

Leviathan's Nightmare

By Joseph Dulmage

Behold The Lamb

Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

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Satan raged beneath the ice no dragon's breath could melt. Forbidden access to the throne where once the cherub knelt.

Watching from imprisoned depths on shores of ancient flood. Behold the Lamb as highest priest; the ark receives God's blood.

God's word holds fast a future's past preserved in holy power. By law and grace the guilty cleared in heaven's finest hour.

Fearless courage abhors the Son, but hate can't change the story. Light grows bright above glass ice, approaching King of Glory.

Beneath the deep so far away, waits Babylon's last throne. Armies beg perdition's king, Leviathan's cast home.

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Introduction

Leviathan's nightmare began on a foreboding Tuesday afternoon when Jesus Christ sent two disciples into Jerusalem to prepare a room for Passover. Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM Jesus Christ and Satan sit down at the same table. Why Jesus wanted to celebrate Passover a day early was puzzling; but if everything goes according to plan, this is Jesus' last meal. Nothing less than the kingdom of heaven's future is at stake.

If the world's rulers knew what Jesus was about to accomplish, they never would have crucified him. God was fulfilling a promise he made before the world began. Scripture calls it *hidden wisdom*; a purposed and glorious plan bringing eternal salvation to millions, and sealing the doom for the god of this world.

Leviathan's Nightmare ponders the most significant 5 days in human history: the day of Jesus' crucifixion, three days he was dead, and the day after Jesus resurrected from the dead. From these days forward, mankind records history as things happening before Christ (BC) and things that happened after Christ (AD). The world never got over it; neither did heaven.

Implementing a principle set forth in Luke's Gospel, great knowledge is discovered when setting things in order. A thorough record, chronicles hour by hour, day by day, events that changed the universe. Satan's perspective is also considered as he witnesses his own plans fall apart and succumb to the victory of Jesus Christ

Luke 1:1 *Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,*

Part Two, reads largely like Satan's biography. Beginning with the anointed cherub's creation; and ending with his eternal judgement in the lake of fire. Numerous studies examine the mystery of iniquity, including a detailed analysis on the serpent's seed, Cain, and Judas Iscariot. Any study of Lucifer and his kingdom necessitates prayer and caution. Satan applauds those who deny his existence. He is equally satisfied with persons who won't believe what God says about him. The author's intent is to glorify Jesus Christ, respect for God's words, and to stimulate thinking and dialog. Linked navigation provides easy access to topics and chapters. Scriptures used throughout this work are from the King James Bible.

Defining Hours and Days

God begins each new day at 6:00 PM. This often confuses Christians (especially those living in the West) because modern countries begin days at midnight. In the Bible, God counts days according to standards implemented in Genesis. Observe God concludes each day's finished work by saying: "the evening and the morning" not the morning and the evening as one might expect. A 24 hour day runs 6:00 PM- 6:00 PM.

Genesis 1:5 ...And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis 1:8 ...And the evening and the morning were the second day.

Genesis 1:13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Genesis 1:19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Genesis 1:23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Genesis 1:31...And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Consequently, since a full astronomical day consists of 24 hours, two 12 hour divisions make one complete day: Twelve hours in a night and twelve hours in a day.

John 11:9 Jesus answered, Are there not **twelve hours in the day?** If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

Jesus further divided (and labeled) the night into four watches, each watch being 3 hours long: These watches equate with hours and are crucial to understanding Jesus' death, burial and resurrection:

Mark 13:33-37 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. **34** For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. **35** Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, **at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36** Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. **37** And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

1st Watch- **Even** begins at 6 PM and ends at 9 PM

2nd Watch- **Midnight** begins at 9 PM and ends at 12 AM

3rd Watch- **Cockcrowing** begins at 12 AM and ends at 3 AM

4th Watch- **Morning** begins at 3 AM and ends at 6 AM

When nighttime's 12 hours expire, the second 12 hours of a 24 hour day begins at 6 AM. Thus the third hour is 9 AM, the sixth hour is 12 noon, the ninth hour is 3 PM and the day ends precisely as the new day begins at 6 PM

The Bible equates the word **even** with 6:00 PM. (a new day beginning). The very first observance of the Passover began at **even** exactly as did Jesus' last supper. Therefore, the most significant 5 days in history begins Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

***Numbers 9:5** And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month **at even** in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.*

Matthew 26:19-20** And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover. **20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

Jonah's Connection

During Christ's earthly ministry, the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign. His remarkable answer surprised everyone. The Jews wanted evidence manifesting spectacular power, they wanted the Messiah to deliver them from Roman rule and establish Israel as the world's head nation. But instead of displaying tremendous military strength, Jesus says, *no sign but the sign of the Prophet Jonah will be given.* Almost everything Jesus did confounded the leaders of Israel and this answer proved no exception. Could he really be serious? Out of all Israel's notable and famous prophets and kings, Jesus selects a backslidden prophet whose mission served Gentiles.

Consequently, Jonah's experience remains consistently relevant in understanding Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. What happened to Jonah is a type or picture of what happened to Jesus. Jonah's experience is referenced throughout this study.

Matthew 12:38-40 *Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

By citing Jonah's experience as a sign, Jesus provides detailed information about the length of time he remains dead. Three days and three nights requires whole 24 hour days. In order for Jesus' death burial and resurrection to be according to the scriptures, Jesus must be physically dead and buried for 72 hours.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

By referencing Jonah, Jesus also settled several other questions. Jesus identifies the great fish that swallowed Jonah as a whale. It also proves Jonah did not stay alive in the belly of the whale. Jesus died and resurrected; therefore, Jonah died and resurrected. Believing Jonah stayed alive inside the whale is incorrect and misleading.

Curiously, Jesus said his resurrection takes place the third day; he also said his resurrection takes place after three days.

Matthew 16:21 *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

Mark 8:31 *And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

In order for Jesus to rise the third day, and after three days, means his entire resurrection took more than three days. Jesus' ascension continuing even after he arose from the dead is evidenced by his own words to the first witness of his resurrection, Mary Magdalene. Mary arrived very early to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning. And Sunday was the 4th day since Jesus' death. Although, Jesus had risen from the dead, his ascension was not complete.

John 20:15-18 *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 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. 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.*

Jesus forbidding anyone to touch him and declaring he must ascend to his Father proves the resurrection continued into the 4th day. His ascension into the 3rd heaven fulfilled critical priesthood obligations. According to the law; Jesus fulfilled duties of high priest in the third heaven. (Chapter Jesus Christ High Priest)

Hebrews 9:24 *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

Ephesians 4:8-9 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)*

Last Supper

Tuesday afternoon Jesus selected a particular house with a large guest chamber to celebrate the traditional Jewish feast commemorating Israel's exodus from Egypt. Jesus sends Peter and John into Jerusalem and tells them to look for a man carrying a pitcher of water. When they located the person, they follow him to a house. Upon arriving at the house, an unnamed person, identified only as the *goodman*, shows them his home's upper story guestchamber. Within a couple hours, the most famous supper in human history takes place. Peter and John prepared the room and the Passover meal is ready. Shortly before 6:00 PM Jesus and the rest of the Apostles arrive.

Precisely, at 6:00 PM Wednesday, the last supper begins.

During the meal, Jesus' conversation includes ominous statements that, no doubt, disturbed his Apostles. Not only did he speak of impending suffering, he took bread and broke it, then likened the bread to his own body. As Jesus served them the *cup*, he told them the juice represented his own blood and a New Testament. Jesus' last supper establishes a Christian tradition and ordinance that remains till this day, and will probably last forever.

Thought to Ponder

Examining all passages concerning the Lord's Supper, we learn the word *wine* is never used. Every time the Bible mentions the drink used in Communion, the terminology is *the cup- or the fruit of the vine*. (Part Two Lord's Supper)

Luke 22:8-23 *And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. 9 And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? 10 And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. 11 And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? 12 And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. 13 And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. 14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. 17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in*

remembrance of me. **20** Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. **21** But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. **22** And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! **23** And they began to inquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

1 Corinthians 11:24-26 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. **25** After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. **26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Judas Betrays Jesus

Wednesday 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM

1st Watch

Clearly the Lord seemed troubled explaining the great sufferings soon to come. Although the Apostles did not understand everything about to happen, they knew something awesome was taking place. Most disturbingly, Jesus said one of them would betray him. He refers to Judas Iscariot. *John chapters 13-17* details Jesus conversation.

Matthew 26:21-28 *And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. 22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? 23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. 24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. 25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

Jesus announces his betrayal

John 13:21-27 *When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, **I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. 22** Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. 23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. 25 He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? 26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. **And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 And after the sop Satan entered into him.***

Once Satan enters into Judas Iscariot, the devil and God are sitting at the same table. The showdown between good and evil enters a very deep, dark dimension. Jesus already identified Judas Iscariot as the son of perdition, and now Satan himself enters Judas' body.

Jesus washes disciple's feet

As soon as supper ended, Jesus rose from the table, wrapped a towel around his waist, and began to wash his disciples' feet. The Lord's behavior astounds Peter and

makes him feel so uncomfortable that, at first, he refuses to let Jesus wash his feet. But when Jesus tells Peter unless he allows the foot washing- he can have no more to do with him. Peter immediately submits to the Lord's request. Jesus teaches the importance of serving one another by setting this example. Careful reading of John also reveals Judas was present for the last supper and even the foot washing after dinner.

John 13:1-9 *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; 3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; 4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. 6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.*

Jesus identifies the traitor

When Jesus completes the foot washing, he sits back down at the table and continues speaking. Obviously troubled about the approaching suffering, all the disciples (except one) were confused and listened with anxious interest. At this time Jesus warned- one of them betrays him. Jesus identified the traitor when he dips a morsel of bread called a sop and gives it to Judas Iscariot. Observe the Lord even washed Judas' feet! In this writer's opinion, a more magnanimous act of humility could not even be possible.

John 13:10 *Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. 11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. 12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. 18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. 19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is*

come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. **20** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. **21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.** **22** Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake. **23** Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. **24** Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. **25** He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? **26** Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. **And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.** **27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.** **28** Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. **29** For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor. **30** He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.

Thought to Ponder

SOP- The dictionary defines sop as: a piece of bread dipped in gravy, soup, or sauce, no doubt the literal meaning here. A second definition of the word *sop is*: a thing given or done as a concession of no great value to appease someone whose main concerns or demands are not being met. This second definition also fits the situation. And there is yet another spiritual application for the word SOP. Jesus identifies Judas Iscariot as the Son of Perdition in *John 17:12*. An acronym, for the *Son of Perdition* is SOP. Jesus not only names Judas as the traitor, he dismisses the devil's intentions as already failed.

Many commentators strongly disagree with Jesus providing the last supper (or communion) to Judas Iscariot. That is they do not believe Jesus gave Judas the cup and the bread. But their attempts to prove Judas was not present are thoroughly discounted. John 13's chronological presentation of the supper's events is evidence enough. But consider also Luke's careful description of the last supper. Remember dinner has ended, and the foot-washing is finished. The Apostles sat back down at the table for after dinner conversation. And as in dinner parties today, there is still food on the table. Observe Jesus already gave the cup and bread, when he says, **But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.** Now how Judas' hands could be on the table while not being physically present- is a conundrum only convoluted wrestling with ancient Greek manuscripts could produce. But God's perfectly preserved word, King James Bible, says what it says. Judas was present.

Luke 22:15-23 *And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof,*

*until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. **But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!** And they began to inquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.*

God the Son's treatment of Judas Iscariot is the equivalent of God the Father confronting Cain about refusing to bring the required offering. Both Judas and Cain defy God and commit grievous acts. Cain becomes the first murderer; Judas betrays Jesus Christ. God identifies both men with extremely ominous and similar titles. God labels Judas the son of perdition and the man of sin. While Cain becomes the ruler of sin, and the murder from the beginning.

John 17:12 *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, **but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.***

2 Thessalonians 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;***

Genesis 4:6-7 *And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and **thou shalt rule over him.***

John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning,** and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, **and the father of it.***

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Wednesday 9:00 PM- 12:00 AM

2nd Watch Midnight

After dinner, the exact time is difficult to determine, but probably around 9:00 PM or the second watch. Judas is gone at this point. Jesus and the eleven Apostles sang a hymn and left the guest chamber. They continue talking as they walk toward the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus warns them the days ahead will be traumatic, his betrayal and torturous death are imminent. Hearing these words, Peter emphatically declares even if all men betray the Lord, he will never betray him. Jesus informs Peter that even he, before the night is over will deny Jesus three times. No doubt Peter found this information excruciating- especially after the comments Jesus made about Judas during dinner.

Mark 14:26-33 *And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. 28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. 29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. 30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. 31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all. 32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. 33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; (see also Matthew 26:30-36)*

Everyone is very tired; spiritual and physical stress takes its toll on the disciples. Jesus separates a short distance from eight of his Apostles, but requests Peter, James, and John to watch with him in prayer. Scripture records the prayer in John 17; it is the true Lord's Prayer. Within the prayer, Jesus makes the statement, *Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.* Men often misunderstand the comment to mean Jesus tried to avoid the cross. No interpretation could be further from the truth. Jesus makes the statement for mankind! Jesus makes it clear-there is no other way possible for men and women to be saved. Nothing satisfies God's wrath against sin but the cross of Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only payment for sin God accepts. The prayer ends, as a band of soldiers, led by the son perdition, enters the garden to arrest Jesus.

Mark 14:32-42 *And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. 33 And he taketh with him Peter*

and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; **34** And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. **35** And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. **37** And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? **38** Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. **39** And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. **40** And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. **41** And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Luke 22:41-42 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, **42** Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Arresting God

Judas Iscariot returns leading a band of soldiers into the garden. He identifies Jesus by kissing him. Next an extraordinary miracle occurs when Jesus says *I am*- God the Father compels Jesus' enemies to submit to God the Son. The entire group falls backward and lay on the ground before the Lord.

John 18:1-6 *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. 2 And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. 3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.*

Once Jesus lets them off the ground, he makes them state their objective again, in other words: *What is your mission?* They confess they've come for Jesus of Nazareth.

Angry and upset, Apostle Peter draws a sword and cuts off the high priest's servant's right ear. The Lord calms Peter down and restores the man's ear. Once again, the religious police submit to Jesus' commands and let the Apostles leave the area. But the ultimate act of human folly is committed when they tie up the Lord. Such a picture is almost humorous. Manifestly no one is thinking in their right mind. After witnessing three consecutive miracles, the hateful posse tie up God, and convince themselves he can't escape. With mission accomplished, they march off to see the high priest. One can only imagine heaven's angel's amazement as they watch mere mortals, and the son of perdition, act out the insufferable spectacle.

Mark 14:48-49 *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me? 49 I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.*

John 18:7-13 *Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: 9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none. 10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. 11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? 12 Then the band and the captain*

*and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, **13** And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.*

Matthew 26:55-58 *In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. **56** But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. **Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled. 57** And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. **58** But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.*

Notice all the Apostles forsook Jesus and fled, an important observation because Peter often gets accused as being the only Apostle to forsake Christ, but scripture declares all the disciples forsook the Lord.

Certain young man

Mark's Gospel confirms all Apostles forsaking Jesus and fleeing. Mark also records a curious passage about a young man who lost his clothing shortly after Jesus' arrest. This happened during the frantic aftermath once they tied up Jesus. Apparently the soldiers and priests (emboldened now that Jesus was secure) sought to arrest those who were with him. They grabbed hold of a young man's clothing, and in the ensuing struggle he literally lost his clothes and ran away.

Many commentators believe this to be Mark, the author of the Gospel. Although this is pure speculation, it is possible. Mark, however, is not one of the twelve Apostles, but he is a disciple. Whoever he is, he is part of the story.

Mark 14:50-52 *And they all forsook him, and fled. And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.*

Thought to Ponder

Who says what? Each gospel gives an accounting of Jesus' arrest. It is interesting to observe individual writers' personalities as they express the intensity of the evening. For instance when Peter uses his sword and cuts off the high priest's servant, Malchus' ear. Only Luke tells us Jesus healed and restored Malchus' ear. Luke is a physician and such things are uniquely important to a doctor.

Luke 22:50-51 *And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.*

In the Gospel of John, as Judas leads his posse into Gethsemane to arrest Christ, we learn they carry lanterns and torches. Although the other Gospels record the arrest, only John mentions the lights. John is fascinated with light, especially as it relates to Jesus Christ. Six times light is mentioned in John chapter 1. Jesus is the light of the world.

John 18:3 *Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.*

John 1:4-5 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

No one is more interested in money than tax collectors; thus, we should not be surprised Matthew exclusively reports Judas throwing the money down in the temple, and the priests using the blood money to purchase a cemetery. Matthew also reports other money related matters that go unnoticed by other writers.

Matthew 27:5-7 *And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.*

Matthew 17:26-27 *Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.*

Annas

Wednesday 12:00 AM

3rd Watch Cockcrowing

The band of soldiers took Jesus first to Annas' house. Annas and Caiaphas served as joint high priests serving one year on, one year off. (*Luke 3:2 with John 18:13*) Annas, an old man, arranged for his son-in-law Caiaphas to be his successor. A perfect example of religious cronyism as opposed to the will of God. What exactly they accomplished by taking Jesus to Annas first is a matter of speculation. Most likely some Pharisees and other religious leaders waited to make sure the arrest went as planned before advancing to the next level. Caiaphas and his assembly of sycophants were far too cowardly to partake in the actual arrest. But once Annas knew they had their man, they paraded Jesus off to see the acting high priest. Notice the ruling scribes and Pharisees already assembled in Caiaphas' living room awaited the news, thus the whole arrest is an unlawful, preplanned prosecution.

Luke 3:2 *Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.*

John 18:13 *And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.*

Caiaphas

After a short stay at Annas' house, they take Jesus to Caiaphas' palace. Observe the high priest lives in a palace. Nowhere in the Old Testament do high priests enjoy such lofty living accommodations; palaces are associated with kings and men of high political power. Apparently religious leadership, during the era of Jesus 1st Advent, declined to a level where wealth and possessions provided the supposed evidence of righteousness and God's favor. No doubt these men felt entitled and deserving such rewards. Truly, there is no new thing under the sun, but I digress. (See *Ecclesiastes 3:15* for commentary on spiritual/ moral condition of religious leadership just prior to Jesus 2nd Advent.)

Upon arriving at Caiaphas' palace, Jesus' interrogation begins in earnest. The assembly of scribes, priests, elders, and Pharisees can't wait to get their hands on him. False witnesses accuse Jesus of alleged crimes, but nothing they say holds up. Eventually Jesus own words condemn him. After Jesus speaks briefly to Caiaphas, things escalate to physical mistreatment.

Matthew 26:59-68 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; **60** But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, **61** And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. **62** And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? **63** But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. **64** Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. **65** Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. **66** What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. **67** Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, **68** Saying, Prophesy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Another Disciple

Wednesday 12:00 AM- 3:00 AM

3rd Watch Cockcrowing

An intriguing incident occurs soon after Jesus arrives at Caiaphas' palace. Peter followed Jesus' captors ever since they arrested him in the garden. Caiaphas' palace was gated and protected with private security. Apparently Peter stood outside the gate trying see everything he could. An unnamed disciple notices Peter and asks the keeper of the door to allow Peter access to the high priest's courtyard. So the question becomes, who is the other disciple known unto the high priest? A popular theory concludes the mystery disciple is Apostle John. But the theory is flawed.

*John 18:15-16 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, **and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.** 16 But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that **other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.***

Why the Apostle John theory is incorrect.

The theory predicated upon *Acts 4:5-6* which suggests familiarity and a kindred relationship to the high priest. It is also based on John's writing style. Apostle John commonly references himself in the third person which he's supposedly doing in *18:15-16*.

If it was John who went to the high priest's palace. **When did John forsake and flee the Lord?** If one supposes John went calling on Annas immediately following Jesus' arrest, this leaves very little time for John to forsake and flee the Lord.

Matthew 26:55-56 *In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. 56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. **Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.***

Mark 14:50 *And they all forsook him, and fled.*

Furthermore, if it was John, what was he doing there? Was he trying to get Jesus released? Was he trying to stop the Lord's suffering? When Peter stepped in and tried to hinder the Lord's suffering, Jesus called him Satan! Would that lesson go entirely unlearned by Apostle John? Spiritual hatred filled the night as did darkness

itself. This was no time for one of Jesus' true disciples to pay a friendly visit to Annas or Caiaphas, men literally hell bent on killing Jesus.

