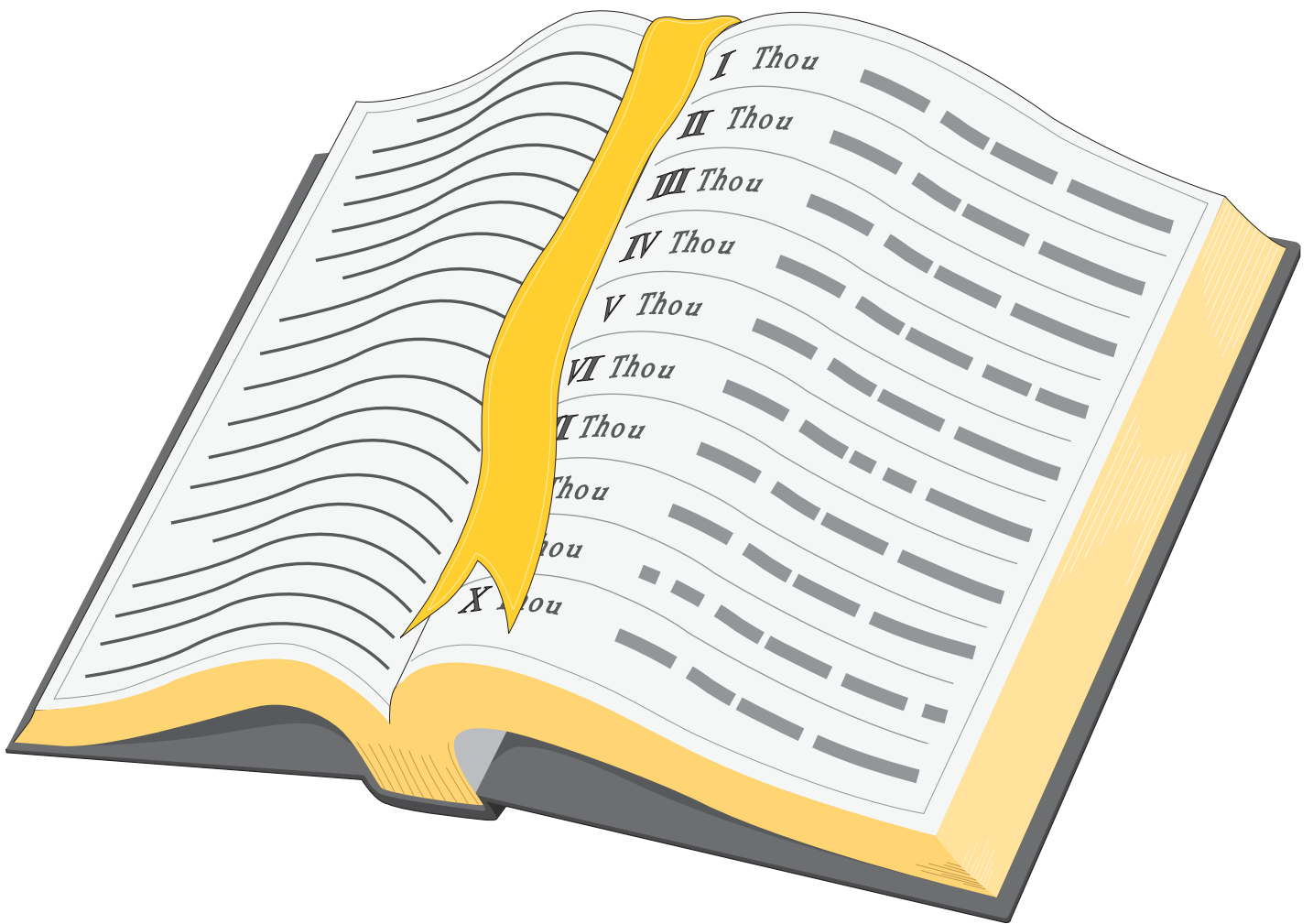


I Believe!



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

I Believe!



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD

Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated:

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright© 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2022 by Charles E. Darnell, all rights reserved.
With corrections to previously copyrighted work used in this work.

Edited with the assistance of Teresa Spurling (my wife), PhD, NBCT

Published by
VisionQuest Publishing, Inc.
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-7416




No portion of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher. Reproduction for use in electronic media format is also prohibited. Due to copyright infringement and piracy of intellectual property all pages of digitally formatted work from VisionQuest Publishing will be electronically watermarked. Any page not having this watermark is not an original and should not be accepted as a valid copy of the original copyrighted material.

Throughout my works I have attempted to incorporate supporting scripture for the convenience of the reader. In doing such I may, or may not, follow the appropriate manuscript style as stated in the Fifth Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) or any other accepted manuscript guide. While acknowledging the authority of the APA there is a clause used in the stated manual which needs to be inserted herein:

The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.




I Believe!



“I Believe!” seems to be a strange title for a book. We all have beliefs and we make up our own minds about what it is we believe. But, let me ask you a few questions to begin this book. Do you understand what Jesus meant when He told some of the Pharisees that they were the seed of Satan? Do you understand how the first five books of the Bible were written? How often do you sit down and view your own personal beliefs just to see if you need to correct a few of them? I will tell you this up front and it will be in a straight forward manner. I will use my personal method of including the verses from the Bible to explain and reflect what it is that I believe. All scripture to support my position will be in blue and italicized.

Genesis, the beginning. A great place for learning the basics about the Bible. Also, a great place to start your belief system or the checking of what I believe. I really feel compelled to write this book because there are so many people today that have some very different ideas of what they believe and how they formed those beliefs. My lovely wife was a teacher for over 40 years and is my chief editor and she tells me that to educate, you must hear or read something ten times before it becomes a memory that can be tested. With that being said, I have to go through ideas and subjects many times for them to be something that you really remember. I’ve been writing what my God has been sending to me for over 30 years. Many of the items I include in this book may be found in other works that I have written along the way to get to this point. I may not tell you the same thing ten times in this one book, but if you went back and read all the other 2000 pages, you just might find the same thing repeated at least ten times.

Since we are speaking about the beginning, let’s call it what it really is: It is the creation of all things, and, yes, the first chapter of Genesis tells us that there is a living God who created all things in six days. That statement alone will send some folks closing this book and not reading further. Why? Let’s be reasonable and understand that it takes an open mind to even write a book such as this. But more importantly, it also takes an open mind to read such a book. Without an open mind, I am not in tune with God’s thinking through His Holy Spirit and therefore unable to record what it is He wants me to say. At the same time, you, the reader, must have an open mind so that what I show you is not something that offends you to the point that you become completely overwhelmed with satanic emotions. Remember it is Satan who is our adversary, and he and his demons want to influence you and persuade you to accept their point of view which is that I am the liar. By the time you complete your reading of this book, I hope that I have shown to you that the Christianity that we currently practice is a counterfeit religion, and it is no where near the principles taught by Jesus, the Christ.



Allow me to be really brave and not only go out on a limb, but to jump up and down on that limb. The first two verses of Genesis sets up a particular situation. Notice what the statement says: *1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* Gen 1:1 It does not say that this was done 6000 years ago. Verse two gives us another statement. *2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* Gen 1:2 There is a missing piece of information that is left out of our English Bible. Go and review the Interlinear Bible. The Interlinear Bible is unique in that it gives the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words along with English. The fourth word, that is left out of our modern English language Bible is Aleph Tav in Hebrew, meaning son, or Jesus as the Alpha and Omega in Greek. This one extra tidbit of information indicates that Jesus was the active creator of the Godhead and was performing the will of God, the Father. Also, the word translated *was* (Strong’s number 1961) in the second verse, should be read as *became* and not *was*. Therefore the first verse should read: *In the beginning Jesus created the heavens and the earth.* The second verse should read: *The earth became without form, and void; I believe*

that the earth, when first created, was perfect. This would be a pre-Adamic earth. This would be the earth where the dinosaurs roamed and the pagan peoples lived. The book of Job gives us some insight into what may have been this time frame. Job was an upright man and blameless in his days. ¹ *There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.* Job 1:1

There is also an introduction to some of the characteristics of Satan in the book of Job. Look at the question and answer to the discussion between God and Satan in Job 1:6-8 and also in Job 2:1-4. ⁶ *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.* ⁷ *The Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."* ⁸ *And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?"* Job 1:6-8 ¹ *Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.* ² *And the Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."* ³ *And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason."* Job 2:1-3 It is interesting that the New King James, the American Standard and the New International Version use the phrase, "walking back and forth on it" to explain the roamings of Satan upon the earth. The original King James and the English Standard use the phrase, "up and down in it." ⁷ *And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."* Job 1:7 (NKJV)

Why have I taken the time to explore the movements of Satan upon the earth. Simple, there is a place called hell and it is very real. We should all understand that there is a choice that each and every individual must make and that choice is where will your soul spend eternity? There are those who do not believe that there is a real place called hell. There are many places within the Bible that hell is mentioned and even Jesus spoke about hell. He even gave the illustration concerning the rich man and the poor man saying that the rich man was in the hell portion of the under world. People do not believe that there are cavities, in the earth and yet there is a cave in VietNam that is so large a 747 could fly through it. Additionally, a major portion of New York City, including the Empire State Building, could fit inside this cave. Satan was not only observing the people on the surface of the earth, and influencing their thoughts, he was also checking on his fallen angels in hell to see what they were doing, therefore Satan was walking up and down in the earth. It was this pagan world that became so corrupt that God had to do something about the condition of the earth. Remember, we are speaking about a time prior to the global flood of Noah's time. Oh, I didn't show you anything about the dinosaurs. Turn with me to the 40th chapter of Job and read the following verses, ¹⁵ *"Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox.* ¹⁶ *See now, his strength is in his hips, And his power is in his stomach muscles.* ¹⁷ *He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.* ¹⁸ *His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron.* ¹⁹ *He is the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword.* ²⁰ *Surely the mountains yield food for him, And all the beasts of the field play there.* ²¹ *He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh.* ²² *The lotus trees cover him with their shade; The willows by the brook surround him.* ²³ *Indeed the river may rage, Yet he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth,* ²⁴ *Though he takes it in his eyes, Or one pierces his nose with a snare.* Job 40:15-24 (NKJV) What about the Leviathan in Chapter 41, would you accept and believe that this was a fire breathing dragon? Oh, come on, read it for yourself in the following, ¹ *"Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, Or snare his tongue with a line which you*

lower? ² Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook? ³ Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you? ⁴ Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever? ⁵ Will you play with him as with a bird, Or will you leash him for your maidens? ⁶ Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? ⁷ Can you fill his skin with harpoons, Or his head with fishing spears? ⁸ Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle—Never do it again! ⁹ Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false; Shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him? ¹⁰ No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me? ¹¹ Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine. ¹² "I will not conceal his limbs, His mighty power, or his graceful proportions. ¹³ Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle? ¹⁴ Who can open the doors of his face, With his terrible teeth all around? ¹⁵ His rows of scales are his pride, Shut up tightly as with a seal; ¹⁶ One is so near another That no air can come between them; ¹⁷ They are joined one to another, They stick together and cannot be parted. ¹⁸ His sneezings flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. ¹⁹ Out of his mouth go burning lights; Sparks of fire shoot out. ²⁰ Smoke goes out of his nostrils, As from a boiling pot and burning rushes. ²¹ His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes out of his mouth. ²² Strength dwells in his neck, And sorrow dances before him. ²³ The folds of his flesh are joined together; They are firm on him and cannot be moved. ²⁴ His heart is as hard as stone, Even as hard as the lower millstone. ²⁵ When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; Because of his crashings they are beside themselves. ²⁶ Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; Nor does spear, dart, or javelin. ²⁷ He regards iron as straw, And bronze as rotten wood. ²⁸ The arrow cannot make him flee; Slingstones become like stubble to him. ²⁹ Darts are regarded as straw; He laughs at the threat of javelins. ³⁰ His undersides are like sharp potsherds; He spreads pointed marks in the mire. ³¹ He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment. ³² He leaves a shining wake behind him; One would think the deep had white hair. ³³ On earth there is nothing like him, Which is made without fear. ³⁴ **He beholds every high thing; He is king over all the children of pride.**" Job 41:1-34 (NKJV) Do you also recall that Satan himself is called the serpent of old. Just for a good laugh, we could say that this beast is Satan's pet.

While we are speaking of Satan, do you fully understand his position in heaven prior to his pride and self centeredness caused him to become the devil? There were three archangels in heaven; they were Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer. When Lucifer filled his heart and mind with the idea that he could be as great as God, he became Satan and the devil and he influenced one third of the angels to follow him and they became the demons. Prior to this Lucifer held one of the three highest positions in heaven, under the Godhead. He was in charge of the music in heaven, and he kept watch over the throne of God when God stepped away from His throne. Look at Ezekiel 28 to understand this fact. This may read that it is a lament to the king of Tyre, but it is describing Lucifer. ¹² "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ **You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.** ¹⁴ "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷ "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. ¹⁸ "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore

I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." " Ezek 28:12-19 (NKJV)

We have now learned a few things about Satan and we haven't really touched the book of Genesis. Let's go back and pick up where we were. God had not found pleasure with those living on earth at that time and He shut everything down. Therefore the darkness over the surface of the deep as stated in verse 2. In verse three, we see the beginning of the six day restoration process upon the earth. On day one, God created light and he divided the period between day and night. On the second day, God separated the sky from the water. On the third day, God separated the land from the seas and made all the seed bearing plants and trees. On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day, God created all fish and all birds. On the sixth day, God was very busy. He first created all the living creatures that move along the ground and the wild animals. We then come to the creation of humankind. Here is an I BELIEVE statement. In verse 26 of chapter 1 of Genesis it clearly says, ²⁶ *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Gen 1:26* The Us and Our identify the Holy Trinity. At this point mankind was created in both male and female models and given the job of subduing the earth by having dominion over all the other life forms. ²⁷ *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen 1:27-28* Verses 29 and 30 identify the food for mankind and for the animals. ²⁹ *And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. Gen 1:29-30* On the seventh day, God rested and made the seventh day holy.

