from these apostles.

**Revelation 7:9-10** “9. *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*  
10. *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.*”

**Hebrews 12:22** “*But you have come to Mt Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels...*”

**Revelation 5:11-12** “11. *And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;*  
12. *Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*”

When the Lord speaks of Heaven He speaks with calm certainty and factual directness not as fantasy author. Do we believe in his words about heaven?

Having trusted Him for your salvation, will you rest in His promises regarding your eternal life?

**Matthew 22:30** “29. *Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*  
30. *For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*  
31. *But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,*  
32. *I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*”

**Matthew 6:19-21** “19. *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*  
20. *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*  
21. *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*”

When the dying thief was promised eternal life with the Lord “that day” Jesus meant it. It was a real promise that the dying thief/murderer could rest in through the agony of his final hours. Jesus wasn’t encouraging him with wishful thinking!

He's not spreading "traditional stories", nor is he a "child of his time", He is Lord and God giving us certainties to rest upon.

Let's trust our Lord also 100%.

**Luke 23:43**                    *"42. And he (the thief) said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."*

In Heaven we will know and be known as we are known by God now. This was illustrated by the instant recognition by the disciples of Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, without any introductions or name tags! Each instantly recognized the others.

**1 Corinthians 13:11-12**                    *"11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

*12. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."*

**Luke 9:30-35**                    *"30. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias: 31. Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.*

*32. But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.*

*33. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.*

*34. While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud.*

*35. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."*

Will we hear the Lord?

Will we trust in the certainty of His Word and relax into the reality of Heaven?

The Perfect Tense study we undertook just before the Covid Years has been incredibly powerful to both Dr Moses and me as we see that through the Holy Spirit guided use of the perfect tense to describe salvation, we have the strongest possible pointer to our eternal security.

Life once given is forever. Salvation received by faith through God's Gracious provision is eternal. We rest in His arms forever. There is nothing more certain than our perfect and complete eternal salvation through our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We are "with Him" and it should show in our life and our dying. It's all about Him!

**John 3:15-19, 36**                    *"15. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

*18. 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.*

*19. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."*

*"35. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.*

*36. 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."*

**Acts 4:12-13**                    *"12. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

*13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."*

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### 1. Our Lord's Challenge To Us As His Children

As we saw above, when our Lord spoke to anyone about heaven it was calmly, not emotional manipulation nor with any fairy tale elements like the pagan stories of the day relating to the "after-life". He simply spoke of heaven as the place He had come from and was going back to and clearly stating that it was also the destination for all who loved Him.

He was relaxed, certain and forward focused on Eternity to be returned to after his successful mission here. He came at his first advent to open the door of heaven to all who loved and accepted Him. He made it clear that this is why He came and that he had come from eternity past in heaven, and said, "before Abraham was I am...". This was shocking to all who heard it for they knew what he meant – He was God become man and he knew Abraham and was God before Abraham was born! John Chapter 8 (below).

Intrinsic in the promise of heaven there is the option to reject God's offer of salvation and select to spend eternity without God, without hope and without eternal life – but rather be separated from the Creator Saviour forever in a conscious state of hopelessness. **John 3:16-36** makes it very clear, salvation is offered, but if people prefer to be away from God, and not be obedient to God then they have that option – but it's called "the Lake of Fire" and was made for Satan and his demons! Hell wasn't made for unsaved mankind, but for Satan (its eternal bad company).

To reject God's grace is to join the demonic for they reject all that God stands for! It is for all created living creatures very much "Heaven or Hell", and the choice is "forever"! If you are reading this and do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, please reflect upon the challenge the Apostle John gives in the passage below and call out to the Lord yourself, "Lord save me". He always will; His reputation eternally depends on responding to that heart cry, and he will keep you forever safe in his arms.

**John 3:16-36.**        *"16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.  
18. 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.  
19. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.  
20. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.  
21. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.  
22. After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.  
23. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.  
24. For John was not yet cast into prison.  
25. Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying.  
26. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.  
27. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.  
28. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.  
29. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.  
30. He must increase, but I must decrease.  
31. He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.  
32. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.  
33. He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.  
34. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.  
35. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.  
36. 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."*

Socrates challenged the Greek World of his day with the philosophical statement – "we shall all die, so how then should, we live?" The Christian challenge is actually quite different. The Bible teaches and proclaims the challenge to all human beings – "you will live forever, for life given by God is not ever extinguished, so what is it to be for you? Who will you spend eternity with; God or the demonic?" Who do you desire to be with forever; lovers of God or haters/ignorers of God?



Relationship is at the core of this question. Do we choose a loving and obedient relationship with our Creator and Saviour, or do we get distracted, deceived, or are we just too lazy to care about God until it is too late, and we drop unprepared into an eternity without any more hope?

The twenty first century has been called an “age of anxiety”, but I believe the right phrase is “an age of deception/distracted”. The falsehoods and time-wasting activities that abound today create then the anxiety, because they distract and deceive people away from the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ and there is peace of mind and stability only in a living relationship with Him. As the psalmist said 3000 years ago, unless you “kiss the Son” (recognize Him as Creator-Saviour, your Lord and King) **Psalm 2:12**, you will have no peace, for you have no eternal hope at all, only the certainty of judgment.

Jesus was uncompromising about this truth of the eternal nature of the choices we make about our salvation. We are here on the planet for a very limited time, and we must decide during this short period where we want to spend eternity, and whose company we desire forever. You either take this issue seriously, study it, believe God and His Word and apply it into the very fabric of your daily life or you walk away, like the Rich Young Ruler. **Matthew 19:16-30**. Read this account of the interaction between them and note that the Lord didn’t chase after that rich and thoroughly wealth-distracted young man with a “special offer”; he was challenged to seriously think about the options he had, then “trust and obey” or walk away into an eternity without hope, real life and peace of any sort!

**Luke 12:51.** *“Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division”.*

Jesus was very direct, and we have failed our unsaved friends by being too polite at times. Peace of mind only comes when you are anchored deep within your soul in the light of the reality of death, and the truth of eternal life in Christ Jesus alone. That means you must be anchored in spiritual certainties that are stronger than death itself, and that is only the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He alone has defeated sin and death.

**Acts 4:12.** *“12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

**John 14:23-30.** *“23. Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

*24. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*

*25. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.*

*26. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

*27. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

*28. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.*

*29. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

*30. Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”*

Now pause and reflect on this passage again and remember that it follows directly after his words on the certainty of heaven earlier in John 14. Reflect also that it was Judas (not Iscariot

verse 22), a disciple we don't hear a lot from, who asked the question that opens up the reply Jesus gives above. Judas Iscariot is gone in John 13:30.

Judah(Judas) is trying to get his head around what Jesus is about to do, as like the others he is baffled. It is the desire of the heart of each person that is being examined by God in the choices we make about Jesus, and we ought always to ask the baffled question.

The context of the Lord's teaching on Heaven is always the "Angelic Conflict", for the option of Heaven, through loving and obedient relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, is always in the context of the eternal alternative – betrayal, lies, deception and hatred of God and arrival after death in Hell and then after the last judgment – the "Great White Throne" - to be sent to the Lake of Fire forever. Jesus tells a story about this for his hearers, and then John makes it very clear in the Revelation. This is eternal blessing or eternal judgment that is at stake here.

**Luke 16:19-31.**       *" 19. There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:*

*20. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,*

*21. And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*

*22. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;*

*23. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

*24. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

*25. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

*26. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

*27. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:*

*28. For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

*29. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*

*30. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*

*31. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."*

**Revelation 20:10-15, 21:8, 27.**       *"10. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

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

*12. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

*21:8. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

27. *And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

Note immediately below the passage just before the one above in **John 14**. Judas had asked a question, that indicated he still didn't get it, but both Thomas and Philip also previously asked genuine questions indicating just how hard the disciples found this subject. They were baffled about heaven, just as many believers are also today, and a humble sense of awe and bafflement is appropriate when we approach this subject for, we are trying to get a glimpse of eternity here, and we can only think in terms of space and time and this subject is well beyond those categories. Heaven is beyond the space-time "bubble" in the context of infinity and eternity, and this is well beyond our capacity for full understanding now but let us hear our Lord and comprehend what we can.

- John 14:1-21**      *"1. Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
2. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.  
3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.  
4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.  
5. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?  
6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.  
7. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.  
8. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.  
9. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?  
10. Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.  
11. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.  
12. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.  
13. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.  
14. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.  
15. If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
16. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;  
17. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.  
18. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.  
19. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.  
20. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.  
21. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

Feel the contrast between the passages above. In John 14 we have the angelic conflict illustrated with the three men's questions, but we have Jesus' calm assurance as he speaks of his coming journey through death to eternal life in heaven. I have sandwiched the Revelation and Luke passages between the two halves of John 14 so you can feel the contrasting destinies of each person as they face this issue and decide their own eternal fate. Note in the

Revelation passage and the story he told, as recorded in Luke we have the same direct proclamation of the certainty of judgment and the certainty of eternal life with Him for all who believe.

Notice again the calmness of the Lord as he speaks of his coming death, for he knows his destination and he quietly encourages the disciples to see that this is their destination also, and that he is specifically going to provide for them and for all who later will hear, believe and love and obey Him. The promise of heaven is followed by the announcement of the coming Holy Spirit to encourage, teach, direct and convict believers on their journey through life towards eternity/heaven. Will we walk in the filling of the Holy Spirit and be strengthened in Truth about our eternal destiny by faith in His Word. Is the Lord dependable? Do you rest in this?

The promise of heaven is followed by the command to love and obey, indeed Jesus defines "loving Him" in terms of obedience to His Word. He reminds them that the things that they "see" are only a fraction of what truly "is". They will not see Him, but He is in heaven hearing their prayers and interceding on their behalf. They cannot see heaven until they arrive through the transition step of death, but it is real right now and they will see it when they arrive, but until then they are to walk in faith that what Jesus has said about it is true, and they are to relax into His Word and as the great hymn says, "Trust and Obey!"

**Matthew 6:19-24.** *"19. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:  
20. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:  
21. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.  
22. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.  
23. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!  
24. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

**Matthew 22:23-33.** *"23. The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,  
24. Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.  
25. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:  
26. Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.  
27. And last of all the woman died also.  
28. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.  
29. Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.  
30. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.  
31. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,  
32. I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.  
33. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine."*

We have reflected on this passage in our introduction above but think deeper this time. "God is not God of the dead but of the living". **All** who have ever lived remain "alive" in eternity, but

the lost are in hell awaiting the last judgement at the end of space-time. **Revelation 20:10-15 (quoted above page 10).**

Jesus was very clear on this in his story we saw recorded above in Luke 16 of the separate destinies of the “rich man” and Lazarus – interesting only the believer is given the name he will carry forever, where-as the “rich man” is just that, a man with now useless earthly riches but eternal judgment – he has no name any longer, but he remains in conscious after-life in torment forever for his ignoring of his Creator in this life.

The issue is indeed a “great divide” for it separates people and angels into two distinct groups with no overlap between the two. The “vast gulf” between the saved and the lost before the Last Judgment is even more reflected in the “Lake of Fire” – the imploded black-hole of the detritus of the space-time universe that exists forever in the new heavens and earth. **Revelation 20:14, 21:8, 27 (page 11 above).** In the “Lake of Fire” are trapped all fallen angels and God ignoring and God hating humans, and they are there forever. Their choices are made by the end of time and locked in forever.

Believer, pause and reflect deeply here. Heaven is a wonderful doctrine, but it exists in the context of the choices that each person may make to ignore or mock and despise it, and so they despise the Lord who provided heaven for all who acknowledge Him. This is the only unforgiveable sin. Above we see the religious unbelieving Sadducees mocking the very concept of heaven by referring to sex and wealth because they, as religious unbelievers, were locked into “worldliness” thinking and such a viewpoint is judged eternally if it is maintained.

The “dying thief” (or better “terrorist/murderer”) does repent, right at the last minute and he asks the Lord to “remember” him. In other words, he acknowledges and recognizes Jesus for who he is and affirms that what Jesus has said is true, and he casts himself upon its truth and Jesus receives him and promises him eternal life in heaven with him. First step until the resurrection is “Paradise”, then he will be taken to heaven by the Lord with all the saints of the past to that point. This man cannot do anything to receive the promise of heaven, he can just cast himself upon the mercy and love of God for him a sinner, and he does, and he receives the promise. Forget about the legalistic demands to join a church, be baptized, tithe your income, or any other thing, for salvation is wonderfully illustrated by the “dying thief” – we all like him cast ourselves on the love, mercy and grace of God through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf – and HE saves us, and we are saved eternally!

It is this same love, grace, and mercy that the unbeliever rejects, ignores or mocks – it doesn't matter which they do, they do not accept it and so are locked into their choice forever unless they repent of it before death. **John 3:16-36, Acts 4:12 (above).** Faith in Jesus alone saves, and it has no merit in it, it simply recognizes reality. Do we rest in Jesus' provision for us? We have here and now as Christians accepted his gracious provision of salvation through the Cross and Resurrection, and so will we receive the reality of heavenly certainty also for our life with Him after our death?

Heaven is God's announced provision for His Children, and His Children do not mock or ignore their Heavenly Father's provision. We cannot be “mockers”, nor can we ignore or question God's clear provision, and our heavenly destiny is in this category. The enemy mocks, **2 Peter 3:3-9**, but even then, the Lord desires their salvation and right until they breathe their last breath that is possible, if they cast themselves upon His mercy and grace.

**Romans 5:1-6.** *“1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

*2. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

*3. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

*4. And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*

5. *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

6. *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."*

**Ephesians 2:4-10.** *"4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

*5. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

*6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

*7. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

*8. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*9. Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*10. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

**Ephesians 2:11-16.** *"11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

*12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

*13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

*14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

*15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

*16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"*

I want to let the Word of God speak to you in this little book on Heaven. I want you to see again and again that the Lord can be trusted, and His Word can be rested upon. Facing our own death, we need this certainty to relax into, and sadly Satan is busy distracting and deceiving so many with fakery that often leads to suicide or careless living until the person dies.

We select our company in this life and by our choices about the Lord and his work for us we in effect select our company for eternity also. There is the gift of peace in our relationship with Jesus and there is peace alone in Him for there is "no other name given amongst men whereby we must be saved". **Acts 4:12.**

Moses said it three millennia ago. **Deuteronomy 30:19.** *"I call heaven and earth today as witnesses against you. I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life that both you and your descendants may live..."*

This remains the biggest issue for our brief pilgrim journey through this temporary universe of space-time. We look about and we feel the apparent permanence of everything we see and touch, yet it is not permanent at all, and neither is our life here. How easily we are distracted and deceived about what really matters each day here. Let us each embrace the urgency of the gospel message and proclaim the truth about this world and the One who stepped into it to bring the only "good news" of permanent value there is here.

## Notes

## 2. The Uniqueness of the Christian Faith – Heaven’s Certainty

### THE CHARACTER OF GOD

The reliability of God’s Word is based on the holy and perfect Character of God. If we examine the characteristics of God’s nature and His relationship with His Creation, we can see that His lavish supply of Grace, Mercy, and Love, as revealed in His Word, is the only source of accurately knowing anything about ourselves and our place in this present, temporary universe and in eternity beyond. Where do we fit into the eternal plan? Heaven is an integral part of the eternal plan for each believer and its reality rests upon the dependable integrity of the Character and Plan of God.

**John 1:1-5.** *“1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*2. The same was in the beginning with God.*

*3. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*4.. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

*5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”*

This is in my humble opinion the most majestic passage anywhere in human literature, and I am not alone in that view and still remember the words of Professor E M Blaiklock as he spoke of the words John used here to underline the majesty of God’s creation and character. It is majestic because in these carefully chosen words John recognizes that when we stand at the very “big bang”/ beginning of the space-time universe we presently find ourselves in, we have God walking out of the unknown to meet us from “before” the beginning.

This passage confronts us with what philosophers call the “bounds of sense”, for we simply run out of words at this point and must bow before the Creator as “beyond” all space-time limits and the creator of the categories themselves. Heaven is simply God’s provision of a home for all who love and serve Him after this present universe is wrapped up and put away – as it will be like a worn-out old soldier’s blanket. **2 Peter 3:10-13** below. The universe appears to implode into what becomes the “Lake of Fire” and it exists forever, but with no distress to believers in Heaven, for it is a glowing reminder of the justice of God and the wickedness of those who ignored, rejected, abused, and insulted God’s Grace provision of heaven for them.

The lost angels and human beings have their chosen destiny with the first rebel against God’s Love and Grace, Satan himself. They are all “there” but locked in the detritus of the old creation. Remember the facts of present physics at this point for the entire matter of the present universe could be compressed into a large suitcase of infinite weight. When we think of the two passages below and the reality of the end of this present universe, we see how small the “Lake of Fire” is, for the enemies of truth in the end lose more than their names, they lose their significance, except as the contents of a small glowing container of evil that reminds all of redeemed creation that each living creature gets their own desire forever.