Matthew 16:21-23 *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

The unnamed disciple is Judas Iscariot

Consider the unnamed disciple is Judas Iscariot. The high priest knows Judas quite well, as do several scribes, chief priests, and Pharisees. Indeed, Judas leads the mob that arrested Jesus! Judas is now at Caiaphas palace. Observe right after he speaks to the keeper of the door, she brings in Peter, and she immediately accuses him of being one of Jesus' disciples. It seems more than plausible Judas rats out Peter and is trying to get him killed.

John 18:15-27 *And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. 16 But Peter stood at the door without. **Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. 17 Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. 18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself. 19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. 20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. 21 Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. 22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so? 23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me? 24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest. 25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not. 26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? 27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.***

Peter Denies Jesus

Wednesday 12 AM- 3:00 AM

3rd Watch Cockcrowing

The disciples dispersed, but Peter followed behind the posse and soon arrived at the palace. Jesus' interrogation had already begun by the time Peter gained entrance into the courtyard. Clearly it's the 3rd Watch, Cockcrowing, the exact time Jesus foretold Apostle Peter denies him.

Once inside the courtyard, Peter positions himself by a fire; the night is cold. This location allows Peter to see what's happening to Jesus. Tension escalates as Peter witnesses Jesus' interrogation. All the while, Caiaphas employees accuse Peter of being one of Jesus' disciples, an accusation he emphatically denies with cursing. By his third denial, a rooster crows in the background, and Peter remembers Jesus' prophecy. At that precise moment, Jesus turns and makes eye contact with Peter. This is more than Peter can take and in shame and fraught with conviction, he leaves the courtyard weeping bitterly. (See Part Two Judas & Cursing)

Mark 14:71-72 *But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. 72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.*

Luke 22:54-71 *Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off. 55 And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. 57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. 58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. 59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean. 60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. 61 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. 63 And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him. 64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote thee? 65 And many other things blasphemously spake they against him. 66 And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying, 67 Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe: 68 And*

*if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. **69** Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God. **70** Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am. **71** And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.*

Thought to Ponder

Satan asked God's permission to go after only two men in the Bible, Job and Peter. Every time the Bible provides a list of the Apostles, Peter is named first and Judas is named last:
Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:14-19; Luke 6:13-16, Luke 22:31

Keeper of the Door

Nameless men, forever known, stood around the fire; Watching flames that warmed their souls with perdition's own desire.

He came and stood beside them, his face in fire's light; Anxious, drawn, and frightened, he stared into the night.

Hushed voices in the courtyard, void of truth or love; Conspired without reason, it was time to kill the dove.

The keeper of the door moved in and touched him on the sleeve. *This one belongs to him, she said, look how the man is grieved.*

I know him not, he cursed to them, Now leave me here alone. I've only stopped to warm myself, for the cold is in my bones.

The night caved in around him, yet morning too was near; He moved closer to the fire, but the cold was mostly fear.

A cock crowed in the distance, an eternal waking sound. Satan laughed, the soldiers mocked; the prisoner turned around.

His eyes met the denier, whose soul he would set free; His eyes saw beyond millennia, and saved a wretch like me.

End

John 18:17-18 *But Peter stood at the door without... Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.*

Matthew 26:73-75 *And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly*

I AM

Wednesday 3:00 AM-6:00 AM

4th Watch Morning

Christ deniers commonly teach Jesus never actually claims to be God. But this is demonstrably false. The Bible records numerous occasions where Jesus declares and/or proves himself to be God. One such declaration occurs during the Lord's interrogation. Jesus plainly confesses before the high priest and other Israeli leaders he is God in the flesh. When the high priest asks Jesus directly, *Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?*

Jesus answers ***I am*** which sends the high priest into a hateful fit. He rips his clothes and says they need no more evidence. All Israel knows ***I am*** is the name of God. And all Israel's religious leadership knew God prophesized to come as the Son and Christ to redeem and save their nation. Everyone in the high priest's palace understood Jesus perfectly well. Jesus claimed to be God. There is only one of two ways to interpret Jesus' confession.

1. Jesus is God.
2. Jesus is an insane megalomaniac liar.

As in Caiaphas' palace, so it is for men and women today. Jesus is either God in the flesh- or Jesus is a liar. The idea Jesus is only a prophet, philosopher or wise teacher is a ridiculous, ignorant position. The Old Testament and the New Testament absolutely declare God has a Son and the Son is God. The Bible is clear on the deity of Jesus Christ. The Bible is not hard to understand; the Bible is hard to believe.

Mark 14: 61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? 62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. 63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? 64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. 65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Exodus 3:13-14 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? 14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

The Child is God

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: **and his name shall be called** Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God, The everlasting Father,** The Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

God the Father calls his only Son God

Psalms 45:6-7 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. **7** Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: **therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee** with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Proverbs 30:4-5 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? **what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?** **5** Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Pontius Pilate; 1st Meeting

Wednesday 3:00 AM

4th Watch Morning

Like many people, Pontius Pilate never expected an encounter with Jesus Christ. Pilate's world was going along just fine, and suddenly Jesus stands in his way making life uncomfortable. Since Pilate serves as the Roman governor of Judea, the Jews appeal to his authority by presenting Jesus as a threat to Caesar. The Jews political strategy ensures Jesus' condemnation and death sentence.

Discerning the Jews problem with Christ as basically religious, Pilate tries to defer the matter, and he's delighted upon learning Jesus may actually be under another Roman magistrate's jurisdiction. Eagerly he sends Jesus across town hoping Herod solves the problem. Like many people living today, Pilate does not want to even think about God, but something keeps making him an issue.

Matthew 27:1-2 *When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: 2 And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.*

Luke 23:1-7 *And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. 3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. 4 Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man. 5 And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place. 6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. 7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.*

Herod

Wednesday 3:00 AM -6:00 AM

4th Watch

Unlike Pilate, Herod wants to see Jesus. For years, Jesus' reputation as healer and miracle worker intrigued him; finally Herod gets the chance to meet Christ. Before examining Herod's meeting with the Lord, it behooves Christians to reflect on a warning Jesus gives concerning Herod. Early in Jesus' ministry, the Lord tells his Apostles, *beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the leaven of Herod*. Two distinctly different kinds of leaven, both can do great harm to Christians. In fact, Herod's leaven and Pharisee's leaven affects millions of believers living today

Mark 8:15 *And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.*

Understanding the nature of leaven is essential. Leaven (yeast) is a type or metaphor for sin. Just like a tiny pinch of leaven in flour tremendously effects a loaf of bread, so does a little sin greatly influence a person's character and produces huge damaging results.

Most Bible students know the Pharisees' leaven, which the Lord tells us plainly is hypocrisy and self-righteousness (*Luke 12:1*). But Jesus does not define Herod's leaven so clearly. Herod's leaven must be observed. Although Herod is many things, he's not a hypocrite. Herod is honest about his sinful life style, while Pharisees present a false image of holiness. In many ways Herod is opposite of the Pharisees. Consider:

- Pharisees act extremely religious. Herod isn't religious at all.
- Pharisees strive for holiness. Herod boastfully commits sin.
- Pharisees pretend not to love money. Herod loves wealth and flaunts it.
- Pharisees teach self-denial and restraint. Herod is a hedonist.

When the Bible introduces us to Herod he has a rather peculiar relationship with John the Baptist. Remember before Jesus began his ministry, John the Baptist was enormously popular; people by the hundreds came to hear him preach. John never coward away from telling people about their sin, and his message included rebuking Israel's leadership and Roman politicians as well.

Herod married his own brother's wife and John the Baptist pointed out the relationship was sinful. This infuriated Herod's wife; and consequently she ordered John arrested and eventually killed. Throughout John's incarceration, however, Herod spoke with him quite often. Herod actually respected and even feared John, but being

intimidated by his wife and his own political ambitions he never repented or released John.

Mark 6:17-28 *For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. 18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. 19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: 20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. 21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; 22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. 23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. 24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. 25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. 26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.*

Herod's Leaven

Understanding Herod's relationship with John the Baptist prepares us to discern Jesus' warning about Herod's leaven. We learn one can be interested in religion and even possess knowledge about right and wrong, but that's no guarantee one behaves according to conscience. As Herod listened to John, no doubt he heard him say many things about Jesus. Since John's execution, Jesus steadily increased in popularity and controversy. Herod's fascination with Jesus grew as well.

Herod held preconceived ideas about Jesus Christ, probably based on an element of truth; yet he desired only one or two aspects of Jesus, not the whole Jesus. In other words, even before meeting Jesus, Herod expected Jesus to act a certain way. But when the meeting actually happened, Herod's expectations and the truth don't agree. For two years Herod held high hopes about Christ, perhaps even good feelings. No doubt he enjoyed hearing how Jesus always made the hypocritical Pharisees look foolish. And he was especially excited about the miracles and healings Jesus performed.

Finally the moment arrives; Herod meets Jesus Christ. Notice Herod believes Jesus should perform a certain way. Herod's basic interest in Jesus is entertainment. Many persons' beliefs include rumors, false teaching, and hear-say as opposed to

biblical truth. Not only did Herod hold presupposed conclusions about Jesus, his opinions went so far as expecting Jesus to obey his desires. Herod's leaven includes believing Jesus should perform miracles at one's beckon call. But most seriously, Herod's leaven includes refusing to admit fault or wrong when confronted with Bible truth. When Jesus doesn't cooperate with Herod's desires, he turns on him with mockery and cruelty. In modern times people do the same thing, but in a disguised manner by turning on those who expose their error, while pretending their idea of Jesus is the truth.

Notice Herod does not fear Jesus as he feared John the Baptist. As great as John was, he was not God; thus another lesson learned about Herod's leaven teaches many people respect human beings more than they love God. How many people fear and respect religious or church leaders more than what the Bible says? And sadly many religious leaders teach false doctrine and heresy. If people become enamored with a leader's personality, they become vulnerable to false doctrine and become prey for wolves.

When it became obvious Jesus wasn't going to play circus, Herod turned on him like a spoiled child. Herod's anger and mockery embolden the chief priests and scribes; they sense the Roman government acquiescing to their bidding. After mocking Jesus and dressing him in a royal robe, Herod sends him back to Pilate. We also learn from a later comment by Pilate, Herod found no reason for Jesus to be killed. Oddly, the dramatic events surrounding Christ brought Pilate and Herod into friendship. Evidently, Herod went and visited Pilate that very morning.

Thought to Ponder

The first day of the most significant 5 days in human history presents numerous persons coming in direct contact with Jesus Christ. Encountered thus far are the police/soldiers in Gethsemane, religious lost men, priests and Pharisees, and Pontius Pilate. Herod is yet another personality. Their attitudes toward Christ typify the manner in which people receive- or don't receive the gospel.

Luke 23:6-12 *When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. 7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. 8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. 9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. 10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. 11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. 12 And*

the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.

Luke 23:14-15 *Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: **15** No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.*

Pontius Pilate 2nd Meeting

Wednesday Morning

6:00 AM-8:00 AM

Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate. Although Herod disgracefully disrespected the King of Kings, he agrees with Pilate that Jesus has done nothing worthy of death. Observe also no record of physical beating occurs at the hands of Herod. All physical abuse Jesus endures thus far is inflicted by religious people, not the Roman government.

Pontius Pilate's character is truly worthy of careful study. As previously mentioned, he typifies someone who wants to avoid thinking about Jesus. Pilate prefers his life free of the annoying Jesus Christ, alas there is no way out. Pilate also realizes there is no middle ground, even though he wants to find some.

Pilate listens carefully to Jesus' accusers. Being politically savvy, and sensing Pilate's reluctance to get involved, the Jews spin the argument Jesus is trying to overthrow Rome, therefore as an enemy to Caesar, Pilate must intervene or face consequences from the Roman Empire. The argument works even though it's a lie. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent; but if he wants to keep his job he has to throw his hand in with the Jews.

But Pilate also begins listening carefully to Jesus, and Jesus has some things to say. The very fact Jesus talks to Pilate is interesting. Remember the Lord didn't say a word to Herod. Somewhere inside their conversation, everything changes for the Roman Governor. Pilate knows Jesus is no normal human being. It disturbed him enough to hear Jesus called king of the Jews, but when Pilate hears Jesus is the Son of God, he becomes very afraid. The same is true for people today; Jesus being a moral philosopher or a teacher is one thing; Jesus being God is quite another.

When Pilate asked Jesus if he was a king, *John 18:37*, Jesus answered *thou sayest I am king*. Observe, from that moment on Pilate refers to Jesus as King of the Jews. In just a few hours he puts it in writing (in three languages) and nails it to the cross.

Between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM Pilate tried hard to release Jesus. Pilate's own wife added to his anguish when she warned her husband about a dream she had regarding the Lord.

Matthew 27:19 *When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.*

Pilate knew the chief priests and Pharisees were committed to killing Jesus, but by taking the case to the people, he still may be able to release an innocent man. Roman law expected the governor to pardon a condemned prisoner during Passover. Perhaps the common people desired Jesus' release? Then Pilate could agree with the Jewish leaders that Jesus is an enemy to the state, but at the same time fulfill Rome's amnesty law. Roman strategy for releasing a prisoner showed good will to conquered subjects. If he could convince the people to ask for Jesus' release, Pilate had nothing to fear if Israel's leaders complained to Rome. It was Pilate's last chance at freeing Jesus.

Barabbas

The Bible introduces another remarkable personality that fateful morning, a notorious convicted criminal named Barabbas. In fact Barabbas was an enemy to Israel and Rome, a convicted murderer, thief, and insurrectionist. It seemed morally unconscionable for anyone to prefer pardoning such a man over Jesus. But the determined, persuasive religious will of the chief priests and Pharisees insisted on Barabbas.

Washing Hands

Trying to absolve himself from moral and spiritual responsibility Pilate makes a public hand washing display before the crowd. Notably Jesus appears to be in a position to witness the hand washing. This action shows Pilate's disapproval of the overt miscarriage of justice, but it also shows Pilate's refusal to choose God over the world. Pilate's hand washing remains so historically famous, it is the origin of the popular cultural expression: *I wash my hands*. A symbolic metaphor announcing disapproval and self-removal from responsibility. Often when people invoke the saying, they rub their hands together at the same time.

As far as washing one's hands regarding making a decision about Jesus Christ, however, there is no such thing. And this exemplifies Pilate as a tremendous character study. He represents someone wrestling with the truth about Jesus Christ. Once God warns a person with the gospel message, there is simply no place to run – believe on the Lord for salvation or reject Jesus. Heaven or Hell- no middle ground. Even though Men and women try to wash their hands concerning Jesus, it remains futile. Pilate's hand washing or his wife's bad dream advice- *have nothing to do with Jesus* are simply not options. You have to make a choice. Jesus took our sin upon himself, we are all culpable in his death.

When Pilate accepted the inevitability of Jesus' death, it was about the sixth hour, in other words about 6:00 AM Wednesday morning. Fierce theological debate exists over why Apostle John wrote the sixth hour. But a little logic interprets the matter. John simply announces the hour in Roman or Gentile time. Why? Because the whole narrative comes from Pontius Pilate's perspective. Pilate, a Roman Gentile, of course uses Gentile time. The four watches of the night are over and the 12 hours of day light are now being chronicled. This coordinates perfectly with the Gospel of Mark's use of Jewish time informing us the crucifixion takes place the third hour (9:00 AM). Jesus Christ is crucified three hours after Pontius Pilate washes his hands. There is no error or mistranslation in God's word in English, the King James Bible.

Matthew 27:22-24 *Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. 23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. 24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.*

John 18:33-40 *Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? 34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? 35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? 36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. 37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. 38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. 39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? 40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.*

John 19:1-22 *Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. 2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. 4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. 5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! 6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. 7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die,*

because he made himself the Son of God. 8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; 9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. 12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. 13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! 15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. 16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. 19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. 21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. 22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

Mark 15:25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. (9:00 AM)

A Page from Pontius Pilate's Memoirs

So there you stand all black and blue, Seems the people grew tired of you. They so hoped you to be the one; They saw in you God's kingdom come.

Anxious priests forbid them rest, Their petition seeks thy death. Scribes with pen and poisoned ink; Appears you took them to the brink.

My wife's afraid she's been dreaming; Black robed priests, incessant scheming. They've sent a post to Rome, you know. Provoked dissent will only grow

Of course they need someone to blame; It's part of their self-righteous game. So tell me this you bloody man, Why did John call you the Lamb?

Speak up, I'll not be neglected; In Caesar's house I'm well respected. I can see you're not impressed. It's not my fault I'm under stress.

Son of God? Is this true? What kind of God is black and blue? So King of Kings, Is this your glory? Why put me inside your story?

Nothing more that I can say, I watch them lead the Lamb away; And I surrender to his fate, the world he loves is filled with hate.

So now they nail him to a tree; The great I AM who sets men free. Unless he's lying or quite insane, Without his mercy I still get blamed.

Religious crowd fraught with derision, I wash my hands without decision. Truth has come and testified. My hands still wet. They never dried.

End

Jonah's Mariners

Pilate's Struggle

Matthew 12:39-40 *But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas*

Coinciding with Pilate's struggle, Prophet Jonah begins to emerge as Jesus' prophetic sign. Remember in the Book of Jonah, Gentile mariners found themselves in a raging storm, conditions threatening their very lives? When they realize Jonah's true identity, the men, like Pilate, became very afraid. Jonah told them what they had to do. They must throw him into the sea as a sacrifice. Observe Jonah does not simply jump overboard. He explains to the men they must do the deed. And like Pilate, they try to avoid responsibility in killing God's prophet. The mariners tried very hard not to kill Jonah.

Jonah 1:13-14 typifies Pilate working very hard to save Jesus' life. *Jonah 1:14* is equivalent (spiritual type) to Pilate washing his hands and declaring he has nothing to do with Jesus' death. In both accounts, the Gentiles declare themselves innocent.

Jonah 1:11-15 *Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. 12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. 14 Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee. 15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.*

Matthew 27:24 *When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.*

Barabbas

As discussed earlier, Rome practiced an amnesty policy regarding convicted prisoners. Roman law pardoned one condemned prisoner during Passover *Luke 22:17*. This law showed Rome's mercy and willingness to get along with conquered territories. Pontius Pilate hoped to use the law to release Jesus. The alternative to Jesus was Barabbas, a notorious criminal. In fact Barabbas was an enemy to Israel and Rome, a convicted murderer, thief, and insurrectionist. It seemed morally unconscionable to bestow grace on such a man. But the determined, persuasive religious will of the chief priests and Pharisees insisted on Barabbas.

With Barabbas' pardon, God introduces yet another remarkable personality. Careful study of Barabbas reveals an absolute perfect type of a lost man's condition. Barabbas is a convicted law breaker. The courts find him guilty and sentence him to death. He is without hope and justly condemned. Not only is Barabbas guilty, he has absolutely no chance to save himself. This is exactly the condition of lost sinners.

Thought to Ponder

Imagine Barabbas as he waits for final judgement. That very morning crucifixion is scheduled. Suddenly he hears the news, Jesus Christ is taking his place on the cross; grace sets him free. The type is so perfect, one wonders if Barabbas gets saved. Let me be clear, the Bible does not say Barabbas got saved, but observing how God orchestrated his release, what does the reader think?

Mark 15:6-15 *6 Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. 7 And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. 8 And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. 9 But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews? 10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. 11 But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. 12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? 13 And they cried out again, Crucify him. 14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. 15 And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.*

Luke 23:12-21 *And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves. 13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I,*

having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: **15** No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. **16** I will therefore chastise him, and release him. **17** **(For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)** **18** And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: **19** *(Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)* **20** Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. **21** But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him.

John 18: 39 *But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?* **40** *Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.*

Prisoner Exchange

The Prisoner Barabbas

Behind cold bars the prisoner waits, the law is broken, and demands his fate.

Barabbas groans inside his cell. He waits for death; he waits for hell.

All hope is gone the day has come; the verdict's final, his life is done.

Yet God's sovereign plan now interceding, urging sinners toward believing.

He hears the rattle of chains and keys. The door swings open; he's free to leave.

Why, cries Barabbas, my crimes are bold. Yes, says the warden, but your guilt is sold.

Who would purchase my awful state? My life is filled with greed and hate.

Who would love such a man as I? A guilty prisoner condemned to die.

The Warden points to a distant hill. *That man on the cross, he paid your bill.*

The one in the middle, nailed to the tree. He's the one that set you free.