We have now seen the creation of mankind in both male and female forms, however I see a different view than most at this point. There are many who indicate that chapter two of Genesis is a restating of the creation of mankind in chapter one, but with more details. I see it as God's 8th day's work. God had already seen that the humankind created were easily persuaded to follow the influence of Satan, thus God went to work to form a group of people that would follow His ways and obey His instructions. To do this, we see the special man **formed** from the dust of the ground, notice he is not created. ⁷ *then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. Gen 2:7* This special man was placed in the Garden of Eden and given three special assignments. First, he was to tend the Garden, second, he was instructed that he could eat of any tree in the garden except the tree in the middle called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, third, he was to name all the animals that God had created. In all of the animals there was found no suitable helper for the man God had formed. God, therefore, put the man into a deep sleep and while the man was sleeping, God formed a woman from the rib of the special man. When the man awoke, he called the female 'woman' and they were both called Adam at that time.

We now arrive at chapter three which contains the fall of mankind into sin. We have seen the verses from Ezekiel indicating Lucifer was adorned with a breastplate of beautiful gemstones. Now, can you imagine this beautiful being with this shining breastplate as he approached the female and asked her the infamous question. . . *He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" Gen 3:1 b* At this junction, I must make a statement that what I am about to write is not presented in this manner in any Sunday School class, nor is it preached from any pulpit.

Anyone can find many places throughout the Bible that the term seed is spoken of in a manner to indicate offspring. Jesus spoke it, Peter spoke it, and Paul spoke it, but where did this concept of seed originate? In the story of the fall in chapter three of Genesis, there is a punishment that is given. Before I go through that story in its full presentation, I'd like you to see the placement of the first time this term seed is used in a manner that would indicate an offspring. Look at Genesis 3:15, *"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."* (NKJV) This is the first time the term seed is used in the entire Bible. It is used as a portion of the punishment handed down from God to the three players of the fall (disobedient sin) of mankind. The three players are Satan (the serpent), the woman and the man in the garden. Notice that Satan is to have a seed and that the woman has a seed. Isn't it strange that the man does not have a seed? Look further and notice that the seed of the woman will step on (bruise) the head of Satan even though the seed of Satan will bruise the heel of the offspring of woman.

We have seen in the passage of scripture from Ezekiel that Satan was in the garden. With that knowledge, we must make a shift and understand that the two trees in the middle of the garden are metaphors for Jesus (the tree of Life) and Satan (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil). We must also understand the full meaning of the Hebrew word akal (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Strong's) number 398). Genesis chapter 2, verses 16-17 uses the word eat as the translation of akal; *¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* Gen 2:16-17 If you will explore the meaning of akal, you will also get the words consume and devour as meanings. Take those two words and seek out synonyms, and you will also have the meaning partake of. To me, the command that God gave to the male was not to mean that he was a cannibal and literally going to eat of either tree. The true meaning is that this specially formed man was not to partake of (associate with) the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was the male's responsibility to tell the woman what this command from God was, and we can see that this was done in the woman's statement in verse 3:3, *³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'* " Gen 3:3 The last part of her statement would indicate that she understood that they were not to associate with (touch) the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. I also find it amazing that the instruction from God does not say good and bad, instead it is always stated good and evil.

We also learned from the passage in Ezekiel that Lucifer had a breastplate made up of precious gemstones. It is interesting to look up the name Lucifer in Strong's. Lucifer means shinning, or morning star. Satan uses his deceitful methods and tells the woman a lie concerning the partaking or association with him. Remember Satan is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So let us now take the time to study and see where the seed comes into play within this story. Genesis 3:4-6 tells us the following, *⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Gen 3:4-6 Let us see if we have this right. The woman partook of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and then she gave some to her husband and he got some. Is that right? The story then suddenly changes with the following two verses. *⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin cloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.* Gen 3:7-8*

Mankind always attempts to solve his own problems, especially when he knows he has done

something wrong. Even a dog knows when it has messed up and done something wrong and is being scolded. We see this in verses 9-10, ⁹ *But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"* ¹⁰ *And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."* Gen 3:9-10 The second infamous question is now asked by God Himself: ¹¹ *He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"* Gen 3:11

I must give you a warning concerning what you are about to read. In this discussion, please note that we are going to study to learn what act the original sin really was. No! It was not eating an apple! Yes! It has something to do with the *tree of knowledge of good and evil* and, of itself, it is disobedience to God's will. My spirit says the best way to do this is to go backward from our ending point. So, turn to Genesis chapter 5 and we will go through the first three verses. Genesis 5:1-3, ¹ *This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;* ² *male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam,* there's the direct confirmation that both the man and the woman were called Adam in the day they were created. ³ *And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth.* (KJV) First things first, look at verse two. Is there any question that the man and the woman were both called Adam? They were both called Adam up to the point in Genesis 3:20 where the man named the woman Eve?

Here's my serious question for this discussion. In verse three it says, Adam begot a son in his own likeness, after his image and called his name Seth. Why aren't Cain and Abel mentioned? Before I give you the answer I would like for you to think about this question. If you were asked to provide an answer to the question above, could you? Will you back up your answer with scripture to show your point of view?

Let's start working backward. I will be using the King James Bible for our next two references. Notice in verse 4:25 two things: *Adam knew his wife again; . . . and appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.* (KJV)

Our next point would be the genealogy of Cain in verses 4:17-24, *And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methushael: and Methushael begat Lamech. And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah. And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."* (KJV)

Our next reference will be the story of Cain and Abel in verses 4:3-8, ³ *In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,* ⁴ *and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,* ⁵ *but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.* ⁶ *The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"* ⁷ *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."*

⁸ *Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.* Gen 4:3-8

Our next statement to look at is in verses 4:1-2, ¹ *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord."* ² *And again, she bore his*

brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. Gen 4:1-2 Notice that Adam knew Eve in verse 1, and Cain was born. In verse 2, we see Abel was born.

Now, we really start into some very deep statements. We are going to go backward through chapter 3 and **I will use the New King James** for these verses. We are going to skip verses 22 through 24 and go back to verse 21. In Genesis 3:21 we see God making clothes from skins for Adam and Eve, *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.* In verse 20, we see the woman was named Eve. In Genesis 3:17-19, we find the curse God placed upon the man for disobeying His command, *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, you shall not eat of it: cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."*

We are back to Genesis 3:16 and we find the curse placed upon the woman, *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."* Notice the peculiar statement God made about desire and that the husband was to rule over her.

Now for Genesis 3:14-15, *So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."* Verse 14 is the curse upon the serpent. But what is this, in verse 15, about the serpent's seed and her Seed? In Genesis 3:13 **KJV**, we have the answer to all this, *And the LORD God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?"*

And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

Doesn't it say the serpent beguiled her? Okay, we've come backward and there doesn't seem to be any order to these verses or of the information that I have given. Some people would even read this and say, so what? There are those people who will tell me that if it is not clearly stated in plain English, these statements I have made are just not true. Here's the answer to the last two statements. God has permitted some people to be blinded because of their own disbelief, and they will not see the truth no matter how you present it to them, as revealed in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.* (NKJV)

It's time to turn this around and look at these verses from chapter three in the manner they were written. This time we start in Genesis 3:13 **KJV**, *And the LORD God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou hast done?"*

And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." What is this word beguiled? Hey! Don't run over to your dictionary to see what it says, it won't help. Why is it so difficult for English speaking people to understand that all words and phrases of Hebrew and Greek will not translate directly to an English word. To understand this word beguiled, you have to view it in the original Hebrew and not in English.

With that said, let us look at Strong's for the word beguiled. I can find 3 different root words in Hebrew and one in Greek. Even so there is only one usage for Hebrew 5377 and that is in Genesis 3:13. I have to accept this is the only meaning that counts. All others convey a misleading message. So what does the definition for 5377 say?

5377 nâshâ', naw-shaw'; a prim. root; to lead astray, i.e. (mentally) to delude, or (morally) to seduce:—beguile, deceive, X greatly, X utterly.

Because of translations in the NIV and NKJV, many have taken the meaning to be that Eve was deceived. Alas, that won't work! Look at the curse put upon the serpent in Genesis 3:14-15 NKJV, *So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."* Answer this: how did you get two different seeds from being deceived? Okay! Now answer this: What is the seed of man? You mean you still don't get it? Then look at the other meaning of beguiled. It means to seduce X (that means times, like in multiplication) greatly, X utterly. So the serpent utterly seduced Eve. Now, how do you utterly seduce someone of the opposite sex? Please, do not run off and stick your head in the sand. This is the act of disobedience which was original sin! Satan used his smooth talk and told Eve how good it would be. And, up to that point, the man and woman had not done this, even though they were told by God they could. Oh! I see! You missed that part also. Okay, turn back to Genesis 1:28, *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."* (NKJV) Didn't God bless the special man and the special woman and tell them to multiply with the general statement He made to the them, the male and female, of the general creation of mankind? Well, I don't know about you, but I only know of one natural way for a male and a female to have the capability to multiply, or create another in their image.

Here is what happened! Satan told Eve sex was good and showed her as Adam watched (remember Adam was also there in verse 6). Then Adam did likewise. Yes! Satan deceived them both, lied to them both, and introduced sexual immorality to mankind. It is the reason for various statements made in Genesis chapters 3 through 5, the reason for the flood event, the reason for many of the illustrations of the Old Testament and the warning of what to look for in the stories of Noah and Lot to understand when the Second Coming will be. It is also the probable cause of the desolation and waste of the first earth age. Let us recall that Satan had rebelled in Heaven and caused one third of the angels to follow after him and God cast them out of Heaven and the domain of the *Prince of the air* is now on the earth. Satan has been causing problems for both God and mankind for a very long time, and will continue, until he is cast into the fiery pit. We will cover more on Satan and these angels as we progress through the Bible.

I know some of you read this and swallowed your false teeth. Others threw this book across the room. But some of you are still reading and I'll show you, as Paul Harvey says, "The rest of the story".

This is, also, why verse 15 is written in the manner it is: God would put enmity between Satan's seed and the woman's Seed. Here we see a look forward, with details to follow. The immediate result is there are two seeds, one good and one evil. The fill-in is the statements in chapter 4 with verse one saying Adam knew Eve, his wife, with the birth of Cain (Satan's seed) and verse 2 birth of Abel (called her seed in chapter 3, verse 15). Now you can further fill this in with the prophecy of Antichrist (Satan's seed) and Christ (Adam's seed, with line of descent through Seth) with the word picture illustration of the bruising of head and heel. We find the confirmation pertaining to Cain in 1 John 3:12 NIV, *Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother.*

Still don't believe all of this? Want more proof? We asked the question about verse 15 as to the difference between Satan's seed and Eve's seed. Let's look at the curse upon the female in verse 16, *To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."* (ESV) First question: Why would God need to tell the woman that she would have pain in childbearing? Where was childbearing mentioned in this story? Second question: Why would it be necessary for God to issue a statement to the woman that: "*your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you?*" No!

That is not issued as an order of dominance. It is the shocked proclamation of a Father to an offspring. It seems to me God is saying: Your desire (lust) shall be for your mate and not the fellow who deceived you into believing this lie, and you will follow your mate's lead in teaching because I told it to him directly. To go further, why would it be necessary to add ... *Eve his wife* in verse 4:1, *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."* (NKJV) Who else could Adam carnally know if Eve was the only woman around?

Let's move on. In verse 7, we see the man and the woman trying to solve their own perceived problem by making coverings for themselves. To see the answer to this, and the reason Cain's offering was rejected and Abel's accepted, look at verse 21. It was God who made tunics of skin to cover them. But, where is the reason one offering was rejected and the other accepted? It's in one word skin. How do you get animal skin? Does the animal unbutton it and take it off and give it to you? Doesn't the animal have to die to give up its skin? Isn't there a blood sacrifice involved because the animal's skin is what keeps the blood inside and once the skin is removed the animal cannot keep the blood and dies? That's a harsh statement! I'm sure God took the life force of the animal prior to the taking of the skin, but the fact remains, the animal died to give up its skin. I'll show you the fill-in answer in a moment.

First, let's look more closely at the fill in details of chapter 4:1-2, *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.* The look forward view in verse 25, *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."* (NKJV) In verses 1 and 25 we have Adam knowing Eve and, yet, we see three sons being born. Accept it or not, Cain and Abel are the first set of twins, one was Satan's seed (Cain) and one was Eve's seed (Abel). You still don't believe this? Okay, look at the forward statements. Why is there a genealogy for Cain in chapter 4 and a genealogy for Adam in chapter 5. If we are talking of only one lineage, you only need one genealogy. However, if you are talking about two lineages, you need two different genealogies.