**2 Peter 3:10-13.** *“10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

*11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

*12. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

*13. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”*

**Revelation 21:1-8.** *“1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.  
 2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
 3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.  
 4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.  
 5. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.  
 6. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.  
 7. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.  
 8. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

Reflect on the Character of God, for God’s Character demands each created living being gets their ultimate desire, and for us that means we are with Him forever, but for the lost it means they are eternally separated from God and the annoying Christians they despised. Note in verse 8 above the categories of the “lost”. It is a passage I have not heard any exposition of by any pastor I know. It expresses the truth we are seeing as we unpack this subject of heaven, that those who select eternal hell rather than eternal life in heaven with God are those who just don’t care enough about eternity to act, and who care even less about the Lord their God and His work on their behalf. They die distracted or rebellious against Him.

Note the categories of the lost in verse eight carefully.

1. The fearful/anxious – so distracted by their feelings of panic when they face the truth of death that they never face it. There is no “playing the mental health card” at the Great White Throne, for to ignore the person and work of the Lord Jesus for them is disgraceful not excusable, and its consequences are eternal.
2. The “unbelieving” are determined to reject the truth and do so until they fall into Hades.
3. The “abominable” are exactly that – they have selected a lifestyle that involves everything that is disgusting and insulting to others, and especially to God’s holy and moral demands of his creatures.
4. The “murderers” are those who treat others as things and have contempt upon their lives and choices and snuff the life out of the innocent without regard to their choices.
5. The “whoremongers” (pornois) are what we now call “the sex/pornography mad”. The very word becomes our word “pornography”. People who select sexual pleasure above all else to live for will end up being abusers of others in the process. Evil choices never remain stable, they always go steadily downhill into more and more grossness.
6. The “sorcerers” (Pharmakois) are the drug takers and drug pushers. They are people who have chosen to bury their lives in chemical distractions rather than ever face the truth and bow before the Lord, King and Saviour.
7. The “Idolators” are those who select the worship of other “gods/demons”, rather than the only true God and Lord of all.



8. The “Liars” (pseudesin) are those who will believe anything other than the truth and will proclaim their false theories and try to drown out the truth with their lies.

All such have made their choices and if they die before they repent of these life-style choices they enter eternal judgment, but if like the “dying thief” they repent, even in their last breath, they receive God’s grace and salvation.

Truly an individual must work very hard to go to Hell, for God is there to the end with arms outstretched towards them for their salvation, if they will only repent and bow before Him. Let us remember God’s Character is “on the line” in every issue of salvation and damnation. God seeks our salvation and only the most distracted, deceived and determined to reject God will end up at the last judgment and in Hell forever with Satan who had the same mental attitude from before this world was made to prove him wrong.

**God is Sovereign** and is the King of kings. He is not willing that any should perish, but each must make their choice for eternity as to who they wish to fellowship with forever. **2 Peter 3:9, John 3:15-36.**

**God is Totally Righteous**, and all His ways are perfect. It is totally impossible for Him not to be perfect in His desires and actions and Heaven and Hell/Lake of Fire are reflections of his righteous and just provision for every individual volition – as they desire so is done for them.

**God is Totally Just** – no one will ever be able to accuse God of being unfair – and every knee will bow before Him when they see His justice and righteousness, but too late for their salvation.

The combination of His Righteousness and Justice is **God’s Holiness** which no human can achieve. As we are all imperfect, we all fall short of His Perfection and are not acceptable to Him by what we do in our own strength. We are separated from God who wants us to be saved, but we must freely respond by faith. God through Grace has provided the way in and through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**God is Total Love** – Only one perfect person has ever existed and by dying on the Cross Jesus Christ paid the sin-death penalty for all members of the human race. **John 3:16.** This allows God to Love man through Jesus Christ and by faith we can embrace God’s Love and God’s provision. God’s eternal provision on this path of love with Jesus is Heaven for each and every one of us. John 14:1ff.

**God is Eternal Life** – God has always existed and by trusting in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ we receive Everlasting life. However, if we do not accept God’s way to eternal life His judgment remains on us. **John 3:36.** To enjoy eternal life with the Lord Jesus we need to be where he is, and He is in heaven, beyond the limits of this present and temporary space-time universe. This is our destiny – we receive eternal life, and we enjoy it with Him in Heaven forever.

**God is All Powerful** – No one can ever succeed in going against God’s will. God always wins!

**God is Everywhere** – He is not restricted as we are but He is Everywhere at all times. Both in the space-time universe and beyond it

**God is All Knowing** – Nothing ever surprises the Lord. He knows everything from Eternity Past “onwards” to beyond the end of time. Note that even saying this we face our “bounds of sense” and have to use time words where they cannot catch the eternal reality in any fullness.

**God is Unchangeable** – He is the same yesterday, today and forever allowing Him to make prophecy millennia before it is perfectly fulfilled. This applies to Biblical Prophecy, and to all the teaching and specific Promises in all of the Scripture. Heaven’s reality is within this.

**God is Absolute Truth** – this gives total reliability to His Word of Truth and means we can have full confidence in it.

Salvation is therefore open to all, but it is only effective if the person does what is required, to trust in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ rather than in their own works. Our efforts are not acceptable to God, so our faith response is referred to in theology as a “non-meritorious response”, for we simply cast ourselves upon His Love and trust in His Person and Work. It is of interest that all other religions and concepts are based on works or personal improvement.

Scripture makes it clear; there is no personal improvement plan that we can put in place that can ever win any “points” with God. **John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 3:15-36** all reminded us that total resting-faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to have an eternal relationship with God and thereby receive the promise of heaven forever.

The chart below indicates the way in which various religions around the world search for a relationship with God. Biblical Christianity is unique relying totally on faith in Christ **John 14:6**.

BELIEF SYSTEM	GOD	FIGURE HEAD	SALVATION	AFTERLIFE	MAIN RITUALS	WORLD VIEW	BOOKS
Biblical Christianity	Trinity	Jesus Christ	By faith alone in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection	Heaven for the saved or Hell for the unsaved	Baptism, Communion	Monotheistic	Bible
Christendom	God	Various	Salvation through the Church and Ritual	Purgatory, Heaven Hell	Mass, Confirmation, Baptism	Monotheistic	Bible
Bahai	Creator God	None	After death your soul gets closer to god	Heaven and Hell are spiritual conditions	Fasting	Monotheistic	Baha u llah
Buddhism	None	Various including Dalai Lama	Not required as sin does not exist	Reincarnation or Nirvana No heaven or hell	Meditation, Mantra, Incense, Koan	Atheistic	Sutras
Confucianism	None	Confucius	Improvement through knowledge	Life focussed on the life on earth	Temple worship and family shrines	Atheistic	Wu Jing
Hare Krishna	Krishna is chief God	Various	Reincarnation until worthy to serve Krishna	Breaking the cycle to get to serve Krishna	Chanting, living a good life Vegetarianism	Monotheistic and Polytheism	Bhagavad Gita
Hinduism	Many gods	None specific	Reincarnation until Enlightened	Reincarnation or Nirvana	Prayer and offering three times a day	Polytheistic	Vedas,[BG] Upanisads
Islam	Allah	Muhammad	Allah prefers power over mercy, judgement over grace	Paradise for good people, Hell for bad people	Pray five times a day Fasting, Tithing Pilgrimage	Monotheistic	Koran
Jainism	None	Mahavira	Reincarnation until final liberation	Liberation after reincarnation	Meditation, Prayer and Confession	Atheistic	45 Agmas

				s			
Judaism	God	Moses, Rabbis	Strict Observance of the Law	Heaven after resurrection	Sabbath and Feasts	Monotheistic	Talmud, Mishna O T
Shinto	None	None	Improvement in life on the earth	Life focussed on the life on earth	Shrine worship	Polytheistic	Kojiki, Nihongi
Sikhism	Naam	Ranjit Singh	None, continual reincarnation	Reincarnation	Prayers and Baptism	Monotheistic	Granth Sahib, Adi Granth
Taoism	None	Lao and Chang Tzu	Yin and Yang	Focus on achieving immortality and Tao	Passivism and rituals at funerals	Atheistic	Tao te King
Vedanta	God in you	Hindu Monks	Reincarnation until final liberation	Heaven not permanent	Yoga in four formats need to be balanced	Theism	The Vedas
Zoroastrianism	Ahura Mazda	Zoroaster	Life on earth Series of saviours	Eventually all get to heaven	Good Thoughts, Works and Deeds	Monotheistic	The Avesta

**Note:-**The difference between Biblical Christianity and Christendom is that Biblical Christianity relies on a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ as revealed in an authoritative Bible, while Christendom relies on works and ritual and rejects the historical reliability of the Bible. However, this does not imply that there are no people with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ within the “Christendom” type of church, but we apply the “fruit test” to them in accordance with our Lord’s instructions.

**Matthew 7:13-23.**     “13. *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*  
14. *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*  
15. *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*  
16. *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*  
17. *Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*  
18. *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*  
19. *Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*  
20. *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*  
21. *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*  
22. *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*  
23. *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

**Galatians 5:18-26.**   “18. *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*  
19. *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*  
20. *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*  
21. *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*  
22. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*  
23. *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*  
24. *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

25. *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

26. *Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."*

### **JESUS IS THE SON OF MAN – AND HEAVEN IS HIS PROVISION FOR US**

**PROPHECY - Psalm 8:4-6** (1000 BC): *"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5. For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet."*

**FULFILLMENT - 1 Corinthians 15:27,28** (59 AD): *"For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."*

**FULFILLMENT – Hebrews 2:6-9** (64AD): *"But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? 7. Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8. Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."*

### **REFLECTION**

1. Jesus Christ had to become true humanity so that he could become:

- (a) The Saviour, for as God he was not subject to death.
- (b) The King, a man who rules over other men.
- (c) The Mediator, a person equal with God and man.
- (d) The Priest, a man who represents other men before God.

2. He was made a little lower than the angels, that we, through faith in him, would be made higher than the angels. This will occur when we receive our resurrection bodies.

3. As true humanity Jesus Christ was accepted at the right hand of God after his return.

4. Here Jesus is told to sit until his enemies are made his footstool (**Psalm 110:1**).

5. Jesus Christ as the "son of man" will have everything in subjection.

6. We, in union with Christ, will reign with him forever in Heaven.

### **HE IS THE "I AM" – HE EXISTS FOREVER AND SO DO WE WITH HIM**

**PROPHECY - Exodus 3:14** (1500 BC): *"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."*

God's use of "I AM" (YHWH) indicates that he has always existed, that he is eternal and that there was never a "time" at which he did not exist. He is the author of space-time. His appearance in this passage is to Moses who needs confidence in going back to the land of Egypt to lead the people of Israel towards the promised land. The repeating of the word I AM is indicative of great blessing in the Hebrew language.

**FULFILLMENT – John 8:58** [30 AD]: “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am”.

**FULFILLMENT - John 10:30** (30AD): “I and my Father are one”.

## REFLECTION

1. Jesus, by using the words “I AM” (Eimi, Greek), claims to be God to the religious Jews. Their reaction was to attempt to stone him. There was/is no doubt about his meaning.

2. Jesus is shown as the revealed member of the Godhead (**John 1:18**); as the image of the invisible God (**Colossians 1:15**) and the express image of his person (**Hebrews 1:3**).

3. In addition Jesus said:

I AM the bread of life.

I AM the light of the world.

I AM the door.

I AM the true and living way.

I AM the good shepherd.

I AM the true vine.

I AM the resurrection and the life.

4. Jesus constantly claimed to be God throughout his first advent. Many people claim Jesus to be a good person, however one thing he cannot be is a good person. He was either what he claimed to be, the Son of God, Emmanuel, God with us - or a deceiver. As God-Man he promises that Heaven awaits us. God’s reputation rests on the truth of this promise, as with all others.

Relevant topics from Omnibus BTB: Christ: Deity of Christ, Christ: Hypostatic Union - God Man. Christ: Names of the Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit: Ministry to Christ,

## 3. From the Beginning to the End of the Bible - Heaven is Spoken of as a real place – our destiny forever

The English joke is that there are only two certainties – “death and taxes”. For us as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ there is the certainty of our position in relationship with Him, and that involves many “realities”. Holy Spirit filled living here and now is our present daily experience, and the certainty of eternal life together with the Lord forever in Heaven is our future hope and confidence.

The Hebrew word for heaven is “Ha’Shamayim”, and its root means to be high and lifted up, and it is a word used for the physical atmosphere and beyond into eternity. Its key concept is humanity’s humility before the Creator of the Universe and our smallness in relationship to the Creation. Spending any time in the open spaces of the Middle East or Africa certainly produces this humility under the stars. Similar awe may be felt in all of earth’s open spaces away from atmospheric pollution.

As the Patriarchs looked up, they were aware of their smallness, but as they heard God’s Word to them, they realised they had significance in God’s Plan – that they had a part to play in the unfolding drama of redemption. They also realised that their faith in God transcended death and it could in no way be considered the end of their existence. Their burial practises were significantly different to those of the pagans who surrounded them.

The oldest statement that affirms the eternal life of the believer with God in a physical bodily form is found in the oldest book in the Bible, the Book of Job, from possibly 500 years before Abraham's lifetime. Abraham also shares his faith in resurrection and wants to have the family buried together, not as any company in death, but to stand together in resurrection. Abraham gives the impression that he was selecting his company for the resurrection, as by faith he had selected eternity with the Lord.

**Job 1:21-22.** "21. *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*

22. *In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."*

**Job 13:13-16.** "13. *Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will.*

14. *Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand?*

15. *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*

16. *He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him."*

**Job 14:14-16.** "14. *If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*

15. *Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.*

16. *For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?"*

**Job 19:22-27.** "22. *Why do ye persecute me as God, and are not satisfied with my flesh?*

23. *Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!*

24. *That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!*

25. *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:*

26. *And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:*

27. *Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."*

Abraham very specifically rejected Hittite rituals and nobility within their culture, and remained outside the mainstream religions of his day and affirmed his belief in the Lord God of all, just as Job had done earlier. Pastoralists see death daily and know the decay of the physical body, but by faith he believed in the survival of the real person who indwelt the tent of flesh for a time. Abraham and Job understood that Adam's sin had forever and fatally tainted the human species and we are all born to die, but that by faith they affirmed there was something way bigger going to happen, and they would live forever with God in heaven. The writer to the Hebrews catches this in chapter 11.

**Hebrews 11:8-16.** "8. *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

9. *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

10. *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

11. *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*

12. *Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*

13. *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

14. *For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.*  
 15. *And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*  
 16. *But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."*

- Hebrews 13:8-15.** "8. *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*  
 9. *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.*  
 10. *We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.*  
 11. *For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.*  
 12. *Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*  
 13. *Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.*  
 14. *For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*  
 15. *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."*

Do we seek the city "to come", our own heavenly Jerusalem, where we are to live forever without any of the space-time limits? We are living in a space-time bubble presently, and although the space telescopes tell us just how vast this creation is, it is limited and temporary and will be wound up one day. When we come to the end of our life we do not "meet death", we see Jesus and enter eternity in His company.

#### **4. Space-Time is just a temporary created bubble in Eternity-Infinity**

Atheists in my childhood and University study days used to argue for an infinite and eternal universe and so mock God's Word, but after the discovery of the background radiation left over from the "Big Bang" a few years back no-one seriously can argue the eternity of this universe any longer. Some do, but that's because they haven't studied or prefer their comfortable philosophical lie to the truth.

The "moment of creation" has been clearly proven to exist in the last decades by unbelieving scientists, and with it the certainty of the "Big Implosion" when the universe shrinks into a "black hole" and.... Great speculation is the characteristic of modern Physics, and we might say, "anything that excludes God can be discussed...." Our position is biblical and unchanging, and we speak correctly of creation and implosion, but by revelation we go further to the new heavens and the new earth that are within the "Heaven" where God dwells.

#### **Revelation 21-22.**

As I study the Holy Scriptures what hits me most powerfully is that the best is yet to come for believers and that heaven is way "bigger" (space-time term but the best simple word I can find) than I ever thought before. We are beyond our limits when we speak of heaven, but we need to "catch the glory" of this. The Lord can be everywhere at once, and maybe we can be too? We have no limitations on seeing anything that happened anywhere at any time, for we are beyond this space-time universe when in heaven and so anything can be seen and studied that was in this "bubble" at any time in its life.

We will examine it further below in another chapter but a short reflection on being beyond the limits of space-time opens the door to parallel universes and in scripture we see what are best called "portals" into eternity open up at times. This is all way too marvellous for words and

opens the door here and now for worship and wonder. The best is yet to come for us all! Notice Peter's response to glimpsing these things from his death cell in Rome.