Judas' Suicide

Wednesday Morning 6:00 AM-9:00 AM

While the previous chapter's dramatic events take place in Pontius Pilate's judgement hall, another drama transpires in the temple. Judas Iscariot's visit to the temple appears to happen shortly after Jesus receives final judgment in Pilate's judgment hall. Judas is aware of the death sentence, so it happened about the time of Barabbas' release or shortly after.

At the temple we see even more chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees complicit in Jesus' murder. Remember the High Priest, Caiaphas, is home in his palace with an entourage of sycophants while there is another company of priests and elders accompanying Jesus to Pilate's judgment hall, then over to Herod's, and then back to Pilate's judgment hall.

Matthew 27:3-8 *Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. 6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. 7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.*

Judas Iscariot is a very dark, mysterious character. One must assess his actions in light of scripture or be misled. Rehearsing the chronological order of events: Judas remains a major player throughout the night and morning. Judas was intensely involved with the Passover Meal. He provided key information facilitating Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane; remember Judas personally identified Jesus with a kiss. He was the other disciple at Caiaphas palace who implicated Peter. And now Judas dominates this dramatic scene in the temple. After throwing the money down, Judas goes out and hangs himself. Like Jesus- Judas dies hanging on a tree. He then returns to *his own place, Acts 1:25*. Do not forget Satan himself inhabited Judas at the Last Supper.

The whole performance of Judas throwing money at the priests, and committing suicide is a satanic deception to confuse believers. Judas saying he sinned and betrayed innocent blood simply states the facts; it does not represent godly sorrow. The repenting sideshow means only Satan was finished with the body he inhabited. The spirit and soul of Judas Iscariot is literally the son of Satan. Judas repented himself but this does not mean he regrets his actions or views his behavior as sin. Repentance must be defined in the context where it is presented. God himself repents numerous times;

obviously, God repenting has nothing to do with turning away from sin. (i.e. *Ge. 6:6, 7 Ex. 32:14, 2nd Sam 24:16, Jonah 3:9, Amos 7:6, etc.*) See definition of repent in glossary. For the 105 times the word repent is used in the Bible, a definition that works every time is a turning or change of direction.

Deuteronomy 21:23 *His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.*

Galatians 3:13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

Pre-crucifixion Abuse

Wednesday 8:30 AM

After the release of Barabbas, brutality against Christ steps up to an extreme level. Jesus received rough treatment at Caiaphas' palace, but now he receives beatings and scourging executed with legendary Roman cruelty and torturous skill. The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah pronounced Jesus *marred more than any man*, marred meaning disfigured. Quite a statement because Rome's professional executioners prepped many a man for painful death. They beat a man within inches of death, knowing just when to stop ensuring the victim stayed alive and conscious for an excruciating length of time on the cross. Evidently, they showed extraordinary proficiency physically marring Jesus, hence the prophecy in Isaiah implies Jesus could not look worse. Those who witnessed Jesus' condition were astonished (appalled, horrified, in shock) because he looked so hideous. Isaiah also tells us they plucked off his beard. Pulling clumps of beard from a man's cheeks would tear out pieces of face.

Observe Jesus is in this condition when Pilate learns Jesus is the Son of God (*John 19:7*) No wonder he wants to remove himself from moral culpability. As previously discussed, however, Pilate already knows too much. Washing his hands did nothing to remove his sin.

Isaiah 52:14-15 *As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: 15 So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.*

Isaiah 50:6 *I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

John 19:1-15 *Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. 2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. 4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. 5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! 6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. 7 The Jews answered him, **We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.** 8 **When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;** 9 **And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou?** But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then saith Pilate unto him, *Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to**

*crucify thee, and have power to release thee? **11** Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. **12** And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. **13** When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. **14** And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! **15** But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.*

Matthew 27:24-31 *When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. **25** Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. **26** Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. **27** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. **28** And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. **29** And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! **30** And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. **31** And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.*

Mark 15:15-20 *And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. **16** And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. **17** And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, **18** And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! **19** And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. **20** And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.*

Jesus Carrying His Cross

Wednesday 8:30 AM

Referencing Simon of Cyrene, the man Roman soldiers compelled to carry our Lord's cross to Golgotha. Three Gospels record this man's involvement in Christ's crucifixion. Examining those scriptures in full context reveals great truth about our Lord's crucifixion.

Matthew 27:32 *And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.*

Mark 15:21 *And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.*

Luke 23:26 *And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.*

All over the world, (especially at Easter time) a familiar image is portrayed. Jesus Christ begins to carry his cross, but he is so wounded and beat up he falls down, incapable of carrying the great weight. When Jesus collapses, Roman soldiers compel a man into carrying the cross the rest of the way to Calvary. The problem is the Bible does not say Jesus fell down. In fact, under scrutiny Bible believers should draw a far different conclusion.

Focus on Jesus' march to the Calvary. Every television or Hollywood portrayal of this event shows Jesus collapsing under the cross, and then Simon being forced to carry it the rest of the way. Indeed, I have heard many sermons depicting the same scene. But read the record in the Gospel of John. John does not even mention Simon. Read John's account carefully. Notice when Jesus gets to Golgotha, Jesus has the cross back! The antecedent of *he* in verse 17 is Jesus! So what happened to Simon? It appears Simon collapsed under the weight of the cross, not our Lord.

John 19:16-17 *Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*

Thought to Ponder

If one insists on intelligent speculation: Indeed, Jesus suffered horrible abuse. The soldiers assumed such a beating rendered a man incapable of carrying a heavy weight. So they force a bystander into service. But this is no ordinary cross, nor is it an ordinary man. Simon struggles with the weight of the cross, he stumbles and falls crushed by the

enormity of the burden. Suddenly, the soldiers and the crowd hush in awe. The bloodied prisoner moves toward the fallen man. Jesus stoops down and lifts the cross off Simon's body. Jesus places the rough and heavy cross upon his own bruised and blood soaked shoulders; Jesus then continues toward Golgotha! That cross was too heavy for anyone but JESUS CHRIST.

The symbolism is wonderful. Only Jesus could carry that cross, the Holy Lamb of God was the only person in the universe who could lift the weight. No surprise if the wrong interpretation brings man's efforts in to help carry the load. Alas, man's works are incapable to earn his salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Crucifixion Day

Wednesday 9:00 AM

Mark 15:25 *And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.*

Two Malefactors

Jesus was not the only man crucified Wednesday morning. Two unnamed malefactors accompanied the Lord on his tortuous march to Calvary. Both men were crucified with Jesus at the same time, one on his left and the other on his right. The Lord's crucifixion took place at 9:00 AM Wednesday morning.

Quite a crowd gathered to watch the executions. A few persons (mostly women) watched in true sorrow, horror stricken that Israel's leadership actually enjoyed killing Jesus. Most Israelites, however, acted like eager spectators to see a gruesome show. People jeered and mocked the Lord, taunting and laughing at his suffering.

One malefactor participated in the mockery. The other malefactor demonstrated true sorrow and repentance very soon after being crucified, not hours later. In fact he rebuked the other malefactor for mocking Jesus almost immediately. Most importantly he acknowledged Jesus as Lord, and asked to be remembered when he came into his kingdom. Jesus responds by saying *to day shalt thou be with me in paradise*.

The full value of this remark often goes overlooked. Since it was before 6:00 PM; Jesus died on Wednesday. Remember God counts a new day's beginning at 6:00 PM. Jesus died the same day he was crucified. Had Jesus died after 6:00 PM his death would be on Thursday. Consequently, one must begin counting the 72 hours Jesus remained in the heart of the earth from point of death-to obtain the correct day of his resurrection.

These words *to day shalt thou be with me in paradise* a blessing to the malefactor, but not to Leviathan. In fact when the devil heard Jesus say he would be in paradise, his nightmare began in earnest. Jesus was the sacrifice for sin. How could the embodiment of sin itself go anywhere but hell? Satan expected Jesus to remain in hell, the Passover Lamb must burn in fire *Exodus 12:10*. Wednesday had only a few hours left. Jesus plainly said he would be in paradise before 6:00 PM. The devil's plan started to unravel.

Luke 23:32-43 *And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. 33* *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. 34* *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what*

*they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. **35** And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. **36** And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, **37** And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. **38** And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. **39** And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. **40** But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. **42** And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. **43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

***Mark 15:40-41** There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; **41** (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.*

Thought to Ponder

In the Bible: A woman never did anything mean to Jesus Christ.

Two Thieves

Shortly after 9:00 AM more prisoners arrive at Calvary to be crucified. The two thieves, usually (mistakenly) counted as the same men Luke calls malefactors, arrive at this time. By definition a malefactor is a law breaker or criminal. And yes- all thieves are malefactors, but all malefactors are not necessarily thieves. Numerous other crimes put men in jail: kidnapping, arson, insurrection, destroying property, rape, etc. Most importantly, no verse in Luke's account provides any indication both malefactors mock Jesus Christ, and then one suddenly converts and professes faith in the Lord.

Matthew and Mark record two thieves being crucified. Observe the two thieves are not led to Calvary with Jesus (as were the two malefactors). The thieves appear to arrive after Jesus and the two malefactors are already crucified. Notice Matthew records, *then were two thieves crucified with him* that is to say next or after. Significantly, Matthew nor Mark mention one thief showing any sign of repentance, let alone confessing Jesus as Lord. In fact both thieves mock and disrespect Jesus.

If the thieves and the malefactors represent the same people, we must presume one thief became a believer while he is dying on the cross. While this is possible, it seems more likely a theory for a dramatic sermon. Consider also the oratory delivered by the believing malefactor seems far more like a mature believer; not someone who moments before was mocking Jesus. A careful read of Luke's presentation reveals the malefactor making his profession of faith very soon after being crucified, not hours later.

Furthermore when one examines the Roman soldiers breaking the prisoners' legs, observe the soldiers went to the first, and then the other- and then they came to Jesus. If there was only three men total, this means the soldiers broke the legs of one man, passed by Jesus, and then broke the legs of the other man, and then went back to Jesus. However if there were five men total, the soldiers simply went down the line breaking the men's legs in order. There is no mention of breaking other men's legs after they came to Jesus, because the importance of the narrative's focus is on Jesus.

Matthew 27:38-44 *Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. 39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. 44 **The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.***

Mark 15:27-32 *And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. 28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. 29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, 30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross. 31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. 32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. **And they that were crucified with him reviled him.***

John 19:32-33 *Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:*

Jesus on the Cross

As Jesus hung suffering on the cross, humanity's absolute moral failure went on display before heaven: The crowd mocked and jeered; Roman soldiers gambled for his clothes, and priests rejoiced in reprehensible congratulation. Coinciding with this spectacle, God's unfathomable grace and longsuffering echo throughout the annals of time, when Jesus says: "**Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.**" (**Luke 23:34**)

Luke 23:34—records the first of eight statements Jesus made while he hung dying on the cross. His next remark was to the malefactor in direct response to his profession of faith. See commentary in Malefactors chapter.

1. *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*
2. *Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

Jesus' next two statements, communicate to Mary and Apostle John. On a very human and practical level, Jesus planned for his mother's welfare. Although the Bible does not record the death of Jesus' stepfather, since Joseph is not present, we assume he is no longer alive. Jesus tells Mary to take Apostle John as her son; likewise, he instructs John to care for Mary as his own mother. This is interesting because Jesus has brothers and sisters, but he carefully selects a believer to care for Mary. Remember his own brothers do not believe in him till later. *John 7:5; Psalm 69:8; with Acts 1:14*

John 19:25-30 *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!** 27 Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*

3. *Woman, behold thy son!*
4. *Behold thy mother!*

Darkness

At 12:00 noon the sky went dark. And not just the sky above Jerusalem. The Bible is very clear. The whole earth went dark for 3 hours. The world often suggests a total solar eclipse took place at that time. Sadly, this ridiculous theory is even espoused from modern day Christian pulpits. The idea of a total solar eclipse explains nothing except the people presenting the hypothesis do not believe the Bible. Earth's lights went out for 3 hours not 30 minutes. This is no more localized darkness than Noah's flood was a localized thunderstorm. For many people, the Bible is hard to believe. But is not hard to understand.

Luke 23:44 *And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Mark 15:33; Matthew 27:45*

The sixth hour is 12 noon, the ninth hour is 3 PM. Why? The new day starts at 6 PM and is divided into two major divisions, night and day each containing 12 hours. Therefore the day's division begins at 6 AM. And 6 hours after 6 AM is 12 noon; and 9 hours after 6 AM is 3 PM. (See chapter Defining Hours and Days)

What happens to Jesus Christ during those 3 hours of darkness cannot fully be grasped by any human being. My comments are made preceded by prayer and an acute awareness of my inadequacy to explain.

The Bible tells us God's perfect sinless Lamb became sin, a terrible awesome metamorphosis. Every sin, committed by every man, woman, and child who ever lived or ever will live somehow infused into the soul of Jesus Christ: Murders, lies, gossip, thefts, rapes, adulteries, fornications, idolatry, sodomy, drunkenness, gluttony, selfishness, pride, heresies, cruelties, unkindness, etc. Somehow Jesus Christ's soul absorbed and took the punishment for all mankind's wickedness and evil. Jesus Christ suffered agony which could only be endured by the omnipotent soul of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

1 John 2:2 *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Hebrews 9:26-28 *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

Matthew 27:46 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

When Jesus cried in agony, "**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**" *Matthew 27:46, Mark 15 34* The question needs answered by human beings. God the Father forsook God the Son because of our sin. Your sin, My sin. Jesus Christ became our sacrifice and was punished for man's sake. This is why no one can earn or work their way to heaven. One can only believe and receive the free gift of forgiveness provided by Jesus. All people can do is believe and receive salvation. To add any human effort beyond believing disrespects God's sacrifice.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Jesus' remaining statements occur soon after 3:00 PM. When Jesus said *I thirst* the darkness had subsided. It was light enough for someone to find a vessel of vinegar and sponge to soak and give to Jesus. This action concludes man's mistreatment of the Saviour. The insulting gesture is actually the second time someone gave him vinegar, although it was put in his mouth, Jesus did not drink. *Matthew 27:34*

When Jesus says, *It is finished. John 19:30*, he refers to his work on earth, including himself becoming sin. However, Jesus still has work to do in the heart of the earth (hell and paradise) and in the 3rd heaven, serving as our High Priest. Jesus' last two statements: *It is finished. and Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.* were said very close together. The last words of Jesus, on the cross: *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. Luke 23:46*

5. *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*
6. *I thirst.*
7. *It is finished:*
8. *Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

Mark 15:32-43 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him. **33** And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.** **29** Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Luke 23: 44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. **45** And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. **46** And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.**

My Saviour

In deepest night I dreamed a tale of awful scope and dread, More dark than any dream, yet dreamed upon my bed.

I saw myself did crush the thorns upon my Saviour's head; Each soldier's face removed, my visage in their stead.

Devils all around us, the priests and I could see, Laughing jeering, dancing as we approached the tree.

And when I held the nail against my Saviour's hand, My soul infused an hourglass; my life became the sand.

Triumphantly I raised the cross and secured it in the ground; I turned to glory with the crowd, but no one was around.

So all alone I stare at Him, the one whose death is mine. My guilt is flowing from his side, through eternal sands of time.

His blood has soaked my hands, and stains my wretched face. I kneel before the cross; my Saviour in my place.

I start to wake in waning sands, my dream's becoming true. *Forgive them*, says my Saviour, *for they know not what they do*.

Jesus' Death

Jesus dies on Wednesday after 3 PM before 6 PM

As mentioned earlier, the full value of Jesus' dialog with the malefactor often goes overlooked. Since Jesus said, *to day shalt thou be with me in paradise*, before 6:00 PM; Jesus died on Wednesday. Remember God counts a new day's beginning at 6:00 PM. Jesus died the same day he was crucified shortly after 3:00 PM. Had Jesus died after 6:00 PM his death would be on Thursday. In order to obtain the correct day of his resurrection, one must begin counting the 72 hours that Jesus was in the heart of the earth from point of death.

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

Matthew 12:40 *For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

Luke 23: 44 *And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. 46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.***

Mark 15 34 *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** 35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. 36 And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. 37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. 38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. 39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God. 40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; 41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.*

Although the exact moment of death is not given, it looks to be shortly after the ninth hour around 3 PM. Since Jesus dies on Wednesday, this means he is resurrected 72 hours later on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. This, of course, conflicts with a Sunday resurrection. But just as the math won't work for a "Good Friday" crucifixion; neither

will the math work for a "Sunday Morning" resurrection. Careful reading reveals Jesus is already resurrected by Sunday morning.

Had Jesus resurrected on Sunday, he would have been dead for more than 72 hours, Sunday was the 4th day. Jesus could not have died after 6 PM because he told the malefactor they would be together in paradise on Wednesday.

- 1 Wednesday. 3 PM-6PM---Thursday 3 PM- 6 PM
- 2 Thursday.....3PM- 6 PM--- Friday. 3 PM- 6 PM
- 3 Friday.....3 PM- 6 PM---Saturday 3 PM-6 PM

Temple Veil Rent

Coinciding with the moment of death:

1. Inside the temple, God rent the veil from top to the bottom.
2. An earth quake.
3. Graves opened. However- The bodies of the dead do not come out of their graves until after Jesus' resurrection.
4. A Roman military officer (and those with him) so moved by everything that happens, confess Jesus is the Son of God.

Matthew 27:50-54 *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

Mark 15:38-39 *And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. 39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.*

Temple Veil

When God the Father rips the temple's veil, Satan received further indication Jesus' death accomplished more than he anticipated. As the Passover Lamb, Jesus' blood served as legal sacrifice allowing God to pass-over the sins of the people. God rending the temple's veil reveals Jesus is also satisfying the Day of Atonement.

Day of Atonement

Once a year, the high priest took the sacrificial blood into the holy of holies, the temple's inner room separated from the sanctuary by a veil (curtain). Inside the holy of holies the Ark of the Covenant resided wherein the Ten Commandments were stored. The top of the ark was the mercy seat whereon the high priest offered blood to atone for the sins of the people. This atonement covered the people's sins which legally granted them temporary forgiveness delaying God's judgement for another year. Extremely important to understand is the annual Day of Atonement's sacrifice did not permanently take away sin, nor did it clear the guilty. It served as a temporary act of God's mercy.

Leviticus 16:34 *And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Hebrews 10:1-4 *For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. **2** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. **3** But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. **4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.***

Exodus 34:6-7 *And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, **7** Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and **that will by no means clear the guilty**; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*

The Ark of the Covenant was in the temple when Jesus died.

Much debate among Bible students about whether the ark was truly in the temple when Jesus died. The dialog is understandable because not since Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple in 582 BC does scripture even mention it.

Logically, why would God rend the veil opening the way to the holy of holies if the Ark of the Covenant was not even in the room? Was not God revealing to Israel that men no longer required a human high priest to intervene on their behalf, because Jesus made a better way? But we have more than logic to infer the Ark of the Covenant was present, we have the law itself.

Although the ark is not directly referenced, when we observe the law instructing a priest's daily obligations, we learn the ark was indeed in the temple. Consider John the Baptist's father, Zacharias a Levite priest- serving in the temple in New Testament times. Zacharias worked busily fulfilling legal priestly obligations upon the altar of incense in the sanctuary when the Angel Gabriel confronted him. Focus solely upon the priest's duties. These daily rituals would not be done if the Ark of the Covenant did not reside beyond the veil. The whole reason for the daily obligations was to minister *before the Lord*- who manifested above the mercy seat in the holy of holies. Compare Luke's passage with *Exodus 30*.

Luke 1:5-11 *There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. **6** And they were both righteous before God,*

walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. **7** And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. **8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, 9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10** And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. **11** And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Exodus 30:1-8 And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it. **2** A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same. **3** And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about. **4** And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal. **5** And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. **6 And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. 7** And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. **8** And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

Pierced Jesus Side

Jesus side pierced

Scripture acknowledges the soldiers saw Jesus was dead already, before one of them pierced his side; therefore the piercing came shortly before 6:00 PM on Wednesday.