Now, let's answer the question about the offering made in verses 3-5, *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.* (NKJV) Notice who brought their offering first. Wasn't it Cain? Isn't this just like Satan's normal deceptions? Doesn't Satan know the truth but wants it to be his way, and not God's way? Isn't there always a small portion of truth in all creative deceptions and lies? So what was the difference between the offerings of Cain and Abel? Cain brought the best the ground could offer. It may have been flowers, or fruit, or grains, or even nuts and berries, or maybe all of these, in a collective basket. Abel must have said, "Oops!" And remembered to take an offering. So he took an offering of *the firstborn and of their fat*. The answer to why Abel's offering was accepted was given. It goes back as a fill in detail to verse 21 in chapter 3. God made the tunics from skins and Abel understood the sacrifice God made for his mother and father to have clothing. Adam surely told this story to both boys and told them to take an offering to God. Even though Cain made his offering first, it did not require a sacrifice, but Abel's did. Oh! You didn't see that. Doesn't it say in describing Abel's offering ... *and of their fat*? Just as we went through how you get skins of animals, how do you get their fat? Yes! I know, we are an overweight society and many would gladly give up their fat. How are you going to do it without some amount of blood loss? Even liposuction involves the taking of some blood. You see, the simple truth is that Abel's offering honored the sacrifice God made in 3:21 by an animal giving its life for the skin. Abel's offering was also the fat of the firstborn, thus some of the firstborn had to die to get their fat.

Now, the fill-in details of the two different seeds. There are two different genealogies given because there are two seeds identified. So we see the beginning of the genealogy of Cain (Satan's seed)

here in chapter 4 and the beginning of Adam's seed in chapter 5. We have Eve's seed removed and no longer mentioned because Cain killed Abel (Eve's seed). To everyone who still doesn't want to accept the birth of twins (one good—Abel, and one evil—Cain) look further at the genealogy of Cain. We all know, without a question, that Cain was the first murderer, but what about this evil intent and the second murderer and even the possibility of the third killing? Look at the verses between Genesis 4:16-24, ¹⁶ *Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.* ¹⁷ *Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.* ¹⁸ *To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.* ¹⁹ *And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.* ²⁰ *Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.* ²¹ *His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.* ²² *Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.* ²³ *Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.* ²⁴ *If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."* (ESV) At the beginning of these verses, we see Cain leaving the presence of God and moving to Nod. There were at least two lands at this time because we are told so. One is named Nod and the other is Eden. The special place within Eden was the location of the garden.

We are still searching for information pertaining to the ungodly seed of Cain. Look at chapter 4, verse 19, ¹⁹ *And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.* As with many verses within the early chapters of the book of Genesis, we can find hidden information that connects to other verses to build the knowledge of what is happening. This verse here gives us more explanation of the ungodly seed. Return to Genesis 2:24-25, ²⁴ *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* ²⁵ *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.* God's intent was for a man to have only one wife. Illustrated in Genesis 4:25, ²⁵ *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."* God gave the male only one wife.

However, here in Genesis 4:19 we see the following, ¹⁹ *And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.* We see that Lamech is breaking God's intent by taking two wives. In fact, if we really look at this Lamech guy, he was one bad apple. This looks to be the sixth generation from Satan: (1) Cain; (2) Enoch; (3) Irad; (4) Mehujael; (5) Methushael; and (6) Lamech.

If we compare this with Adam's lineage, we have: (1) Seth; (2) Enosh; (3) Cainan; (4) Mahalalel; (5) Jared; and, (6) Enoch. Now, there has to be an intermixing of this good blood—evil blood prior to Noah and the flood. Notice in these names, there is only one spoken of as having walked with God, and that is Enoch, number six in the line of Adam. Maybe Enoch is the counter balance toward good and Lamech was the example of bad, or Enoch saw how bad Lamech really was and it scared him to the point that he desired to walk with God. Now, let's answer the question of where did Cain and Seth get a wife? They got their wives from among those females in the first creation. To say it simply, once cast out of the Garden, the special family lived among humanity.

It should not be difficult to see why chapter 6 deals with the wickedness of mankind. But, that gets us away from what we are discussing. Look very seriously at Genesis 4:23 concerning Lamech, *Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me.* (NKJV) Doesn't it say that he *killed a man for wounding me, even a young man for hurting me*? So, we now have the second murderer. Is this only one man or is this two men? One wounded him, and one hurt him. Are

these one and the same, or two different men? In either case, we have identified rage, anger and revenge all in this act. This surely was a violent man, a vengeful man and a man easily set off with rage and anger. Today we can see the same thing and we may call the person a redneck and the act committed such as road rage, rape, car-jacking or other crimes, yet, we can't see Satan behind either the person or the act. Once again, the simple truth is the seed of Satan has been passed from generation to generation. It existed at the time of Christ, exists today, and will exist when the man of lawlessness comes.

Truthfully, I am not attempting to rewrite the entire Bible. I am attempting to hit some high points and to question certain traditions that mankind has made and grown accustomed to, over the course of time since Jesus was on the earth. I BELIEVE that there was a global flood at the time of Noah. It is interesting to me that you can use a lot of the Bible to direct which direction and what material you need for an understanding. Take for example the flood of Noah. From Seth to Noah is nine generations, and from Noah to Abraham is 10 generations, and from Abraham to Moses is 6 generations. Now why would I say any of that at this time in this writing? Well, there really was a reason. I asked at the beginning of this writing if you understood how Moses knew about Adam and the creation story, or how he knew about the flood of Noah? Actually, I just told you a major portion of the answer to my question.

Here's what wasn't said! In God's perfect world within the garden of Eden, mankind was to live forever. Remember what the initial commandment was; that you could eat (partake) of all the trees in the garden except the tree in the middle called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that if you do (partake - eat) you will die. God did not tell Adam that he couldn't partake of the tree of Life. If Adam had partaken of that tree, things would be completely different and this story would have never been needed to be said. Oh Well! Enough of that! Let's get back to the truth of today. Adam lived for over 900 years and so did most of the generations going down the line. Here is information that you most likely will not receive in Sunday School class. Adam lived 687 years to the birth of Methuselah, Methuselah lived 628 years to the birth of Shem, Shem lived 452 years before the birth of Isaac, Isaac lived 77 years before the birth of Levi, Levi lived 70 years before the birth of Amram, and Amram, the father of Moses, lived 61 years before the birth of Moses. **Through these six connections, there is a continuous living person to whom the stories could be told!** There is no break in this chain of descent. The traditions and stories from Adam downward could be passed from generation to generation all the way to the time of Moses. The second means that Moses could receive all the stories concerning Adam, Cain and Abel, the flood of Noah, Abraham, Lot and the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, the birth of Isaac, the story of Jacob and Esau, Jacob wrestling with the angel at Bethel, the Bethel stone, the story of Jacob's (now called Israel) children, the story of Joseph and the drought, the 70 people who went to Egypt, the 430 years that Israel (the Hebrew children) spent in Egypt, and finally, the Exodus under the leadership of Moses were recorded by Moses to comprise the first five books of the Bible. The stories in Genesis, up to the time of the Exodus, could be confirmed and verified by God as He spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai when He dictated the Law (the Ten Commandments) directly to Moses. Either way, there is a direct connection from Adam to Moses so the facts of the Bible are correct and truthful.

I BELIEVE that the stories in the Old Testament recorded by the Prophets of God are there for two reasons. First, the stories given are there to record history. Secondly, the stories told are there to show many things about God, the Father. God is a loving God, a gracious God, a longsuffering God who is patient with His chosen people. Even so, God is a God of righteousness and He expects for His Commands to be understood and kept in obedience. When His chosen people do not follow His established rules and commands, He gives them warnings of what will happen if they do not repent and humbly obey His rules. If the warnings are also rejected, God's Word shows the punishments that are His wrath against His people. The flood of Noah was a judgment, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

was a judgment. The periods of servitude in Egypt and Babylon and those times during the period of the Judges were all times of judgment because of rebellion against God. There are far too many churches that claim to be New Testament churches who do not believe, nor need, the Old Testament. Right off the start these churches will claim that the God of the Old Testament is a mean God, a demanding God, and a God of severe punishment. That it is Jesus as the God of the New Testament that brings peace, love and joy because the law is not to be followed, or obeyed. Oh how foolish that thinking is! That, though, is part of this counterfeit religion that is masquerading as the true church representing Christ. Really? Let's look closely at some of the conditions and some of the traits of these churches.

These churches claim to be Christian in principle and following the teachings and practices of Jesus as their teacher, Savior, and LORD. Yet, and at the same time, they are not following any of the practices that Jesus established in the New Testament. Jesus knew the prophecies of the Old Testament and understood that He was the finisher and fulfiller of these prophecies. These so called Christians cannot even tell you three or four of the prophecies that Jesus had to fulfill to claim to be the Son of God or the Savior of the world. In days past, I have heard that there are 312 prophecies that Jesus had to fulfill to accomplish all the prophecies as they pertained to the coming Savior. Have you really stopped and thought about that statement? The odds of a single person fulfilling even one of the prophecies, much less all 312 prophecies, is unbelievable. Okay, just for the sake of showing you odds, let's take two prophecies and think about the outcome. First, a child born of a virgin, second, the child would be born in Bethlehem. How many people do you know on the face of this planet who could meet these two statements? Are you starting to see what I mean? Let's take this further showing you some of the counterfeit teachings that are being presented. What day of the week did Jesus worship? What did Jesus teach about the Ten Commandments? How did the church come up with the 25th of December as the date for the birth of Jesus? How did this tradition of Easter get started and how did the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus take place as it is now taught? Jesus proclaimed on at least three occasions that He must spend three days and three nights in the grave as Jonah spent in the great fish! To make the claim that Friday afternoon to Sunday morning fulfills this requirement makes Jesus out to be a liar! It did not happen that way! The denominations of the world who proclaim that it did happen this way are the liars and the false teachers of the Word of God! Examine your denomination's teachings to see if it is the truth or a false teaching. Remember, what Paul said about false teachers, ¹³ *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.* ¹⁴ *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* ¹⁵ *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.* 2 Cor 11:12-15 (NKJV)

Let's review these questions and provide answers! The odds of one person fulfilling all of the prophecies concerning the Savior of the world would be a number with so many zeros that I don't even want to think about typing that many zeros. Jesus worshipped on the Sabbath, that means on the day we call Saturday, or the seventh day of the week. ³ *"Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord in all your dwelling places.* Lev 23:3 Jesus taught the following, Matthew 5:17-20, ¹⁷ *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.* ¹⁸ *For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.* ¹⁹ *Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* ²⁰ *For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* Matt 5:17-20 Following are the Ten Commandments, as stated in the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy along with the teaching in the New Testament, as stated by Jesus.

Commandment One: Exodus 20:3, *“You shall have no other gods before me.”* Deuteronomy 5:7, *“You shall have no other gods before me.”* Jesus used, thus taught, this commandment in the following manner; Matthew 4:10, *Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ”*

Commandment Two: Exodus 20:4, *“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”* Deuteronomy 5:8, *“ ‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Jesus never used this statement directly, according to the Gospels, and the one verse that I can come up with is the same one that He spoke to Satan. Matthew 4:10, Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ” Jesus also taught the following in Matthew 22:20-21, ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹ They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”*

Commandment Three: Exodus 20:7, *“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”* Deuteronomy 5:11, *“ ‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”* Once again, we have one of the commandments that Jesus did not speak verbatim, however, Jesus did teach the following: Matthew 5:33-37, ³³ *“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.”³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.³⁷ Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.”* Also in Matthew 23:16-22, ¹⁶ *“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’¹⁷ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?¹⁸ And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’¹⁹ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred?²⁰ So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it.²¹ And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it.²² And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it. And also in Matthew 26:63-64, ⁶³ *But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.”⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”**

Commandment Four: Exodus 20:8, *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”* Deuteronomy 5:12, *“ ‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.”* In reading the Gospels one finds that Jesus did many things on the Sabbath, in fact, it was one of the major reasons that the Jews wanted to kill Jesus. Jesus spoke the following in Mark 2:27-28, ²⁷ *And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”* We can also see the manner of the Jewish rulers in the following: Luke 13:14, *But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.”* Today we see great conflict among mankind over the Sabbath. Is it on Friday, or Saturday or is it Sunday that makes the Sabbath? What if we observed the statement that there are six days to work and

one day to honor God? If we followed the instructions as they are given then we must honor the Sabbath as our Saturday.