**2 Peter 3:9-18.**       *"9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

*10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

*11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

*12. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

*13. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

*14. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

*15. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;*

*16. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which 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.*

*17. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*

*18. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen"*

This was one of the passages we reflected upon to open this study of heaven, but reflect further now, and follow this up by looking into the Commentary on 2 Peter in the "Last Words" file on the website. Notice first that Peter puts the nuclear implosion of the present universe in a sandwich between God's desire for mankind's salvation and his challenge to daily spiritual growth. Now if the universe is all going to be burned up to almost nothing, why do anything?

The Nihilist says, "why worry – nothing matters". Peter says, given all will go that is familiar, focus your mind more keenly and throw yourself into learning all that matters in your relationship with the Creator and Saviour, for He is the one who has the answers for us all eventually. Not yet, but we can say with confidence, "I know who I have trusted on this"! God's desire is the salvation of the lost, and so we express our calm acceptance of the eternal plan, that involves the end of this universe by growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, for He has the plan we can relax within and "knowing Him" is the key to peace in difficult places.

**Romans 8:38-39,**       *"36. As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*37. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

*38. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

**2 Timothy 1:12,**       *"7. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

*8. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;*



9. *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*
10. *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*
11. *Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*
12. *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*

- Jude 20-25.**           *“20. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*
21. *Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*
22. *And of some have compassion, making a difference:*
23. *And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*
24. *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*
25. *To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”*

Our response in the context of our short journey through space-time is to be worship and excitement in work as we focus forward on a humble acceptance, that the context we are serving in is far bigger than we can comprehend and the decision making required must be Holy Spirit directed or we are going to make some seriously bad decisions. We are on the way to heaven and each step needs to have the heavenly perspective to keep us focused forward. The two old prophet's words below have guided me through some recent very tough years.

- Isaiah 55:6-11.**           *“6. Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:*
7. *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*
8. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*
9. *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
10. *For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:*
11. *So shall my word be that goeth 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.”*

- Jeremiah 10:23-24.**   *“23. O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*
24. *O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.”*

## NOTES

## 5. Our Secure Destiny in Christ Jesus

So many times, in the New Testament the apostles urge us to “stand”. We are challenged again and again to a stability we do not find in many churches today. We need to reflect deeply on the words of the Lord to us we have seen so far and settle into the Lord’s arms daily far more than many do. We are on the “Rock”, and HE is our Saviour, Lord, and King, and stability of mind and attitude should characterize the believer in the battles we face in the angelic conflict that still occurs in space-time.

We are secure in the person, work, and plan of the Lord for our lives. I find it amusing that I am writing this book and this very chapter in incredible depressed emotion personally. It’s not a spiritual depression but a very physical one that I am liable to experience at times, as was Charles H Spurgeon and many others who are my mentors. Over the last four weeks I have experienced severe physical pain and have been just told I need surgery, had three damaging floods, one in the church causing tens of thousands of dollars of damage and two at my home, causing less damage as they were found quickly, but creating stress at a time when I was needing a holiday at the start of the period after a very pressure filled year.

I am reminded as I face the incredible multi-faceted stress that I am indeed in the angelic conflict, but I have several doctrinally secure certainties to cling to through these difficult days. The First is the security of my salvation, for I am God’s Child, and I can cast all my cares on Him. Secondly, I can face these things knowing where I am going and that these things are “but for a time” and will pass, but my secure place with the Lord remains forever. For the trials of life and facing death I can trust Him. It is this mental attitude that the words of the Lord regarding heaven challenge us to rest into. I have not seen the power of that phrase in such a vivid way before – “faith-rest” into the promises, power, and plan of God. It is in our suffering and facing the reality of our coming death that we rest into his arms or prove our faith vain! All believers need to deeply stabilize their faith before the winds of adversity really blow against them. Remember **John 14:27 and 16:33** again.

Our eternal destiny is eternity-infinity, and we will have the resurrection body to be able to enjoy the freedoms that we will know beyond the three-dimensional world we live in today. It’s not a wishful thinking escape hatch from worry, it’s a reality that stabilizes our pressure filled walk through this world, knowing where we are heading and who is waiting for us ahead and walking with us now.

All the curses of space-time will be swallowed up in eternal joy when we leave this world. We still need to walk in this world Holy Spirit filled and fully armoured, and if we neglect our vigilance we pay with attack and injury. God calls us to be alert and fully armed at all times in this still fallen world. The curses let loose by Adam are reversed by the Cross, Resurrection and Ascension in that we now have the pathway to heaven clear and victory over sin and death available to be claimed. Through Pentecost we have the Holy Spirit’s power to fill us and carry us through to heaven in victory, but “boy oh boy”, it’s a battle at times, but all that fighting will only be over as we enter heaven. So today, its “Armour on!” But let’s praise and worship as we fight!

**1 Corinthians 15:53-58.**      *“53. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*54. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

*55. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

*56. The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

57. *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
 58. *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

**2 Corinthians 4:14-18.** "14. *Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.*

15. *For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.*

16. *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

17. *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

18. *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

**2 Corinthians 5:1-4.** "1. *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

2. *For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:*

3. *If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.*

4. *For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."*

Notice Paul's mental attitude as he writes these things. The battle of the Lord to defeat sin and death is won. We know that final victory is won and that we will advance through the veil of death into heaven, but the battle is fierce at times for a time here and now. We are now, through aches and pains "earnestly desiring to be clothed with our resurrection body. Pain in my hip and back and knee keeps me awake at night and I chuckle as I write this because I know exactly what Paul is saying here.

However, I also have his confidence in the reality of heaven and the final total victory over sin and death expressed in our resurrection body. Just as the Lord's ministry is in two parts, so our life journey in Christ Jesus is in two parts also. The Lord's journey, "First Advent" to pay the price for sin/death and strategically defeat Satan as usurping "ruler of this world", and "Second Advent" to totally wipe the floor with the enemy and set up his kingdom on earth. Just so our journey is "Salvation and Sanctification", in the midst of the enemy's attempts to distract us from God's growth path for our lives, and then "Ultimate Sanctification" as we enter heaven through Dying Grace or the Rapture.

## NOTES

## 6. Portals into Eternity – From Jacob’s Ladder – to John’s Visions in Revelation

Modern Physics speaks of “worm holes” and “portals” between the various layers of the multiverse.... All that is just pagan nonsense of course, but it is desperate pagan nonsense by those who reject the truth that Scripture records, for they do not want to have any relationship with the Creator – they don’t even want to acknowledge one. There are indeed “portals” that open at times, and give the people involved glimpses into eternity and so confront them with their limits and the temporary and limited nature of their world view and present life! We will look at Jacob’s ladder below as one example.

We truly live in a connected world, and we are “connected” to heaven at any millisecond in prayer as **Hebrews 4:16** reminds us. *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need”*. There is no hesitancy in the voice of the writer, for he knows from his own prayer experience that when he speaks God is hearing and so are our ancestors in faith. **Matthew 6:6-13** – Let us examine the so called “Lord’s Prayer” (Disciple’s Prayer) also for once again we are face to face with heaven in this prayer.

**Matthew 6:6-13.** *“6. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.  
7. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.  
8. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.  
9. After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
10. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
11. Give us this day our daily bread.  
12. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
13. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”*

We say, “Our Father who art in heaven...”, and we are there speaking directly to our heavenly Father; we are positionally in heaven as we speak. **Hebrews 12:1-2** reminds us (as we saw in the introduction) that we are being watched in our spiritual work by all our godly ancestors and friends who have passed into heaven. We are in the arena, as we saw in our introduction, and all who have gone before us are keenly watching our Holy Spirit filled work and worship and cheering us on from the stands of heaven.

Our challenge – to “run with endurance” knowing we are cheered on by all our saved ancestors and friends who have gone before us to heaven. How close is heaven? In light of all passages on prayer and especially **Hebrews 12:1-3**, I believe the modern physics concept of a “parallel universe” may be a useful image to have in mind. There is no “image” that is completely accurate for we are dealing with a different dimension totally, but heaven is a breath away, and our loved ones who have gone on are able to see us and cheer us on.

There is challenge and comfort in this. *“Oh my soul, march on with strength”*, **Judges 5:21**. As Nehemiah said, *“Do not sorrow, for the Joy of the Lord is your strength”*. **Nehemiah 8:10**. What is the greatest challenge and encouragement that we can have in this life? I believe it is to be secure in the doctrines of the Word of God and know that the Plan of God is absolutely stable, and we are in this life and forever, “built upon the Rock that is Christ”. His plan calls for our exercise and spiritual growth down here on the earth in “Phase 1 (Salvation) and Phase 2 (Sanctification), before Phase 3 (Glorification) and our entry into heaven.

It is all a natural flow because we are living within his plan for our lives and anything Satan and his defeated crew can do is permitted for our spiritual growth that we might win eternal rewards (more below).

This is a connected universe, for it is but a “space-time bubble” within eternity-infinity where God dwells and so the Lord may “step in” at any time by dream, vision, angel, or in person. Jacob experiences this closeness of eternity on his journey to Haran.

**Genesis 28:17.**       *“12. And he (Jacob) dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.  
13. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;  
14. And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.  
15. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.  
16. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.  
17. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.  
18. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.  
19. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.”*

Jacob dreams, but in this dream, God ensures he glimpses a heavenly reality, that indeed there are no “god-forsaken places” on this earth, and that the angels are intimately involved in everything we are doing here when we are in the plan of God for our lives. We often feel that “nothing is happening” as Jacob did at Luz that night, but the landscape is “far more spiritually busy” than we see with our limited earthly eyes.

## NOTES

## 7. Absolute Assurance of Heaven – God is God of the Living not the dead

We have seen twice already the significance of the Lord's words in **Matthew 22:23-33**, especially his blunt challenge to the Sadducees to think, that if "God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", then they must be alive right now and be with him! Jesus doesn't say, "God was the God of...", but **God is the God of...**"

Jesus was very direct with the disciples, all of whom but John would die martyr's deaths, that they would not see death coming for them, but they would see Jesus as they entered heaven. We have reflected above in the Introduction on that passage from **John 8:51-52**, and seen it explained by Luke as Stephen dies, for he speaks aloud to all who can hear, that he is seeing Jesus standing from his throne to welcome him "home to heaven". **Acts 7:55-60**. Let us read these central passages of assurance again, for the hatred of the enemies of truth does not alter the truth, nor does violent death end the life of the believer, for we enter heaven.

**John 8:51-53, 56-58.**                    *"51. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.*

*52. Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.*

*53. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?*

*56. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.*

*57. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?*

*58. Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."*

**Acts 7:55-60.** *"54. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

*55. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,*

*56. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.*

*57. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,*

*58. And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.*

*59. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*

*60. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."*

I am reminded of two friends of mine who have experienced this same reality that Luke describes of Stephen's body falling asleep but seeing Jesus standing to welcome him into heaven as a living soul-spirit.

One older friend who on the day before his death said to his son, "I'm going home tomorrow" and he passed the next day into the arms of Jesus. A younger friend, not a believer, told me of the death of his believing father, and said that as he breathed his last a smile spread over his face, he sat up and shot his hand out as if to shake someone's hand in the ceiling. My unbelieving friend said to me, "He knew who he was meeting didn't he". I was able to tell him about these things and say, "Yes he did, he was seeing Jesus".

David expresses this confidence after the death of his first child born to Bathsheba. The little baby boy was very sick, and David prayed that he might live, but the prophet had told him the child would die. David fasted and prayed for the child, but it died, and his counsellors were more than a little afraid to tell him of the child's death, fearing David's grief would break his mind and heart. David's words are a comfort to all who lose a child, for that child is in Jesus' arms.

**2 Samuel 12:13-23.** *"13. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.  
14. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.  
15. And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.  
16. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.  
17. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.  
18. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?  
19. But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.  
20. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.  
21. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.  
22. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?  
23. But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."*

David has no doubts about the child's whereabouts. The child is in heaven waiting for him and his mother to join him. The child was born of adultery, but it is not judged by its death, for David and Bathsheba were the sinners not the child and they repented and were forgiven. It dies and precious in the Lord's sight is the death of all who enter heaven, and all children are covered by the Lord's arms and enter heaven for they die before the age of accountability. Do we have this assurance? This is biblical assurance, and we should relax within its provisions – this is the promise of heaven. It comforts our soul, and it is not wishful thinking, it is doctrinal thinking.

As Jesus "came down", so he returned to heaven, and he will take the disciples and finally us also with him! He values our company and fellowship just as we value his fellowship. His plan calls for there to be no separation between his family forever – and we are his family!

**John 3:13.** *"13. And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."*

**John 3:31.** *"31. He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."*

**John 6:37-58.** *"37. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

38. *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*
39. *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*
40. *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
41. *The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.*
42. *And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?*
43. *Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.*
44. *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
45. *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*
46. *Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.*
47. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*
48. *I am that bread of life.*
49. *Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*
50. *This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.*
51. *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*
52. *The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?*
53. *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.*
54. *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
55. *For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*
56. *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*
57. *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*
58. *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.**                    *"The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

**2 Thessalonians 2:16.**                    *"...who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace."*



## 8. With the Eternal Security of Heaven's reality Stabilizing our Hearts – our Mental Attitude for Service is strong indeed.

When we are as secure as David felt we are in the place of power. David prayed for the life of his little son, but he recognized that heaven was his son's destination and his also later. He was relaxed as he confronted the plan of God for his life, and he saw that sin that was faced and confessed did not hinder the plan.

- 1 John 1:5-10.**        *"5. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.  
6. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:  
7. But 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 cleanseth us from all sin.  
8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
10. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."*

Heaven's certainty, the doctrine of "Eternal Security", does not produce any slackness towards our worship, witness or work for the Lord. Our stability in Christ Jesus our Lord's plan for our life produces a focused attention to detail that means we achieve all that the Lord desires of us in the Holy Spirit's power. With our future in heaven secured we do not waste any energy worrying about our eternal future, for its secure, instead all our energy is focused on what we are left here on earth to achieve before departing.

We know this life is lived in a temporary "tent", our limited earthly physical body, but we know we are heading for eternity with a far better body all ready for us to enjoy being without limits. This means we do our work and cast the aches and pains of this life on the Lord, and do not get distracted by earthly prosperity or health concerns. We treat the body as the tent to live in while we are here, the temple of the Holy Spirit while we serve here. That means we dress well and keep as fit and healthy as we can, in order to serve more effectively, but we are not distracted by the things of the body. Or emphasis, beyond health and fitness, is character and service, not our wealth proclaiming clothes, cars, and houses.

Let's look again at the "Last Words" of the Apostles as they reflect upon these things awaiting their execution in the Roman Mamertine Prison. Look at the Commentaries in the "Last Words" file on the websites [www.ebcwa.com](http://www.ebcwa.com). [www.ebcwa.org.au](http://www.ebcwa.org.au)

- 2 Peter 1:5-21.**        *"5. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;  
6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;  
7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.  
8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
9. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.  
10. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:  
11. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.  
12. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."*

13. *Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;*

14. *Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.*

15. *Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.*

16. *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

17. *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

18. *And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*

19. *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

20. *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

21. *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

**2 Peter 2:18-22.** *"18. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.*

19. *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*

20. *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

21. *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*

22. *But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."*

**2 Peter 3:1-9.** *"1. This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:*

2. *That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:*

3. *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

4. *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

5. *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

6. *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

7. *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

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

9. *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

**2 Timothy 4:6-8.** *"6. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

7. *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

These men are our brothers and our mentors. Let us relax into Jesus arms as they do here and trust our Saviour to carry us right through into heaven’s glory.

## Notes

### 9. Life is Eternal – It’s Just Who We Spend it With – the “Great Divide” - Saved or Lost Forever

Before and during the Covid years Dr Moses and I undertook to complete a major study of the apostle’s use of the Greek Perfect Tense in the New Testament. We were surprised that no other published study of the perfect tense had been completed since one we found in the 1930s and yet the use of this Greek Grammar Tense is enlightening and so significant, that we have published significant material on it onto the web (over 9000 pages – 3 years work).

The Koine Greek perfect tense means that the action of the verb involved occurs at one point in time, but the results of the action of the verb go on forever. Can you immediately see that this verbal form perfectly sums up the work of God for our salvation. This is perfectly illustrated in the verbs for being born, Genao, and for believing, Pisteuo. Let me spell out the significance of this verbal form in a few selected key verses. I underline and bold the perfect tenses.

**John 3:6-8.** “6. That which **is born** of the flesh is flesh; and that which **is born** of the Spirit is spirit.

7. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that **is born** of the Spirit”

Note now how strong John is led to be by the Holy Spirit as he writes these words. Once we are born the results go on forever. Life once given is forever, it depends on each person’s volition as to whether it is life forever with God or life away from God but either way it is forever.