Not breaking Jesus' legs and the piercing of the Lord's side fulfilled scripture. Both identify Jesus Christ as Messiah and the perfect true Passover Lamb. Thus the unshakable, predetermined Father's will is manifest. Concerning the blood and water which came out of Jesus' side, (see Part Two Blood & Water)

John 19:33-37 *But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: 34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. 36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. 37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.*

When hastening a victim's death was desired, Roman crucifixion included breaking legs. Victims of the cross painfully pushed upward in order to breath, if their legs were broken they no longer could push upward and therefore asphyxiated. God ensured none of Jesus' bones were broken; thereby identifying Jesus Christ himself as the Passover Lamb. *Exodus 12:46,47 and Numbers 9:11-12.*

Exodus 12:46-47 *In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.*

Numbers 9:11-12 *The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 12 They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.*

Genesis 22:8 *And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*

As to the piercing itself, this fulfills *Zechariah 12:9-10* identifying Jesus as Israel's Messiah. This very verse- God brings to the Jewish mind during the tribulation just as Jesus 2nd Advent takes place. Notice God the Father says he was pierced. The question requiring an answer by every Jew, and every person is obvious. When was God

pierced? The answer is on the cross. Thus God the Father equates equal deity with his Son.

Zechariah 12:9-10 *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: **and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.***

After Death

Scripture provides more information on the first 2 hours of Jesus' death and his ensuing *heart of the earth* experience than it does for his remaining 70 hours underground. In order for Jesus to be in paradise on Wednesday, Jesus had to enter and exit hell within a couple of hours, perhaps even a few minutes? This was accomplished while Jesus' body is still on the cross.

Ephesians 4:9-10 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Jesus in hell

God's judgement on sin includes hell. The Bible is very clear; Jesus died and went to hell. Bible students need to examine the awful content of the forthcoming passages. In the Old Testament, King David prophesized about Jesus' death and resurrection. Apostle Peter, expounded and clarified exactly what King David meant. . After David's death his body corrupted; furthermore, King David did not go to hell. Once again the Bible interprets itself.

Psalms 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:22-36 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: **23** Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: **24** Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. **25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28** Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. **29** Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. **30** Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; **31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32** This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. **33** Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the

promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Prophet Isaiah also prophesizes concerning Jesus' death. Observe how Isaiah places events in chronological order.

1. Jesus taken from prison.
2. Jesus judged in Pilate's judgement hall.
3. After Jesus was *cut off out of the land of the living*
4. Died with wicked convicted men.
5. Jesus' grave is the tomb of a rich man (Mt. 27:57-60)
6. His soul descends to heart of the earth...
7. Soul made an offering for sin.

Isaiah 53:8-12 *He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Jesus Christ entered hell as the sin bearer of humanity. No doubt Satan rejoiced as he watched hell's gates close in judgement, but he was also nervous. The devil heard Jesus say to the malefactor *to day shalt thou be with me in paradise*. And just a few moments ago, God ripped open the veil of the temple. Clearly Satan was not controlling things as he hoped.

Halleluiah-Satan's victory was none at all. Once Jesus concluded God's penalty and ensuing judgement for sin, God the Father accepts his Son's sacrifice. Jesus exits hell as the holy, victorious Son of God. Thus the sins he took upon himself removed and forever deposited in hell. Scripture declares Jesus appears without sin after his resurrection. If Satan and his princes foresaw hell incapable of holding Jesus, they never would have

crucified him. Jesus Christ, now in legal possession of the keys to hell and death, was about to do much, much more. Leviathan's nightmare was well underway.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Hebrews 9:28 *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

1 Corinthians 2:7-8 *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: **8** Which none of the princes of this world knew: **for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.***

Revelation 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Romans 11:33 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

Jesus in Paradise

The atonement Jesus provides at Calvary applies to Old Testament and New Testament believers. Although Old Testament saints' faith in God protected them from hell, it did not satisfy God's law. Nor did it allow them entrance into the 3rd heaven. Thus the paradise, located in the heart of the earth, provided a temporary sanctuary for saved souls. Not until Jesus shed his blood did the law fully clear the guilty.

Exodus 34:6-7 *And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, **and that will by no means clear the guilty;** visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.*

Old Testament saints did not enter into the 3rd heaven immediately after death; rather, they went to a nether earth paradise also called Abraham's Bosom. Evidence for the nether earth abode is found in Luke. Observe both hell and paradise are located in the heart of the earth.

Luke 16:20-31 *And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 **And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.** 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 **And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.** 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

Spirits in Prison

Besides fulfilling his promise to be with the malefactor, what Jesus actually did during his remaining time in the "*heart of the earth*" is a mystery. (At least to me) Admittedly, I have more questions than answers.

Scripture says Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison.

1 Peter 3:18-22 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

Questions concerning *1 Peter 3:18-22*. Is Jesus preaching to the spirits in hell, or paradise? Perhaps he preaches to spirits in both locations? Obviously, Jesus preached to souls in paradise. Once God's legal blood atonement for sin cleared the guilty, the 3rd heaven opened for redeemed souls. Good news for all Old Testament souls in paradise.

Thoughts/ questions to ponder: But the context of the passage includes persons living in the days of Noah. It also says they *sometime were disobedient*. Was Jesus preaching to the very persons whose evil deeds provoked the flood? These people wouldn't be in paradise. Does it mean they were no longer disobedient? By saying *sometime* does scripture imply these spirits could repent?

The word prison is also interesting. Was paradise a prison? Souls are being held captive, but still God leaves the passage curiously open ended. Personally I pray about these verses every time I read them.

Ephesians 4:8-10 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

Thursday

6:00 PM

Joseph Arimathaea, a rich man, took Jesus' body at even; the designation *even* is 6:00 PM. (see chapter Defining Hours and Days) The first event taking place on Thursday is Jesus' dead body being removed from the cross. Nicodemus, the same man Jesus spoke with *in John 3*, comes with a hundred pounds of ointment (a *mixture of myrrh and aloes*) to prepare his body for burial. Next Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in a clean linen cloth and took it to his own tomb. After he laid the body in the tomb, women came with spices and ointments to honor and dignify Jesus and the tomb.

Matthew 27:57-60 *When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.*

Mark 15:42-47 *And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. 44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. 45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. 47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.*

Luke 23:50-56 *And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: 51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. 53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. 54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. 55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. 56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.*

John 19:38-42 *And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of*

*Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. **39** And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. **40** Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. **41** Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. **42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day;** for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.*

Sabbath Day (s) Good Friday

Mark 15:42 *And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.*

No doubt *Mark 15:42, Luke 23:56*, remain the obvious reason so many Christians mistakenly believe Jesus Christ was crucified on Friday, hence the religious memorializing of Good Friday. Clearly the verses declare the next day is the Sabbath, and the traditional Jewish Sabbath begins Friday at 6:00 PM; thus an apparent paradox falls upon the Bible Student. Scriptures also insist Jesus must be dead and in the heart of the earth for 72 hours. If Jesus was crucified on Friday there is no way he could have been dead for three days, especially since Sunday begins Saturday 6 PM. Even with the most creative arithmetic, Jesus is only dead 18 hours with a Friday crucifixion. So how does one explain a Wednesday crucifixion?

Although every Friday even, 6:00 PM, begins a Jewish Sabbath- God also identifies other religiously significant days as Sabbaths. In other words, Saturdays are not the only Sabbaths in the Bible. An understanding of Sabbaths is necessary to avoid confusion. Bible students need to study Leviticus 23 carefully and observe how God identifies his Sabbaths.

Passover week is seven days of Sabbaths with the first day and the seventh being high Sabbaths.

In fact every day during Passover Week was a Sabbath with 2 days being called high Sabbaths. Even though Passover's Preparation Day fell on (Wednesday crucifixion day) the following day was a high Sabbath, the first feast day of the Passover. With the most holy day of Passover week due to commence at 6:00 PM, the priests and Pharisees wanted Jesus off the cross; thus, Wednesday was indeed the day before the Sabbath.

Exodus 12:11-19 *And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. 14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. 15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put*

away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. **16 And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.** **17** And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever. **18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.** **19** Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

Thought to Ponder: Jesus and his disciples celebrated the main Passover feast one day early, preparation day, because Jesus himself was the Sacrificial Lamb on Passover. *Luke 22:10-15; Genesis 22:8* Also according to the law, *Deuteronomy 21:23* the crucified bodies needed to be off the trees. For the priests and Pharisees pretending concern about one tenant of the law, after their flagrant dishonesty and disregard for the whole law in the trial of Jesus, manifests evil in the extreme.

Other Sabbath days Leviticus 23

The Day of Atonement is always a Sabbath no matter what day of the week it happens to fall. Likewise, God considers all the feast days holy Sabbaths. Comparing scripture with scripture, one also learns God equates holy convocation days as Sabbath days.

Leviticus 23:3 *Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.*

Leviticus 23:27-32 *Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 28* And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. **29** *For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. 30* And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. **31** *Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. 32* **It shall be unto you a**

sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.

Leviticus 16:29-34 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: **30** For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. **31 It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.**

Feast of Trumpets is a Sabbath

Leviticus 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.**

Leviticus 23:37-40 These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: **38 Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. 39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. 40** And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

The land also has Sabbaths

Leviticus 25:1-10 And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, **2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, **then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. 3** Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; **4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath** of rest unto the land, a **sabbath for the LORD:** thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. **5** That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land. **6** And the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee, **7** And for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat. **8 And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto**

thee forty and nine years. 9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. **10** And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

Israel and Sabbaths

Ezekiel 20:12-13 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. **13** But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Traditional Sabbath day given exclusively to Israel

Exodus 31:13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Exodus 31:16-17 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. **17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:** for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: **10** But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: **11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: **23** His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Resurrection Worries

Thursday

Agitated about Jesus' resurrection, priests and Pharisees go to Pontius Pilate and request a military presence at the tomb. The idea Jesus may return from the dead only adds to Pontius Pilate's stress. Remember when Pilate heard Jesus was the Son of God he became more *afraid John 19:8*. No doubt this prediction confirmed what he was afraid to believe; Jesus was indeed the Son of God. By acknowledging their request, and appointing soldiers to watch the grave proves Pilate took the resurrection seriously.

Thought to Ponder

Pilate reluctantly realized Jesus Christ was no ordinary prisoner. Quite likely, he already knew an entire Roman legion couldn't prevent Jesus' resurrection. Once again, God gives Pilate an opportunity to believe. Many people are like Pontius Pilate. They know Jesus Christ's Gospel is true, but they just don't want to deal with it. One can show respect and deference to Christianity, while at the same time, avoid making a personal decision.

Matthew 27:62-66 *Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, **63** Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. **64** Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. **65** Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. **66** So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.*

Friday

Friday, scriptures say nothing concerning events going on in the heart of the earth. Above ground, an uneasy calm inhabits Jerusalem. The Apostles meet secretly. Perhaps they discuss things Jesus told them and wondered what was going to happen next. By afternoon Pilate positions soldiers outside the tomb. Interestingly, the priests, Pharisees, and even the Roman government take the resurrection prophecy more seriously than the disciples.

Resurrection Day

3 PM before 6 PM

Jesus dies on the cross Wednesday soon after 3 PM but before 6 PM. Therefore, Jesus resurrects from the dead on Saturday between 3 PM and 6 PM, exactly 72 hours after his death. According to the scriptures, Jesus' soul remained in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights. No more no less. Just as the math won't work for a "Good Friday" crucifixion; neither will the math work for a "Sunday Morning" resurrection. Bible students need to differentiate between the resurrection from the dead- and his ascension into the third heaven. Careful reading reveals Jesus is already resurrected by Sunday morning; however, his continued ascension into the third heaven did indeed happen on Sunday. Hence scriptures declaring Jesus rising on the third day- and after three days are both accurate.

Matthew 16:21 *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again **the third day.***

Mark 8:31 *And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and **after three days rise again***

Had Jesus resurrected from the dead on Sunday, he would have been dead for more than 72 hours, Sunday was the 4th day. Jesus could not have died after 6 PM, because Wednesday he told the malefactor they would be together in paradise that very day (**see chapter on Jesus' Death**)

Matthew 12:39-40 *But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: **40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; **so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***

- 1 Wednesday. 3 PM-6PM---Thursday 3 PM- 6 PM
- 2 Thursday.....3PM- 6 PM--- Friday. 3 PM- 6 PM
- 3 Friday.....3 PM- 6 PM---Saturday 3 PM-6 PM

Scripture makes it perfectly clear, Jesus was already risen from the grave early Sunday morning when Mary Magdalen, John, and Peter found the tomb empty.

Mark 16:9 *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*

Luke 24:1-3 *Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*

Night of the living dead

Simultaneous with Jesus' resurrection, graves opened and bodies of numerous saints arose and went into Jerusalem. Observe the Bible says *bodies of the saints*, an important distinction as opposed to a person's whole triune being, spirit, soul, and body. These saints' identities remain a topic of great interest and debate. Some suppose they were the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his 12 sons as well as many prophets and kings. However, since their purpose was to appear to people, how would anyone know who they were? If the saints were from antiquity, God enlightened witnesses to know their identities. Otherwise the miracle served no purpose.

Another possibility, and I think more likely, are persons recently deceased who had publically professed belief in Jesus Christ. Townspeople recognized them and realized Jesus bestowed life after death to those believing in him. Either way this miracle displayed evidence that Jesus Christ held power over death.

Matthew 27:52-53 *And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

Revelation 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Sunday

Pre-dawn Sunday a great earthquake shook the ground. For the last three days the earth rumbled with a series of quakes and aftershocks. Simultaneous with Sunday's quake, an angel, in magnificent and terrifying appearance, descends from heaven and rolls back the sepulcher's stone. The Roman guards watching the tomb not only experienced the earthquake, they witnessed the angel opening the sepulchre; consequently they were terrified. It seems they vacated the premises soon after these events took place. In other words they ran away, probably to report what happened to Pontius Pilate and the priests. Considering last Wednesday's unexplainable three hours of darkness, ensuing earthquakes, reports of deceased persons walking around Jerusalem, and now a supernatural being opening Jesus tomb, the soldiers were at their wits' end. No doubt Pontius Pilate felt a bit stressed as well.

Sunday morning's events come fast, and at times seem overlapping and convoluted, but the events do have an order. For sake of chronicling clarity and readability, events are listed as they occurred in numerical order. This list is followed by scriptural proof texts with corresponding numbers.

1. Earthquake
2. Angel descends from heaven.
3. Stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb
4. Roman guards watching the tomb witness these events; consequently they are terrified. No mention of the guards entering or even looking into the tomb.

See scripture event list 1-4

5. Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women arrive at the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with ointments. Pre-dawn still dark.
6. When they arrive the stone is already rolled away. The women enter the sepulchre and find the body missing; consequently these women are first to witness Jesus' missing body.
7. There is an angel in the tomb. He tells the women Jesus is risen, and he tells them to inform the disciples. The women do not know the man is an angel. Nor do they believe (yet) the angel's words that Jesus is risen.
8. Two other men suddenly appear inside the tomb. These men are also angels, but the women do not realize their true identities. These angels confirm the first angel's report-Jesus is risen.
9. No mention of Roman guards still being at the site. After recovering from the earthquake and being traumatized by the angel, they apparently left to report events to Pontius Pilate.

10. Mary Magdalene is very upset thinking Jesus' enemies took his body; this provides evidence Mary did not yet believe in Jesus' resurrection.
11. The women leave the sepulchre and tell the Apostles about the morning occurrences including the strange men dressed in dazzling white. Most importantly, they report Jesus' body missing. The Apostles viewed the women's story as idle tales. Mary Magdalene specifically tells Peter and John that Jesus' body is missing.

See scripture event list 5-11

12. John and Peter run to the tomb, to determine if Mary's story has any validity. John outruns Peter and gets there first. Finding the stone rolled away just as Mary said. John does not go in- but stays outside looking into the open sepulchre. Peter arrives and goes in immediately. He finds the linen grave clothes lying; the napkin folded in another place by itself. John enters the tomb right behind Peter. Then they believe Jesus' body is missing. They do not yet believe Jesus has risen from the dead. *John 20:9* Peter and John return to their own homes.

See scripture event list 12

13. Mary Magdalene also returns to the tomb, but she remains at the site alone after Peter and John go home.
14. Mary stoops down and looks into the open tomb and sees two angels sitting at the place where Jesus laid. This is her second encounter with angels on Sunday morning.
15. The angels ask her why she is crying. And she explains that enemies of Jesus took his body. As in her previous encounter, there is no indication she realizes these men are angels.
16. Mary stands and turns around and sees a man she presumes is the gardener. This man also asks her why she weeps. Again Mary explains about Jesus' missing body. She asks the man if he took the body. When the man says- *Mary* -she recognizes Jesus. **Mary Magdalen is the first person to see the risen Christ.**
17. Jesus commands her not to touch him because he has not yet risen to the Father. This command is extremely important. **Although Jesus has risen from the dead, his resurrection is not complete until he ascends into**

the 3rd heaven. Hence the scriptures declaring he will rise the third day and after three days.

18. Mary leaves the tomb, still very early Sunday morning, but beginning to get light. Before going to the Apostles, she goes to her friends and they return to the tomb site. They were very close by, maybe only a hundred yards or so. She wants her friends to see Jesus alive. The small group of women congregated around the tomb site for hours. Remember when they reported to the disciples previously, the male disciples acted dismissive and viewed their story as untrue- No wonder Mary went to her female friends first.
19. When the women arrive at the tomb they see the open sepulchre and an angel sitting on top of the great stone. He confirms Mary Magdalene's story; Jesus is risen from the dead. The angel instructs the women to view the empty tomb, and then go and tell the disciples Jesus is alive. Emboldened by the angel's instructions, and Mary's eyewitness testimony, the women run to find the disciples. This is Mary's third encounter with angels. **Female disciples are first to believe by faith Jesus Christ is risen from the dead; as of yet no men believe.**

See scripture event list 13-19

20. Jesus removes Old Testament saints from Abraham's bosom and takes them to the third heaven. Once in the third heaven, Jesus as High Priest offers God's blood on the mercy seat in heaven's temple.

See scripture event 20

21. As the women are in route to find the Apostles, Jesus appears to the whole group. Jesus lets them touch him. This proves Jesus has already ascended to the Father in the third heaven, finished his work as High Priest, and returned to earth.

See scripture event 21

22. Mary finds the Apostles and this time she reports that she has seen and talked with Jesus; they still do not believe her report that Jesus is alive.

See scripture event 22

23. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus reveals himself to Cleopas and another disciple over a meal. Cleopas and his friend are the first men to witness the resurrected Jesus Christ.
24. Cleopas and the other disciple (Simon) return quickly to Jerusalem to tell the Apostles they have seen Jesus alive. Before meeting with the Apostles, they find a small group of disciples and tell them. These disciples do not believe their report. The Bible calls this group of disciples a residue.

See scripture event 23-24

25. Cleopas and the other disciple (Simon) find the Apostles and tell them Jesus is alive.
26. Jesus reveals himself to the eleven Apostles. Remember Judas is dead and Thomas is not present. By the Holy Ghost referencing the eleven. Scripture provides proof text God already accepts Mathias as one of the twelve. (See chapter Replacing Judas) This happened at a Sunday night church service; hence the origin of the Sunday evening church service.

See scripture event 25-26

Events 1-4

Matthew 2 -4 *And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*

Events 5-11

Mark 16:1-15 *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. 8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.*

Luke 24:1-11 *Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: 5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. 8 And they remembered his words, 9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.*

John 20:1-31 *The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. 2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.*

Event 12

John 3-10 *Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. 5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. 8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. 9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.*

Events 13-19

John 20:11-17 *But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, 12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. 14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 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.*

Matthew 28:5-8 *And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. 8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.*

Events 20 see Chapter Jesus Christ High Priest

John 20:17 *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.*

Psalms 68:18 *Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them.*

Ephesians 4:8-10 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

Hebrews 9:11-12 *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Hebrews 9:22-24 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

Event 21

Matthew 28: 8 *And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. 10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.*

Event 22

John 18 *Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.*

Events 23-24

Luke 24 see chapter on Road to Emmaus

Mark 16:12-14 *After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. 14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

Luke 24:34 *Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.*

Event 25-26

John 20:19-31 *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

22 *And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. 30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that*

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Jesus Christ High Priest.

In-between the time Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene- and the second time he encountered her- Jesus ascends to the Father in the third heaven and returns to earth. Jesus strictly forbid physical contact during his first meeting with Mary, but encouraged it upon the second. Observe the women held his feet and worshipped him.

John 16 *Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 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.*

Matthew 28: 9 *And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. 10* *Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.*

Paradise/Abraham's Bosom

Jesus Christ did not ascend to the Father alone, Old Testament saints living in paradise went with him. Before Jesus' resurrection, saved people after death went to a literal place inside this earth called Abraham's bosom. A place so wonderful God also called it paradise. But as wonderful as Abraham's bosom was- it was not heaven. Saved souls did not immediately go to the 3rd heaven because their sins still legally existed.