Commandment Five: Exodus 20:12, *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”* Deuteronomy 5:16, *“Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”* This one command was quoted more by Jesus than any other and can be found verbatim in five different verses. Matthew 15:4, *“For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.”* Matthew 19:19, *“Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* Mark 7:10, *“For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’”* Mark 10:19, *“You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.”* Luke 18:20, *“You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’”*

Commandment Six: Exodus 20:13, *“You shall not murder.”* Deuteronomy 5:17, *“You shall not murder.”* Jesus spoke the following: Matthew 5:21, *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’”* Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,”* Paul also spoke about this commandment in the following: Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* I must ask another question: Why does mankind have so much confusion over this one commandment? One can find division between people, between denominations and certainly between church and state over this one command. You don't think so! Okay, explain to me why there is so much said on both sides of the capital punishment issue or over abortion rights. If you take the stand that both are murder and against the commandment, I have to raise another question. Why did God direct the Hebrews to kill, murder if you will, complete groups of people? There is a great problem in the argument! Either God does not follow His own laws and He is a liar or there is another answer. Let's reverse the statement and answer the second point first. We find in the following two verses that God cannot lie. Titus 1:2, *in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.* Hebrews 6:18, *so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.* Now, let's address the other point. There are different translations of the Bible and different words used in both Greek and Hebrew that can mean kill. If you view the NIV, NRSV or the NKJV the word used in this command is murder. If you view the KJV verse for this command the word used is kill. To further explain the differences look at Strong's Concordance. In looking under the word kill there are no less than 14 different words that translate kill (8 in the Hebrew and 6 in the Greek). Understandably, when there are 14 various words translated to kill it would seem that murder is the more correct translation than that used in the King James; however, by so doing this the verses where God directs the Hebrews to kill places a conflict in the minds of men. We can even see that this was the reason that King Saul was removed from the throne. 1 Samuel 15:16-23, ¹⁶ *Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.” And he said to him, “Speak.”* ¹⁷ *And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.”* ¹⁸ *And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’* ¹⁹ *Why then did you not obey the voice of*

the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.”²¹ But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”²² And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.”²³ For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.”

We should understand that God does cleanse sin from what is His, and that may include the killing of the sinner. That does not violate the law, for it is directed destruction and is not murder. Murder has the implied intent to do harm. Therefore, there is a difference between someone killing in a time of war, or on the other side of the fence, killing someone to get revenge, the intent to do harm against another individual because you think you have been wronged and must make amends. Do I hear that God is a loving God and wouldn't do this? God may be a loving God, but even more so **God is a righteous God**. Out of righteousness one can find love. Out of deception, lead by Satan, one can find the change of thought to lead many astray from being righteous, to being what they perceive to be right. Every one of us should take the time to read and study this one command to see if our personal thoughts are in accord with the intent of the Bible, or if they are in accord with tradition that may lead us away from what the Bible actually teaches. There is one other thing I'd like for all Bible Believers to see and understand from this discourse on Commandment Six. Go back and look at the words of Paul in Romans 13:9, notice the last statement in that verse: *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* If mankind would only commit to this single thought, we would all be following the only new commandment that Jesus gave to all of humanity. Jesus made the following statement in John 13:34-35, ³⁴ *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* ³⁵ *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* The world, as a whole, would be a much better place if mankind would practice this one rule, instead of being influenced by the prince of the air (Satan).

Commandment Seven: Exodus 20:14, *“You shall not commit adultery.”* Deuteronomy 5:18, *“And you shall not commit adultery.”* We see Jesus speaking this commandment in the following, Matthew 5:27, *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’”* and in Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,”* Paul continued the teaching in the following verse. Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Eight: Exodus 20:15, *“You shall not steal.”* Deuteronomy 5:19, *“You shall not steal.”* Jesus spoke these words in the following: Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,”* Paul spoke this in Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder; You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Nine: Exodus 20:16, *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”* Deuteronomy 5:20, *“And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”* Jesus spoke this command in Matthew 19:18, *He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder;*

You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,” Jesus spoke this in Mark 10:19, *You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’*” Also in Luke 18:20, *“You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’”* Paul taught in Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Commandment Ten: Exodus 20:17, *“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”* Deuteronomy 5:21, *“ ‘And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’* Jesus did not speak this command directly, and furthermore there are many who do not understand what this command means. We don’t use the word covet that often anymore, but if you associate the act of greed, plus personal desire (wanting something that isn’t yours, or being desirous), in this command you should have something on the order of: You shall not desire, want, wish for, lust after, or long for your neighbor’s house; you shall not desire, want, wish for, lust after, or long for your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his car, or his boat or anything that is your neighbor’s. To see this in a Biblical verse look at the following: Deuteronomy 7:25, *The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God.* To see how Jesus applied this command look at the following. In this first verse we see the overall intent that covetousness, or desire may cause. Luke 12:15, *And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”* In the second verse, we can see the desire of lust, even for your neighbor’s wife, illustrated by Jesus. Matthew 5:28, *“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”* Paul spoke more about this command in the following: Romans 7:7, *What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”* Romans 13:9, *For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

You may ask why did I place both the Exodus version and the Deuteronomy version of the Ten Commandments in this writing. Aren’t they the same thing? Yes! They are the same thing but I wanted you to understand that there is another rule that is also applied here with the double insertion of text. Turn over to Deuteronomy 19:15 and read the following: *“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”* We are not speaking about crimes, but we are speaking about an offense, if you go against any of these Ten Commandments of God. Therefore, we need to have two witnesses to establish the truth. We have our two witnesses in the fact that these rules are repeated twice (two times). These are also not religious rules that we should follow, these are moral rules that we should govern our life by as they are stated.

Why is it the Church does not question Christmas and Easter? Yes! I understand that the church, and Christians as a unified body, are attempting to honor the birth and death of our Lord Jesus. But, they do not seem to understand the manner of the celebration and even when to celebrate the actual event. First, there is the date for Jesus’ birth. Jesus was not born on the 25th day of December.

The wording of text in the Bible would indicate that Jesus was born in the fall of the year. If you understand God, He has His special events to occur on His feast days. The birth of Jesus most likely coincided with Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement, the 10th of Tishrei. Let us understand that Jesus is God's atonement for mankind's sin and the One who healed the breach between God and mankind. The death of Jesus was on Passover, Pesach on the 14th of Nisan. The church seems to have the desire to carry forward two pagan holidays in what they are celebrating. First, the sun god worshipers celebrated the winter solstices after the shortest day of the year to celebrate the new birth of the sun, so to speak, leading to longer days and a new cycle of the earth's orbit around the sun. That day is normally the 21st or 22nd of December. In the spring of the year, the pagan holiday celebrated is for the goddess Ashanti, the goddess of fertility. That is why we have baby chicks and baby rabbits tied into the so called death day of Christ. Both of these present day holidays have nothing to do with Jesus the Christ, they are both pagan celebrations glossed over to represent the days for the birth and death of Jesus and we are teaching our children these things.

Beside these facts, have you ever really understood why the date for Easter changes from year to year? Allow me to explain the folly of Easter to you. One more point before we review the facts on Easter, did you ever see even one verse in the Bible that Jesus celebrated His birthday?

The Folly of Easter — March 20th to as late as April 24th

Because of the misunderstanding between the term sabbath and Sabbath, Satan found an opening to change what God said and what Jesus did. When we find sabbath spelled with a lower case *s*, it indicates the weekly sabbath of Saturday. When we find Sabbath spelled with an upper case *S* or termed a sacred assembly or a holy convocation, this is a high holy day. We must also remove this foolishness of Jewish reckoning. Jesus said He had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. Matthew 12:40: *"For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."* To not accept this as truth, and with full understanding, means we are calling Jesus a liar who did not mean what He said! I'm sorry, but I prefer to accept Jesus' own words, not those of men identifying the number of days and nights He would be in the grave. Besides, there is no possible way Friday to Sunday completes three days and three nights. This totals only about forty hours, or not even a two day period. Along with this fact, there is one other fact to aid in our understanding. The chief priest and the Pharisees went to Pilate to ask that a guard detail be stationed at the tomb for three days. Matthew 27:62-66: *⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.* Recall the order of the feast. Passover is the 14th, the high holy day or the 1st day of Unleavened Bread is on the 15th. Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. There is to be no work on the high holy day of the 15th. If Jesus is crucified on Passover the 14th as a Friday, then the high holy day of the 15th is Saturday. The priest could not go to Pilate and perform work at the time to have the tomb sealed because they would violate their own rule of law. Text tells us that the tomb was opened by early the morning of the first day of the week, Sunday. Look and read! The priest and the Pharisees understood what Jesus said about spending three days in the grave. Why don't we understand this today? Read my book, *Jesus, the Life of Christ*, if you desire to see the full truth explained. In the account just presented above, we clearly see the preparation day and how the guard for the tomb was requested of Pilate. Pilate instructs the chief priest to place his temple guard at the tomb. Continue with this thought and

review the scripture passage from Matthew 28:4 *And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.* The women left the tomb to go and tell the disciples. The guards left the tomb to go and tell the chief priest. I know you don't recall that portion of the story. The proof of that statement is in Matthew 28:11-15: ¹¹ *While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place.* ¹² *And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers* ¹³ *and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.'* ¹⁴ *And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."* ¹⁵ *So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.* Any person who has ever served as a guard in the military will tell you, if you go to sleep while on duty, you are subject to disciplinary action. It is hoped that this grouping of scripture will illustrate for you the truth from preparation day to resurrection day. Now, allow me to explain how we get this false date to celebrate what is called Easter. The church had divided into several different viewpoints with different dates for feast and festival by the time of Constantine. There was the Catholic viewpoint along with the Greek, Syrian and Russian Orthodox viewpoint. Constantine charged the bishops at Alexandria to determine a fixed date for Easter at the Council of Nicea in 325. This date was a movable date based upon a lunar cycle by Constantine's decree. **Therefore, Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox!** Even this has some variance for the date. The Spring Equinox may be on the 19th, 20th or 21st of March, in the Northern Hemisphere, or in September in the Southern Hemisphere. What I desire for you to understand is that mankind has set a date for a feast to be equivalent to Passover. But, it is not according to the dates ordained by God and quoted in the Bible. If we use the structure given here, we should all see that if the Spring Equinox was on the 19th of March, a full moon was that night and the next day was Sunday, thus the parameters are met. We can see that the earliest Easter could be is the 20th of March. On the other end of this equation, we should see that **if** the full moon was the night before the Spring Equinox and the Spring Equinox was the 21st, we must add 28 days for the lunar cycle to get to the next full moon. If at that point we find the full moon occurring on a Sunday, we must also add another week to get the first Sunday after the full moon. Therefore the latter date for Easter could be as late as April 24th. Here is my question. Do you find any of this foolishness in the instructions ordained by God? Plainly and absolutely, I do not! My God said **Passover was the 14th of April (Nisan)** and that it is to be such in all of mankind's generations. The full instructions from God is given in the following explanation for Passover and Unleavened Bread. Why have we allowed ourselves to listen to men and not to God?

Here's another I BELIEVE statement. God's Word is the inspired Word of God. I accept this because of a simple example: Consider the entire Bible. There are 1188 chapters among the 66 books that make up the Holy Canon. So, if I look at simple thought, what book of the Bible contains the most chapters? Wouldn't it have to be the book of Psalms? If I used these four numbers and looked at Psalms, what chapter and verse can I come up with? Well let's see Psalms 1:188? No! Psalms 1 only contains 6 verses. What about Psalms 11:88? No! Psalms 11 only contains 7 verses. What about 118:8? Oh my, there are 29 verses in Psalms 118 and verse 8 reads the following: *It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in man.* (NKJV) Isn't that a true fact? Well, what about the shortest and the longest chapters in the Bible? Would you believe that the shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117, having only 2 verses and the longest chapter is Psalms 119, having 176 verses. Amazing! Oh, by the way the shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, **Jesus wept.**

Here's another I BELIEVE fact. The book of Jeremiah contains a great amount of information that every Bible Believer should know. It is through the teachings of the prophet Jeremiah that we see the uprooting, the tearing down, the destruction, and the overthrowing of the king's throne in the Kingdom of Judah. What we do not see in Jeremiah is the fulfillment of the last two portions of his

commission; namely, the planting and the rebuilding. Here is the commission that God assigned to Jeremiah: ¹ *The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin,* ² *to whom the word of the Lord came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.* ³ *It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.* ⁴ *Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:*

⁵ *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."* ⁶ *Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."* ⁷ *But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak."* ⁸ *Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.* ⁹ *Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."* ¹⁰ *See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant." Jer 1:1-10 (NKJV)* Every Bible Believer needs to have an understanding of the book of Jeremiah. Through either direct descent or via adoption by your faith in Christ, the book of Jeremiah illustrates the warnings and finally the judgment that befell the kingdom of Judah. Bible Believers of today are following the same path that Judah took and we all need to understand that we are headed for the same type judgment if we do not change our ways and repent of our iniquities. To fully understand this read my book, *The Thirteenth Tribe of Israel*.

I BELIEVE that every Bible Believer should know God's Ordained Feast Days. I believe this because of the statment made that every man is to observe these feast in all of mankind's generations. We, as a species, have not stopped producing generations, therefore our requirement is to honor God's feast days. Here are those feast days:

The Passover and Unleavened Bread — Passover April 14th, Feast April 15th

We have to begin our study of God's feast days with more information than normal. There are certain pre-Passover activities that must be understood along with understanding the month with which Passover is identified. The following scripture will give us both answers. The first month does not indicate January, this is identifying the beginning month of the sacred year. The name for that month is Abib or Nissan and represents, for the most part, our month of April. Therefore April tenth is when you select your Passover lamb. The fourteenth is when the lamb is slain and the Passover meal is eaten.

Exodus 12:2-11 (NIV), *"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire--head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover."*

Leviticus 23:4-8 (NIV), *"These are the Lord's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: The Lord's Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of*

the first month. On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord's Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. For seven days present an offering made to the Lord by fire. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work."