**John 3:18-19.** “18. 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.

19. And this is the condemnation, that light **is come** into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

The results of faith expressed is forever, and the results of the condemnation of those rejecting God’s light is also forever. The results of unbelief are forever, and the preference of each

person for their eternal state is respected by the Lord, but it is an eternal choice we all make. Refer to the “Perfect Tense” file on the Australian website and examine this powerful testimony of the Apostles to the permanence of our salvation, but also the permanence of the results of the rejection of the lost. **Deuteronomy 29:20**. The persistently and deliberately rejecting are “blotted out of the book of life”.

The door of heaven is open for all until they die, and from the reference to “Books” in the Bible it would appear that all people are recorded in the “Book of Life”, but if they die rejecting the light of God, their name is removed from the book of life. They have died in arrogant rejection of Jesus work for them, so in God’s sight they must be depending upon their own works rather than accepting by faith Jesus’ work on the cross for them.

At the last judgment, Hades (waiting place for this moment) is emptied and all the determined unsaved stand before the Lord’s throne and the “books” are opened and they are judged according to their “works”, for they rejected Jesus’ perfect work for them. Their works are of course pathetic when compared to what Jesus did for them and so they are rightly condemned as we have seen above in **Revelation 20:10-15, 21:8**. Read through the “Last Words’ Commentary on these verses and see the righteousness and justice of God played out but feel the fear that the lost feel in the end for they know they have received exactly what they asked for, but they didn’t think what it really meant, and it is forever. Heaven is forever, but so is the Lake of Fire, for heaven could not be heaven if evil was left to wander about in the vain hope it would change.

Solomon discussed his human wisdom as he drew near the end of his life, and he saw the pathetic nature of unsaved people’s philosophy-wisdom and records his insights powerfully in Ecclesiastes. His middle years were the time of the “Proverbs” as encouragement to his sons, but they will ignore them, and even Solomon will fail to take much of his own advice – just like us. Ecclesiastes is his mature reflection, and it is to me as an old Philosophy Tutor, the best book from the ancient world to totally remove all arrogance in human viewpoint thinking. Solomon writes from the viewpoint of the so-called “successful” man but then totally undermines all confidence in the thing’s unbelievers value. He ends the book with some startling and arresting observations that still hit me hard even after over fifty years of reading them.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7.** *“6. Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.*

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

*8. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.*

For the unbeliever, without a Human Spirit, with no capacity for eternal life with God, let alone intelligent and spiritual enjoyment of life here and now, the end is literally “being cut off”. Their lives end suddenly and all hope and meaning with their death. They are literally “cut off”, the silver cord of this life is gone forever, they are “smashed like an old bowl”, “broken” like a pot or cistern. They end their life, or rather their life is “ended” for them when God says, “time is up for you on the planet”, and they are lost! For the believer and the unbeliever our body goes back to the elements of which our bodies are made, but for the believer we go back to God who gave us eternal life, but the unbeliever has never received that life and so they just die and are “buried”!

Jesus’ story we examined above in **Luke 16:22-23** is blunt, as he records the fate of the “rich man” who is simply after death stripped of all his wealth and is just a nameless lost soul in hell, tormented with his failure to live in light of death and live bringing glory to God who had given him all things! It is eternal regret for the lost! Luke 16 doesn’t appear to be a parable, for the

beggar is given a name and it would appear this is a real story from Jesus' day/cultural context.

Sit with this believer and celebrate your salvation and also give the gospel as you are led any time you are led to give it! The unbeliever loses all they value at their death, and even though they were "famous" in their brief lives upon the earth they are just another of the nameless lost in hell for eternity. It should shock us and motivate us! How foolish to value wealth and "retirement funds" but not value eternal life and ensure we spend it in the best company!

**Luke 12:16-21.**        "16. *And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*  
 17. *And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*  
 18. *And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.*  
 19. *And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*  
 20. *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*  
 21. *So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

**Ecclesiastes 3:17-21.**        "17. *I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.*  
 18. *I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.*  
 19. *For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.*  
 20. *All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*  
 21. *Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"*

We still speak of a person "dying like a dog/beast" in some circumstances we observe. It is sadly all too true for the lost, for they have no eternal life to look forward to and their fate, with their regrets, is worse than the "beast" who is not lost nor knows any regrets. All go to the dust in their bodies, the dog and the master, but the saved have an eternal destiny to await in heaven their new resurrection body like the Lord's and "so shall we ever be with the Lord..." It is joy everlasting for us in and through our relationship with Christ Jesus, but it is eternal regret for the determined lost. Remember those words from **Revelation 21:8**, and **Galatians 5:19-21**.

**1 Corinthians 2:14-16.**        "14. *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.*  
 15. *But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*  
 16. *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."*

**Hebrews 4:12.**        "12. *For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

The unbeliever lacks the Human Spirit with which to have fellowship with God, as this is received at the point of salvation and is one of the "36 Things" we receive when we receive the grace gift of salvation. We are able to know God and know things about the Creation, the

Creator and ourselves as Creatures. God's Word in Holy Spirit filled learning opens the door to understanding of many things and joy in God's revelations.

Spiritual life received, opens the door to understanding about all aspects of this universe, this life, and eternity itself. Our spiritual growth/sanctification is the result of the Holy Spirit's work with our Human Spirit through the Word to develop our fellowship journey with God. **2 Peter 3:18**. This is why Peter urges all believers to "grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ". This alone gives us stability and peace when we think of the implosion of the universe at the end of space-time.

The great and eternal sadness for the lost is this fact. They deceived themselves or were deceived into thinking they were "spiritual" but what they thought was powerful wisdom was all fake and untrue, and they are forever locked into their deception, with no capacity to enjoy anything ever again. Eternity without God is eternity without hope, without love, without joy.... Let the reality of the grave for the lost really burn into your heart and motivate you in evangelism, for when you truly understand Hell you would not want your worst enemy lost forever – it's just too awful, even though deserved by each individual's persistent choices.  
**Revelation 21:8 again**

#### Notes

## 10. Crowns – Eternal Rewards

Paul, Peter, and John all use athletic analogies for many principles of doctrine, and the subject of “eternal rewards” for obedient believers is one area where they draw on the “civic crowns” of the Greek and Roman world to illustrate what God has for those who obediently follow his plan for their lives. For that is what the crowns are recognizing; that the believer has been obedient to their journey in accordance with the plan for their life. Crowns are not awarded based on the believer’s assigned spiritual gifts, where a Pastor-teacher or prophet may be able to “win” more. They are given because of the exercise of the gifts each person in grace received. It’s the 100% commitment to living your path fully and obediently that the crowns recognize.

They are not a pride-based system but reflect the Lord’s gracious recognition of what that believer allowed the Holy Spirit to do with them and through their life. Let’s hear Paul speak of these things and then see the doctrine itself spelled out in the appendix to the book. Paul wants to be the best “athlete” on the Lord’s Olympic Team that he can be and doesn’t want to be disqualified by breaking the rules and so lose the opportunity to bring glory to the Lord through his Spirit filled work. Let’s be excited daily about opportunities to “play our part” to the full!

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27.**        *“24. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*

*25. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

*26. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:*

*27. But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway/disqualified.”*

**2 Corinthians 5:1-10.**        *“1. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

*2. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:*

*3. If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.*

*4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.*

*5. Now he that hath wrought us for the self same thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

*6. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:*

*7. (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

*8. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

*9. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.*

*10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*

“Doctrine of Rewards/Crowns” is below in the last section of this book.

## 11. “Visitors” to Heaven – Paul and John in contrast to the deceptions of today

When I was moved to write this short book to encourage believers, I set out to visit my local Christian Book Shop to check the shelves and see what had been written. I found good books by Dave Hunt and W A Criswell, but then I found paperback after paperback that purport to announce the experiences of some “Christian” who has visited heaven and been told wonderful things and returned to write them up for God’s people (and sell the message...!)

We are warned that as we draw near the end of the Church Age that deception will grow in intensity and variety as the Laodicean Church form dominates before the final removal of the believers and the start of the Great Tribulation. **Revelation 3:14-22**. The last days of the Church Age are not described in Scripture as triumphant days, rather they are days when deception and falsehoods from pulpit and in the pews dominates. The churches that exist towards the end go into the Great Tribulation period and some churches may not lose a single member at the Rapture for there are no genuine believers there at all!

Read carefully and study in the Last Words Commentary Paul’s words in **2 Timothy 3:1-7** and chapter **4:1-7**. Distraction and Deception characterizes the last days of the Church Age not great revivals. Do not be misled by false prophets today who speak of the final triumph of the church, for the Bible (the Lord’s Word to us) gives us no such hope, but rather the challenge to be lights of truth in darker and darker times.

**2 Timothy 3:1-7.**     *“1. This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.  
2. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,  
3. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,  
4. Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;  
5. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.  
6. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,  
7. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

**2 Timothy 4:1-7.**     *“1. I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;  
2. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.  
3. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;  
4. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.  
5. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.  
6. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.  
7. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:”*

Some of Jesus saddest words are recorded in **Matthew 7:13-23** and in **Luke 18:8**, and these words of the Lord keep us grounded as we reflect on Paul’s last words. As we put these two Gospel passages together, we see something that most try to ignore today. **Firstly**, as we saw above when we read through Matthew 7, we see that when Jesus speaks of the “narrow path” to eternal life, he notes that, “few there be that find it”. This challenges us to ignore the stated millions who call themselves “Christian” and recognize that most are play actors and ritual followers, not genuine believers, and even the miracle workers, tongues speakers, and



sign producers may be fake and demonic! **Secondly**, Luke's recorded statement of the Lord is even more sobering. Jesus says, "when I return will I find faith on the earth?"

The construction of the grammar of the verse indicates a negative answer is expected. What the Lord is saying to us in these passages is that the number of genuine believers in any age has always been far smaller than the "professors", but that as we get towards the end of the Church Age there will be very few genuine believers at all!

The deceptive and lying claims by fake prophets claiming to have visited heaven, even to receiving new bible chapters is staggering. Do not be deceived by these **liars** brethren, for the bible makes it clear, liars they are! Only two men get clear visions of heaven, and they are to write scripture and are incredibly humble and not charging money.... Note Paul's words.

**2 Corinthians 12:4.** *"1. It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.*

*2. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

*3. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

*4. How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

*5. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities."*

Note that Paul does not sell a book about his experience for it is so staggering to him that he cannot even find the words, and he is told by the Lord not to write anything. John in Revelation sees heaven opened and is told to write but only what he is allowed to write. These are genuine apostles and note how careful they are and lacking in arrogance and lacking in greed – not charging for their books to share their "special knowledge" like the dodgy "Gnostics" of the Apostle John's Day.

Remember Jesus words in **Matthew 7:13-23**. By their fruits you know them, and when nobodies today claim they have had greater experiences than the apostles who wrote scripture it is a warning – you are dealing with a fake. Save your money – don't get distracted/deceived!

Will I be reading the paperbacks of these people? No I will not! I will stay with the Scriptures, and I encourage you to do likewise.

**Final thoughts** – As we have seen from the many texts we have looked briefly at and from the Greek Perfect Tense Study Findings – Heaven is as real as our house now and when we arrive there we will "know then as we are known" by God now – the best is yet to come – it is mind blowing and awesome beyond most words. Let's rejoice in the truth of heaven, and not be distracted by the nonsense of atheistic Physics or Nutty false prophets. The truth alone sets us free – lets read and re-read the Word of God and relax into the arms of Jesus our Saviour and Lord. **John 8:32-36**.

**GOD'S WORD CHALLENGES US TO SEE THE REALITY OF OUR HEAVENLY DESTINY**

## 12. DOCTRINAL BIBLE STUDIES FOR FOLLOW UP STUDY

Angels - Angelic Conflict  
 Angels - Satan's Destiny  
 Christian Life - Blessed in Heavenly Places in Christ  
 Christian Life - Deliverance  
 Christian Life - Destiny of the Believer  
 Christian Life - Eternal Life  
 Christian Life - Eternal Security  
 Christian Life - Eternal Security and Peter's Denial  
 Christian Life - Eternal Security – Hebrew Chapter 6  
 Christian Life - Maturity – Cross to Crown  
 Christian Life - Mental Attitude of the Believer  
 Christian Life - Not of this World  
 Christian Life - Pilgrim  
 Christian Life - Rewards and Crowns  
 Christian Life - Royal Family of God  
 Death  
 Dying Grace  
 Eternity Past/Eternity Future  
 God - Character of God  
 God - Divine Decrees  
 God - God Cares for You Believer  
 God – Plan of God  
 Grace  
 Heaven and Hell  
 "I Am" – The Seven "I Ams" of John's Gospel  
 Old Age  
 World  
 Worldliness  
 Worries

## ANGELS – ANGELIC CONFLICT

1. There is an “angelic conflict” and it is intimately related to our presence in this world.

### 2. ETERNITY PAST

[a] Initially God created angels. At creation we are told that there was unity as all the angels sang in unison.

[b] Satan as Lucifer with the title Son of the Morning was the head of the angels. **Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28:12-15**

[c] It is noted that the Lord Jesus Christ is now called Son of the Morning in **2 Peter 1** showing that the Lord replaced Satan as a result of His victory at the Cross.

### 3. FALL OF SATAN

[a] Satan became proud and attempted a coup d’etat against God in **Isaiah 14:12-17**

[b] When Satan fell he took one third of the angels with him. **Revelation 12:9.**

[c] The angels who exist forever therefore fall into two permanent groups:

(i) Elect Angels who remained faithful to God (**1 Timothy 5:21**)

(ii) Fallen angels who chose to follow Satan fall into two categories:

(1) Imprisoned ones who were made inoperative at the time of the Flood (**Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4**)

(2) Demons who are currently operative (**1 Corinthians 10:20,21, Mark 5:1-20**)

[d] There is therefore a spiritual warfare between elect and fallen angels, which affects the human race. (**Ephesians, 6:12, Revelation 12**)

### 4. SENTENCE ON THE FALLEN ANGELS

[a] In eternity past Satan and the fallen angels were judged and sentenced to the Lake of Fire - **Matthew 24:51**

[b] It would appear that Satan appealed against his sentence and said "how can a God of Love sentence any of his creatures to the lake of fire?"

[c] The answer is in the character of God who is HOLY as well as LOVE. His holiness can only judge sin and rebellion.

[d] The lake of fire therefore was not created for man. Man ends up in the lake of fire due to his own negative attitude towards God.

### 5. MANKIND’S ROLE IN THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

[a] This sentence which was given before man existed has not yet executed and will not be so until the end of the Millennium in **Revelation 20:10.**

[b] There must be a long lapse of time before the sentence is executed with this period being taken up with the whole of human history. Therefore the purpose of the existence of the human race and its relation to God can only be explained as a testimony to the angels.

[c] Through the creation of man God provides a clear legal witness to Satan and his angels of their sin. The whole of human history is to prove certain points to the angels. Things can happen in your life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and these can only be explained as a testimony to the angels.

### 6. FALL OF MAN AND VICTORY OF THE GOD-MAN

[a] Man starts off lower than the angels. Hebrews 2:9 tells us that Jesus Christ made Himself a little lower than the angels.

[b] Although Adam failed to be victorious the Lord Jesus Christ replaces Adam in history and won the battle in His humanity. **1 Corinthians 15:22** tells us that in Adam all die, in Christ shall all be made alive.

[c] A new form of creature judges come into existence and will judge the angels **1 Corinthians 6:1-3**

## 7. SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ANGELS AND MAN

[a] Angels and mankind have a number of parallels with human free will being tested in exactly the same way as angelic free will.

[b] Angels began in innocence and full obedience to God (**Job 38:7 Ezekiel 28:14-15**)

Man began in innocence (**Genesis 2:25**)

Angels sinned - rebellion of Satan (**Isaiah 14:12-14**)

Man sinned - rebellion of Adam (**Genesis 3:1-7**)

Angels are divided into two categories - elect or fallen.

Man is divided into two categories - believers and unbelievers. (**John 3:36**)

## 8. ADAM AND FREEWILL

[a] God created Adam and Eve, to show Satan that mankind, created lower than angels (**Hebrews 2:6-7**), would choose to obey God. Mankind therefore, by a choice of freewill, would decide whether to obey God and be blessed, or to disobey God and be judged (the same choice that Satan had).

[b] A test was instituted for man's freewill - obedience to God or disobedience. (**Genesis 2:16-17**). Adam - and therefore all mankind - sinned and thereby rebelled against God. All of mankind, therefore, is in the same condition of sinful rebellion as Satan.

[c] However, God instituted another test of freewill for mankind - will they choose to return to God through Jesus Christ, or will they choose to continue in sin and rebellion (**John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9**).

[d] Anyone who chooses to return to God will be saved; anyone who chooses to remain in rebellion to God will be judged in the lake of fire, the same fate as Satan (**Matthew 25:41**)

[e] Therefore, by the work of Christ on the cross, and man's freewill faith in Christ, God has vindicated His love to save and His justice to judge.