In Old Testament times, God symbolically covered men's sin through animal sacrifice. Men received mercy, longsuffering, and forgiveness, but they were not legally cleared from their offenses. In other words their sins remained on the books. Animal sacrifices served only as a type of the true sacrifice, and could not take away sin. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was the true and final sacrifice for sin. Although God forgave sins for thousands of years, no sinner was legally exonerated.

The reason Jesus forbid Mary to touch him early Sunday morning, was a legal technicality. In accordance with law, the high priest went through a cleansing ritual before entering the temple to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat that sat upon the ark. No one could touch him until after he offered the sacrificial blood on the mercy seat. *Leviticus 16* When Jesus ascended to the Father, he became High Priest; he then entered heaven's temple to offer God's blood on the mercy seat. With the perfect sacrifice offered, God cleared the guilty.

Numbers 14:18-19 *The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity*

*of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. **19** Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now. (See also Exodus 34:1-8)*

Hebrews 10:3-4 *But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. **4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.***

Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood.***

For the saved souls living in Abraham's bosom, it's rather like promising a pardon to a man in prison. He knows freedom is coming and eagerly awaits the big day. The prisoner waits until the highest authority (a governor or President) signs the pardon which legally sets the captive free. The prisoner analogy works well because God literally declares Old Testament saints who lived in Abraham's Bosom *captives*. And they were waiting for the law to allow them into heaven.

1. God promised Old Testament saints a pardon (or legal redemption) based upon their faith and animal sacrifice under the law.
2. The redemption manifested by way of Jesus Christ crucifixion.
3. God validates redemption and clears the guilty when Jesus offers his own blood on the mercy seat.

On Sunday morning Jesus transported Old Testament captives from the heart of the earth to the third heaven. After a brief stop at God's temple in the 3rd heaven for Jesus Christ the High Priest to offer God's blood on the mercy seat. The captives were declared free. This final legal action cleared the guilty, hence the origin of the phrase **free and clear**.

Jesus' ascension after his resurrection from the dead, plays a major role in mankind's redemption story. When Jesus as High Priest offered his own blood on the mercy seat, the legal part of mankind's atonement was finished. With God's law satisfied legal redemption bestowed upon all Old Testament and New Testament believers.

Hebrews 3:1-2 *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; **2** Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.*

Hebrews 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

Hebrews 9:1-28 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. **2** For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. **3** And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; **4** Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; **5** And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. **6** Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. **7** But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: **8** The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: **9** Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; **10** Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. **11** But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; **12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. **13** For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: **14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. **16** For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. **17** For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. **18** Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. **19** For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, **20** Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. **21** Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. **22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. **23** It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices

than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

***Leviticus 16:30-31** For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. **31** It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.*

***Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

***Deuteronomy 31:25-26** That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, **26** Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.*

Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-31

Two disciples, a man named Cleopas and his friend (Simon) walked to the village Emmaus late Sunday morning. Emmaus was 60 furlongs (about 7.5 miles from Jerusalem, so it's about a two hour walk. Both men knew about Jesus' missing body and Mary Magdalen's story. As they engaged in earnest conversation, a third traveler catches up with them and asks what they so intently discuss. They told the stranger about Jesus and how Israel's leaders abused and put him to death. Disclosing their passionate disappointment, they hoped Jesus was Israel's redeemer, but now didn't know what to think.

The stranger listens for a while, and then suddenly calls them fools. Using the scriptures, he expounds verse after verse proving Jesus is indeed the Christ. So captivated with his knowledge, Cleopas invites the man to join them in a meal, and they stop at an inn along the way. As the men are about to eat, the Lord opens their eyes; to recognize the stranger's true identity. They have been conversing with Jesus the whole time. Jesus then vanishes. Cleopas and Simon become the first male disciples to witness the Lord's resurrection.

Third day comment

In verse 21, the statement is made, *to day is the third day since these things were done*. How can this be since crucifixion day, Wednesday, was 5 days earlier? Bible students can handle the difficulty as follows: Remember this is an actual conversation; it does not contradict any prophetic established facts concerning the crucifixion. Their dialog must be interpreted accordingly. The men knew Jesus' crucifixion took place on Wednesday, but they did not know the exact moment of his death. They clearly assumed he died on Thursday, because that's when Joseph of Arimathaea removed Jesus' body from the cross and placed it in his own tomb. News of Jesus's death went public on Thursday after 6:00 PM. When they say this is the third day since these things were done, they simply started counting the first day after Jesus' body was finally buried.

Luke 24:13-31 *And, behold, two of them went **that same day to a village called Emmaus**, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. **14** And they talked together of all these things which had happened. **15** And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. **16** But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. **17** And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? **18** And the one of them, **whose name was Cleopas**, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? **19** And he said unto them, What*

things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: **20** And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. **21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, **to day is the third day since these things were done.** **22** Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; **23** And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. **24** And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. **25** Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: **26** Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? **27** And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. **28** And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. **29** But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. **30** **And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.** **31** **And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.**

Back to Jerusalem

The men quickly return to Jerusalem to inform other disciples about their experience. The time now is late Sunday afternoon; and the disciples have gathered together in a house for fellowship. Hidden nuggets continue appearing in the passage.

Once Cleopas and his friend arrive back in Jerusalem late Sunday afternoon, they proclaim immediately the Lord has risen indeed and appeared unto Simon. This disclosure means almost certainly that Simon has been traveling with Cleopas. Bible students did not learn the other disciple's identity till this comment. Notice Simon witnessed the resurrected Christ before the eleven; thus Simon is not Apostle Peter.

Observe scripture declares the eleven Apostles (and others) are gathered together. *Luke 24:33* Remember it's Sunday afternoon only 4 days since Jesus' crucifixion. Judas is dead and Thomas is not present; thus only ten original Apostles can possibly be in attendance. Observe God provides evidence he already considers Mathias a legitimate replacement for Judas, even though the Apostles will not make the official transaction until *Acts 1*. The unfathomable foreknowledge of God doth manifest. For a complete narrative see Part Two Replacing Judas.

Luke 24:32-36 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? **33** And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, **34** Saying, The Lord is risen*

*indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. **35** And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. **36** And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

John 20:24 *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.*

Simon and Cephas

Once the Bible student travels the Emmaus Road, more than one hidden nugget appears in the text. The travelers arrive in Jerusalem in time for Sunday evening church service. They proclaim immediately *the Lord is risen indeed and hath appeared unto Simon*. The disclosure means almost certainly that Simon accompanies Cleopas, thus both travelers are now identified.

Another disciple named Cephas also witnessed the resurrected Lord before the twelve Apostles. Apostle Paul reveals the name in *1 Corinthians 15:5*. Notice scripture segregates Cephas apart from the twelve, thus Cephas is not Peter. Exactly when on Sunday Cephas saw Jesus is hard to know for certain, but it seems Cephas witnessed the Lord as Cleopas and Simon were returning to Jerusalem.

Luke 24:32-35 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? 33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, 34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. 35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.*

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:*

Observe Paul's report segregates Cephas away from the twelve. Therefore Cephas is not Peter. The scripture also provides evidence Paul does not consider himself one of the twelve; thereby vindicating the Apostle's decision to replace Judas Iscariot with Matthias- see *Acts 1:15-26* See part two Replacing Judas.

At first it may seem irresistible that Cephas and Simon are other names for Apostle Peter, since Peter is called by both names elsewhere in the Bible- But there is yet another big problem with that conclusion. When Jesus appears to the Apostles Sunday night he upbraids the eleven for not believing the witnesses of his resurrection. Peter, of course, is included in the eleven.

Those witnesses of Jesus' resurrection not believed by the Twelve Apostles:

- Mary Magdalene, and the women in route to the Apostles to tell them Jesus was alive.
- And another disciple named Cephas.
- And the two Emmaus Road travelers, Cleopas and Simon.

Matthew 28: 9 *And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. 10* Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Mark 16:12-14 *After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13* And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. **14** *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

Thought to Ponder

Apostle Thomas, forever known as doubting Thomas because he refused to believe in Jesus' resurrection until he saw the Lord with his own eyes, was not alone. None of the twelve Apostles (including Mathias) believed until they saw Jesus with their own eyes.

PART TWO

Satan's Biography

Leviathan

Many Bible commentators interpret Leviathan as a large aquatic animal, crocodile, or an abstract metaphor for evil; all those ideas are incorrect. The word Leviathan is in the Bible only 4 times: Once in Job, twice in Psalms, and once in Isaiah. Letting scripture interpret scripture and an honest reading of Job 41 leaves no doubt; Leviathan is Satan. Satan's numerous other names include: Lucifer, dragon, serpent, king of Tyrus, anointed cherub, god of this world, and the devil.

When it comes to Leviathan, the Bible may be harder to believe than it is to understand. Job 41 actually describes Leviathan's physical appearance for an entire chapter. For God to dedicate 34 verses defining one creature is extraordinary. In Context, Job 41 delivers God's concluding dialog of the Book of Job. The first 14 verses ask 20 questions exemplifying God's omniscience and power contrasted to man's ignorance and weakness; thus the passage interrogates Job (and the reader). God's questions demand man's obvious answer of **no**. As one reads *Job 41*, remember God put all earth's animals under man's dominion *Genesis 1:26*. This fact needs mentioning because obviously, Leviathan is not under man's dominion. Even before the invention of gun powder, no animal on earth ever had a chance against man.

Job 41:1-34 *Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down? 2 Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn? 3 Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft words unto thee? 4 Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever? 5 Wilt thou play with him as with a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens? 6 Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants? 7 Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears? 8 Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more. 9 Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him? 10 None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me? 11 **Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him?** whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.*

Verse 11 is especially curious. Why would God make such a statement about a mere animal? What kind of animal does God repay? *Isaiah 27:1* The narrative continues asking questions, but also carefully describes Leviathan's physical and spiritual character. By verse 19, God challenges the reader to believe the text. Leviathan breaths and exhales fire. Just a metaphor? Certainly God uses metaphor, but the context of

Leviathan's description transcends figurative interpretation alone. Believing the passage literally may be uncomfortable, but appropriate.

12 *I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion. 13 Who can discover the face of his garment? or who can come to him with his double bridle? 14 Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about. 15 His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal. 16 One is so near to another, that no air can come between them. 17 They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered. 18 By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. 19 Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. 20 Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. 21 His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth. 22 In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him. 23 The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved. 24 His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone.*

25 *When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves. 26 The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. 27 He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood. 28 The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble. 29 Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear. 30 Sharp stones are under him: he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire.*

31 *He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment. 32 He maketh a path to shine after him; one would think the deep to be hoary. 33 Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear. 34 He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.*

Mighty men fear Leviathan and purify themselves because he can break them morally, spiritually, and physically. Weapons against him prove useless. What kind of creature is impervious to iron weaponry? Nothing made of flesh, that's for sure. Sorrow brings joy to this creature! What animal (besides man) delights in the sorrow of other creatures? Even if the passage was metaphor or allegory (which it isn't) one must still conclude something supernatural. Notice the creature lives in the deep. The deep is a body of water surrounding the 2nd heavens (universe) which provides a barrier to the 3rd heaven. There is nothing on earth like him- because his home environment is not on earth. And finally this being *beholdeth all high things* and he is a king over all the children of pride." Verses 31-34 forbids interpreting Leviathan as a mere animal; it provides conclusive proof text- Leviathan is Satan.

In *Job 41:11* the Lord asks who will prevent him from repaying Leviathan. If leviathan is only some kind of aquatic animal, why does God punish him? Animals are not in rebellion against God. Consider the question in light of Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 27:1 *In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.*

Notice the weapon God wields against Leviathan is his sword, the word of God *Ephesians 6:17, Revelation 1:16* Observe also God calls Leviathan the piercing serpent and the dragon. Serpent and dragon are both names for Satan. The sea in this passage is the deep which exists in the vast reaches of outer space. (See chapter on The Deep)

Consider *Revelation 12:3*. No doubt God uses some typology here; however, this 7 headed dragon is connected to Leviathan in nefarious ways. Running the passage to *Psalms 74:14*, we learn Leviathan is also multi-headed. Scripture is describing the same being. *Psalms 74* also curiously links Leviathan to food in the wilderness, a topic dealt with later.

Revelation 12:3 *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, **having seven heads** and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

Psalms 74:14 *Thou brakest **the heads of leviathan** in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.*

Lucifer's Fall

For information about Satan's original position with God, and the age in which he lived, we turn to the prophets. From Isaiah and Ezekiel we learn Lucifer once held high favor with God, his status and position lofty and extraordinary. But Lucifer was not satisfied; he wanted more.

In an age long ago, God called Satan Lucifer. His name means *light bearer or the shining one*. Lucifer's rebellion centered on his own pride. It seems Lucifer wanted equality with Jesus Christ; he wanted to be worshipped. At the time of Lucifer's fall, that meant he wanted the adoration and worship from angels. *Isaiah 14:12-15* addresses Lucifer's great rebellion. Apparently Lucifer persuaded a significant number of angels to join in his opposition toward God.

God located his temple and throne, in the 3rd heaven, in the sides of the north. Chronologically, in the Bible, Satan first appears in Genesis 3; he is called the serpent. Obviously, Satan's fall already happened because he is tempting Eve to sin against God. Thus we conclude Lucifer's fall preceded the fall of human beings.

Isaiah 14:12-15 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, **which didst weaken the nations!** **13** For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, **in the sides of the north:** **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. **15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.***

Notice Lucifer boasts he will *ascend into heaven*. The singular heaven is an important reference. In the beginning there was one heaven (not heavens). Scripture is consistent when identifying the era Lucifer fell. *Genesis 1:1* is probably the most misquoted verse in the Bible. How long did it take Lucifer to corrupt the meaning of texts in new bible versions? Answer: One verse.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Lucifer's war with God resulted in cataclysmic consequences, literally a destroyed universe and the fall of a considerable number of angels. This war ended when God flooded out the heaven and voided the earth. Then God started over by recreating the earth and creating man in his own image. After Lucifer's fall 3 heavens exist. Today the sides of the north are in the 3rd heaven.

Implicit in *Isaiah 14:12-15* is the fact Lucifer weakened the nations. These nations are collateral damage with Lucifer's fall. What nations? The nations weakened due to Lucifer's rebellion. These nations existed during Lucifer's rebellion.

An inhabited earth in eternity past- an earth where Lucifer held a very high position, gives insight into Satan's claim the world is his *Matthew. 4:8-9*. It also explains the intense jealousy he holds toward mankind. What was once the home of angels, God gave to an entirely new creation, a being created in the God's image, a being capable of reproducing images of God! As great as angels are, they are not created in the image of God. Nor do they reproduce.

Matthew 4:8-9 *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

Although Satan failed to acquire his own throne in the sides of the north, he remains active pursuing worship from human beings as well as angels. The passage below is loaded, cited to prove only the percentage of angels in league with Satan. Since angels are likened to stars, their total number could well be astronomical. *Revelation 12:3-4* declares the dragon drew 1/3 of the stars. The stars, here, are angels as they are in *Isaiah 14:13. Job 38:7, and Psalm 147:4.*

Revelation 12:3-4 *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

Job 38:7 *When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

Psalms 147:4 *He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.*

King of Tyrus

Anointed Cherub

Tyrus means 'to distress'

Satan's was not always a 7 headed, legless serpent. Originally he was one of God's most beautiful creatures. The Lord actually calls him perfect in beauty and in all his ways, including wisdom. Lucifer may be the most powerful, smartest creature God ever created. In Ezekiel's description Lucifer is named king of Tyrus. Satan's title (before his fall) was *the anointed cherub that covereth*. It seems his duties included being in charge of God's throne room. At the time of Lucifer's fall, heaven's Mount Zion with God's Temple and throne were on earth. After Lucifer's fall God relocated this whole region to the 3rd heaven.

Although *Ezekiel 28:12-19* has an historical application to the human King of Tyrus, it's obvious the doctrinal application concerns Satan, because he was in the Garden of Eden. The only persons recorded to be in Eden were Adam, Eve and the Serpent. Additionally, God identifies the King of Tyrus as the anointed cherub. *Ezekiel 28:14* The passage gives important insight into Lucifer's history.

Notice the anointed cherub walked in the midst of the stones of holy fire. Fire appears a natural part of Lucifer's habitat even before his fall. Leviathan breathing sparks of fire and sparks may be reminiscent of his past glory. Observe also the first ten verses in *Ezekiel 28* concern the **prince of Tyrus**, while the *28:12-15* concern the **king of Tyrus**. A prince, of course, is the son of a king; thus the passage discusses the antichrist (serpent's seed) whose father is the anointed cherub. *Compare Ezekiel 28:1-10 to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.*

Ezekiel 28:12-19 *Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 **By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned:** therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from*

*the midst of the stones of fire. **17** Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. **18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick;** therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. **19** All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.*

Notice Satan defiled his own sanctuaries. And the multitude of his merchandise inspired sin and violence. These sanctuaries contributed to the original earth's society and culture. The sanctuaries somehow connected business and an economic system. Satan corrupted them through a multitude of iniquities. Curiously, God also says by the *iniquity of his traffick*. God uses the word traffick only 5 times in the Bible. Each use is connected with trading, merchandise, and economic dealings. In modern times the word traffic still defines the same activities

Satan desires worship. And in order to promote himself, he required wealth and power. This sounds amazingly reminiscent of human sin. Other scriptures also connect these original satanic sins with mankind. Have you ever wondered how the *love of money is the root of all evil*? The original money lover is the anointed cherub himself. And since Satan provoked Eve and Adam to sin- this sin is the root of all man's sinfulness.

1 Timothy 6:10 *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Prince of Tyrus

Money trafficking and commerce connects to the prince of Tyrus. And this prince is no mere mortal. After all his father, king of Tyrus is the anointed cherub. The Cherub's son carries out ambitions of his father. Thus the prince of Tyrus is the antichrist and seeks to rule the world. Compare *Ezekiel 29:2-9 with 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*

Contemplate business practices of the coming antichrist. The Antichrist's primary action promoting the world's acceptance, even worship- is when he restructures the world's economic system. And the only prerequisite condition - global economic collapse. **Make no doubt about it- the coming antichrist is an economic genius.** To *buy or sell* is a perfectly succinct definition of an economic system. And ultimately, it's an economy controlled by Satan, just like an economy his father controlled in a previous age.

Revelation 13:16-18 *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*

Ezekiel 28:2-9 *Son of man, say unto the **prince of Tyrus**, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: 3 Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: 4 With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: 5 By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: 6 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; 7 Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. 8 They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. 9 Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, **I am God? but thou shalt be a man**, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.*

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

A Previous Age

Jeremiah 4:23-26 sister text to *Genesis 1:2*, *Ezekiel 28:12-19*, reveals much about God's original earth and world. The passage poses a conundrum for those who don't believe in the gap fact. Admittedly, I include some inference, but the alternatives of ignoring what Jeremiah writes- or reducing it to spiritualized fluff is worse.

Considering Jeremiah chapter 4 in context: God gives Judah a warning; imminent judgment is coming. Without repentance, Nebuchadnezzar invades and implements God's wrath and punishment. The Lord's chosen people endure the destruction of their nation. Survivors become prisoners and removed into captivity. This is the gist of Jeremiah chapter 4. But in the middle of the ominous prophecy, Jeremiah says,

"I beheld the earth, and lo, it was without form, and void..."

Unmistakably, this statement is a direct reference to Genesis 1:2

Genesis 1:2 *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

Jeremiah 4:23-26 *I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.*

Why would God incorporate this statement into the prophetic warning? Obviously, Jeremiah was not alive in Genesis 1:2. The prophet experiences a vision much like Apostle John in the book of Revelation. The difference is John saw the future and Jeremiah saw the past.

Here is the conundrum for creationists (those not believing in the gap fact). Why does God even have Jeremiah say this? If one runs the passage to *Genesis.1:2*, (which all Bible students know they have to do.) what is God's point? How is the earth being without form and void relevant to Jeremiah 4? The whole chapter concerns judgment, especially punishment for rebellion and sin.

The point God makes to Judah is as follows: God reached a breaking point with a world in eternity past, and he flooded out his entire universe, and voided the original earth; don't think for a second God won't judge one nation. Just like Lucifer's and the angels' sinful behavior met with divine catastrophic judgment; so too will Judah's and Israel's.