Firstfruits — April 18th

Firstfruits is almost a mystery feast. It appears to be a part of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and to be performed as a feast during that seven day period. However, there is still a question concerning the date of this festival. First look at Exodus 23:14-17 (NKJV), "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year: You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty; and the Feast of Harvest, the **firstfruits** of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field. Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God. Did you see the one feast of Firstfruits hidden in this passage of scripture? After that look at Leviticus 23:4-16 (NKJV), *'These are the feasts of the Lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times. On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord's Pass-over. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.'*"

*And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord. Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the Lord. We must remember that this feast was set up while the Israelites were traveling through the wilderness and it plainly states in verse 14 of Exodus 23 that all the males were to appear before the Lord three times each year. This was long before the crucifixion of Jesus and long before the 2nd Temple era. Therefore, we are seeing a type prior to seeing the prototype. Firstfruits offering at the time of Moses was the first grain you would harvest, in Israel this would be the barley harvest. In scripture, at the time of Moses, we do not have an established time for the feast of firstfruits. To further complicate the matter: We must identify the three feast days that the males of Israel were to appear before the Lord. Look at Deuteronomy 16:16 for the correct understanding. Verse 16 (KJV), *Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty.* This verse clearly identifies the three feasts that a man was to appear before the Lord. They are the Feast of Unleavened Bread; the Feast of Weeks; and the third is the Feast of Tabernacles. The above scripture indicates that Firstfruits is not a feast day when all the males must appear before the Lord. It also indicates that the second feast*

is the one called Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) in the month of June and is the festival at the time of the wheat harvest. The third feast (Feast of Tabernacles) also includes a harvest time and is the period for the firstfruits of olives (oil) and grapes (wine). Therefore, it seems that God established a harvest incorporated into each “must appear” feast. When is Firstfruits?

Do we have an understanding of when Firstfruits occurs? No! I don’t think so. Verses from Leviticus indicate that firstfruits are offered on the day after the Sabbath. Here is where we all get lost! Which Sabbath? Does this mean on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Remember that the first day is a high holy day (a Sabbath). What about the eighth day after the close of these feast days because the seventh day is also a high holy day? What about the normal weekly sabbath? Surely, we can all see that a seven day festival will include at least one normal weekly sabbath. I say at least one weekly sabbath because the period of eight days could include two weekly sabbath days if the main Feast started on a sabbath. I respect Perry Stone and have a copy of his Old Testament Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible. He included a table illustrated on page 143 showing the Hebrew Feast Days. This table indicates that Firstfruits is the first sabbath after Passover. Now, we have something that we can build upon and bring the prototype of firstfruits into this discussion. Under the New Covenant Jesus is the Passover sacrifice and upon His resurrection He is the first of God’s firstfruits. Look once again at the passage from Leviticus saying that *you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the firstyear*. Isn’t Jesus that lamb? Doesn’t He represent the spiritual firstfruit? Then let us take facts and see if we can figure out a little more about this feast called Firstfruits. We know by Jesus’ own words that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. I have explained elsewhere that Jesus must die on Wednesday as our current calendar is set up for everything to work as it is recorded in the Bible. With Jesus dying about three in the afternoon on Wednesday and taking into account the full three days and three nights that He must spend in the tomb, He would arise at three in the afternoon **on the first sabbath after Passover**. Therefore, this makes Jesus Lord of the Sabbath and the firstfruit of the resurrection, thus fulfilling the statements made in the Bible pertaining to firstfruits.

Feast of Firstfruits — To commemorate the coming in of barley. It appears to be the first sabbath after Passover. (Lev 23:9-14) From Leviticus: ⁹ *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,* ¹⁰ *"Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.* (NKJV) Because of the agrarian culture at the time of Moses this was an appointed festival; however, present day society is not that agrarian and there seems to be great confusion over how to determine this on any calendar. The mystery reveals that this feast day will depend on what day of the week is designated as Passover. We may revert back to observing this festival during the reign of Christ. Because of the confusion over when this feast is celebrated, I am inserting an additional review of firstfruits.

Feasts and Festivals of Israel

The Feast of Firstfruits

I. Introduction and review:

A. We have been considering the feasts and festivals of God.

1. We saw that they were considered to be two things:

a. They were appointments with God.

b. They were rehearsals of some event or action God was going to bring to pass in the future.

2. Some have already occurred and we can examine them with hindsight.

3. Others have not yet occurred and we can only look at them prospectively, that is without the precision of hindsight.

B. We began by looking at the first of the Spring feasts, that is Passover:

1. The Passover requirements:

a. Preparation for the Passover begins on the tenth of Nisan when each family takes into their home a yearling, unblemished, male lamb (or goat).

b. It has to be without spot or blemish.

c. On the 14th day of Nisan, the lamb is killed and his blood painted on the door posts and the lintel of the family's home.

d. There is a Passover meal served to the family which is administered by the father.

e. The lamb is the main course.

f. This feast is a dress rehearsal of the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The second Spring feast is the Feast of Unleavened Bread:

a. On the day of Passover, there is a search for leaven in the home.

b. All leaven found of the home is burned and for the next seven days no leaven is used in the home.

c. All of the bread that is baked and consumed by the family during this festival is unleavened.

d. Leaven represents sin.

e. This seven day feast represents the new life of the believer after accepting the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.

II. The next feast is the Feast of Firstfruits; Leviticus 23:10-14 (NKJV):

*”Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; **on the day after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³ Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; **it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.***

A. When it started:

1. The Passover was first celebrated when the last plague befell Egypt.
2. Thereafter Israel left Egypt.
3. The feast of unleavened bread followed the first Passover.
4. But when was the first feast of firstfruits held?
5. After they entered the promised land and not until the first harvest.

B. How the Feast would work:

1. This feast is commenced on the day after the Sabbath following Passover.
2. So **the feast of firstfruits would always be on a Sunday**, that is the first day of the week.
3. The first of the **barley crop** would be bound into a sheaf.
4. You would then take this sheaf to the priest.
5. This sheaf was called the sheaf of firstfruits.

6. The priest would then take this sheaf into the place of worship and waive it before the Lord.

7. There were other proscribed offerings to be presented along with the sheaf of firstfruits.

C. Background information:

1. The word 'sheaf' in Hebrew is omer.

a. omer {o'-mer} **Meaning:** 1) a dry measure of 1/10 ephah (about 2 liters);
2) sheaf.

b. **Exodus 16:36** (NKJV): *Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.*

2. This feast was a harvest festival:

a. It was the first harvest festival in the year.

b. Just as the Feast of Pentecost (wheat harvest).

c. The Feast of Tabernacles (fruit harvest):

(1) important fruits

(2) olives

(3) grapes

3. The harvest of the barley:

a. Barley, unlike wheat does not stand up straight but hangs over.

(1) Barley is a relatively soft grain unlike wheat.

(2) Therefore Barley is winnowed and not threshed.

b. The barley doesn't always sprout up at the same time.

c. The fields are watched and the earliest grain to emerge is marked, usually with a red cord.

d. When these first emerges ripen and mature, enough of them are cut to make an omer (sheaf).

e. This sheaf was then taken to the priests so that they could offer it to God as a wave offering.

f. Thereafter you would make the other offerings prescribed in Leviticus.

g. Once that process was completed, then the barley could be harvested, but it could not be touched before the offering of the firstfruits is accepted.

D. This Feast is about a picture of resurrection and salvation. Consider some of the events that took place on this day:

1. Israel eats the firstfruits of the promised land; Joshua 5:10-12 (NKJV): *Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. ¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.*

a. And the next day, the day after Passover, they ate from the produce of the promised land.

b. The Manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land.

2. Jesus of Nazareth has risen from the dead. Jesus is the firstfruit of the resurrection and had to present Himself to the Father for acceptance as the firstfruit. As the barley could not be touched and harvested until after the sheaf wave offering was accepted. Jesus told this to Mary in different words. John 20:17, ¹⁷ *Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ ”*(NKJV)

3. Consider 1st Corinthians 15:20-26 (NKJV):

²⁰*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

E. Jesus is the firstfruits.

1. First born son – Matthew 1:22-25 (NKJV):

²²*So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*

2. First begotten – Hebrews 1:6 (KJV):

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? ⁶ And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

3. First born of every creature – Colossians 1:15 (NKJV):

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

4. First begotten from the dead – Revelation 1:5 (NKJV):

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

5. First born of many brethren – Romans 8:29 (NKJV):

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

6. First fruits of the resurrected ones – 1st Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV):

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

7. Beginning of the creation of God – Revelation 3:14 (NKJV):

”And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

8. Preeminent One – Colossians 1:18 (NKJV):

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

III. Now we know the questions to go with the answers:

A. Consider John 20:11-12 (NKJV):

¹¹But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

1. Did God know that Mary was coming?

2. Did He have those two angels remain there for her to see?

3. What did Mary see?

a. The slab on which Jesus’ body had been placed.

b. An angel sitting at the foot of the slab.

c. And an angel sitting at the head of the slab.

4. She saw a living display of the Mercy Seat.

B. Consider also John 20:17 (NKJV):

Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

1. John 20:17 (KJV):

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

2. Haptomai {hap'-tom-ahee}, Greek reference 680 in Strong's Concordance —
Meaning: to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to, or to touch.

3. Flavius Josephus wrote that the Jews would not touch their barley crop, that is to harvest it, until their firstfruits had been accepted.

4. Jesus now tells Mary that she should not touch Him until He goes first to the Father for acceptance and approval of His “sheaf” and wave offering.

5. Thereafter Jesus was fine with others touching Him, see John 20:27 (NKJV): *Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”*

C. Why can't the Jews see these things? Here is an even larger question: Why can't Christians see these things? Why have Christians continued for over 2000 years to call Jesus a liar? Oh, yes you have! By not accepting Jesus at His word that He must spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish you are calling Jesus a liar!

1. They have been blinded to some extent. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, ³ *But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,* ⁴ *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.* (NKJV)

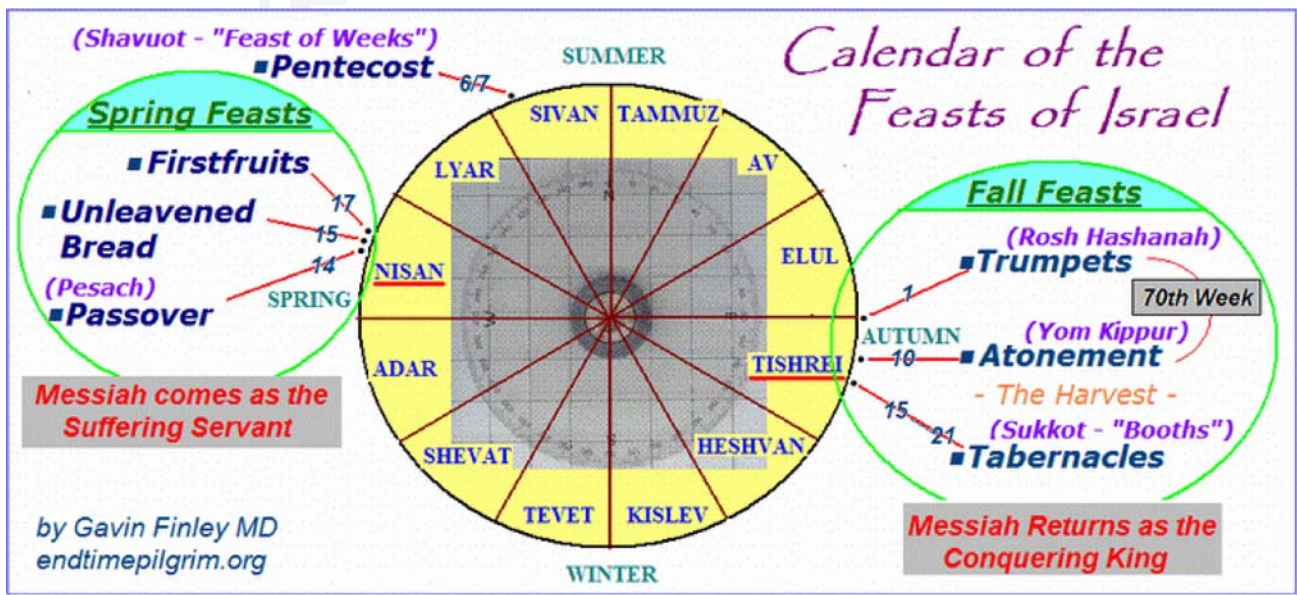
2. Consider Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV):

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

3. That will happen at the second coming of Jesus, at the end of the Great Tribulation.

D. The giving of the firstfruits to God, demonstrated the faith of the covenant people in their God.

1. Do we exercise this same kind of faith today? I don't think so! As Bible Believers following the example of our LORD and Savior Jesus, why don't we exhibit this kind of faith today?



This is a good example of God's feast days, but even with this illustration I have a problem. Once again, Jesus said he had to spend three days and three nights in the tomb as Jonah spent in the great fish. This presentation would reflect a more accurate illustration of a Maundy Thursday view-point. However, that would still **not fulfill** all that Jesus said. If Passover is the 14th (Wednesday), Unleavened Bread on the 15th (Thursday), Friday would be the 16th, the weekly sabbath on the 17th (Saturday) and finally, Firstfruits on the 18th (Sunday). The three nights are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The three days are Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Firstfruits is on the day after the sabbath.

Jesus the Christ

What makes Jesus the anointed one of God?

Every Bible Believer should know the many answers to the above question. With very little thought, you should be able to give at least five of the prophecies that indicate Jesus is the Messiah! Unfortunately, my own experience indicates that there are few who can defend their belief and explain even five of the prophecies that indicate Jesus is the Messiah. Should the question be: Why can't you, it's your belief?