## 9. RESOLUTION OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

Stage 1 - **Salvation** - by faith, man is saved and made positionally superior to angels (**Hebrews 2:6-7**)

Stage 2 - **Christian Walk/Sanctification** - by faith, the believer overcomes Satan (**Ephesians 6:10-17**)

Stage 3 – **Eternity/Ultimate Sanctification** - in Christ, the believer will judge Satan and his fallen angels (**Hebrews 2:8, 1 Corinthians 6:3**)

## 10. THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Angels watch the human race. (**1 Corinthians 4:9, Ephesians 3:10, 1 Timothy 5:21, 1 Peter 1:12**) Elect angels rejoice every time someone is saved (**Luke 15:10**)

## 11. THREE BASIC QUESTIONS

The angelic conflict answers three basic questions:-

[a] Why man? Inside man is a soul with mentality and freewill which when linked together resolves the angelic conflict, (**Colossians 2:14-15, Hebrews 2**). The cross is the real victory in the angelic conflict.

[b] Why sin? Sin resolves stage 1 of the plan of God (see paragraph 9). At the cross sin was judged and the barrier between man and God was removed so that man's relationship with God depends on his free will.

Every time a person accepts Christ, elect angels rejoice. In the garden man was innocent and all he had to do was stay away from one tree. Now man is guilty he has to come to a tree (the cross). (**Genesis 2:17, 1 Peter 2:24**).

[c] Why suffering? Suffering resolves the issue in Stage 2. Suffering involves the promise principle. (**1 Peter 1:7-8, Romans 5:2-4, 1 Corinthians 4:11-16, Philippians 3:10, Colossians 1:224-26, James 5:10.** ). Suffering is designed for blessing and is a further blow to Satan. It is to demonstrate the love of God in a way that cannot be done in eternity as in eternity there is no more sorrow, pain or death. (**Revelation 21:4**)

## 12. STAGES IN THE CONFLICT [SEE SATANIC ATTACK ON THE PLAN OF GOD]

[a] From the fall of man to the ascension of Christ the line of Christ and Jesus Christ himself were the target of attack. Once the ascension was a fact in history Satan was unable to attack the line of the Saviour.

[b] The resurrection, ascension and session of the Lord Jesus Christ caused intensification in the angelic conflict.

[c] Once Christ is glorified at the right hand of the Father the angelic conflict becomes intensified in the Church age.

[d] Every Church Age believer is now a target and because of this every believer has had special provisions made for him:

(i) Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (**John 14:17**)

(ii) Indwelling of Jesus Christ (**John 14:23**)

(iii) Completed canon of Scripture (**1 Corinthians 13:10**)

## 13. PROGRESSION TO THE LAKE OF FIRE

This explains the actions of the Lord Jesus Christ from the time he sat down at the right hand of the Father until the Last Judgement. **Psalms 110:1** says, "The Lord [God the Father] said to my Lord [God the Son], Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool."

[a] The first stage – Insurgency warfare – Pentecost - Rapture

During this time, He calls out the personnel who will replace the angelic council members who have been condemned **1 Corinthians 4:8, 6:1-3, 2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 3:21**

The angelic council comprises God and all the angels as seen in **1 Kings 22:19-23 and 2 Chronicles 18:18-23**

[b] The second Stage – Rapture to Second Advent - Confrontation

During this time the new members of the angelic council are evaluated in relation to their divine and human good, rewarded [**1 Corinthians 3:11-15**], they lose their old sin nature and have a resurrection body. The rebellious members, Satan and his followers are cast out of heaven **Revelation 12:4**

[c] The third stage – Second Advent – Victory Stage

Christ casts Satan and the fallen angels into hell for a thousand years and rightfully asserts His authority.

[d] The fourth stage – The Last Judgement. The Lake of Fire was created for Satan and his angels **Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:4-15.**

Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire with the demons and the unbelievers. Unbelievers join them in the Lake of Fire because they have not accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The old creation is destroyed and a new heavens and a new earth provided by God. At that point all knees shall bow and the promise of making His enemies His footstool will have been fulfilled.

## 14. THE BELIEVERS AND RESULT OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

The result of the angelic conflict:

Stage 1 - Salvation - saved mankind is positionally superior to angels;

Stage 2 – Sanctification - Christian Walk - through suffering the believer develops his faith towards Christ to such an extent that he thereby shows the fallen angels the certainty of their doom;

Stage 3 - Heaven - In eternity the believer in his resurrection body will be physically superior to angels.

## 15. CONCLUSION

Through the fall of man Satan obtained control of the world though not necessarily control of mankind.

What makes it possible for man to live in the Devil's world and not be under his control? - Free will.

By using The Word of God in the filling of the Holy Spirit you can make decisions that are completely against Satan and all his "worldliness" falsehoods/concepts.

Satan is the ruler of this world. (**2 Corinthians 4:4, John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Ephesians 2:2**) However we have the Bible - the mind of Christ (**1 Corinthians 2:16**).

We should know it and use it and thereby live victorious in God's power in the midst of troubles.

## ANGELS – SATAN'S DESTINY

1. Satan is called a "prince" indicating that he had his own power and followers. (**John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4**)

2. Yet he is still a creature, and is still ultimately subject to God (**Job 1:12**)

3. At the Cross, Christ defeated Satan, as his main power was through sin and death. (**John 12:27-32, Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:54-56, Colossians 2:14-15, Hebrews 2:14-15**).

4. God purpose with the world is not yet complete - therefore the enforcement of Satan's defeat will not take place until the end of the Millennium (**Hebrews 1:13, Revelation 20:10**)

5. Satan's final judgement is sure:-

a) When he fell he was condemned, this was well before Mankind. (**Genesis 1:2**).

b) In the garden the certainty of God's judgement was announced. (**Genesis 3:15**)

c) The Cross was his final defeat, but final sentencing is not yet. (**John 12:31, Colossians 2:14-15**)

d) In the midst of the Great Tribulation his access to heaven will be stopped. He will no longer be able to slander believers. (**Revelation 12:7-12**)

e) At the Second Advent he is arrested and bound. (**Revelation 20:1-3**)

f) After the Millennium he is briefly released to lead the last great rebellion against God, sifting the volition of the Millennial people, and is finally cast into the Lake of Fire. (**Revelation 20:10**)

g) There are therefore four falls of Satan:-

i) from his place in eternity past to the earth with access to heaven.

ii) then that access is denied causing him to be restricted to the Earth.

iii) he is then contained in Hades for a thousand years.

iv) then his final fall into the Lake of Fire.

6. Satan has six abodes in his journey from the throne room of God to the Lake of Fire.

a) The Throne of God - **Ezekiel 28:12**

b) The Mineral Garden of Eden - **Ezekiel 28:13**

c) The Atmospheric Heavens - **Ephesians 2:2, 6:12**

d) The Earth - **Revelation 12:7-12**

e) The Abyss - **Revelation 20:1-3**

f) The Lake of Fire - **Revelation 20:7-10**. His doom is settled and sure – don't give him power now over your life by heeding any distraction or deception his team may try to use to stop you being Holy Spirit filled every day! Armour on and stand against him.

### CHRISTIAN LIFE – BLESSED IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST

1. Believers are said to be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**).

2. The same Greek word is used in (**John 3:12**) where the word 'things' is mentioned.

3. The heavenlies is the area of the believer's spiritual experience as identified with Christ in various ways:-

a) Divine nature (**2 Peter 1:4**)

b) Life (**Colossians 3:4; 1 John 5:12**)

c) Relationships (**John 20:17; Hebrews 2:11**)

d) Inheritance (**Romans 6:16,17**)

e) Service (**John 17:18; Matthew 28:20**)

f) Suffering (**Philippians 1:29; 3:10; Colossians 1:24**)

g) Future glory (**Romans 8:18-21; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10**).

4. The believer is a heavenly man and a stranger or pilgrim on the earth. (**Hebrews 3:1,1 Peter 2:11**).

5. The believer is an ambassador from Heaven to the Earth. (**2 Corinthians 5:20**).

### CHRISTIAN LIFE - DELIVERANCE

1. We are delivered from spiritual darkness. **Colossians 1:13**

2. We are delivered from sin. **2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 6:7**

3. We are delivered from death. **Hebrews 2:14**

4. We are delivered from judgement. **Romans 8:1**

### CHRISTIAN LIFE – DESTINY OF BELIEVERS

1. All who believe in Jesus Christ has eternal life now (**1 John 5:11-13**). We will never die (**John 11:25,26, John 8:51**) but we will be with Him, seeing him at death not any scary "death" figure.

2. Believers are said to "fall asleep" at their death (**1 Thessalonians 4:14**). The soul departs to be consciously present with Christ, but the body "sleeps" in the grave until the resurrection (**2 Corinthians 5:6-8**).
3. When Christ comes at the Rapture, the bodies of those in Christ shall be raised from the dead (**1 Thessalonians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23**) and the death in Christ precede the living.
4. Our physical bodies will be replaced by immortal bodies (**2 Corinthians 5:1-4**) - conformed to the body of Christ (**Philippians 3:20-21**).
5. We shall be like him (**1 John 3:2**) seeing His glory and reflecting it in ourselves (**Colossians 3:4, John 17:22**).
6. We will be rewarded because of works of faith (**Luke 19:12-19**) which will vary in proportion to our faithfulness in serving God (**Matthew 6:20, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15**) in our called path.
7. In the Millennial Kingdom, we may possibly reign with Christ on earth as priests of God and Christ (Revelation 20:6), or we may just be at the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb" (**Rev 19:7-10**). We will "take our orders" from the Lord at that time.
8. To the overcomer (**1 John 5:4-5**) Christ will give to eat of the tree of life (**Revelation 2:7**) and shall not be hurt by the second death - the lake of fire (**Revelation 2:11**). He will be given authority to rule over nations (**Revelation 2:26-27**) Jesus will acknowledge the believer before God (**Revelation 3:4-5**) who will be made a pillar in the temple of God. (**Revelation 3:12**) and will be seated with Christ in His own throne. (**Revelation 3:21**)
9. God will wipe away all tears from his eyes; sorrow, crying, pain, and death shall be no more (**Revelation 21:4**) – any "losses" of earth's journey will be well made up for by the Lord directly to us then.
10. We shall know all things perfectly (**1 Corinthians 13:12**) and may be able to explore any topic we have ever had interest in on the earth and more....much more.
11. We will receive an incorruptible inheritance. (**1 Peter 1:3-5**) kept by our all powerful God in heaven. This is a matter of God's Promise, not man's speculations and wishful thinking.

### **CHRISTIAN LIFE – ETERNAL LIFE**

1. DEFINITION: Life belonging to the ages (Greek word aionios). This is the life of the believer who had a beginning in time but whose life will continue through the other side of death into the infinite future.
2. Mankind were created for eternity. God's purpose was to create a being to enjoy fellowship with forever. **2 Peter 3: 9**.
3. The issue for entry into eternal life is faith in Christ. The choice for man is clearly stated in **John 3:36, 5:24, Acts 13:46, Galatians 6:8, Matthew 25:6**.
4. Those who are serious about life and concerned about death ask about it. **Matthew 13:40-43, 19:16, Mark 10:17, Luke 10:25, 18:18**.



5. The Lord's words provide the answer to the questions about eternal life. **John 6:68, Romans 5:20, 21, Romans 6:22, 23.** It is the Lord who gives eternal life, **John 5:39, 40, 12:50.**

6. The Lord gives eternal life to those who believe on him, **John 10:28, 17:2.** The door to fellowship and all that goes with it is opened by faith in him as Saviour. **John 3:15,16, Acts 13:48, John 6:40, 47.**

“To Eat His Flesh and Drink His Blood” is graphic language to picture his work and our need to appropriate it for ourselves. **John 6:54, 4:14.**

7. While it may only be fully known in heaven the believer may grasp a glimpse of eternal life here and now by way of anticipation and relationship. Knowing God is a glimpse of eternal life now, **John 17:3,** and fellowship with him is the joy of every believer now and forever. **1 John 1:1-4, 5:10-12, 20, 1 Timothy 6:12, 19.**

8. Eternal life is received in full at the resurrection/rapture when we all receive our new bodies from the Lord. Rewards are received then to enjoy with the Lord forever. We are all urged to live each day with the eternal life perspective in mind, thinking of our place with the Lord forever. **Matthew 19:29, 30, Mark 10:29-31, John 12:25, John 4:36, Romans 2:6,7.**

9. Eternal Life is the believers hope, associated with the Rapture and Resurrection, and should be on our mind through each day, as it sets us apart from the unbelievers who have no such hope. **Philippians 3:20, 21, Titus 1:2, 2:13, 3:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 4:13, 1 Peter 1:3,**

10. The assurance of eternal life is grounded in the promise of God given through Christ. **1 John 2:24,25, 1 John 5:13-15.**

### **TOPIC - CHRISTIAN LIFE – ETERNAL SECURITY**

1. When a person truly trusts Jesus Christ for salvation, he is saved forever. He cannot lose his salvation.

#### **2. POSITIONAL APPROACH (Romans 8:38-39)**

We are united with Christ ("in Christ"). Absolutely nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ.

#### **3. LOGICAL APPROACH (Romans 8:32, Romans 5)**

As unbelievers we are enemies of God (**Romans 5**), as believers we are his children. If he did the most for his enemies what will he do for his children? This excludes loss of salvation for he saved us while we were his enemies.

#### **4. GOD'S HANDS APPROACH (John 10:28, Psalm 37:24)**

Neither shall anyone seize them out of my hand. God is all powerful.

#### **5. EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH (2 Timothy 2:12-13)**

If we deny Christ He is going to deny us rewards (context=suffering and rewards). If we renounce Him, HE REMAINS FAITHFUL. The believer is in Christ and Christ indwells the believer. He cannot deny Himself.

#### **6. THE FAMILY APPROACH (Galatians 3:26, John 1:12)**

When you believe in Christ you are born again as a child of God. You cannot be unborn, once a child always a child.

**7. THE INHERITANCE APPROACH (1 Peter 1:4-5)**

We have an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled which fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us who are kept by the power of God. Perfect tense - it will always be reserved, since it is kept by God, not us.

**8. THE SOVEREIGNTY APPROACH (2 Peter 3:9, Jude 24)**

He is not willing that any should perish - refers to the whole human race (**2 Peter 3:9**) Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling (from perishing). Once you are saved, it is His will that you don't perish.

**9. THE BODY APPROACH (1 Corinthians 12:21, Colossians 1:18)**

Christ is the head, we are the members of the body. If any are lost, the body of Christ is incomplete.

**10. THE GREEK TENSE APPROACH (Ephesians 2:8-9)**

"For by Grace are ye saved". Perfect tense of the verb "sozo". For by Grace have you been saved in the past so that you go on being saved forever.

**11. THE SEALING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT APPROACH (2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30)**

In the ancient world the seal was a guarantee for protection. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit guarantees our security.

**CHRISTIAN LIFE – ETERNAL SECURITY AND PETER'S DENIAL**

1. The denial of our Lord and resultant fall of Peter indicates the eternal security of the believer
2. Unlike Judas Peter survived his great betrayal of our Lord and after recovery had a great ministry for thirty or so years. The recovery had a number of features.

[a] Peter was saved when this incident happened.

[b] Peter did not lose his salvation by his action.

[c] Peter was disciplined as a child of God in the form of bitter regrets.

[d] Peter did confess his sins [**John 21:15-17**]. Confession is essential regarding recovery in ministry.

[e] If Peter had died immediately after his denials he still would have gone to Paradise

[f] Confession of sins gives you the privilege of service in the Christian life. Peter is going to have a great ministry ahead.

[g] Peter failed but he was still alive and therefore God had a plan and purpose for him.

3. You know when your ministry is finished, as you die or are taken at the Rapture. If you are not "face to face" in ministry, you will be "face to face" with the Lord!

**CHRISTIAN LIFE – ETERNAL SECURITY – HEBREWS CHAPTER 6****1. SCRIPTURE**

*"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrines of Christ let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, and the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands and of resurrection of the dead and of eternal judgement. And this we will do, if God permit. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost. And have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the world to come. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame..."*

**2. APPARENT PROBLEM**

Are these people believers, and if they are, can a believer lose his salvation?

**3. EVALUATION**

a) In Hebrews chapter 5 verses 1 To 10 the writer of the book to the Hebrews has been teaching them the advanced doctrine of the High Priesthood of Christ and his comparison with Melchizedek.

b) In **Hebrews 5:11** the writer of Hebrews breaks off this theme telling his readers "they are dull of hearing".

c) Further in verses 12-14 of chapter 5 he chides them for not growing up "they need milk (like babies) and not meat (like adults)" v12, milk is for those unskilled in the scriptures v13, whilst meat is for the mature v.14

d) In fact **Hebrews 6:9** and following continues to encourage them to get back on the right track. In **Hebrews 6:9** they are called "beloved" - a term for believers.

e) In Hebrews chapter 7 the writer of Hebrews returns to his dissertation on Melchizedek.

f) **Hebrews 5:11 to 6:19** can be seen as a passage in parenthesis, a scriptural aside to chasten his Jewish readers who are within 3 years of 70 AD at which time the Jews will go unto dispersion.