The four *I beheld* statements in verses 4:23-26, serve direct commentary on God's original world. The world he made void. A world holding cities, a fruitful place, mountains, and at least some animal life. Notice there was no man and no light. This alone rules out doctrinal application to the tribulation period. The birds being fled, implies that birds were once there. Let the Bible student consider:

When was there no man?
 When was there no light?
 When were all the cities broken down?

And how do these statements relate to the earth being without form and void? God gives Jeremiah a vision when he voided the earth *Ge. 1:2*. The heavens had no light in *Genesis 1:2* only darkness on the face of the deep, and light was not created until *Ge. 1:3*.

God destroyed a civilization inhabited by angels. People don't think much about how and where angels live. But angels aren't sitting around on clouds playing harps. Some kind of societal habitation provided home to angels on the original earth, just as it now does in the 3rd heaven.

Curiosity about the Bible is spiritually healthy. In order to have an engaged, maturing relationship with the Bible, one must think about what God wrote. Knowledge often generates questions, and questions inspire thinking. Since Lucifer once lived in a holy relationship with God; to inquire about his past seems important. It's amazing how uncurious Christians are about the Bible. Why the fall of Lucifer is so seldom considered is but one example.

Thought to Ponder

Solomon teaches everything that happened in the past, happens again in the future. This includes Lucifer trying to be like God. More specifically, the antichrist tries to take the throne of Jesus Christ and rule the world from a temple.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. 10 Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.*

Ecclesiastes 3:15 *That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.*

Music

Someone once said God appointed Lucifer the first choir director or the master of music. That theory supposes a very good educated guess. According to *Ezekiel 28:13*, God's purpose for the anointed cherub included musical ability. Tabrets and pipes are musical creating devices. Music remains a powerful force provoking spiritual, emotional, and religious motivation. Music's divine purpose is to worship God, inspiring awe and adoration of Jesus Christ. It also promotes holy and righteous living in believers.

The opposite is also true. As mankind descends into an ever darker moral abyss, the world's entertainment becomes increasingly dedicated to celebrating sin. The days of benign or harmless musical enjoyments are rapidly ending. The whole of Man's musical creativity is turning to religious idolatry. As the world approaches Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming, music is devolving. Music either promotes God or stands against him. Modern love songs seem more like people worshipping each other than expressions of human affection. Disturbingly, more and more "Christian" songs sound increasingly like the world. Listen closely to the lyrics- are they written to a human lover or to God? And beware it takes more than correct words to make godly music. Rhythm, beat, and arrangement matter. Music even without human voice creates mood altering and emotional change. Symphonic, even classical orchestra inspires good as well as evil. That's why music is so important for movies and media productions. The power music incites should be handled responsibly and righteously, otherwise it becomes a perversion of God's intended purpose. In the end, Christ rejecting human genius perverts and redirects music to praise and worship Satan.

Psalm 150 soon to be replaced by Daniel 3:4-6

Ezekiel 28:13 :the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth.

Daniel 3:4-6 *Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, 5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: 6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

Psalms 150:1-6 *Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. 2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. 3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. 4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. 5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high*

sounding cymbals. 6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Thought to Ponder

Satan is far more interested in Sunday morning than Saturday night. Satan's arena is spiritual and religious. Much of what the old serpent gets blamed for is actually inspired by man's own flesh: Drunkenness, sexual sin, drugs, gluttony, greed, etc. The lust of eye, and the pride of life *1 John. 2:16* are directly motivated by mankind's own sinful desires. If Satan can't receive worship, his next objective persuades people to deny Jesus Christ. This followed closely by providing false doctrines to confuse and mislead people (including Christians). From full blown occult religion to Hollywood entertainment; hence the ever increasing fascination with death, demons, ghosts, vampires, and false perceptions of life after death. And false religions and cults that base their faith on not believing Jesus Christ is God. As the 2nd Advent of Jesus looms ever closer, the enemies of Christ become more overt and violent. Islamic doctrine and terrorism are but one example; with more to come- much more. The steadily increasing hatred of true Christianity, Jews, and the denial and/ or replacement of the perfectly preserved God's word in English, King James Bible -are thematic in the end times.

Cherub's Physical Appearance

The Bible mentions three classes of angelic beings: Seraphim *Isaiah 6*, Cherubim, and Angels. (Cherub is singular; cherubim is plural.) Technically Satan is not an angel; he is a cherub. Some distinctions between the creatures appear as follows: Seraphim and cherubim have wings while angels do not have wings. Angels are associated or likened to stars, thus their numbers may well be astronomical, while the Bible mentions only 5 cherubim, and only 2 Seraphim. All Cherubim are involved with God's throne room, sort of an inner circle of beings closest to God, consequently they appear to have great authority and more power than angels. In Ezekiel, Cherubim literally transport God's throne. *Ezekiel chapters 1, 10*

Living Cherubim

Scripture describes living cherubim in *Ezekiel 1 and 10*. Within these chapters scripture reveals cherubim transporting God's throne. When joined together, Cherubim exhibit an extraordinary metamorphosis; literally transforming into a unique being. The cherubim collectively become one living creature (*Ezekiel 10:15*). Observe when the cherubim hold hands, each one has 4 faces: each individual cherub has the face of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. This totals 16 faces, a marvel of God's creation for sure.

We also learn separated cherubim (that is when they are not holding hands) have only one face. Comparing scripture with scripture reveals a single cherub has the face of an ox. Simply juxtapose *Ezekiel 1:10*, with *Ezekiel 10:14*. God uses the word **ox** in *1:10*, but substitutes the word *cherub* in *10:14*. Thus we learn the independent visage and/or appearance of a single cherub is an ox.

Ezekiel 1:10 *As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.*

Ezekiel 10:14 *And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.*

Ezekiel 10:15 *And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.*

Recollecting God called Lucifer perfect in beauty, one may ask, how an ox could be beautiful. Good question, but remember our only point of reference is the ox common to cattle. Those creatures may resemble a cherub no more than a gorilla does a man. Furthermore, consider the vast differences in human appearances. Although all humans have the same basic physical attributes: two eyes, two ears, a mouth, teeth,

hair, etc. Some people are very beautiful and others may be grotesquely ugly, even deformed. Curiously, however, when God cursed the serpent, the first thing he says is *cursed above all cattle*. As one continues thinking through the ox description, remember when Moses delayed in coming down from the mountain, after receiving the 10 Commandments? The people made a golden calf to worship.

More than 650 years later, after Israel divided into two nations, Israel and Judah. The wicked king Jeroboam set up two golden calves. One in the city of Bethel and the other in Dan. Then he fashioned a perverted false Judaism giving Israel an alternative (more fun) religion than the Bible based worship in Jerusalem. The northern kingdom embraced the idolatrous cows for the next several hundred years. And even in modern times, Hinduism regards the cow as sacred. As perplexing as it may be, the world exhibits a "holy cow" issue more than a few times over the last 3,000 years.

Genesis 3:14 *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

Exodus 32:4 *And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

1 Kings 12:28-29 *Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.*

Cherubim Sculpture

Numerous scriptures present sculptured or statues of Cherubim. King Solomon gives a cherub's best description when he constructed two sculpture replicas to adorn the temple. These cherubim statues were not worshiped! In fact, Solomon placed them inside the temple's inner sanctuary to be seen only by God. The only person to see them was the high priest one day a year when he visited the holy of holies on the Day of Atonement.

Scripture describes these two cherubim in precise mathematical terms. Ten cubits tall (15 feet) with wings 5 cubits wide (7.5 feet) one wing on each side. Since God designed the temple with such intricate detail, these replica cherubim are most likely the actual size of living cherubim. Most everything about the temple on earth is designed to mirror or shadow God's temple in the third heaven located on the sides of the north. God's temple in heaven is made without hands, built by God. One significant

difference between earth's and heaven's temple; however, heaven's temple contains God's Throne.

1 Kings 6:23-28 *And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high. 24 And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits. 25 And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size. 26 The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub. 27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. 28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold.*

2 Chronicles 3:10-13 *And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold. 11 And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub. 12 And one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was five cubits also, joining to the wing of the other cherub. 13 The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces were inward.*

Revelation 7:15 *Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*

Much smaller sculptures of cherubim rest on the mercy seat that sits atop the Ark of the Covenant. Like the larger images, these cherubim remained in the holy of holies and were never available to public viewing. Moses constructed the cherubim, the Ark of the Covenant, and the mercy seat during the days when God delivered the Jews from Egypt- for use in the tabernacle. The same Ark of the Covenant remained throughout the entire time Israel and Judah exercise temple worship, about 1,500 years: this included Moses' tabernacle, Solomon's temple, Zerubbabel's temple, and in New Testament times Herod's temple.

Exodus 25:17-21 *And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. 20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another;*

*toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. **21** And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.*

Thought to Ponder

The first time cherubim appear in the Bible is immediately after Adam's and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden. God positions Cherubim, armed with a flaming sword, to stop them from eating from the Tree of Life. Had any creature eaten from the tree, they would live forever- even in a spiritually lost, fallen condition. Considering the power of cherubim compared to human beings' weakness (especially only one man and one woman) doesn't it seem extraordinary God took such extreme measures to prevent anyone from eating from the Tree of Life? Rather like going deer hunting with a nuclear weapon. Out of the 69 times Cherubim appear in the Bible, this is the only place the word is capitalized.

Genesis 3:22-24 *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: **23** Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. **24** So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden ***Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.****

The Serpent's Curse

Lucifer's physical transformation

Satan first appears in Genesis 3; there he is called the serpent. Obviously, Satan's fall already occurred because he is tempting Eve to sin against God. There is nothing good or holy about the serpent in Genesis 3.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Notice God does not say the serpent is a beast of the field; rather the serpent is segregated into a class by itself. This serpent is not a snake (reptile) any more than Jesus is a lamb (small farm animal) it is a reference to character and type. The serpent is the devil. When the Bible introduces the serpent in Genesis 3, he is already in rebellion against God and tempting mankind to join him; therefore, Lucifer's fall preceded God creating Adam and Eve.

Interpreting the passage as Eve conversing with a snake is hugely incorrect. Furthermore, the Bible tells exactly how the devil appears to human beings. He appears as an angel of light. Every time angels shows up in the Bible they are men without wings. Rarely do persons to whom they appear recognize them as angels. And Satan himself is called a man in *Isaiah 14:16*; therefore, Eve is conversing with a man. Equally important is the fact the serpent is smarter than Adam and Eve; overtly displaying evidence man does not have dominion over the serpent which proves (again) this serpent is not a beast of the field. (Dominion means to control, have authority over, to dominate)

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: **and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Isaiah 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, **Is this the man** that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Thought to Ponder

Do not presume all angels people entertain unawares are the good guys.

When Eve and Adam disobeyed God and ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil- the Fall of mankind ensued. God's judgment inflicted consequences upon the serpent, men, women, and nature. Much could be said about the Fall; however, let us focus solely on God cursing the serpent. God curses Satan, not a snake! Again-endless theological and intellectual wrong turns are taken if one concludes God curses some helpless animal. This error results in many unbelievers relegating the Fall of man to something akin to a Greek myth. Sadly, numerous Bible teachers fare little better.

Genesis 3:13-15 *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. 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Satan's glorious physical appearance changed forever. In other words he looked one way before the curse and another way after the curse. In my opinion, at this precise moment God transformed the most beautiful creature he ever created into a hideous legless dragon- Leviathan. And by the way, snakes don't eat dust.

How this translates into Satan appearing to mankind today is unaltered. He appears as an angel of light or in the person of his son. Satan's physical manifestation is deceptive, always presenting an image of truth but always a lie. He is the master illusionist: smoke and mirrors and conspiracies are his forte. But his permanent actual state is described by God in *Job 41*.

Serpent's Seed

Another dark truth presents itself when God curses the serpent. Observe the serpent produced a seed. There is no other way to interpret God saying *thy seed*; than to acknowledge the serpent has an offspring; therefore, since that time two evil beings exist, a serpent and the serpent's seed. Looking only at *Genesis 3:15*, the serpent's seed could come later, but the scripture speaks as if it already exists. Furthermore additional scriptures interpret the text. The unique mention of the *woman's seed* references the birth of Jesus Christ, a virgin birth via Mary.

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

The Bible mentions no female species of any kind existing in a preadamite earth or previous age. Angels are male; the Bible mentions no female angel. Consequently, we read nowhere of any reproduction. It seems procreation began with Eve. When Satan heard God command Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, how did the serpent respond? What does the reader think? I believe he formulated an ambitious goal? If this female creature could procreate an image of God, perhaps she could produce an image of himself?

God has a Son; and Satan desires to be like God. God is a trinity; Satan does all he can to manifest himself as a trinity. The antichrist is the literal, biological son of Satan, born of a woman. And just as the Bible equates God the Son (Jesus Christ) with God the Father. So does the Bible equate Satan the father with Satan the son, antichrist. And the serpent is the father of it. This is the mystery of iniquity discussed in *2 Thessalonians 2:7-10*

John 8:44, 45 contains disturbing information. When Jesus rebukes the priests and Pharisees by telling them they are of their father the devil. He is saying their spiritual father is the devil. But his dialog continues and proclaims the devil was a *murderer from the beginning*. Then Jesus says a particular lie is the devil's own and the devil is the father of it. So the questions for Bible students are obvious.

1. Who was a murderer from the beginning?
2. And who or what is the devil's lie?

To help with interpretation remember Jesus Christ is literally called the truth *John 14:6* In the darkest most opposite way Antichrist is called the lie. Satan's son is the lie. God's Son is the Truth.

John 8:44-45 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth,*

because there is no truth in him. **When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.** 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, **10** And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that **they should believe a lie:**

The murderer from the beginning

Cain committed the first murder in human history, and he did it in beginning, thus *John 8:44* connects with *Genesis 4:8*.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Before Cain murdered his brother, God rejected Cain's offering but accepted Abel's offering. Thus the reason Cain was so angry. Cain's work offering typifies all false religions. The best men can do is not good enough, men need an offering God accepts. Good works mean nothing without first being accepted by God. Abel brought what God required, a blood offering. These two offerings basically represent the two ways human beings try to please God:

1. One group tries to earn heaven with good works.
2. The other group accepts God's offering and believes God's grace and mercy is the only way in.

Letting the Bible interpret itself, observe God's conversation with Cain-before the murder of Abel. God gives Cain advice and an opportunity for acceptance. But look closely at God's warning. If Cain continues in rebellion, what are the consequences?

Nouns, pronouns and antecedents.

Diagram sentence structure in *Genesis 4:6, 7*. Match each pronoun in the passage to the correct noun. There are 4 nouns: Lord, Cain, sin, door. There are 9 pronouns: One must go through the passage linking the pronouns to the correct noun (person, place, and thing). This may seem like an elementary school grammar lesson,

but it forces one to a correct interpretation. Misidentifying the proper antecedent is a common error.

Genesis 4:6-7 *And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

Identifying the pronouns:

- thou= Cain
- thy= Cain
- thou= Cain
- thou= Cain
- thou= Cain
- thee= Cain
- his= sin
- thou= Cain
- him= sin

Interestingly, God chose the personal pronouns *his and him* to represent sin. God personified the word sin as if sin is a person. So continuing to examine the passage Bible students need to answer the following questions:

1. *Why art thou wroth?*
2. *Why is thy countenance fallen?*
3. *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?*

The obvious answers are Cain is angry because God did not accept his offering, but God accepted Abel's offering. Cain is jealous of Abel and mad at God. Cain worked hard to give God something, and he feels God is unjust for not accepting him. Cain's countenance is fallen for the same reasons. When God asks the third question, he gives Cain an opportunity to repent and do the right thing by bringing the offering God requires. If Cain did that, God would accept him.

Next God informs Cain about the consequences if he chooses to disobey. Bible students need to examine the consequences very closely. Since Cain did not do well, what does God say happened?

Consequences for Cain if he does not do well.

1. Sin lieth at the door.
2. Sin will have his desire with Cain.
3. Cain will rule over sin.

If a regular person succumbs to sin, no doubt sin will rule him/her. But in Cain's situation there is a far more nefarious consequence. Since Cain did not do well; Cain becomes the ruler of sin. The passage does not say that sin rules Cain. Disturbingly, it says the opposite. All this becomes the correlating texts for verses which identify the antichrist, whom God calls the man of sin. Cain is the serpent's seed.

An immediate response to the hypothesis of Cain being the serpent's seed is, doesn't the Bible say Adam is Cain's father?

Genesis 4:1-2 *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

The scripture does not plainly declare Adam is Cain's father; we infer that must be the case. But considering everything Jesus says about Cain, legitimate doubt is necessary. *Genesis 4:1-2* is perfectly true if Cain and Abel were fraternal twins with Adam's seed fathering Abel, and the serpent's seed fathering Cain.

Fraternal twins are "dizygotic," meaning they developed from two different eggs fertilized by two different sperm cells. It's very possible for two separate eggs to be fertilized by two different fathers. Fraternal twins are no more alike than individual brothers or sisters born at different times. While **identical** twins are "monozygotic" i.e., they develop from a single fertilized egg that split. Fraternal twins are more than twice as common as identical twins.

But wouldn't Eve know if the serpent was possibly the father? Not necessarily. Sexual intercourse is not the only way for a female to become pregnant. Actually, conception can take place without a male being present; technically it is the male seed which needs be present. Laboratory insemination is just one example. The smartest creature God ever made is certainly creative enough to fertilize a woman's egg. When Eve says, *I have gotten a man from the LORD*, she is mistaken.

Man of Sin/Son of Perdition

Judas Iscariot is part two of this disturbing doctrine.

Cain Judas Iscariot

Best known for betraying Jesus, Judas Iscariot becomes the Bible's ultimate traitor. Judas Iscariot inhabits several dark and ominous prophecies in the Old Testament and becomes the epitome of evil in the New Testament. Consider Jesus' reference to his selection process for his Apostles. Jesus' declaration about Judas being a devil is far more than a figure of speech or a reference to a human being's moral or spiritual character.

John 6:70-71 *Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.*

Jesus provides more information on Judas just prior to his crucifixion. As Jesus prays for the Apostles, he identifies Judas as the *son of perdition*. Apostle Paul uses the same label to identify the Antichrist. The Bible uses the term, *son of perdition*, only twice. The definition of perdition is hell or damned. Scripture interprets itself and identifies Judas Iscariot as the Antichrist. Observe Judas is called the man of sin, which is very close to what God says about Cain becoming the ruler of sin. Jesus also said it would be better for Judas if he had never been born.

John 17:12 *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, **but the son of perdition;** that the scripture might be fulfilled.*

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;** 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

Mark 14:17-21 *And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. 18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? 20 And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. 21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! **good were it for that man if he had never been born.***

Luke 22:3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

But the bad news on Judas does not stop here- Consider what Apostle Peter and King David say about Judas Iscariot. *Psalm 109* details prophecy concerning Judas Iscariot- in much the same way *Psalm 22* does about Jesus Christ. Consider also when Judas died, scripture says he went *to his own place*. Apostle Peter quotes from Psalms.

Acts 1:15-20 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) **16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas,** which was guide to them that took Jesus. **17** For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. **18** Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. **19** And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, *Aceldama*, that is to say, *The field of blood*. **20** **For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.**

Acts 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, **that he might go to his own place.**

Psalms 109:6-9 Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. **7** When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. **8** Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

In the book of Revelation, an angel gives Apostle John information concerning the Antichrist (also called the beast.) Notice the link to perdition. So how do we interpret, *the beast was and is not and yet is* ?

During Jesus Christ ministry, Judas was alive so **he was-**
At the time John wrote Revelation, Judas was dead- so **he was not**
During the tribulation period Judas is here again so- **he yet is**

Revelation 17:7-8 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. **8** **The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

Thought to Ponder

Judas never called Jesus Lord; he called him master. Every time the Bible provides a list of the Apostles, Peter is named first and Judas is named last: *Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:14-19; Luke 6:13-16.*

Friend

Three times in the Bible, Jesus Christ calls someone "**Friend**" (with a capital F). And the Friend is always causing trouble! In the *Vineyard Labourers Parable* the Friend provokes discontent among the labourers. Also the **Friend** enters Jesus' marriage in the 3rd heaven as an imposter, thus he is supernatural! And last, but certainly not least, Jesus calls Judas Iscariot "**Friend**" when he identified Jesus to the mob the night the Lord was arrested. **Judas Iscariot is** definitely in a class by himself; he is not just a confused believer who made a mistake. (Further study available in [What Might This Parable Be?](#))

Mt 20:13 *But he answered one of them, and said, Friend I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?*

Mt 22:12 *And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.*

Mt 26:50 *And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.*

What about Judas Repenting?