The answers, that I'm aware of, are given here as a study aid to provide you a better understanding of who your LORD is and what was said about him long before he was born. These are the verses that fulfill those prophecies. All scripture verses used in this section are from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible.

Prophecies	Fulfillment
<p>Would be the Offspring of a woman Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, <i>and between your seed and her Seed</i>; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."</p>	<p>Luke 2:7 <i>And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.</i> Galatians 4:4 <i>But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.</i> Revelation 12:5 <i>She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.</i></p>
<p>Promised Offspring of Abraham Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and <i>in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.</i>" Genesis 18:18 <i>Since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 1:1 <i>The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.</i> Luke 3:34 <i>The son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor.</i> Acts 3:25 <i>You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed."</i></p>
<p>Promised Offspring of Isaac Genesis 17:19 <i>Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him."</i></p>	<p>Matthew 1:2 <i>Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.</i> Luke 3:34 <i>The son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor.</i></p>

<p>Promised Offspring of Jacob Genesis 28:14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and <i>in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.</i> Numbers 24:17 “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; <i>a Star shall come out of Jacob</i>; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:2 Abraham begot Isaac, <i>Isaac begot Jacob</i>, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Luke 3:34 <i>The son of Jacob</i>, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor.</p>
<p>Will descend from the tribe of Judah Genesis 49:10 <i>The scepter shall not depart from Judah</i>, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and <i>Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.</i> Luke 3:33 The son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, <i>the son of Judah.</i></p>
<p>The Heir to the throne of David Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, <i>upon the throne of David</i> and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the <i>Son of David</i>, the Son of Abraham. Matthew 1:6 And Jesse begot <i>David the king</i>. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.</p>
<p>Will be born in Bethlehem Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, <i>yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel</i>, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”</p>	<p>Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was <i>born in Bethlehem of Judea</i> in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. Luke 2:4-7 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, <i>to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem</i>, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.</p>
<p>Would be born of a virgin Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, <i>the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son</i>, and shall call His name Immanuel.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, <i>she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.</i> Luke 1:26-35 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <i>to a virgin</i> betrothed to a man whose name</p>

	<p>was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."</p> <p>Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"</p> <p>And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."</p>
<p>There would be a slaughter of infants Jeremiah 31:15 Thus says the Lord: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel <i>weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.</i>"</p>	<p>Matthew 2:16-18 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel <i>weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.</i>"</p>
<p>Jesus and his parents would escape into Egypt Hosea 11:1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and <i>out of Egypt I called My son.</i>"</p>	<p>Matthew 2:14-15 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "<i>Out of Egypt I called My Son.</i>"</p>
<p>Would be called a Nazarene Cannot find any reference in the Old Testament to meet the statement made by the Prophets. Isaiah 11:1; Isaiah 53:3; Zechariah 9:9-10; Zechariah 11:4-14; Psalm 22 for example.</p>	<p>Matthew 2:23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "<i>He will be called a Nazarene.</i>"</p>

<p>Jesus would have a ministry in Galilee Isaiah 9:1-2 Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, <i>in Galilee of the Gentiles</i>. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.</p>	<p>Matthew 4:12-16 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, <i>Galilee of the Gentiles</i>: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”</p>
<p>Jesus would be called a Prophet Deuteronomy 18:15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you <i>a Prophet</i> like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.”</p>	<p>John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found <i>Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets</i>, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly <i>the Prophet</i> who is to come into the world.” Acts 3:19-26 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said to the fathers, “The Lord your God will raise up for you <i>a Prophet</i> like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear <i>that Prophet</i> shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.” Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, “And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Jesus would be called a Priest in the order of Melchizedek</p> <p>Psalms 110:4 The Lord has sworn and will not relent, “<i>You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i>”</p>	<p>Hebrews 5:5-6 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “<i>You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i>”</p> <p>Hebrews 6:20 Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become <i>High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i></p> <p>Hebrews 7:15-17 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: “<i>You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</i>”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would be rejected by the Jews</p> <p>Psalms 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and <i>against His Anointed.</i></p> <p>Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and <i>rejected by men</i>, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.</p>	<p>Luke 17:25 But first He must suffer many things and <i>be rejected by this generation.</i></p> <p>Luke 23:18 And they all cried out at once, saying, “<i>Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas.</i>”</p> <p>John 1:11 He came to His own, and <i>His own did not receive Him.</i></p> <p>John 5:43 I have come in My Father’s name, and <i>you do not receive Me</i>; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Would have a high moral character</p> <p>Psalms 45:7 <i>You love righteousness and hate wickedness</i>; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.</p> <p>Isaiah 11:2-4 <i>The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him</i>, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness <i>He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth</i>; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.</p>	<p>Luke 2:52 And <i>Jesus increased in wisdom and stature</i>, and in favor with God and men.</p> <p>Luke 4:18 “<i>The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me</i>, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”</p>

He would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and *riding on a donkey*, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 21:1-11 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?"

So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

John 12:13-14 Took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written.

Would be betrayed by a friend

Psalms 41:9 *Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*

Matthew 26:14-16 Then *one of the twelve*, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Mark 14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, *one of the twelve*, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them.

Mark 14:43-45 And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, *one of the twelve*, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now

	<p>His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.”</p>
<p>Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver Zechariah 11:12 Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So <i>they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 26:15 And said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And <i>they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.</i></p>
<p>Betrayal money to be returned for a potter’s field Zechariah 11:13 And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. <i>So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 27:3-10 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!” Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.” And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”</p>
<p>Judas’ position to be taken by another Psalms 109:7-8 When he is judged, let him be found guilty, and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few, and let another <i>take his office.</i></p>	<p>Acts 1:18-20 Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood. “For it is written in the book of Psalms: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it;’ and, ‘Let another <i>take his office.</i>’”</p>

	<p>Acts 1:24-26 And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on <i>Matthias</i>. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.</p>
<p>False witnesses accuse him Psalms 27:12 Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for <i>false witnesses have risen against me</i>, and such as breathe out violence. Psalms 35:11 KJV <i>False witnesses did rise up</i>; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.</p>	<p>Matthew 26:60-61 But found none. Even though many <i>false witnesses</i> came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’”</p>
<p>Would be silent when accused Psalms 38:13-14 But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute <i>who does not open his mouth</i>. Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet <i>He opened not His mouth</i>; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so <i>He opened not His mouth</i>.</p>	<p>Matthew 26:62-63 And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?” But <i>Jesus kept silent</i>. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Matthew 27:12-14 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, <i>He answered nothing</i>. Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” But <i>He answered him not one word</i>, so that the governor marveled greatly.</p>
<p>Would be struck and spit on Isaiah 50:6 <i>I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard</i>; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.</p>	<p>Mark 14:65 Then <i>some began to spit on Him</i>, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, “Prophecy!” And the officers <i>struck Him with the palms of their hands</i>. John 18:22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by <i>struck Jesus with the palm of his hand</i>, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?” John 19:1-3 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And <i>they struck Him with their hands</i>.</p>

<p>Would be hated without cause</p> <p>Psalms 69:4 Those who <i>hate me without a cause</i> are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully; though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.</p> <p>Psalms 109:3-5 <i>They have also surrounded me with words of hatred</i>, and fought against me without a cause. In return for my love they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer. Thus they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.</p>	<p>John 15:23-25 He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, "<i>They hated Me without a cause.</i>"</p>
<p>Would suffer vicariously</p> <p>Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But <i>He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities</i>; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and <i>by His stripes we are healed</i>. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and <i>the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all</i>.</p>	<p>Matthew 8:16-17 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "<i>He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.</i>"</p> <p>Romans 4:25 <i>Who was delivered up because of our offenses</i>, and was raised because of our justification.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that <i>Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures</i>.</p>
<p>Would be crucified with sinners</p> <p>Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and <i>He was numbered with the transgressors</i>; and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.</p>	<p>Matthew 27:38 <i>Two robbers were crucified with him</i>, one on his right and one on his left.</p> <p>Mark 15:27-28 <i>With Him they also crucified two robbers</i>, one on His right and the other on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "<i>And He was numbered with the transgressors.</i>"</p> <p>Luke 23:33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there <i>they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left</i>.</p>
<p>Hands and feet to be pierced</p> <p>Psalms 22:16 For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet.</p> <p>Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then <i>they will look on Me whom they pierced</i>. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.</p>	<p>John 19:37 And again another Scripture says, "<i>They shall look on Him whom they pierced.</i>"</p> <p>John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."</p>

<p>To be mocked and insulted</p> <p>Psalms 22:6-8 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, “<i>He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!</i>”</p>	<p>Matthew 27:39-44 And <i>those who passed by blasphemed Him</i>, wagging their heads and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”</p> <p>Likewise the chief priests also, <i>mocking</i> with the scribes and elders, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” Even <i>the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.</i></p> <p>Mark 15:29-32 And <i>those who passed by blasphemed Him</i>, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”</p> <p>Likewise the chief priests also, <i>mocking among themselves with the scribes</i>, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Even <i>those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.</i></p>
<p>Would be given gall and vinegar</p> <p>Psalms 69:21 <i>They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 27:34 They gave Him <i>sour wine mingled with gall</i> to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.</p> <p>Matthew 27:48 Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with <i>sour wine</i> and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.</p> <p>John 19:29 Now a vessel full of <i>sour wine</i> was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.</p>
<p>Would hear prophetic words repeated in mockery</p> <p>Psalms 22:8 “<i>He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!</i>”</p>	<p>Matthew 27:43 “<i>He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him</i>; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”</p>

<p>Would pray for his enemies Psalms 109:4 In return for my love they are my accusers, but <i>I give myself to prayer.</i> Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because <i>He poured out His soul unto death</i>, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and <i>made intercession for the transgressors.</i></p>	<p>Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “<i>Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.</i>” And they divided His garments and cast lots.</p>
<p>His side would be pierced Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will <i>look on Me whom they pierced.</i> Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”</p>	<p>John 19:34 But one of the soldiers <i>pierced His side</i> with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.</p>
<p>Soldiers would cast lots for his clothes Psalms 22:18 <i>They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.</i></p>	<p>Mark 15:24 And they crucified Him. <i>Dividing up His clothes, they cast lots</i> to see what each would get. John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “<i>They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.</i>” Therefore the soldiers did these things. Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And <i>they divided His garments and cast lots.</i></p>
<p>Not a bone would be broken Psalms 34:20 <i>He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.</i></p>	<p>John 19:33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, <i>they did not break His legs.</i></p>
<p>Would be buried with the rich Isaiah 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked—but <i>with the rich at His death</i>, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.</p>	<p>Matthew 27:57-60 Now when evening had come, there came <i>a rich man</i> from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and <i>laid it in his new tomb</i> which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.</p>

Would arise

Psalms 16:10 *For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

Matthew 28:9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, *Jesus met them*, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Luke 24:36-46 Now as they said these things, *Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them*, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.”

Would ascend into Heaven

Psalms 68:18 *You have ascended on high, you have led captivity captive; you have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the Lord God might dwell there.*

Luke 24:50-51 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that *He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.*

Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, *He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

<p>His rejection would be shown to the Jews Psalms 118:22 <i>The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.</i></p>	<p>Acts 4:10-11 “Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the ‘<i>stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.</i>’”</p>
<p>Rebellion against God and the Word Psalms 2:1-12 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, <i>against the Lord and against His Anointed</i>, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’” Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.</p>	<p>John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And <i>the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.</i> Acts 4:25-29 Who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: “Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together <i>against the Lord and against His Christ.</i>” For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word.</p>

I began this work with the thought that this was my list of I BELIEVEs. I have attempted to give you information that would illustrate the reason why I believe certain things in certain ways. Is that strictly opinion or is that educated wisdom from many years of study and faith in what God was teaching me? My God is a loving God whom I have discovered through His marvelous Word to be a patient God who will take the steps necessary to get you to learn His ways if you choose to know and understand those ways. Remember, mankind was created in the image of God and we have the capability of free will choice. If we desire to learn the ways and means of God, He will patiently teach His ways to us. If, on the other hand, we choose to disregard God's ways and simple laws of instruction then He will lift His hedge of protection from around us and allow us to go on our own misguided ways and by our own thoughts. By and through this misguided choice, Satan and his host of demons will quickly jump in to fill the void created by our rebellion against God. We will have new gods and new religions that do not serve any true purpose. These new gods are self-serving in their ideology. There is no difference between these new gods and the pagan gods of old, they just have different names.

I just stated that God was a loving and patient God who would teach us His ways. I have shown within this booklet that Adam only had one job in the Garden and that was to tend the Garden and take care of it. After the fall (disobedience, sin) and expulsion from the Garden mankind was, to some degree, left to their own way to figure things out, which basically caused the flood to occur because of mankind's wickedness. Later, after many trials, the chosen children of God were led by Moses out of the bondage of Egypt and toward the promised land. Once again, mankind demonstrated their rebellion against God by their creation of a golden calf to be their god. God told Moses what they were doing and what they had done and Moses came down from the top of the mountain with ten simple moral laws and became so upset with what was being done that he broke the set of God's rules. Because of this act and one other, Moses was told that he would not enter the promised land, instead he would die in the wilderness.