**4. GRAMMAR Hebrews 6:1-6** Two points of syntax.

a) In the Greek language when a list is given, rather than repeating the list again the first item of the list is repeated to indicate that the list is to be repeated c.f. "repentance" and v.1 and v.6

b) The action of the participle in the Greek language always precedes the action of the main verb.

c) The layout of v.1-6 is:- a list of 6 basic doctrines followed by 5 participles followed by the first doctrine portraying the list again with the main verb - "impossible to renew" "impossible to renew" - is made up of a noun being used as a verb which in the Greek gives tremendous emphasis to the verb - it can be translated "totally impossible to renew".

**5. THE BASIC DOCTRINE LIST v. 1-4**

Therefore leaving the basic doctrines let us go on to perfection (maturity) not going back to the basics.

- a) Repentance from good works (human good)
- b) Faith towards God (trusting in the promises)

- c) Doctrine of Baptisms (outward witness)
- d) Laying on of hands (commissioning)
- e) Resurrection of the dead (eventual resurrection)
- f) Eternal judgement (the fate of the unbeliever)

REPENTANCE in verse 6 is used as the key word for the list of 6 basic doctrines.

6. THE FIVE PARTICIPLES v. 4-6 The action of the participles precede the action of "impossible to renew".

a) Who were once enlightened - AORIST PASSIVE participle of PHOTIZO. Here the passive voice shows that the subject (the person) received enlightenment. The aorist tense shows the point of time when the believer knew some doctrine. They received knowledge through bible teaching.

b) "and have tasted of the heavenly gift" - AORIST MIDDLE participle of GEUOMA1 This is the same verb and same morphology as in Hebrews 2:9 where "Christ tasted death for all men." Aorist tense point of salvation, middle voice of benefit to us tasting salvation - believing in Christ.

c) "and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit" -AORIST PASSIVE participle of GINOMAI - "to become" this phrase becomes "and became at a point of time partakers of the Holy Spirit" - this refers to the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation. "partaker" means partner or sharer.

d) "and have tasted the good word of God" - AORIST MIDDLE participle of GEUOMAI - this draws together every time a person learns the word of God. "and the powers of the world to come" deals with their experience of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the start of the church age.

e) "if they shall fall away " - AORIST ACTIVE participle of PARAPIPTO - literally having fallen away. PARA - immediate source, PIPTO - to fall. The person who falls away does so of his own free will. Active voice - the person does the action.

## 7. MAIN VERB

"it is impossible" - "it is" does not occur in the original. "Impossible" is a noun instead of a verb which gives it double emphasis. Literal translation - Impossible, totally impossible. (v.4)

"to renew again" - present active infinitive - renew or restore to fellowship. (v.6)

Looking at the participles these people:-

were once enlightened - they are saved tasted the heavenly gift - they are saved partakers of the Holy Spirit - they are saved tasted the good word of God - they are saved

But these things have been debased by the fifth participle - "shall fall away"

"unto repentance" - with reference to repentance, the first word in the list of basic doctrines.

"seeing" - does not occur in the original and represents two participles which literally translated mean "so long as".

"they crucify to themselves" - how? - by offering animal sacrifices in the temple in Jerusalem.

"and put him to an open shame this means from the source of your own negative attitude you have shamed Christ.

In verse 7 the believer producing divine good (herbs) is shown whilst under the provision of God (rain off) this being contrasted with the believer in a carnal state producing human good (thorns and briars) in verse 8.

## 8. CONCLUSION

The people in **Hebrews 6:1-6** are habitually carnal believers who are unable to understand the basic doctrines they once knew let alone the advanced doctrines of the High Priesthood of Christ.

You cannot learn God's Word whilst carnal. Their negative attitude is constantly demonstrated by their offering of animal sacrifices in the temple. In v.9 the writer tells them "But beloved, we are persuaded of better things of you". They are urged to become spiritual again = **1 John 1:9**

## CHRISTIAN LIFE – MATURITY – CROSS TO THE CROWN

1. Salvation is only the beginning of the plan for man. After salvation the believer's objective is to advance in stages of spiritual growth on the path from the Cross to the Crown.

2. At each stage the believer faces increasing intense tests that can only be passed by faith. Paul in **Romans 1:17** says believers progress from faith to faith. The five Hebrew words for faith illustrate the five stages of growth described in the New Testament.

a) The Babe - **1 Peter 2:2** - AMEN - the leaning faith of **Genesis 15:6**

All believers enter the family of God as infants when they exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. After the tremendous stress of birth, of coming from darkness into the light the infant's impulse is to nurse. The objective is nourishment but the baby also receives great comfort in feeding. God's objective for the spiritual infant is for growth, but He commences this with comfort. Not much is expected of a baby in his first few years; he cannot feed or change himself. Spiritual infants are just as helpless and need a great deal of nurturing, encouragement and patient encouragement and patient instruction.

b) The Adolescent - **1 John 2:13-14** - BATAH - the wrestling faith of **Psalms 37:3**

Adolescents are young, strong and eager believers. This is the stage where people have grown to the point at which they understand some of the principles of truth and are beginning to apply them to their lives. But like most adolescents, they have the growing pains of arrogance and rebellion against authority; they are sometimes too eager to act on their own, and this often gets them into trouble. They have knowledge which they mistake for wisdom, but they lack the experience. Their tendency is to want to apply the truth to other people's lives. Adolescents may be troublesome, but at least they are not apathetic. They must be patiently trained and encouraged to channel their energies. No one makes it to maturity without passing through adolescence.

c) The Mature - **Hebrews 5:14, 6:1** - CHASAH - the confident faith that takes refuge in the Lord - **Psalms 57:1**

The mature believer is able to take meat, the advance doctrine of the Word. A believer who has arrived at spiritual maturity knows enough about the Bible to take responsibility for his own life. He knows how to apply the Word of God to himself so rather than airing all his problems he knows how to solve them. He is not ready to take on every one else's problems but he can take control of his own life. He understands that God has a plan for his life and sets about fulfilling that plan. He gives himself to training and discipline, exercising himself and building spiritual muscle.

d) The Hero of Faith - **Isaiah 53:12, Hebrews 11** - YACHAL - the healing faith of **Job 13:15**

Heroes of faith are men and women who have gone beyond maturity and have learned to fight the good fight. They have advanced beyond simply taking responsibility for their own lives to becoming responsible for the lives of other people. They are always willing to pick up fallen comrades, to treat their wounds, to encourage them and supply their needs. Heroes of the faith still make mistakes, they still fail but they always stand back up and go back into battle.

e) The Friend of God - **James 2:23-25** - QAWAH - the enduring faith of **Isaiah 40:31**

The highest of all possible achievements in life is to become a friend of God. Every believer has the potential and the assets necessary to reach this point, but very few Christians do.

It takes persistency and tenacity. The only people who make it this far are those who absolutely refuse to quit.

### CHRISTIAN LIFE – MENTAL ATTITUDE

1. Definition: Attitude or Mental attitude is the state of mind where the mind is set on a course of action on the basis of the whole function and thinking of the soul.
2. Every believer faces the inner conflict of divine versus human viewpoint. These two attitudes are at war in humanity in human history from the time of the fall. (**Isaiah 55:7-9**)
3. We are commanded to have divine viewpoint in our souls not the viewpoint of Satan (worldliness). **2 Corinthians 1:7, 10:5**. (Via Doctrine in the Soul)
4. Attitude determines both the life and character of a person - what you think is what you are (**Proverbs 23:7**)
5. As Christians we are commanded to have our thinking in tune with the mind of Christ. Gods plan for our lives calls for a new attitude in our souls, a new viewpoint, without any human viewpoint or mental attitude sin (**1 Corinthians 2:16, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:5, 2 Timothy 1:7**)
6. Fellowship within a church is based on believers all being in tune with what the Bible teaches. **Philippians 2:2**.
7. Knowledge of the Bible (the mind of Christ, **1 Corinthians 2:16**) and control by the Holy Spirit renews the mind of the believer, giving divine viewpoint. (**Romans 12:2**)
8. The right mental attitude produces joy (**Philippians 2:2**), confidence (**2 Corinthians 5:1,6,8**), stability (**Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:2**), true giving (**2 Corinthians 9:7**), love (**1 Corinthians 13:5**)
9. Human viewpoint is called worldliness (Doctrine Below). (**Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:2**)
10. Evil is what you think as you are following Satan's policy. **Matthew 9:4, Galatians 6:3**. Mental attitude sins produce self induced misery. (**Proverbs 15:13**)
11. Without clear thinking there is conflict in the mind of the believer. **Isaiah 55:6-9, James 1:7-8**.
12. True stability of Character comes only this way. **Philippians 4:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:2**.
13. Giving is a mental attitude. **2 Corinthians 9:7**. Love is a mental attitude. **1 Corinthians 13: Deuteronomy 6:5,10:12**.
14. Worldliness is a mental attitude: It is all non-grace thinking i.e. Anti Gods Plan, **Colossians 3:2**.
15. Confidence in service and living generally flows from having "Divine Viewpoint" which has other advantages such as follows.

[a] Stability in life - **James 1:8**

- [b] Prosperity of soul - **Philippians 4:7**
- [c] Giving to the Lord - **2 Corinthians 9:7**
- [d] Spiritual rather than worldly - **Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:2**
- [e] Purity rather than evil - **Matthew 9:4**
- [f] No arrogance - **Galatians 6:1-5.**
- [g] Inner beauty - **1 Timothy 2:9,10,15.**

### CHRISTIAN LIFE – NOT OF THIS WORLD

1. The believer has a different position. (**1 Corinthians 15:22**). In Adam all die but in Christ shall all be made alive.
2. The believer has a different birth. (**John 3:5-7, Titus 3:5**). Natural generation versus regeneration. All are born into the world. Believers only are born again. This places one outside the framework of the devil's world.
3. The believer has a different service. The unbeliever serves his father the devil. (**John 8:44**) The believer serves Christ. (**John 13:16, 15:20**)
4. The believer has a different purpose. (**1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, Romans 15:6**). The unbeliever in the world system is seeking some form of self gratification. Believer is under the form of God glorification.
5. The believer has a different power. (**Galatians 5:16**). The energy of the flesh versus the power of the Spirit. The satanic doctrine versus the power of the Word of God.
6. Different way of life. (**Ephesians 4:22, 2:13**). The world's way of life is religion and legalism. The Christian way of life is supernatural.
7. A difference in destiny. (**John 3:36, 3:18**). The World is headed for the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels. The believer is headed for heaven.

### CHRISTIAN LIFE – PILGRIM

1. A pilgrim is a sojourner in a strange place; a stranger in a foreign country.
2. The believer is a pilgrim in this world as our real home country is a heavenly one (**John 15:19 Ephesians 2:19; 1 Peter 2:11**).
3. This is illustrated in the lives of the patriarchs (**Genesis 47:9; Exodus 6:4; Hebrews 11:8-10; 13-16**).
4. When the people of Israel were living in the promised land they were, from a spiritual point of view, still pilgrims (**Psalms 39:12; 119:54**).
5. So too are Christians, even when living in peace and prosperity under a Christian government (**Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:34**).

6. The life of a Christian is a pilgrimage. This theme is worked out in great detail in John Bunyan's well-known allegory, "The Pilgrim's Progress".
7. Our heavenly home will not come gradually. The existing system will be destroyed and replaced by God Himself (**2 Peter 3:12-13; Revelation 3:12; 21:2,10**).

### CHRISTIAN LIFE – REWARDS AND CROWNS

1. Rewards and Salvation are carefully separated in the scriptures. Salvation is a free gift from God, rewards are for meritorious service in the power of the Spirit.
2. Salvation - a free gift to the lost (**Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23, John 4:10**) - an everlasting possession (John 3:36, John 5:24, John 6:47).
3. Rewards - to the saved who faithfully work for the Lord (**1 Corinthians 9:24, 25, Revelation 22:12**) - distributed at the Judgment Seat of Christ (**1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10**), which takes place after the Rapture of the Church (**Revelation 19:7,8**).
4. Rewards are often pictured in the form of crowns:-
  - a) The incorruptible crown - for faithfulness in exercising self control. (**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**)
  - b) The crown of glory - for faithfulness in suffering. (**1 Peter 5:4**)
  - c) The crown of life - for faithfulness under trial. (**James 1:12, Revelation 2:10**)
  - d) The crown of righteousness - for faithful testimony. (**2 Timothy 4:8**)
  - e) The crown of rejoicing - for faithful service. (**1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20, Philippians 4:1**)
5. Rewards come after you have entered into the Plan of God through regeneration.
6. Rewards are based on the use of divine operating assets including the filling of the Holy Spirit.
7. You can lose rewards but never salvation. (**1 Corinthians 3:14-15, 2 Timothy 2:12,13**)

### CHRISTIAN LIFE – ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD

1. Definition.  
All believers of the Church Age belong to a unique system of royalty. **Revelation 1:6**. This royalty is based on spiritual principles of Bible doctrine. While regeneration has occurred in every generation since the beginning of time, it is only the believers of the Church Age who form this eternal nobility.
2. Basis of royalty in the Church Age.
  - a.) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the basis of royalty. **Acts 1:5; Romans 6:3,4**
  - b.) No believer before or after the Church Age receives at salvation the baptism of the Holy Spirit; it is peculiar to this Age of history. **Colossians 1:25,26**



c.) In every dispensation, the believer is regenerated by the Holy Spirit at the moment he believes in Christ; but in the Church Age the Holy Spirit also baptises the believer into the Body of Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:13**

### 3. Precedent for Royalty.

a.) The order or battalion of Melchizedek provides both the pattern and precedent. **Hebrews 5:6,10**

b.) However, Melchizedek acquired his royalty by becoming king of Salem, while Jesus Christ was born Royalty in the line of David. **Matthew 1**

c.) Through the baptism of the Spirit, every believer is entered into union with Christ; hence, believers are known as the Body of Christ. **Colossians 1:18**

d.) As a member of the Body of Christ, every believer of the Church Age is eternally and personally related to the King of kings. **Galatians 3:26-29**

e.) When the Body of Christ is completed, the Church Age terminates with the resurrection or the Rapture, at which time the Body of Christ becomes the Bride of Christ. **Matthew 25:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**

f.) During the Tribulation, the Bride is prepared for, "Operation Footstool", the second phase of Christ's strategic victory, when all enemies are put under His feet. **Hebrews 1:13**

### 4. Sign of Royalty.

a.) The sign of royalty is the unprecedented universal indwelling, of the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

b.) The purpose of this indwelling is to glorify Jesus Christ. **John 7:37-39**

### 5. Security of Royalty.

a.) The sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit guarantees the eternal security of the believer. **Ephesians 1:13,14**

b.) Positional sanctification places every believer in the "palace" (heaven) forever. **Ephesians 1:3,4,11**

### 6. Function of Royalty

a.) The believer must advance toward the objective of spiritual maturity, at which time he receives the accoutrements of royalty as well as the tactical victory of the angelic conflict.

b.) The believer fulfils the status of royalty in the modus operandi of the new priesthood. **Hebrews 7-13**

### 7. Future of Royalty.

As members of the Body of Christ and the Royal Priesthood (**1 Peter 2:9**) all Church Age believers will return with Christ at the Second Advent to participate in the strategic victory of the overthrow of Satan and possibly also in the Millennial reign of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 3:13; Revelation 5:10**

## DEATH

1. In essence, death means "separation" from something/someone.

2. Types of death:

a) Physical death - is the separation of the soul from the body (**Genesis 35:18**).

b) Spiritual death - is separation from God, having no relationship with God (**Ephesians 2:1,12, Genesis 2:17,3:8**)

c) The second death - this is the Great White Throne Judgement followed by the lake of fire for unbelievers - separation from the presence of God, punished forever (**Revelation 20:12-15, 21:8**)

d) Positional death - Christians are identified with Jesus Christ in His death (separation from sin) and in His resurrection (living in righteousness) **Romans 6:3-14 Colossians 2:12-14**

e) Sexual death - inability to procreate (**Romans 4:17-21, Hebrews 11:11-12**)

f) Operational death - faith without works is non operational (**James 2:26**)

g) Temporal death - a carnal believer, out of fellowship with God (**Romans 8:6-8,13, Ephesians 5:14, 1 Timothy 5:6, James 1:15, Revelation 3:1**)

3. Reasons for death (Why we can relax into Christ's arms – for our life is in His hands):

a) Your work on earth is finished. (**John 19:30 cf. Luke 23:46, 2 Timothy 4:7**)

b) For the glory of God - martyrdom (**John 21:19, Acts 7:55-60**)

c) The sin unto death - extreme discipline for believers with hardened hearts against God's will for their life – determined not to fulfil their path. (**1 John 5:16**)

d) Suicide - superimposing your will over God's will for your life (**1 Samuel 31:4, Matthew 27:5**)

e) The unique death of Christ - committing His own spirit to the Father (**Luke 23:46**)

## DYING GRACE

1. We are all here upon the earth as in a "strange country"; we are strangers and pilgrims upon the earth and are not meant to be too comfortable here. **Philippians 3:12-17, Hebrews 11:13, 1 Peter 2:11**.