The whole episode of Judas throwing the money back at the priests, and committing suicide is a satanic deception to confuse believers. Judas saying he sinned and betrayed innocent blood simply states the facts; it does depict godly sorrow. The repenting sideshow means only Satan was finished with the body he inhabited. The spirit and soul of Judas Iscariot is literally the son of Satan, and has existed since the birth of Cain. Judas repented himself, but this does not mean he regrets his actions or views his behavior as sin. Repent can also mean a turn or change of direction. Define repentance in the context where it is presented. God himself repents. (*Jonah 3:9, Amos 7:6*) A definition for repent that works consistently in the 105 times God uses the word is: *turned or turning*.

Matthew 27:3-10 *Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, **4** Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. **5** And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. **6** And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. **7** And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. **8** Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. **9** Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was*

*valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; **10** And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.*

Unjust Steward

More correlating scripture identifies Judas as an unjust steward. Numerous times Judas displays an immoral relationship with money. Indeed, Judas controls the money for the Apostles. Consider also that Antichrist overhauls the world's economy; unless someone takes the mark of the beast, one cannot buy or sell. Thus the antichrist is the world's ultimate unjust steward in the tribulation.

Mark 14:10-11 *And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. **11** And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.*

John 12:4-6 *Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, **5** Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? **6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.*

John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

Further study available in Unjust Steward [What Might This Parable Be?](#)

Mystery of Iniquity

2 Thessalonians 2:7-10 For the **mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. **8** And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: **9** Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is **the mystery of godliness:** God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The mystery of godliness consists of a holy trinity God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost. The mystery of iniquity consists of an unholy trinity: Satan the Dragon, Antichrist the son, and the False Prophet. Thus Satan, in an attempt to be like God, manifests himself in three beings: The satanic trinity stands in antitype or direct opposition to God. This does not mean Satan has equal power or equal ability as God. The Lord God is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent; Satan possesses none of those qualities; however, he imitates them all. Satan is a created being. A revelation of the satanic trinity is revealed in Revelation chapter 13.

God the Father's---antitype is Leviathan
Jesus Christ's --- antitype is Antichrist
God the Holy Ghost---antitype is the False Prophet

During the final dispensation before Jesus' 2nd Coming, Antichrist rules the world. This period is referred to as Daniel's 70th Week. God calls the final 42 months of Daniel's 70th week the Great Tribulation.

The Antichrist (also called the beast) does not rule without help. Satan provides a religious counterpart called the False Prophet. Just as the Holy Ghost convinces people to worship Jesus, the False Prophet convinces mankind to worship Antichrist. Satan, also called the Dragon/ Leviathan, gives him power to work miracles and mighty wonders. Together, the Dragon, Antichrist, and the False Prophet form a satanic trinity. Although the satanic trinity has existed for thousands of years, its power climaxes during the Great Tribulation. People worship the Dragon; and they worship Antichrist on earth, while the False Prophet inspires and motivates worship.

Technology, especially wireless internet plays a huge role in giving the illusion Satan is omnipresent. The false prophet will be the ultimate tech wizard. Among Satan's many titles is the prince of the powers of the air. As electrical technology advances, more and more atmospheric powers will be harnessed. All things in the physical world

represent spiritual truth and the computer itself is a type of god as Satan attempts to manifest attributes of God-as one stares directly at an image.

Computers give the illusion of being god

1. Omniscient- through search engines and god-like memory.
2. Omnipresent- through internet and camera and imaging capacity.
3. Omnipotent- Computerized god like mathematical ability as the operator controls world economies and armies.

Ephesians 2:2 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

Revelation 13:4 *And they worshipped the **dragon** which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the **beast**, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

Revelation 13:11-12 *And I beheld **another beast** coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. **12** And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, **whose deadly wound was healed.***

Antichrist takes total control of the world's economic systems, and thereby rules mankind. The Antichrist erects an image and the false prophet makes it come alive. The False Prophet also compels mankind to worship the beast and his image; anyone refusing to obey suffers death. Up until this point, the beast appears to help Israel, now he is their greatest enemy.

Revelation 13:13-15 *And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, **14** And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. **15** And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

Sometime during Antichrist's reign, he is killed and comes back to life. Notice in verse 12 the statement *whose deadly wound was healed*. Either an actual assassination or masterful deception takes place. Spiritually, however, the devil imitates Jesus' death and resurrection. Remember he is the Antichrist. The beast imitates Christ in many ways. His resurrection, no doubt, causes religious jubilation. The world's savior

was dead, but he lives again. During the terrible years that follow billions of people are killed, including 2/3 of the Jewish population. One positive result of the Great Tribulation is all Israel finally believes Jesus Christ is their Messiah.

Final judgment on satanic trinity

Revelation 19:20 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

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

Replacing Judas

Twelve Apostles promised twelve thrones

After Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus, he committed suicide. Because Jesus prophesied *twelve thrones* for the Apostles to preside as judges over the 12 tribe nation of Israel. One of the first things to do was replace Judas. After all, as far as they knew, Jesus could return at any time. In *Matthew 19:28*, the regeneration is the biblical term for the millennium kingdom. This appointment of Judges is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Isaiah 1:26 *And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.*

Matthew 19:27-28 *Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, **ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

Luke 22:29-30 *And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, **and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

Not Paul

A popular theory purports the Apostles were incorrect in replacing Judas so quickly. Why? Because God intended to replace Judas with Apostle Paul. But the theory is flawed on several levels.

King David prophesied Judas' betrayal and replacement in the Book of Psalms. Apostle Peter cites the passage during the replacement process. Bible students should remember Psalm 109 as the-Judas Psalm. Notice the replacement for Judas requires certain criteria: Judas' replacement must have kept company with the Apostles for the whole time during Jesus' earthly ministry. This includes the baptism of John and being a witness of the resurrection. Although Paul witnessed the resurrected Christ, he did not keep company with the Apostles.

Psalms 109:6-8 *Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. 7 When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. 8 Let his days be few; and let another take his office.*

Acts 1:16-26 Men and brethren, **this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas**, which was guide to them that took Jesus. **17** For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. **18** Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. **19** And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, *Aceldama*, that is to say, *The field of blood*. **20** For it is written in the book of *Psalms*, **Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.** **21** Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, **22** Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, **must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.** **23** And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. **24** And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, **25** That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. **26** **And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.**

Did God approve?

After carefully reading Acts 1:16-26, Bible students consider the following:

1. God authorized Peter and the other Apostles to make decisions and promised to accept their decisions.
2. Judas' betrayal and replacement fulfilled Old Testament prophecy acknowledged by the Apostles. (*Psalm 109* and *Psalm 69:25*)
3. Paul was not present at John's baptism.
4. Paul did not keep company with Apostles during Christ's ministry.
5. Paul, himself, acknowledges the ministry of the "twelve" apart from his own apostleship. Paul made the statement long after the eleven Apostles replaced Judas. *1 Corinthians 15:4-9*

The authority to act:

Consider the Apostles acknowledged God's order to replace Judas and prayed before selecting Matthias. Not only did the Apostles have the authority to replace Judas, God promised to accept their decisions. Speaking to the Apostles, Jesus makes the following statement.

Matthew 18:18-19 *Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

Acts 1:23-26 *And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. 26 And they gave forth their lots; **and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.***

Apostle Paul acknowledges that he is not one of the "twelve"

1 Corinthians 15:1-9 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 **And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 **And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. 9** For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

Notice Paul mentions the resurrected Jesus being seen by the twelve. And then says *last of all he was seen of me*. Remember Judas was dead, so the established twelve Apostles includes Matthias. Therefore Paul himself testifies that he is not one of the twelve. Paul is uniquely appointed as the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Proof text from the Road to Emmaus

In Luke 24 two disciples journey to the town of Emmaus. Jesus reveals himself to them over a meal. The two disciples return to Jerusalem to see the Apostles. Observe scripture declares the eleven Apostles are gathered together, along with a few other disciples. Remember it is Sunday afternoon only 4 days since Jesus' crucifixion. Judas is dead and Thomas is not present. This means there can only be ten of the original Apostles there. Thus God provides evidence he already considers, Mathias, a legitimate replacement for Judas, even though the Apostles will not make the official transaction until Acts 1. No one, including Mathias, knew that God's foreknowledge recognized him as one of the eleven.

Luke 24:32-35 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? **33** And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, **and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,** **34** Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. **35** And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.*

Luke 24:32-36 *And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? **33** And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, **and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,** **34** Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. **35** And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. **36** And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*

John 20:24 *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.*

The chart below lists the twelve Apostles Jesus chose before his resurrection.

1. Peter, (Andrew's brother) also named Simon
2. Andrew (Peter's brother)
3. James (John's brother)
4. John (James' brother)
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Thomas
8. Matthew
9. James (son of Alphaeus)
10. Thaddaeus (brother of James)
11. Simon the Canaanite
12. Judas Iscariot, son of perdition

Matthew 10:2-4 *Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; **3** Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; **4** Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.*

Mark 3:16-19 *And Simon he surnamed Peter; **17** And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: **18** And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and*

*Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, **19** And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.*

Luke 6:13-16 *And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; **14** Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, **15** Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, **16** And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.*

- Every time God lists the apostles- Peter is listed first. Judas Iscariot is listed last
- Several Apostles have more than one name.
- There are three sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew; James and John; James and Judas (not Iscariot)
- There are two named Judas. There are two named James. There are two named Simon.

Other Apostles

Apostleship is a divinely appointed rank or title. Although all Apostles were disciples, not all disciples are Apostles. God chooses Apostles; other believers do not choose or appoint them. A very important qualification: An Apostle must have witnessed the resurrected Jesus Christ. Apostles identified themselves with mighty signs, wonders, and mighty deeds.

Acts 1:2-3 *Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: **3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*

2 Corinthians 12:12 *Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.*

1 Corinthians 12:28 *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues..*

In addition to the 12, chart below identifies additional Apostles.

Matthias	Acts 1:23
Paul	Romans 1:1; 11:13

Barnabas	Acts 14:14
Silvanus	1 Thessalonians 1:1 (with) 1Thessalonians 2:6
Andronicus	Romans 16:7
Junia	Romans 16:7
James.....	Galatians 1:19 1 Corinthians 15:7

Judas & Cursing

Judas Iscariot loved to swear. In fact, he cursed so widely, scripture says he *clothed himself with cursing*. Christians often overlook Judas Iscariot's relationship with vulgar language and cursing. Bad language also goes unrecognized as a sign of the times. Perhaps the world's incessant vulgar speech slowly numbed everyone into acceptance? And swearing Christians are not uncommon; especially men when they are away from their respective congregations.

The Bible uses the word curse in two ways. The vast majority of the 169 times God uses word *curse*- it means to pray or invoke misfortune upon someone or something. A second definition means profane, unclean, or insolent language, swearing. Context of the word's setting determines which definition applies. It is the second definition this study largely concerns.

Psalm 109, easily remembered as the Judas Psalm, details information on Judas Iscariot. Especially verses 6-20, the Bible student needs to consider the entire psalm. Apostle Peter references Psalm 109 for scriptural confirmation when they replaced the son of perdition with Matthias *Acts 1:15-26*. The psalm is loaded, but for study's purpose, focus on swearing.

Psalm 109: 17 *As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him. 18* *As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones. 19* *Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually.*

Historically people swore when angry or passionately opposed to something or someone. And often the language employed or invoked the first definition. Incorporated within their swearing, was the wish or threat that harm comes to whomever they cursed out. People convince themselves swearing helps articulate great discontent or anger.

Modern societies worldwide take swearing to a new level. And this new level manifests cursing as a sign of the times. Swearing, today, need not only express anger, it often articulates joy, passion, or serious endorsement. People swear so casually and nonchalantly, it sounds appropriate (to them). But it is not appropriate. God the Son hates cursing and did not swear; Satan's son loves cursing and swears constantly. Judas Iscariot's cursing aside, several additional biblical observations about swearing Christians should know:

The night Peter denied the Lord he did it with cursing. Remember those accusing Peter knew the Lord- did not stop until Peter started to swear. Peter's bad language finally convinced the world he was not a friend of Jesus.

Mark 14:71-72 *But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. 72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.*

Works of the flesh do not include swearing

Observe God's list of the *works of the flesh* do not include swearing. This means swearing is a spiritual matter. This fact should stop any Christian from dismissing swearing as trivial or no big deal. God considers language very important. There is an affinity with spiritual matters in spoken words.

Proverbs 21:23 *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*

Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

James 3:8-13 *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

People use names of God as swearing all the time. And using the Lord's name in vain is a direct violation of a commandment. This fact adds great weight to cursing being a spiritual matter. Think how many times a day the words Jesus, God, Lord, and Christ are used in swearing. Biblically defined any use of God's name not used in a reverent, respectful, or prayerful manner is a violation of his commandment.

Exodus 20:7 *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

Thought to Ponder

Why does the world swear only with Biblical names of God? How often does the reader hear people using the names of Buddha, Harikrishna, Allah, Mohammed, or any

other false god's or prophet's name in vain or cursing? Satan persuades human beings to equate only the holy names of God with curse words; thus disrespecting the Lord and breaking his commandment.

Jonah

See also: Jonah's Connection, Pilate's Struggle

Matthew 16:4 *A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.*

Both Jonah and Jesus traveled down into the bowels of the earth. Compare *Jonah 2:5-7* with *Ephesians 4:9-10*.

Jonah 2:5-7 *The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. 6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. 7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.*

Ephesians 4:9-10 *(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

After Jonah died in the whale's belly, he did not lose consciousness. Although his prayer began inside the whale, notice Jonah continues his prayer from hell. Jonah's soul left his body and descended into hell. (Obviously the whale did not go to hell). This remarkable fact means Jonah is the only human being ever to enter hell and then leave. While Jesus' body hung dead on the cross, his soul descended into the bowels of the earth. Compare *Jonah 2:5-7* and *Ephesians 4:9-10*. Jonah crying out from hell correlates with David's prophecy *Psalms 16:10*, which is interpreted in *Acts 2:31*.

Jonah 2:1-2 *Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.*

Psalms 16:10 *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Acts 2:22-37 *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. 25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is*

on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: **27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28** Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. **29** Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. **30** Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; **31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33** Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. **34** For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, **35** Until I make thy foes thy footstool. **36** Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Some Christians strongly disagree with the doctrine of Jesus descending into hell, but the scriptural evidence is conclusive. Not only is the doctrine prophesized by King David and expounded upon by Apostle Peter, there is also the matter of sin itself to consider. Jesus Christ literally became sin; the perfect sinless Lamb became infused with the whole sin of mankind. This is a great mystery, a horrible yet wonderful truth.

On the cross, Jesus cried out to God the Father saying, "My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?" The spotless, innocent Son of God became the epitome of guilt and sinfulness, something God refused even to look upon. Without Jesus taking on the world's sin, no one could be saved. Jesus did not remain sin; the Bible declares he appears without sin. So what happened to the sin? Jesus deposited the sin in hell.

So how long was Jesus in hell? Not long. Consider the Lord's conversation with the malefactor on the cross whom Jesus saved. The time was after 3:00 PM when Jesus made the statement, therefore the Lord was in and out of hell before 6:00 PM, in order to be in paradise the same day. Jesus was in hell less than three hours. Perhaps only minutes.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Luke 23:39-43 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. **40** But the other answering rebuked him,

saying, *Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?* **41** *And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.* **42** *And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.* **43** *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.***

Jonah's Resurrection

Jonah's resurrection began exactly 72 hours after his death. God used the whale to bring Jonah's body back up through the water and then to the shores of Nineveh where he was ingloriously vomited on dry land. Interestingly, Jonah mentions God's holy temple twice while praying. This refers to God's temple in the 3rd heaven. The same temple Jesus offered God's blood on the mercy seat.

Once Jonah is resurrected, he begins immediately doing what God has commanded him to do, preach God's coming judgment throughout the gentile city of Nineveh. Once Jesus is resurrected from the dead, within hours he continues ascending to the 3rd heaven where he becomes High Priest and offers his own blood on the mercy seat.

Jonah 2:1-10 *Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, **2** And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. **3** For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. **4** Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward **thy holy temple.** **5** The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. **6** I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. **7** When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into **thine holy temple.** **8** They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. **9** But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. **10** And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.*

Jonah's Whale

Psalms 104:26 *There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.*

In this verse alone, Leviathan appears to be a whale. Why? Immediately, Jonah's experience needs contemplated. Bible students can interpret the whale in context of typology. God often uses animals to express characteristics of people and even himself, Consider the Lamb of God, sheep of his pasture, wolves in sheep's' clothing ,etc.

Interpreting the type

Jesus references Jonah as the major sign of his death, burial, and resurrection. And the Lord interpreted the Old Testament's great fish that swallowed Jonah as a whale.

In much the same way a snake (or serpent) is a type of Satan, a whale is a type of Leviathan. Like Leviathan, a whale is a huge creature living in an environment of salt water. The earth's oceans' are a type or picture of the great deep in outer space. In fact the ocean's salt water originally came from the deep. *Isaiah 51:10*

A whale took Jonah's body to the bottom of the ocean, keeping Jonah's body under water for 3 days and 3 nights; Jesus' body was buried in the tomb for 3 days and 3 nights. The specific whale, associated with Jonah's body became a chamber of death. And until Jesus conquered and obtained the keys to death and hell, Leviathan had power over death.

Revelation 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Hebrews 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

Jonah 1:17 *Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

Matthew 12:38-41 *Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this*

generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Bottomless Pit

Jonah 2:8 *They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*

I dug a hole through the world and jumped in with all my might. Falling, flying with thrilling speed till physics stopped my flight.

Suspended lonely in the dark, I float in faithless wonder. I cannot see beyond myself; My heart beat sounds like thunder.

I worked hard to dig this hole; does strength incur God's wrath? Helpless in this awful space, I should have done the math.

Is this the end of hope for me? I can't fall up or down. If only I could feel the sides perhaps I'd turn around.

But where is up and where is down in the center of the earth? Such a glorious hole I dug myself, I wonder what its worth?

The Deep

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

God created the heaven and the earth; then God made the earth without form and void. He also filled the heaven with a universe size body of water identified as the deep. Many Bible students infer that an indeterminate span of time exists between *Ge.1:1 and Ge.1:2*. Theologically, this elapse of time is referred to as the *gap theory*. There is, however, no theory about it- the gap is there, an elapse of time exists between *Ge.1:1 and Ge.1:2*. *Ge.1:3-31* is an accounting of God recreating the universe (1st and second heaven)

Genesis 1:2 *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

Genesis 1:7 *And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.*

As God pulled back the waters, the firmament appeared. The cosmos being divided into 3 heavens is a consequence of the way God re-makes his universe. Inside the 1st heaven is the earth. Where earth's atmosphere ends, the 2nd heaven begins. The 2nd heaven contains the moon, sun, stars, and galaxies; it is literally outer space. At the end of the 2nd heaven is the deep, a body of water with enough volume to fill the 1st and 2nd heavens. The deep is a barrier separating the 2nd and the 3rd heaven. The 3rd heaven is infinite; it is where the city on sides of the North, God's temple, and God's Throne are located.

Read *Genesis 1:2-7* while considering the following analogy:

Imagine a basketball submerged deep into the ocean. Miles of water surround the ball on every side. Now imagine the basketball has infinite elasticity, and God begins pumping air into the ball. As the basketball enlarges it separates (pushes back) the deep water on every side. When the expansion stops the water remains above the rim of the basketball. The space inside the basketball is the firmament (heaven). And in this space God puts the stars, planets, sun, and the moon.

The Bible gives important information on the deep. The surface of the deep is frozen, hence it appears as a sea of glass. The waters of earth's ocean came from the deep thus the deep is salt water. Noah's flood waters came from the deep, a global flood compared to *Ge. 1:2* universal flood.

Job 38:29-31 *Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? 30 The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. 31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?*

Revelation 4:6 *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.*

Revelation 15:2 *And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.*

Genesis 7:11 *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*

Verses depicting three heavens: and the water between the 2nd and 3rd heaven:

Psalms 148:1-4 *Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.*

2 Corinthians 12:2 *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

Psalms 104:5-6 *Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. 6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.*

Baptism

This study concerns baptism as it relates to Jesus' ascension on Sunday morning; it is not a thorough or complete instructional on the doctrine of baptism.