I have also taken the time to show you the full list of Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses and attempted to explain why these are moral instructions and not religious instructions. I have also attempted to give you the information of how Jesus used these instructions in His teachings in the New Testament. I went further and gave you the seven feast days that God ordained in the Old Testament and shown you that these feast were to be conducted each, and every, year for as long as mankind produces a generation of offspring. I went to the next step and showed you the misguided ideas of the two holidays that mankind now celebrates called Christmas and Easter.

Through all the study of the Bible over the last six decades I have come to the conclusion in my I BELIEVEs, that there are only two genders, male and female. That there is only a marriage of one man to one woman, at one period of time. I say that because divorce is still something that mankind does and normally there is a remarriage of the parties, not necessarily to each other. I further BELIEVE that there is enough information detailed in the many mysteries of the Bible that would lead a person to understand that the ten lost tribes of Israel are now located throughout Europe and specifically that Great Britain represents the tribe of Ephraim and the United States represents the tribe of Manasseh. I BELIEVE this because of the book of Jeremiah and not the teaching of any denomination. I BELIEVE that Jesus used the story of Jonah as the only sign He would give in association with His death. I BELIEVE this because Jesus knew that Jonah was dead in the great fish and that it was the power of God that brought Jonah back to life. Jesus even demonstrated this power with the resurrection of His friend Lazarus and the others that He brought back from death. But what about you and your beliefs? Allow me to ask you several questions that I would really like for you to stop for a moment and think about.

Do you really believe that the teachings of the Old Testament have been done away with because of the New Covenant made through Jesus?

Consider this: Why would God present His Word to Moses and the prophets just to be ignored? Do you really believe the birth of Jesus doesn't carry forward the instructions that God's feast days and His commandments are not meant for all generations? Haven't we seen in both the Ten Commandments and in God's ordained feast days that they are meant for all generations? Did I miss something and the generations of mankind stopped at the beginning of the gospel of Matthew? I don't think so! Remember a few things: The Bible may be the inspired Word of God with much of it revealed by dreams or visions but it clearly says that God **said** to Moses. That little word said means God spoke directly to Moses. The first five books in the Bible are not dreams or visions. One other thing: Didn't Jesus make the statement that He came to fulfill the law, not to do away with the law? Finally, answer this within yourself: Why would God throw away two-thirds of His book of instruction just because He sent His son to establish a covenant of grace? Please stop and understand what you are doing when you make a statement such as this about being a New Testament believer.

Are there other important sets of twins mentioned in the Bible? Can you name them?

There are at least two sets of twins, other than Cain and Abel, that play a role in the Bible narrative. The first set is Jacob and Esau and the second set is Perez and Zerah.

Are you aware of the seven church ages that refer to the seven churches of Asia in Revelation?

- 1) The church at Ephesus - they were a legalistic church and represent the age between 30 - 95.
- 2) The church at Smyrna - they were a persecuted church and represent the age between 95 - 312.
- 3) The church at Pergamum - they were a liberal church and represent the age between 312 - 590.
- 4) The church at Thyatira - they were a pagan church and represent the age between 590 - 1517.
- 5) The church at Sardis - they were a dead church and represent the age between 1517 - 1750.
- 6) The church at Philadelphia - they were an alive church and represent the age between 1750 - 1925.
- 7) The church at Laodicea - they are an apathetic church and represent the age between 1925 - now.

Notice several things about these churches and the condition (age) they represent. First, these are all New Testament churches. They are not identified in the Old Testament and the statements made to them are New Covenant statements/conditions. In the verses pertaining to each church, the term he who overcomes is used in the statement made about each church. Meaning that we all, as New Testament believers, need to be overcomers. Here is what I want you to really see. There are thirteen promises given to those who overcome. Here is a list of those promises:

To Ephesus - I will give the right to eat from the tree of life (1).

To Smyrna - overcomers will not be hurt by the second death (2).

To Pergamum - I will give some of the hidden manna (3). I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it (4).

To Thyatira - I will give authority over the nations (5). I will also give him the morning star (6).

To Sardis - dressed in white (7). I will never erase his name from the book of life (8) I will acknowledge his name before my Father and His angels (9).

To Philadelphia - I will make him a pillar in the temple (10). I will write on him the name of My God (11). I will write on him My new name (12).

To Laodicea - I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne (13).

These are the thirteen promises made to those who overcome the situation and temptations that the church is going through. Realize that the last church age represents the falling away that Paul spoke of in 2nd Thessalonians 2:3: *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.* (NKJV) The falling away that Paul is speaking about is the apathy of the church. Go back and read the full statement that Jesus makes to the

church at Laodicea. I'll make it easy for you and give you the important verses, Rev 3:15-16: ¹⁵ *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.* ¹⁶ *So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.* (NKJV) Jesus also gives to the church at Laodicea this encouragement. Rev 3:19-20: ¹⁹ *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.* ²⁰ *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.* (NKJV)

As a like minded Bible Believer, I desire for you to see what is happening to the church in this present day and age. We truly are marching to hell by our own choice. This nation, supposedly Christian, needs to wake up, smell the coffee and repent of our wicked ways. The more we walk down this pathway we are on, the closer we get to the gates of hell. I plead with you to become an overcomer and be zealous and repent, just as Jesus spoke to the church at Laodicea.

Can you name the different groups that will not be permitted to enter heaven as stated in Revelation?

There is a passage of scripture in Revelation chapter 21 that gives the following statement, Rev 21:6-8: *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."* (NKJV) The New International Version uses slightly different words and I'll list those here: Cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars. Do you understand that those who riot and are doing the snatch and grab robberies, the tearing down of statues and other things, are those performing vile acts and they do not get into heaven. Those who must read their astrological prediction for the day are practicing magic arts and do not get into heaven. Those who are living LBGTQ lifestyles are abominable in God's sight and do not get into heaven. Those who have an abortion or who perform abortions are murderers and get to spend eternity in hell. Those who lie and deceive in their buying and selling or in the events that happen daily are also marked for doom. If LBGTQ wasn't enough and you practice same sex marriages, you also have purchased a ticket to spend forever in Hades. **It is your choice in what you think, act and believe!** God warns all of His creation that any of these things are against Him and will not be permitted, especially in heaven.

Do you believe that God is wrong in declaring LBGTQ ideology an abomination? Better read the answer given to the question above. Just so you know that the Bible does make this statement here is the verse. Leviticus 18:6, 22-23: ⁶ *"You must never have sexual relations with a close relative, for I am the Lord. . . ."* ²² ***Do not practice homosexuality,** having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin.* ²³ *"A man must not defile himself by having sex with an animal. And a woman must not offer herself to a male animal to have intercourse with it. This is a perverse act. (NLT) I have heard it stated that the practice of being a lesbian is not condemned by God because it is not stated as such in Leviticus. Leviticus may not state this, however you need to read Romans 1:26-27: ²⁶ *That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. ²⁷ And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.* (NLT)*

Do you believe that God is wrong in declaring marriage as the union of one man and one woman?

To some extent this question has been answered by the two previous questions. The real question is what does God proclaim in His Word? This is one of the very first rules or principals of the Bible and it is given in Genesis 2:24-25: *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.* (NKJV)

Do you believe that women have the right to kill their unborn children? Do you consider that as murder?

Pro-choice and pro-life have had discussion after discussion on this issue. The Supreme Court of our land has declared that under the Constitution, and with science in mind, women had the right to have an abortion. Who has greater authority God or the Supreme Court? I BELIEVE the creator of all things has the greater authority. Leviticus 18 gave mankind rules toward their sexual relations. In the middle of these verses rests verse 21 which goes in a different direction. Leviticus 18:21: *And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.* (NKJV) This verse reads a little different in the New Living Translation; Leviticus 18:21: *“Do not permit any of your children to be offered as a sacrifice to Molech, for you must not bring shame on the name of your God. I am the Lord.* (NLT) As of this writing, we are now seeing the leak from the Supreme Court that may well overturn Roe v Wade. If this nation has even the slightest desire to return to the days prior to 2019 (pre-COVID-19), they really need to pull their collective head out of the sand and repent of their sins. These days of heavy snows, droughts, hurricanes, tornados, wild fires and floods are all warnings from God that judgment is coming if we do not repent. One of the major things we need to repent for is the murdering of innocent children through abortions.

Do you understand that the United States made a covenant with God in the writing of our Constitution? Think about this and understand that only Israel and the United States have made a covenant with God. **Do you understand that this nation was formed upon Biblical principles? Not on Islamic nor Oriental doctrine or belief?** Nowadays, under this current administration, we have basically open borders that allow anyone to come in without the first thought of background checks or any other type of legal procedures. We have no idea what the purpose for entry into this nation really is. Is this transition made for the purpose of exiting an overburdening government or is this for drug, sex trafficking, or other terrorist activities that someone came across the border? We don't even know where some of these people came from, nor do we know where they are at this moment now that they are here in this nation. At the same time, we are providing them with care and attention. They have not worked the first day in this land, but our government sees fit to provide them with an income, medical benefits, assistance for housing and transportation. The home born, home raised people of this nation had to work for ten quarters to have even an entry into our Social Security system. Without a Social Security card, the people of this nation are not eligible for Medicare or Social Security benefits, nowadays incorrectly called an entitlement. Since we paid our own money from our own employment wage into this system, how is it an entitlement? This is all a maddening adventure of lies, theft and deceit. This is not my ranting and raving just to vent my frustration concerning this great country. These are facts and things that every American, Bible Believer or otherwise, needs to be considering and urging change!

For an example of what is going on around this nation right now, I'm including this email that I received from a farmer friend:

As I was unloading my 200 bags of seed corn yesterday I really got to thinking, it's going to be pretty expensive this year to plant corn. At an average price of \$275 for a bag of seed corn and being mindful that a bag only covers about 2.5 acres, that's only my first expense. It now cost over \$1000 for a ton of fertilizer and that keeps going up. Spraying for weed and pest control is already more than

double what it was last year. Fuel is through the roof at over \$5 per gallon. It is going to get pricy to grow corn this year. I think that I'm a very, very, very small grain farmer. Across the whole United States, every single farmer is going to face the same challenges. In my opinion the food supply is going to get very tight with prices going up in stores more than they already have. Someone has to do something about this. Now, I'm not begging for help by any means, I just need the higher up officials to recognize how much farmers actually do. The farmer is the only one that buys supplies at retail price and sells their product at wholesale price. Please keep that in mind when you drive past a corn field and think about how much money and work has been done to grow that crop. If you ate today, just remember it all started with a farmer.

That should give you some idea of where things are at this moment across our land. With the situation between Ukraine and Russia, COVID-19 lockdowns, ships and ports unable to transfer goods from one means of transportation to another, and the amount of spending by our government, every American should come to the same answer that things are not good and this nation is operating on a fiat currency. We are now the largest debtor nation the earth has ever known or seen.

Here's another email story I recently received:

I had spent an hour in the bank with my father as he had to take care of some financial transactions. I couldn't resist myself and asked, "Dad, why don't we activate your Internet banking function on the computer at your house?"

"Why would I do that?" He replied.

"Well, then you wouldn't have to spend an hour here at the bank for things like a wire transfer. You could even do you shopping online. Everything would be so much easier for you and mom." I replied. I was so excited about the thought of initiating him into the world of net banking and online shopping. Dad looked at me and said, "If I do that I won't even have to step out of the house!"

"Yes, yes!" I replied. I told him how even groceries can be delivered to the door and how Amazon will deliver almost anything.

His answer left me speechless.

He said, "Since I entered this bank today, I have met four of my friends, I have chatted a while with the staff who know me very well. You know that your mother and I do not get out much anymore and, well, this is the company that I sometimes need. I like to get ready and come to the bank. I have the time that I can do this and it is the physical touch and a person's voice that I crave. Two years ago when I got sick, the grocery store owner whom I buy from came to see me and sat by my bedside and cried. When your mother fell down a few days ago, while on her morning walk, that same man saw her and immediately got his car and rushed her home because of the simple fact that he knew where we live. Would I have this 'human' touch if everything became online? Why would I want everything delivered to me and force me to interact with just my computer? I like to know who the person is that I'm dealing with and not just a seller or even a robotic system of chatting. My way creates bonds of friendship and trust. Does Amazon deliver these things as well as all their other stuff?"

I came away with a different viewpoint about my father and his ways. Technology isn't life. Spend time with people, talking with people and not sending tweets or just time on devices.

I am not a prophet and have not had a vision or even a dream pertaining to what I see as a mess over the whole of earth. Every nation and every land seems to be in some type of distress. This is no longer just a minor incident in one country, this is now a world wide state of confusion and mistrust among neighboring countries. There is the Supreme Court ruling over Roe v Wade that I have already mentioned in this country. There is COVID-19 lockdowns in areas of China and North Korea. The situation between Ukraine and Russia is now in its third month. Finland and Sweden are thinking about joining NATO, and Russia is telling them to not do it. Putin says there will be a consequence if either country does this. The United States is attempting to rejoin the group that is willing to have Iran

continue to work on their nuclear program. The PLO continues to make claims that Israel is the foreign occupiers of the land. The Abraham Accords has Israel at peace with four new nations, Bahrain, UAE, Sudan and Morocco. Israel still maintains its peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan. The United States continues to spend money like it is the only nation in the world with a printing press. The projected spending from this administration for this year is over 4 trillion dollars alone. Don't let anyone know this, but we are bankrupt. What do I see that the Bible tells me and what is in the news? Well, let me put it this way. God is upset with mankind once again and is just about ready to declare the cup of mankind's iniquity full. If there is no major repentance on the earth, we should be prepared for the wrath to come.