2. Death is the strangest thing we confront on this earth; the weirdness of being here one minute, alive, alert and warm, then a second later, dead, cooling and inert. Death is meant to appear strange to us, for it is the evidence before us that we are not permanent inhabitants here, but simply playing out a part as we pass through. This is not a place we are meant to get attached to. Refer Death.

3. The death of believers is a precious thing to the God who has given his life to save us from the judgement of sin and death. **1 Samuel 26:21, 2 Kings 1:13-14, Psalms 49:8, 72:14, 116:15, 1 Peter 1:7, 2:4**. Refer Grace.

4. We all must die, but that is not the end. **2 Timothy 4:7-8, Hebrews 11:13**. The mature believers facing death see through it, to the other side where they meet with the Lord face to face. **1 Corinthians 13:12, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10**.

5. Dying grace is provided to all believers who are looking to their Lord as they die, for his perfect provision for each of us from eternity past has everything we need provided in advance of our life, let alone our death itself. There are no surprises to God, and all things we face have provision for them there to be claimed by faith. **1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, 2 Peter 2:9, Jude 24-25**.

## ETERNITY FUTURE

In eternity future:

1. God reveals to us exceeding riches of His grace (**Ephesians 2:7**).
2. God brings many sons into glory (**Hebrews 2:10**).
3. Believers enjoy an inheritance (**1 Peter 1:4**).
4. It is God's purpose for the church to know the manifold wisdom of God (**Ephesians 3:10**).
5. All former things pass away. There will be no more death, sorrow, pain, crying, sea, night or sun. (**Rev 21:1-5,23**)
6. The curse will be lifted (**Revelation 22:3**).
7. All things in heaven and earth will be gathered in Him (**Ephesians 1:10**).
8. The present creation will be forgotten (**Isaiah 65:17**).
9. A river of water of life will run (**Revelation 22:1**).
10. The tree of life will be seen again (**Revelation 22:2**).
11. The Son of God will rule eternally (**Daniel 2:44; 7:13,14**).
12. He will still be subject to the Father (**John 10:29; 1 Corinthians 15:28**).
13. The lake of fire will continue forever (**Isaiah 66:24; Revelation 14:11**).

## ETERNITY PAST

1. Jesus Christ existed before the foundation of the world in glory with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (**John 1:1-2; 17:5,24**).
2. In eternity past the Godhead agreed to permit sin to become manifest in the world of men before being eliminated forever from the universe (**Hebrews 9:26**).
3. In eternity past the Son of God agreed to come to earth as a human being to destroy the works of the devil (**1 John 3:8**).
4. In eternity past it was ordained that Christ would be slain for the ungodly (**1 Peter 1:18-20; Hebrews 10:5-10**).
5. In eternity past the world and stars were created by Jesus Christ (**Hebrews 1:10; Colossians 1:16**).
6. Man was placed on the earth to be made "a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men (**1 Corinthians 4:9**).

7. In eternity past believers were chosen in Christ (**Ephesians 1:4**). Christ is chosen, we share as believers his election.

8. In eternity past a book was written containing the names of those who would believe and survive the destruction of the universe (**Philippians 4:3; Revelation 17:8; 20:15**).

However, whilst God knew who would believe, he did not coerce human free will. Here we confront again the “bounds of sense” while we are still within the limits of space-time thinking, for God is beyond all limits of space-time and sees all history as present. Don’t think too long about these things or your mind will start to unravel. We confront our limits here, but in heaven we also will be beyond these limitations. The best is yet to come – its way more wonderful....

## **GOD – CHARACTER OF GOD**

1. Whilst God is three persons all three persons have exactly the same essence or character:

### a) SOVEREIGNTY

The Father (**Ephesians 1:11, cf. Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 6:10, Hebrews 10:7, 9**)

The Son (**John 5:21, Revelation 19:16**)

The Spirit (**1 Corinthians 12:11, cf. Hebrews 2:4**)

### b) RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Father (**John 17:25**)

The Son (**Luke 1:35, Hebrews 7:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21**)

The Spirit - The Holy Spirit

### c) JUSTICE

The Father (**Job 37:23, cf. 8:3**)

The Son (**Acts 3:14, John 5:22, Revelation 19:11**)

The Spirit (**Nehemiah 9:20**)

### d) LOVE

The Father (**John 3:16**)

The Son (**Ephesians 5:25, 1 John 3:16**)

The Spirit (**John 16:7-11, 1 Corinthians 2:10**)

### e) ETERNAL LIFE

The Father (**John 5:26**)

The Son (**Micah 5:2, cf. John 1:1-2, 1 John 5:11**)

The Spirit (**Isaiah 48:16**)

### f) ALL-KNOWING

The Father (**Hebrews 4:13, cf. Matthew 11:27, 1 Peter 1:2**)

The Son (**John 18:4, cf. Matthew 9:4, John 2:25, 1 Corinthians 4:5**)

The Spirit (**Isaiah 11:2, cf. 1 Corinthians 2:11**)

### g) EVERYWHERE

The Father (**2 Chronicles 2:6**)

The Son (**Matthew 28:20, cf. Ephesians 1:23**)

The Spirit (**Psalms 139:7**)

### h) ALL-POWERFUL

The Father (**Mark 14:36, cf. 1 Peter 1:5**)

The Son (**Hebrews 1:3, cf. Matthew 24:30, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 3:21**)  
 The Spirit (**Romans 15:19**)

i) UNCHANGEABLE

The Father (**Hebrews 6:17, Psalm 33:11**)  
 The Son (**Hebrews 13:8**)  
 The Spirit (**John 14:16**)

j) TRUTH

The Father (**John 7:28, John 17:3**)  
 The Son (**1 John 5:20, cf. John 1:14, 14:6, Revelation 19:11**)  
 The Spirit (**1 John 5:6, cf. John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13**)

## GOD – DIVINE DECREES

1. This is the term in theology that refers to the plan of God coming to us from eternity past. It means that the Lord God, our heavenly Father, has had a plan from eternity past (before time and space were made) and that plan has been “decreed” to be the plan for this universe, and that this plan is as certain as there was a beginning to this universe, and that there will be an end. Though the universe will end, the plan of God, as it came from before the universe, continues on in its effect after this universe is ended and has been replaced by the new one. **2 Peter 3:10-13, Revelation 21:18.**

2. The plan centres on the person and work of the second person of the Trinity; it centres around the person of Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 1:4-6, 1 John 3:23.**

3. Entrance into the plan of God is dependent upon grace. The sovereignty of God expressed in the divine decrees he has made about the plan, meet man’s free will at the Cross. Grace + faith = salvation.

By saving people by grace, God’s perfect holy character is not compromised by the transaction. No-one is saved by works, for there is nothing that a creature of space and time can do to impress the creator of space and time, nor is there anything that sin can do to impress or pressure holiness. **John 3:16-36, Ephesians 2:8-9.**

4. God’s plan for this universe is designed in such a way that every event is “decreed”; his plan includes all causes, conditions, and outcomes, there is no real contingency that has not been foreseen and planned for from before time. All this has been achieved in accordance with the holy purposes of God, yet without violating human volition, man’s free will. The universe is one of both freewill and determinism. Such a contradiction exists only in our minds, limited as they are by space and time. This plan is far greater than our minds can comprehend, for it was made by the creator of space and time, who lives and moves and has his being beyond such limitations of thoughts and realities. When we consider this doctrine of decrees, we enter a realm beyond our dimension, and far above and beyond any space travel fantasies of man. **Acts 2:23, Romans 8:29, 1 Peter 1:2.**

5. God’s plan comes from his entire character, not just foreknowledge. It has been drawn up with no violation of man’s free will choices, for which each is held responsible. The outcomes are certain because of the divine decrees that make them so, yet the people within the plan have the freedom to choose and no-one before the throne of the creator will be able to say, “I had to fall; you predestined me to!” Each will be judged by their works, freely chosen, and by their rejection of the Lord, freely done. **Revelation 20:11 – 21:1.**

6. Neither Calvinism nor Arminianism in their theologies capture the full magnitude of the divine decrees, for both try to explain in the human terms of, sovereignty, foreknowledge and free will, yet the reality of the Plan of God comes from beyond all such time and space limited concepts. This doctrine is bigger than our limited minds and languages, and it behoves all who discuss this to recognise their limits as they speak of such things as this. How can a thing be certain and yet also freely done? A moment's reflection gives us the answer once we think about different perspectives on an event; from time and non-time. The only reason people have difficulty with such things is because most have not been trained in philosophy of science or physics.

7. Whenever Paul discussed these things he sang of them; if we understand the truth about the greatness of the character and plan of God we will still be baffled over this, while we live in time, but we will go on our way rejoicing. **Acts 8:39, Galatians 6:4, Hebrews 3:6.** Refer ELECTION, CHARACTER OF GOD, ETERNITY. By the "fruit of rejoicing" our real knowledge will be shown.

## **GOD – GOD CARES FOR YOU**

1. God knows ...

- a) Our sorrows. (**Exodus 3:7**)
- b) Our devotions. (**2 Chronicles 16:9**)
- c) Our thoughts. (**Psalms 44:21**)
- d) Our foolishness. (**Psalms 69:5**)
- e) Our frailties. (**Psalms 103:14**)
- f) Our deeds. (**Psalms 139:2**)
- g) Our words. (**Psalms 139:4**)
- h) The composition of the universe. (**Psalms 147:4**)
- i) All things. (**Proverbs 15:3**)
- j) Our needs. (**Matthew 6:32**)
- k) About animal creation. (**Matthew 10:29**)
- l) Mankind. (**Matthew 10:30**)
- m) What might or could have been. (**Matthew 11:23**)
- n) His own. (**John 10:14**)
- o) Past, present and future. (**Acts 15:18**)

2. God is able to ...

- a) Save forever those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ - **Hebrews 7:25**

- b) Supply every need - **2 Corinthians 9:8**
  - c) Deliver all who are tempted - **Hebrews 2:18**
  - d) Sustain the weak believer and make him stand - **Romans 14:4**
  - e) Keep us from falling and make us blameless - **Jude 24,25**
  - f) Surpass all that we could ask or think - **Ephesians 3:20**
  - g) Raise us up in resurrection in the likeness of His Son - **Hebrews 11:19**
3. With God, all things are possible - **Matthew 19:26**
4. God is in control. Nothing will ever happen to you that you are not able to deal with. (**1 Corinthians 10:13**)
5. God's character is stable.
- a) If God is for you who can be against you. (**Romans 8:31-34**)
  - b) No matter what happens God's love is stable. (**Romans 8:35-39**)
6. God's promises are secure for He is always with us. (**Matthew 28:19-20, Jeremiah 1:19**)
7. God's power is always the same:-
- a) He will always keep us. (**John 10:29, 2 Timothy 1:12,**)
  - b) God does not forget us or lose His power to keep. (**Jude 24**)
  - c) Even if we fall away from fellowship we still are saved. (**2 Timothy 2:13**)
8. God knew before time what we would need in time and has provided for the supply of all our needs. (**Philippians 4:19, Hebrews 4:16, Ephesians 3:12,**)
9. God has the power to bless us. (**2 Corinthians 9:8**)
10. God is able to make all grace abound towards us. (**Ephesians 3:20**)

**GOD – PLAN OF GOD**

1. In eternity past, God designed a plan for every believer, which takes into account every event and decision in human history.
2. The plan centres on the person of Jesus Christ. (**1 John 3:23, Ephesians 1:4-6**)
3. Entrance into the plan is based on the principle of grace (**Ephesians 2:8, 9**) where the sovereignty of God and the free will of Man meet at the cross. God brings salvation which is complete, Man brings his faith.
4. God's plan was so designed so as to include all events and actions. (**1 Peter 1:2**)
5. Under His plan God has decreed to do some things directly and some through agencies, Israel, the Church.
6. Without interfering with human free will in any way God has designed a plan so perfect that it includes cause and effect, as well as provision, preservation and function.
7. There are many functions in the Plan of God. They all constitute one whole comprehensive plan which is perfect, eternal and unchangeable.
8. The plan of God is consistent with human freedom and does not limit or coerce human free will. Distinction should be made between what God causes and what God permits. God causes the Cross but permits sin. God is neither the author of sin nor sponsors sin.
9. His plan portrays that man has free will. God never condones sin in the human race. Man started in perfect environment and innocence. Man sinned of his own free will. Man will sin in the perfect environment of the Millennium.
10. Distinction should be made between the divine plans which are related to the plan of God and divine laws which regulate human conduct on the earth. Divine laws occur in time, divine plans occur in eternity.
11. God's plans derive from His foreknowledge. He recognised in eternity past those things which are certain. The foreknowledge of God makes no things certain, but only perceives in eternity past those things that are certain.
12. There is a difference between foreknowledge and fore ordination. Fore ordination establishes certainty but does not provide for the certainty which is established. It is the plan that provides. (**Romans 8:29, Acts 2:23, 1 Peter 1:2**)
13. Therefore the elect are foreknown and the foreknown are elect. God knew in eternity past what way each free will would go for each particular problem in life. God does not coerce human free will but He does know what way each freewill will choose at any given time. As free will decides so God provides.
14. Since God cannot contradict His own character He plans the best for the believer. God is perfect, His plan and provisions are therefore perfect.
15. The cross was planned in eternity past but the human free will of Christ decided for the cross at Gethsemane. (**Matthew 26:39-42**) God has provided salvation through the cross and it is a free will decision as to whether one accepts it or not.



16. No plan in itself opposes human freedom but once a choice is made from the free will then the plan limits your human freedom. At the same time it gives you the freedom to love and appreciate God. God lays down the means of living the Christian life.

## GRACE

1. Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the cross. Therefore Grace is unmerited favour from God.
2. Grace depends on the character of God therefore Grace depends on who and what God is. Grace is what God can do for man and still be true to his own character.
3. The believer must recognise the difference between legalism and grace. Legalism is man's work intruding upon the plan of God.
4. The greatest thing God can do for the saved person is to make him exactly like His Son Jesus Christ. This is accomplished in three stages of sanctification.
5. **Positional Sanctification:** At Salvation every believer enters into union with Christ. (**Hebrews 1:2**) Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father and is therefore superior to all angels in his humanity. At the point of salvation we are entered into union with Christ thus we are positionally higher than angels. We are positionally seated with Christ at God's right hand.
6. **Experiential Sanctification:** During the Christian's life on the earth the time spent under the power of the Holy Spirit. During this time we produce the character of God in our lives - gold, silver, precious stones. (**1 Corinthians 3:12-15**)
7. **Ultimate Sanctification:** When the believer receives a resurrection body he loses the sin nature and all human good. At this point the believer is physically superior to all angels. He remains in this perfect state eternally.
8. All believers have tasted of Grace at least once (**1 Peter 2:3**). This refers to the point of Salvation at which the believer receives at least 34 things which he did not earn or deserve. (**Ephesians 2:8, 9**) Disorientation to grace is the believer's greatest occupational hazard in his Christian life. (**Galatians 5:4, Hebrews 12:15**)
9. The divine attitude to grace is expressed in (**Isaiah 30:18, 19**) God is constantly waiting to pour out his blessing on all believers in the Christian life.
10. Grace in salvation is expressed in many ways. It is always the same - believing in Jesus Christ (**Psalms 103:8-12, Romans 3:23-4, Romans 4:4, 5:20, Ephesians 2:8, 9**)
11. There are many ways in which the Christian life expresses GRACE:
  - a) Prayer (**Hebrews 4:16**)
  - b) Suffering (**2 Corinthians 12:9, 10**)
  - c) Growth (**2 Peter 3:18**)
  - d) Stability (**1 Peter 5:12**)
  - e) Lifestyle (**Hebrews 12:28, 2 Corinthians 1:12**)

f) Production of Divine Good (**1 Corinthians 15:10, 2 Corinthians 6:1**)

12. Grace is the correct attitude in relation to giving. (**2 Corinthians 8 & 9**)

13. Grace is the only means of coping with suffering in the Christian life. (**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**)

Through Grace God is able to bless the believer in the midst of the pressures and adversities of life. (**1 Peter 1:6,7**)

14. Implications of grace:

a) God is perfect, his plan is perfect.

b) A perfect plan can only originate from a perfect God.

c) If man could do anything in the plan of God the plan would no longer be perfect.

d) A plan is no stronger than its weakest link. Grace therefore excludes all human merit, all human ability.

e) Legalism, human works is the enemy of Grace.

f) The works of human righteousness have therefore no place in the plan of God. (Isaiah 64:6)

## HEAVEN AND HELL

### SIMILARITIES

They are both real places. The Lord Jesus is very specific about Hell by using the word "topos" from which we get "topography" meaning a detailed description of a specific place. (**Luke 16:28**).

PURPOSE: To show God's glory.

Hell shows His glory by His perfect judgement and punishment on evil. Satan, demons and evil people finally get what they deserve in Hell.

God punishes justly, man cannot. That is what so many people, even the unsaved, find so frustrating about today, an unjust legal system.

### HEAVEN

1. Heaven is where Jesus is. (**Acts 1:1-11; Acts 7:55**)
  2. We will be reunited with loved ones in perfect happiness. We will also meet all the saints and the great names of the Bible. (**2 Samuel 12:23; Luke 16:22,23; Matthew 19:14; John 14:2**)
  3. No sin. (**Rev 21:27**)
  4. You have a special, spacious dwelling place (mansion) personally prepared by LJC perfectly customized to your personality and character. (**John 14:2**)
  5. A pure and clean and perfectly peaceful environment. (**Rev 21:27**)
  6. God wipes away every tear. (**Rev 21:4**)
  7. No pain, sickness or suffering in a glorious body that never tires. (Perfect health!) **Rev 21:4.**
  8. A place of light radiating from God's glory. No darkness. (**Rev 21:23**)
  9. Can eat and drink, but not necessary for life. (**Luke 24:42,43; Rev 22:1,2**)
  10. Will spend eternity worshipping and serving God. (**Rev 5:10, Rev 22:3-6**)
- You can do study and learn and explore all things and places, yet never reach full knowledge. There is no boredom in Heaven!

### HELL

Hell is complete separation from God, everlasting destruction. (**Matthew 25:46**)

People are with Satan, demons, murderers, the immoral and perverted, liars, boasters, haters of God etc. (**Rev 21:8, Romans 1:26-31**).

Sin is unlimited and gets worse and worse (**Rev 22:11**).

Shared accommodation in the Lake of Fire. (**Rev 22:15**)

Burns with intolerable heat and brimstone which is sulphur that gives off a foul smelling, highly toxic gas. (**Rev 14:10; 21:8**)

Weeping (intense, body shaking, uncontrollable crying) that never stops. (**Matthew 8:12**)

- A place of sorrows, **Ps 18:5**

Pain of the whole body on fire but not consumed by it, gnashing of teeth in blind rage at yourself, your sins, other people and at God. Their torment never stops.

Complete darkness, despite the flames, which are never put out. (**Matthew 25:30**)

They scream for water and mercy. (**Luke 16:24**). They will drink the wine of God's righteous anger (**Rev 14:10**).

A bottomless pit of eternal burning and punishment and torture. (**Rev 20:1**)

Torture added to by watching the activities and happiness of the saved in Heaven. (**Luke 16: 23-26**)

**CHRIST – I AM**

The use of the “ I AM” means that the Lord was saying that He is God. In Exodus 3:14 God reveals Himself to Moses as, I AM THAT I AM. Using this phrase at His arrest in John 18:2-6, He caused the army group to fall backwards due to His power as God flashing forth for a millisecond, before being led away as a willing sacrifice. We are not confronted with the Jesus of liberalism here, but with the Lord of lords, King of kings, God stepping down to speak authoritatively to mankind. There are seven “I AM’s” in the New Testament.

1. PROVISION - I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE John 6:30-35 - The feeding of the five thousand - a miracle involving bread. God provided miraculous physical food in the desert for forty years - Manna. Christ is our spiritual food. He says that he is the only source of spiritual food for you. There is life in no other. No one else can satisfy the spiritual hunger in man. He tells us He is the bread from heaven - He shows Himself as God. The bread of the Passover - unleavened, pierced and griddled; speaking of his body.

2. SPIRITUALITY - I AM THE LIGHT John 8:12 - The feast of Tabernacles (where He also told the people to have the everlasting water John 7:37-39). When the Lord says this He is saying that He is the only source of pure light as shown in His matchless character. He is stating that He is God. 1 John 1 says that God is light and in Him is there no darkness at all. We are to walk in the light in fellowship with God.

3. SALVATION - I AM THE DOOR John 10:7 - The Sheepfolds of Jerusalem, Psalms 22-24. To be the door of the sheepfold, He is the only way into the plan of God. Anyone that tries to come any other way is a liar and a thief. If this is not true there is no way to God.

4. GUIDANCE - I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD John 10:11 - the good shepherd, the only one who really cares. Many from other religions say that they really care but it is Jesus the good shepherd, the only one who really cares. All other systems drop you into hell.

5. RESURRECTION - I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE John 11:20-25 - The death of Lazarus. Christ conquers death proving He is God, the resurrection and the life, He is the way the truth and life forever. The only way to eternal life is in Christ Jesus. To reject Him is to have eternal life in the Lake of Fire

6. TRUTH/LIFE - I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE John 14: 6 - There is no other way to gain meaning in this life and eternal life than through him. We are related to the King of kings and Lord of lords who came and died for us that we might live. We should be obedient to our Lord who bought us with His blood. I am the way the truth and the life. The only way to live is in the truth, the only way to have life and have it more abundantly is in Him. The only way to God is through the God man Jesus Christ. We need to live in Him as He is the only one who has the truth.

7. PRODUCTION - I AM THE TRUE VINE John 15:1-5 - Walking from the Passover meal past the Temple towards Gethsemane, He talks about the spiritual production that is ours in union with Him. I am the true vine - the only way to spiritual productivity is in Christ Jesus through the fruit of the Spirit. Love Joy Peace and the other fruit is only available in Christ. You have to be in the vine to have fruit. Many unbelievers want joy and peace but they cannot have it without Christ.

**OLD AGE**

1. Old Age is a time when we should be even more useful for the Lord than we have been able to be before, as we have the chance to use time that previously has been used in work. The age at which "old age" starts in the church is sixty years of age. **1 Timothy 5:9.**

2. The Bible makes it clear that the elderly are to be respected.

[a] The elders are to be stood up for by the younger in respect for their age. **Leviticus 19:32**

[b] Children are to listen to their parents in the Lord, they are not to despise them if they do not agree with them, but prove they are right by their own good deeds. **Proverbs 23:22.**

[c] Respect is demanded of the believer for the aged. **1 Timothy 5:1,2.**

[d] The army is to protect the elderly from evil invaders of the land. **Deuteronomy 28:50, 2 Chronicles 36:17.**

3. There are problems with old age.

[a] Some will be unteachable, thinking they know everything. **Ecclesiastes 4:13-15.**

[b] Old people are helpless and often need care. **John 21:18.**

[c] They are vulnerable to disease. **1 Kings 15:23.**

[d] They will be victims to their own fears. **Psalms 71:9.**

[e] If they have been disobedient they will feel great terror. **Psalms 6:7, 32:3.**

4. If the elderly have walked close to the Lord for many years the doctrine in their souls is a bank they can draw on in their old age.

[a] Doctrine is profitable in old age. **Proverbs 22:6, Psalm 71:17,18.**

[b] Blessings of maturity are there in old age. **Psalm 148:12-14.**

[c] They have great security and blessing in old age. **Psalms 37:25, Proverbs 17:6, 20:29.**

[d] They have dying grace with the Lord. **Job 42:17, 1 Chronicles 23:1, 29:28, Isaiah 46:4.**

5. In the Millennial kingdom old age is blessed. **Isaiah 65:20, Joel 2:28, Zechariah 8:4.**

6. Standards for old people's service are found in God's Word. **Titus 2:2,3.**

**WORLD**

1. World under control of Satan:

a) ruler of this world (**John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11**)

b) god of this world (**2 Corinthians 4:4**)

c) he deceives the world (**Revelation 12:9**).

- d) Satan is filling the world with his propaganda (**1 Timothy 4:1**).
2. Jesus Christ created earth (**Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:18**). He gave control to original mankind (**Genesis 1:28**) but man lost it at the fall (**Genesis 3:6**).
3. Sin and spiritual death are the basis of Satan's rule over this world. Therefore, God so loved the world that He gave a Saviour (**John 3:16**), hence Christ as a title in this connection. Christ is the light of the world (**John 8:12; 9:5**).
4. Therefore Christ is the saviour of the world (**John 3:17; 4:42; 1 John 4:14**). The Saviour who gave His life for the world (**John 6:33**); hence Christ has a title in this connection. Christ is the light of the world (**John 8:12; 9:5**).
5. Therefore Christ has overcome the world (**John 16:33**), so that the believer can overcome the world (**1 John 5:4,5**).
6. Consequently believers in Christ must not love the world (**1 John 2:15,16**). Nor must believers conform to the world (**Romans 12:2**). Worldliness is what you think, which may be demonstrated by what you do.
7. World control by Satan will stop at the Second Advent. However, believers will continue forever (**1 John 2:17**).
8. Also, the Word of God abides forever (**1 Peter 1:23,25**), and is designed to overcome the ruler of this world (**1 John 2:14**). Therefore, not conforming to the world and overcoming the world are accomplished through Bible doctrine, by which God has made foolish the wisdom of the world (**1 Corinthians 1:20; 3:19**).
9. It is therefore of greatest importance that the believer's attitude is based on the Word of God (**Philippians 2:5; 2 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 26:3,4; Philippians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 10:4,5; 1 Corinthians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 1:5,6,8**).
10. Backsliding is characterised as friendship with the world (**James 4:4**).

## WORLDLINESS

1. Worldliness means to follow the beliefs and philosophy of man rather than that of God
2. Worldliness is the opposite of godliness; it is thinking/doing in opposition to God's revealed word. **Titus 2:11-14**.
3. All people are faced with the constant choice of following God's way or the world's. **Romans 5:12, 3:19, 1 Corinthians 1:21, Ephesians 2:12, James 1:27, 2 Peter 1:4, 2:20**.
4. Satan is the "prince of this world", and has power to deceive those who are negative to God's plans. **John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, 1 Corinthians 4:4, 1 Peter 5:8,9**.
5. We must not love the world, **1 John 2:15-17**.
6. We must hate all the world stands for, in thought and in deed. **1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 11:30-32, Galatians 6:14, James 1:27, James 4:4, 2 Peter 1:3,4, 1 Corinthians 3:18, 19**.
7. We must not return to our old behaviour patterns, **Ephesians 2:1-7**.

8. This evil world system and the prince of this world will be condemned. **Matthew 18:7, John 12:31, 16:11, 1 Corinthians 6:2, 2 Peter 3:7, 2 Peter 2:1ff.**

## WORRY

1. General scripture for the cure to worry (**Genesis 15**).
2. Scriptures where the believer is told not to worry: (**Philippians 4:6; Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7; 1 Samuel 17:47; Exodus 14:13,14**).
3. We are instructed to be imitators of God - God never worries (**Ephesians 5:1**) When we worry we do not imitate God.
4. Three categories of worry:
  - a) Worry about problems of this life.
  - b) Worry about death and dying.
  - c) Worry about sin (guilt).
5. The example given is of Abram in **Genesis 15**.
6. First cure for worry - The Promises of God (v 1-7).
  - a) God tells Abram not to worry (v 1) -
  - b) "I am thy shield and thy exceeding reward.
  - c) The promise of a natural child is given (v 4).
  - d) The promises of God are backed by the perfect character of God
  - e) God provides an object lesson - the stars (v 5).
  - f) God reminds him of his salvation - a grace gift (v 6).
  - g) God reminds Abram of God's faithfulness in the past (v 7).
  - h) The challenge to Abram: trust in God or worry.
7. Second cure for worry - The Doctrine of the Word (v 8-12).
  - a) God instructs Abram to sacrifice five animals (v 9)
  - b) Animals sacrificed are:
    - i) HEIFER - representing CONFESSION OF SINS
    - ii) SHE GOAT representing SALVATION RECONCILIATION
    - iii) RAM representing SALVATION PROPITIATION
    - iv) TURTLE DOVE representing CHRIST'S DEITY
    - v) PIGEON representing CHRIST'S RESURRECTED HUMANITY.
  - c) Application to the cure of worry:

- i) HEIFER - by confessing your sins they are blotted out. Do not worry about past failures. Confession of sins is essential before you can apply the doctrines of the Bible to cure your worry.
- ii) SHE GOAT - God provided reconciliation through Christ by removing the barrier between God and man - we are reconciled therefore do not worry.
- iii) RAM - God was satisfied by Christ's sacrifice. Jesus Christ can handle our problems in time do not worry.
- iv) TURTLE DOVE - Jesus Christ as God is always faithful, He is always with us - do not worry.
- v) PIGEON - The resurrected Jesus Christ is seated in the place of commendation at the right hand of God in a most powerful location - do not worry.

d) Satan counter-attacks in the form of birds swooping down on the carcasses, doubts form and there is a temptation to worry (v 11).

e) Abram drives them away - he refuses to worry (v 11)

f) Under pressure, Abram begins to doubt and worry about his descendants (v 12).

8. Third cure for worry - Knowledge of prophecy

a) In our future as believers we will have:

- i) A resurrection body (**1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**).
- ii) A mansion in heaven (**John 14:1-3**)
- iii) An inheritance (**1 Peter 1:3-8**)
- iv) Blessedness and no pressure (**Revelation 21:4**)

b) God gave Abram five prophecies in (**Genesis 15**):

- i) The Jews would serve the Egyptians 400 years (v 13).
- ii) God would judge Egypt with ten plagues (v 14).
- iii) The Jews would leave with great wealth (v 14).
- iv) Abram would die at a ripe old age (v 15).
- v) The Jews would return to the Promised Land (v 16).

c) Abram therefore was assured that his descendants would have a great future and to seal this, God, that same day gave Abram the Palestinian Covenant (v 18 -21).

9. It is of interest that the number of promises inferred were five, the animals killed were five and the prophecies given were five, the number five being that of GRACE, God's unmerited favour to man.



## FINAL REFLECTIONS

Through the Covid years we were led to one text to encourage the saints in our local church.

It was **2 Timothy 1:7**. Let us encourage each other as we speak of death and beyond, for we do not ever speak simply of “death” as the unbelievers do, we speak of destiny through it into eternity.

*“For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love and of a sound mind”.*

God’s power first in the filling of the Holy Spirit every moment, then a full appreciation of God’s love and only then will our mind be stabilized in the midst of the Angelic Conflict.

“The Joy of the Lord is our strength”. And it is joy that goes on forever.

Dr John C McEwan  
Dean. EBCWA

Auckland, “Ends of the Earth”, 27 January 2024.

“At the day of Doom men shall be judged according to their fruits. It will not be said then, did you believe? But were you doers or talkers only?” – John Bunyan

“When the day of recompense comes, our only regret will be that we have done so little for Him, not that we have done too much.” – George Muller

"We are like people under [a] sentence of death, waiting for the date to be set. We sense that something is about to happen. We know that things cannot go on as they are. History has reached an impasse. We are now on a collision course. Something is about to give."  
- Billy Graham

“The apostolic church thought more about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ than about death and heaven. The early Christians were looking, not for a cleft in the ground called a grave but for a cleavage in the sky called Glory.” – Alexander MacLaren

"God will invade. But I wonder whether people who ask God to interfere openly and directly in our world quite realise what it will be like when He does. When that happens, it is the end of the world. When the author walks on to the stage the play is over. God is going to invade, all right... For this time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side... That will not be the time for choosing; it will be the time when we discover which side we really have chosen, whether we realised it before or not. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It will not last for ever."  
-C.S. Lewis

"The messengers of Jesus will be hated to the end of time. They will be blamed for all the division which rend cities and homes. Jesus and his disciples will be condemned on

all sides for undermining family life, and for leading the nation astray; they will be called crazy fanatics and disturbers of the peace. The disciples will be sorely tempted to desert their Lord. But the end is also near, and they must hold on and persevere until it comes. Only he will be blessed who remains loyal to Jesus and his word until the end."-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"In the end there will be people who did the work of the Lord. They were busy in the church. They had done many wonderful works. But Jesus Himself says, "I never knew you" [Matthew 7:23]." - Billy Graham

Let's be far more than "busy" as termites, but rather Holy Spirit filled believers seeking the Lord's path alone through this brief life and then on into glory. Let the confidence of heaven excite you and comfort your hearts as you advance on the path of the Lord for you each and every day. Amen. Your brother on the pilgrimage journey through this life.

24 March. John