This work is my I BELIEVEs and I can only pray that by showing you the battles which are to be conducted in the last days, you might understand. These battles are presented in the Bible prior to the return of Christ. The following is a small preview of what is to come if humankind does not repent and turn back to God, His ways and His Word, the Bible.

Battle One

The first battle may be titled Israel's Extermination or the Battle of Neighbors and is found in Psalms 83. You wouldn't expect to find a battle concerning Israel in Psalms would you? We read in Psalms 83:2-8 (NKJV) the following, ² *For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head.* ³ *They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.* ⁴ *They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."* ⁵ *For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You:* ⁶ *The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;* ⁷ *Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;* ⁸ *Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.*

These are the inner circle of neighbor nations around present day Israel. The current names of the countries around Israel are Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Gaza. If you study the individuals and their relationship to Abraham, you will find out that most of these countries are the descendents of Isaac's cousins and kin. Notice that all of these countries are Islamic. Here is the identity of each player:

Edom - also known as Esau, the brother of Jacob and son of Isaac. A portion of Jordan.

Ishmaelites - Sons of Ishmael the half brother of Isaac and son of Abraham and Hagar. Ishmaelites are the descendents of Ishmael and may include Saudi Arabia.

Moab - One of the sons of Lot and his daughter after the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot is nephew of Abraham. A portion of Jordan.

Hagrites - same as Hagarites, descendent of Hagar, concubine of Abraham and mother of Ishmael. Hagar was an Egyptian, her other offspring are not identified in the Bible. Egyptians

Gebal - An Edomite territory and Phoenician trade city. A portion of Lebanon.

Ammon - also known as Ben-ammi. The other son of Lot through the other daughter and half brother to Moab. A portion of Jordan.

Amalek - Grandson of Esau through his son Eliphaz and his concubine Timna. Israel's persistent enemy.

Phillistia - Philistines, today known as Gaza.

Tyre - A coastal city of Phoenicia. Located in Lebanon.

Assyria - Syria

The last portion of Psalms 83 makes a request to God to help Israel. Here are those verses. Psalm 83:13-18 (NKJV), ¹³ O my God, make them like the whirling dust, Like the chaff before the wind! ¹⁴ As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame sets the mountains on fire, ¹⁵ So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm. ¹⁶ Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O LORD. ¹⁷ Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, ¹⁸ That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.

Battle Two

The next battle that we have to deal with is the first battle of Gog of the land of Magog as shown in Ezekiel 38 and 39. The players for this battle are named in verses 2, 3, 5 and 6 of Ezekiel 38 (NKJV), ² *"Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, ³ and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal". . . . ⁵ Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; ⁶ Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.* These are an outer ring of countries led by Russia that will attack Israel. In these verses I will show why this war will be fought at least three and a half years before the start of the tribulation. First, here is a list of the players:

Gog, of the land of **Magog**, the chief prince of Rosh - Rosh is an old name for Russia. So it seems that the lead country for the war will be Russia.

Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Togarmah - are all names of people now located in Turkey.

Persia - modern day Iran

Put - modern day Lybia

Cush - modern day Sudan and Ethiopia

Most of these names are given in the table of nations of Genesis 10. Genesis 10:2 gives the sons of Japheth and we find Gomer, Magog, Tubal and Meshech in that group, verse 3 gives the sons of Gomer which lists Togarmah. We find Cush and Put in verse 6 as sons of Ham. There is no direct link from the table of nations to the present day country of Iran.

A portion of the reason for this war is given in Ezekiel 38:14-16 (NLT), *"Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: When my people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself. ¹⁵ You will come from your homeland in the distant north with your vast cavalry and your mighty army,¹⁶ and you will attack my people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD. Then verses 18-20, ¹⁸ But this is what the Sovereign LORD says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, my fury will boil over!¹⁹ In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day.²⁰ All living things—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth. Finally, read verse 22, I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur!*

The above information gives us some of what is to happen during the first war of Gog and Magog. However chapter 39 tells us more of the reason for this war, and the results pertaining to both Gog and to Israel, along with the proof that this war begins prior to the tribulation. The following

verses are from chapter 39 of Ezekiel and will continue from the New Living Translation for ease of reading. We begin with verse 1, *"Son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: I am your enemy, O Gog, ruler of the nations of Meshech and Tubal. Then we read in verses 3-6 the following, ³ I will knock the bow from your left hand and the arrows from your right hand, and I will leave you helpless.⁴ You and your army and your allies will all die on the mountains. I will feed you to the vultures and wild animals.⁵ You will fall in the open fields, for I have spoken, says the Sovereign LORD.⁶ And I will rain down fire on Magog and on all your allies who live safely on the coasts. Then they will know that I am the LORD.* The next entry will provide to us the reason to state that this battle must begin at least three and a half years before the beginning of the tribulation. Read verse 9, *"Then the people in the towns of Israel will go out and pick up your small and large shields, bows and arrows, javelins and spears, and they will use them for fuel. There will be enough to last them seven years!"* Read that last sentence. Do you realize that it takes seven years to burn up all the weapons? The Abomination of Desolation stands in the temple at the 3 1/2 year point of the tribulation and it states in these verses that it takes Israel 7 years to burn up all the weapons. Therefore, this battle must take place prior to the beginning of the tribulation and could even be before this point of 3 1/2 years, but must be at least that long before the beginning of the tribulation.

Continuing with chapter 39, we read the outcome of Gog in verse 11, *"And I will make a vast graveyard for Gog and his hordes in the Valley of the Travelers, east of the Dead Sea. It will block the way of those who travel there, and they will change the name of the place to the Valley of Gog's Hordes."* Ezekiel 39:11 (NLT) The next verse, verse 12, shows us how long it takes Israel to bury the dead, and verse 13 indicates that Israel is victorious, *¹² It will take seven months for the people of Israel to bury the bodies and cleanse the land.¹³ Everyone in Israel will help, for it will be a glorious victory for Israel when I demonstrate my glory on that day, says the Sovereign LORD.*

Toward the latter part of chapter 39, we find the reason God does this. Ezekiel 39: 21-24 (NLT), *²¹ "In this way, I will demonstrate my glory to the nations. Everyone will see the punishment I have inflicted on them and the power of my fist when I strike.²² And from that time on the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.²³ The nations will then know why Israel was sent away to exile—it was punishment for sin, for they were unfaithful to their God. Therefore, I turned away from them and let their enemies destroy them.²⁴ I turned my face away and punished them because of their defilement and their sins."* Then we see the restoration of Israel in verses 25-29, *²⁵ "So now, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "I will end the captivity of my people; I will have mercy on all Israel, for I jealously guard my holy reputation!²⁶ They will accept responsibility for their past shame and unfaithfulness after they come home to live in peace in their own land, with no one to bother them.²⁷ When I bring them home from the lands of their enemies, I will display my holiness among them for all the nations to see.²⁸ Then my people will know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them away to exile and brought them home again. I will leave none of my people behind.²⁹ And I will never again turn my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!"*

Battle Three

We could call this battle many names: It could be called World War III; the Battle to Conquer the World; or the Seal Judgments. It appears that this battle is fought with conventional weapons. We find the explanation for this battle in the sixth chapter of Revelation. The leader for this battle is the Antichrist who is shown as the rider on the white horse within seal one. Revelation 6:2 (NKJV), *And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.* We must also review passages from Daniel to confirm some

things. Daniel's vision of the seventy weeks tell us this in Daniel 9:27 (NLT), *"The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him."*

Seal two brings forth war. Revelation 6:4 (NKJV), *Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.* Seals three and four bring forth pestilence and death. Revelation 6:5 (NKJV), *When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.* Revelation 6:8 (NKJV), *So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

Stop for a moment and think about what this truly says. We are approaching a total population of the earth at 10 billion and verse 8 above says one fourth of earth's population is to be killed in this battle. I must inject one other factor when I start giving figures. There are approximately 2 billion who claim to be Christians now on earth. If they are removed in the Rapture, we must start viewing our figures at 8 billion and not 10 billion. Therefore, we are seeing the warning that 2 billion people are to be killed in this battle. With the fifth seal, we see the Christians and Jews who are martyred during this war. Revelation 6:11 (NKJV), *Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.* The sixth seal brings us to the escalation of this battle to the point that it goes nuclear. Revelation 6:12-14 (NKJV), ¹² *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.* ¹³ *And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.* ¹⁴ *Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

Battle Four

This is the nuclear portion of this war and/or the trumpet judgments of Revelation 8 and 9. We find one third used repeatedly in these two chapters, and we also see the demonic locusts, the four bound angels of the Euphrates and their mounted troops who killed one third of the remaining population of earth. Revelation 9:15 (NKJV), *So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.* With the killing of this one third of the remaining population of mankind, an additional 2 billion people have now been killed. That's a total of 4 billion people or one half of the total population of the earth at that time. Go just a little further in chapter 9, and you will find the horses and riders of the two hundred million mounted troops. Verse 18 says that these horses kill one third of mankind. Revelation 9:18 (NKJV), *By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.* The total population of mankind has been decreasing as these battles took place, and each time a number is given it seems that we are talking about the remainder of the population at that point in time. At this juncture, we started with 4 billion and we have one-third of this number killed by the demonic horses. That would be an additional 1.33 billion killed. There are those places within Revelation that presents a flash forward, and there are a few that flash backward into history. One such flash forward is given here in the last two verses of chapter 9. Revelation 9:20-21 (NKJV), ²⁰ *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor*

hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Battle Five

Our fifth battle does not take place on earth, instead we jump to the Heavenly War. Read with me as we look at Revelation 12:7-9 (NKJV), *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* Revelation 12:12 (NKJV) informs us that Satan is thrown out of heaven for the last time and he is furious. *“Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”*

Battle Six

This battle represents the Antichrist’s battle against the Saints and the Jews. Since Satan has been thrown out of heaven, he goes after those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God. He is continuing to think that he can overpower God and take away His throne. He knows his time is short and he thinks that if he can destroy the Saints and the Jews, he can gain God’s throne. We can see some of this in Revelation 12:13-17 (NKJV), *¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.* The woman in verse 13 is Israel, Christ is the male child, her place in the wilderness may be the city of Petra in Jordan and her other offspring are the saints (Christians). We must also remember that the tribulation period is mainly for the Jews to come to acceptance that Jesus is Israel’s savior and the one that they pierced. Many of those who accept Jesus as savior during the tribulation will be the martyred of Revelation 7. These actions by Satan will be the second holocaust of the Jews and we may see this in Zechariah 13:8-9 (NKJV), *⁸ And it shall come to pass in all the land, Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: ⁹ I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”*

Battle Seven


The Middle East Campaign Against the Antichrist should be the title of this battle. The battle is toward the end of the seven year tribulation period, and represents the battle, or battles, between the king of the north and the king of the south in Daniel 11. In verse 36 of Daniel 11, we see the one who is called king is actually the Antichrist. Daniel 11:40-41 sets up this final battle between the king of the north and the king of the south; (NKJV), *“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with*

many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. ⁴¹ He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.” However, the Antichrist begins to hear rumors of discord from the north and from the east, and the Antichrist sets up his tents in the valley between the seas and awaits the advance of these other forces. Daniel 11:44-45 (NKJV), *But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵ And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.*


Battle Eight

This sets up the battle that everyone seems to know about, the battle of Armageddon. The Antichrist and his forces are waiting for the others to gather from the north and from the east. Revelation 16:12 (NKJV), *Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.* Finally, we get to the second rider on a white horse coming out from heaven in Revelation 19:11-21 (NKJV), *“ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.” ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.* So! With the understanding of these verses everyone should know that there is no Battle of Armageddon because all those who had gathered to fight against Jesus were destroyed with one word from His mouth.

With that said and done, the Kingdom of God has arrived and Jesus shall rule on earth for one thousand years. There will be no sickness, pain, worry or death during that thousand years of peace. The righteous who have overcome the tribulation will be those in the flesh who will enter the thousand years, and they will have children and they will have children throughout the thousand years. At the end of this thousand years, Satan will be released from the abyss and he will deceive the world to rebel against God.



Battle Nine



It is easy to establish what happens in this concluding battle that shall take place on earth. This is the second battle of Gog of the land of Magog. It is different and distinct from the first battle of Gog of the land of Magog. In the first battle of Ezekiel 38-39, we see Russia gathering Moslem countries and they go against Israel. In this second battle we see Russia gathering the world's armies to go against Jesus. Revelation 20:7-10 (NKJV), *⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. **And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.** ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

That is my list of I BELIEVES. It is time for you to make up your mind. Do you want to return to a land of peace and prosperity or continue to go down this path to destruction and damnation? You do have that choice. By repenting and turning toward God and His rules, God might allow this land to have another reprieve prior to that day when it becomes necessary to send Christ back to establish His Kingdom of righteousness. That is choice number one. Here is choice number two. If you are a Bible Believer, your choice is fully a portion of the first choice above. However, if you do not know God and you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus, you have the choice to have Him as your LORD and Savior. It is through the blood sacrifice that Jesus made on your behalf that gives you an Advocate to stand before His Father and vouch for you. Remember, it is not by our works that gets us into heaven, it is only by the accepted blood sacrifice of Christ that we have a means to spend eternity with our Creator.

You have a free will choice to make. Choose wisely!



VQP



VQP



VQP