Every Christian does well to understand the spiritual meaning of baptism. A fast definition is baptism symbolizes Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Consequently, baptism by immersion identifies a Christian with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection and thus symbolizes salvation. Many pastors' include the following words or (a similar phrase) as they baptize.

"I baptize you, (Christian's name) in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost." And then as the baptismal process begins he says

"Buried with Jesus in the likeness of his death, and risen with him in the likeness of his resurrection."

Water baptism does not put anyone into Christ. Water baptism is a symbol, but it is a symbol of great importance and likeness of a Christian's resurrection. Consider *Romans 6:3-11*. Four times God uses the word *likeness*, thus baptism is symbolic metaphor. Verse 4 states, we are buried with him by baptism into death. Because, a Christian's baptism symbolizes a burial, immersion is the best likeness. A dead body is buried under ground. When a Christian is put under the water, he is symbolically being buried. Does a person die when he is baptized? No, but Jesus died and was buried because of our sin; therefore, a Christian should reckon or consider himself dead to sin.

Romans 6:3-11 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Resurrection and the Deep

Coming up out of the water is a **likeness** of Jesus resurrection from the dead and his ascension into the 3rd heaven. An understanding of the cosmos adds great force

to the symbolism of baptism. Focus specifically on what literally happened to Jesus after his death. He was physically buried when placed in the tomb *John 19:40*. Upon Jesus ascension, his physical body literally went through water (deep) before entering the 3rd heaven Taking into account the deep surrounds the entire universe (2nd heaven).

At the resurrection for Christians, commonly called the Rapture, Christians are translated into the 3rd heaven, and we literally go through the water (the deep) on the way up. Emerging on heaven's shore with immortal and incorruptible physical bodies. Thus the symbolism of immersion in water is a perfect type of a Christian's resurrection.

Jesus arose without sin. Although the Christian is not perfect and still wrestles with sin, he is to strive to serve God and live righteously. When a person gets saved, the soul and spirit are regenerated. His/her body does not get saved. Admitting you are a sinner and acknowledging Jesus died for you testifies to the fact that your sin was in Jesus when he died. It is this sin you are symbolically putting to death.

The old nature is literally put to death at our resurrection when mortal puts on immortality and corruption puts on incorruption. And all that happens simultaneously as Christians translate through the deep and into the 3rd heaven.

Romans 7:24 *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

Psalms 148:4 *Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.*

Isaiah 51:10 *Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?*

Hebrews 9:11-12 *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Universal Flood

Genesis 1:2 *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

2 Peter 3:5-7 *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **6** Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: **7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now**, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

2 Peter 3:5-7 is directed at the universal flood (as opposed to Noah's global flood) for the following reasons:

But the heavens and the earth, which are now...

Implicit in this text is the understanding today's heavens and earth are different than they were in the past. Peter is describing a flood which altered, if not obliterated the universe. We know this from the record of God creating stars on the 4th day. The earth standing out of the water and in the water is a description of the deep filling the universe found in Ge.1:2.

In contrast to Noah's global flood, only the earth perished. Nothing happened to the stars or the second heaven. Noah gazed into the same heavens and saw the same constellations we see today. Noah's whole world did not perish; a remnant survived. In fact the days of Noah- literally continued. Noah lived 350 years this side of the flood. An often overlooked fact is the "*days of Noah*" include Genesis chapter 6 and Genesis 11. Noah *was a citizen of Babel, and he died just 2 years before Abraham was born.*

Genesis 7:6 *And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.*

Genesis 9:28-29 *And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. **29** And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.*

Thought to ponder

It is interesting to examine the construction of the word universe. **Uni** and **verse**, uni- meaning one- and verse meaning text. God made everything in one verse, hence we have the uni-verse; therefore, when scientists refer to the cosmos as the universe, they are unconsciously referring to Genesis 1:1.

In the future, after the Great White Throne Judgment- God will re-create the firmament. Notice God says there will be no more sea. The *sea in Re.21:1* is the deep. God returns the universe to its original design, one eternal expansive heaven, a heaven without the segregated barrier of the deep. Presently, God views the earth from his throne in the 3rd heaven. Inhabitants of the earth are quite literally underwater. Hence, the concept of being *fishers of men* has profound symbolic truth.

Psalms 11:4 *The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

Revelation 21:1 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

2 Corinthians 12:2 *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

1 Kings 8:27 *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*

Void

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Notice the singular heaven. In the beginning there were not 3 heavens as there are now. Originally, there was one uninterrupted infinite expansive space.

Genesis 1:2 *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

The heaven filled with water making the making the earth void. Notice the earth exists before the creation week. Verse 2 declares the earth was without form and void. The first and primary definition of the word *void* in English dictionaries is to cancel out, make invalid, or annul. A secondary definition defines *void* as empty or without. Comparing scripture with scripture, examine the way God uses the word *void*.

The next 3 times God uses the word *void* it means to cancel or nullify. Consider the very next usage of the word *void* in Numbers 30. The scripture is discussing a woman making a vow. If her husband so determine, **he can make void her vow**. In other words, he can cancel it.

Numbers 30:10-13 *And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath; 11 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. 12 But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her. 13 Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.*

Even in today's modern times, if one makes a mistake writing a check or on a financial document, the bank's advice is to write VOID on it. And then write out a new document. The original, is replaced with a new.

In the Bible, God uses the word *void*- once or twice in the secondary definition-meaning without or empty. But it is not the first or primary use of the word. **For sake of argument only**- Even if one believes God is using the word *void* in the sense of being *empty or without* --wouldn't it still look like something happened to the earth after God created it?

After God created the heaven and the earth, he made it void. And he filled the heaven with water. This water is called the deep. God voided his creation by filling the

universe with water- literally the universe is flooded with water. Noah's flood, compared to this flood, was minuscule. Noah's flood was only global. Why God obliterated his initial creation is not revealed in this chapter, but something happened that provoked God's judgment. The Lucifer/ angelic rebellion is a logical and educated guess.

Genesis 1:3-8 *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.*

As God pulls back the waters, the firmament appears. God calls the firmament heaven. Observe the earth exists even before God creates light! On the 2nd day, the earth exists alone inside the firmament. This is a very important point: The earth is not created during the creation week; God creates the earth in verse one.

Out of Time

Without digressing into tedious, philosophical time studies- God recreated Adam about 4000 BC; it is now 2015 AD- Jesus' 2nd Advent rapidly approaches. Followed by the Millennium.

Bible students possess a little slice of eternity, 7,000 years, where locating events in time is possible. Thus either end of this 7,000 year time line, could be considered out of time.

Job 22 contains a curious passage on a civilization destroyed by a flood. Admittedly, Job's generation exists soon after Noah's flood; so presuming the passage deals with Noah's antediluvian generation is not unreasonable. Never the less- the passage below may be commenting on preadamite era.

Job 22:15-20 *Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? **16 Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood:** 17 Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them? **18** Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. **19** The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn. **20** Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.*

One of Job's friends, Eliphaz, engages in dialog with Job. Eliphaz comments on wicked men who lived in the past, men who suffered the judgment of a flood. The question is which flood, Noah's flood or the Gap's universal flood?

Verse 16 is the provocative verse. These men were *cut down out of time*. What does this mean? Defining time as the measure of biblical world history, the Gap literally took place out of time. The idea becomes more intriguing when we look at the words "*cut down*." These are the same words used to define Lucifer's fall; a fall that *took place out of time*.

Isaiah 14:12 *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou **cut down** to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

Waves of Time

Psalms 88:7 Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves. Selah.

Time never began so long ago. No one ever knows how it will never end. Time like an author writes us in, then tells us who, what, where, and when.

Only why remains unknown compelling us to find the answer. Bequeathing anguished restless faith in deference to our cancer.

We move so fast, we all lose track while time doesn't move at all. Time is an ocean in which we swim, too deep for us to crawl.

Life in water falls through time; a lamenting river's glory; Sinking, flowing round rocks and dreams imparts the writer's story.

Breathless waves descend to cease, heaving ages on the beach. No one lives who time can't reach. Nothing left but elusive peace.

Sands absorb the end of dreams; hope stains the ocean's shore. Beholden to the fate of faith, and kept forever more.

End

The Lord's Supper

Concerning the Lord's Supper or Communion

Throughout the Bible, God makes some very interesting and sometimes peculiar statements about grapes. Most importantly, grapes are associated with blood. The foundation for grapes being a type or symbol of blood is established in the Old Testament.

Genesis 49:11 *Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his **clothes in the blood of grapes:***

Deuteronomy 32:14 *Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink **the pure blood of the grape.***

Pure grape juice (being a type of blood) is consistent with New Testament typology, especially as it applies to the Lord's Supper, also referred to as Communion. Jesus identifies grape juice as a symbol of his blood for the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 26:27-29 *And he took **the cup**, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; **28 For this is my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. **29** But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*

Many churches use wine instead of pure grape juice for communion. Does it matter?

Examining the passages concerning the Lord's Supper, we learn the word *wine* is never used. Every time the Bible address the drink used in Communion, the terminology is *the cup- or the fruit of the vine*.

Once grape juice is fermented, it is no longer pure. The fermentation process destroys the purity, thus wine cannot be a type of Jesus' blood. Just as leavened bread is inappropriate for Communion bread, fermented grape juice or wine is inappropriate to symbolize Jesus' blood. Interestingly, one could make the case alcoholic wine is a type of man's corrupted blood; therefore, using wine for Communion is a mistake.

Don't complicate the issue

Some Christians, who correctly oppose using wine for the Lord's Supper, try and strengthen their position by adding an additional argument that new wine does not have any alcohol content. Their argument is founded in *Isaiah 65:8* where the verse declares new wine is found in the cluster. Their logic being- if new wine is literally in grapes growing on the vine, then it can't have alcohol in it. The main problem with this argument- It is unnecessary. When it comes to discussing the Lord's Supper the words new wine are never used. Additionally, it puts the emphasis on a debate over when is wine- wine. Why argue over the definition of a word

God isn't even using? Wine is not the pure blood of the grape- the pure blood of the grape is juice.

Throughout the Bible, God uses the word *wine* 212 times. But God- never uses the word wine in regards to the Lord's Supper. Neither new wine nor old wine is mentioned; the terms used are cup or fruit of the vine. Once again, the King James Bible stand alone.

Luke 22:17-20 *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*

Mark 14:23-25 *And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. 24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. 25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.*

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 *After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

Unleavened bread

The same logic for using uncorrupted juice applies to the bread. Jesus instructed disciples to use bread to symbolically represent his body. But not just any bread. Bread made with leaven (yeast) is not used because leaven represents sin. Jesus' body was not corrupted or sinful. By the way, leaven is usually used in making wine.

John 6:47-48 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. 48 I am that bread of life.*

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

Exodus 34:25 *Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the passover be left unto the morning.*

Blood and Water

Why did blood and water issue forth from the Lord's body?

The following commentary is studied opinion and hypothesis.

I think the answer to why blood and water came out of the Lord's body is found in *1 John 5:5-11*. It's primarily a witness to the deity of Jesus Christ, and the one triune God. Since Jesus was both man and God, it gets complicated. Jesus was without sin, therefore his body, although mortal, was incorruptible; thus Jesus' circulatory system contained water and God's blood.

Jesus Christ is also called the last Adam. The first Adam was unique because he lived in both an incorruptible body (and then after his fall) he lived in a corruptible body. Jesus, as the last Adam, remained unfallen and therefore entirely incorruptible.

1 Corinthians 15:45-46 *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*

Acts 13:37 *But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.*

Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

Hypothesis: Incorruptible human bodies do not have blood.

Scripture tells us flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Scripture also says Christians receive bodies like Jesus, and Jesus shed his blood before going to heaven. At the rapture, Christians' flesh is changed, the blood returns to the earth.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

Philippians 3:21 *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

Romans 8:23 *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

What happened to human flesh at the fall?

I am persuaded Adam and Eve did not have blood until they ate the forbidden fruit. Before the Fall, living water coursed through their veins. After the Fall, water turned to blood- defiling their incorruptible flesh like a virus, transforming it into a corrupted and dying body. Every health problem human beings have -from common colds to cancer- from birth defects to aging is a blood problem. The fruit growing on the tree of knowledge of good and evil was a grape; a biblically established type of blood.

Consider the bodies of Adam and Eve before the fall. Consider those bodies in the context of *1st Corinthians 15:50-54*. Not only was Eden's environment perfect, human bodies were perfect. No sickness, disease, or even aging (in the sense of decay). The Fall brought death. God created the Garden of Eden heaven on earth. Since flesh and blood cannot inherit heaven, then it makes sense Adam and Eve (originally) had bodies like the ones Christians get at the rapture?

THE RAPTURE IN REVERSE

The Fall changed Adam and Eve physically. What happened to Adam and Eve was the antithesis or the exact opposite of what happens to Christians at the rapture. It was the rapture in reverse. Adam and Eve's incorruptible bodies put on corruption. Immortality put on mortality. Life swallowed up in defeat. Read the passage below and reverse what's happening to the physical body.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 Now this I say, brethren, ***that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.***

Ponder the statement God makes about clothing Adam and Eve. Often Christians presume God killed a lamb and clothed Adam and Eve with an animal's skin; but that is not in the Bible. I think it more likely the *coats of skins* are the skin (flesh) people are in today. A consequence of the Fall is mankind receives corruptible, fallen bodies. God made his children *coats of skins- and clothed them*. Read Gen 3:21 carefully. Observe the comma.

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Now read Job's very illuminating commentary. Let the scripture define the clothes. Job rehearses God's creation of man. In verse 11, **Job declares God clothed him with skin and flesh.**

Job 10:8-11 *Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me. 9 Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again? 10 Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese? 11 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.*

Rapture/ Resurrection

In heaven Christians will be like Jesus, even to the point of receiving a body like his. Remember Jesus shed his blood before he went to heaven. After his resurrection, Jesus confronted the Apostles. Jesus told them to touch his body. Jesus said he was flesh and bone; He did not mention blood. Neither did Adam mention blood when seeing Eve for the first time.

Luke 24:36-40 *And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.*

Genesis 2:22-23 *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Blood and water in Jesus

Read *1 John 5:5-11*. From heaven, God declares or bears witnesses he is a trinity. God the Father, God the Word, God the Holy Ghost; these three are one. And from the earth, God the Son also bears record. The spirit of God in Jesus; the water signifies Jesus living in a sinless, incorruptible body, and God's blood in Jesus atones for man's sins. Thus these three bear witness to God, and agree in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:5-11 *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. 7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

Jesus came by blood and water

Scripture says Jesus came by blood and water *1 John 5:6*. This is a reference to Jesus' physical human birth. A person must be born physically (water) and then born again (spiritual) in order to enter the God's kingdom.

- A baby is brought forth in water; a woman's water breaks and a human being's physical birth is delivered.
- A person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ and is born again; a human soul is delivered into God's kingdom.

John 3:4-6 *Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

Interpretation

Practical Rules for Bible Interpretation:

- Take the Bible literally. In other words, do not reduce what God is saying to spiritual metaphor or symbolism without intelligent, logical cause. Words have definite meanings; do not change them to agree with your ideas. Use a dictionary if you don't know the definition of a word.
- Whenever possible let the Bible interpret itself. God often uses scripture to explain another scripture. There is no better commentary on the Bible than the Bible.
- The rule of first mention. Almost always, the way God uses a word the first time is the way he continues to use it. Do not abandon the rule without careful consideration.
- Humility. Allow biblical instruction to change something you believe. The final authority is the Bible, not you, not your church, your pastor, teacher, or anyone else. Learn a lesson from the Bereans of old. When they heard someone teach or present information from the Bible, they investigated the scriptures to prove its validity.

Acts 17:11 *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they (Bereans) received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*

2 Peter 1:20 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

Salvation

In the John chapter 3, Jesus made a disturbing statement to a man named Nicodemus:

John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Jesus' statement is disturbing because Nicodemus believed in God, and thought he was prepared to go to heaven, but Jesus implied he was not ready. Nicodemus asks a logical question:

John 3:4 *Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*

What exactly does Jesus mean anyway? Being *born again* is synonymous with salvation, in other words, being ready to go to heaven. The most important decision a person can make is to be born again- *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Have you been born again? Are you absolutely certain you are saved and will go to heaven when you die?

Many people are like Nicodemus. They believe in God, and they believe they are good enough (at least compared to lots of other people). Besides, there is so much religious confusion, and everyone thinks they're right- what else can a person possibly do other than be good as possible?

Consider this:

Since Jesus said *you must be born again* this also means there has to be a time in your life when you were not born again. Do you remember a time when you were not saved?

Compare this question to asking a married couple when they got married. A married person may forget the day or the year of the wedding, but it is very unlikely anyone forgets being single. In other words, they remember when they were not married. Lots of people forget the exact date of their anniversary, but no one forgets the wedding happened.

Do you remember when you were not saved?

If you can't remember being lost, you are probably not saved.

Imagine standing before God on Judgment Day, and you are asked this question. **What have you done to deserve heaven?** What is your answer? Below is a sampling of wrong answers:

Basically I'm a good person.
 Although I'm a sinner, I did my best.
 I am generous with my money.
 I help people whenever I can.
 I'm not that bad, compared to some.
 I believe in God.
 I go to church.
 I pray.
 I have been baptized.
 I have been confirmed.

These answers are all wrong because they imply a person must earn heaven by good works. Most people believe they are good enough to get to heaven on their own moral conduct. They conclude a loving God will let them in to heaven because they are basically OK. But this conclusion also rejects one's personal need for a Saviour.

- What do you believe?
- Are you counting on good works or Jesus?
- Do you want to get just what you deserve?

Personal moral goodness does not earn salvation. One can be religiously and morally good and still reject Jesus Christ. Actually, this is the difference between Christianity and all other religions. After all is said and done, every other religion (including secular humanism) teaches the way people behave (moral conduct) earns their eternal reward. While Christianity teaches the only way to heaven is by making Jesus Christ your personal Saviour. Through faith, God covers your sin with His blood, and gives you the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift; accepting that gift by faith is the only thing a person can do.

In our natural condition we are separated from God by our sin. The whole world is a morally fallen mess. No one is born righteous, good, or in love with God. There comes a time in your life when you must make a choice. And the choice is to get saved or to stay lost.

Have you ever acknowledged your own lost condition and your need of salvation? A person can actually believe the Bible and still be trusting in his/her own good works. A lot of church going folks never call on the Lord for their own personal salvation.

Do you remember a time in your life when you prayed for the Lord Jesus Christ to save you? If your answer is no, or you are not sure, read the verses below and do it now.

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

There is no other way. No other religion. No other God but the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, alone, is the Saviour of your soul.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 14:9 *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

1 John 5:12-13 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

John 3:15-17 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Romans 10:9-13 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

The verses below are God's conclusion on the moral goodness of mankind. As you can see, any bragging about personal goodness is pride and foolishness.

Romans 3:10-18 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth*

good, no, not one. **13** Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: **14** Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: **15** Their feet are swift to shed blood: **16** Destruction and misery are in their ways: **17** And the way of peace have they not known: **18** There is no fear of God before their eyes.

According to God's Word, we are all sinners and in need of repentance. Repentance means being willing to change or turn from old attitudes, and ideas about God, just as much as it means being willing to change behavior. It may be your life style isn't all that bad, but have you been saved?

Going to church, giving money to worthy causes, and moral goodness is commendable, but beware; you can be a good person and still be lost. When it comes to getting into heaven, the only righteousness God accepts is the righteousness of Jesus Christ. And the only way to get Christ's righteousness is to believe in Him and ask Jesus to save you. When a person makes Jesus his/her Saviour, Jesus imputes or gives His righteousness to them.

Romans 3:21-25 *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Romans 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Salvation is in Christ alone. There is no other way. No other God. Without Jesus Christ as your Saviour you are lost.

End

Glossary

Abraham's bosom: Before Jesus' resurrection the souls of saved people who died went to a literal place called Abraham's bosom, a place so wonderful God also called it paradise. Jesus taught that hell and paradise are geographically located side by side. The familiar passage concerning Lazarus and the rich man provides evidence. Luke 16 gives us a visual perception of the inner earth's geography. Paradise, and Abraham's bosom are synonymous.

Antecedent: A thing that existed before or logically precedes another. A noun in a sentence which is represented by its pronoun.

Antediluvian: Noah's world before the flood. Person living before Noah's flood.

Ark of the Covenant: A chest size box (45" by 27" by 27") covered with gold residing inside heaven's temple's holy of holies. God's Mercy Seat sets atop the ark. - Jesus High Priest, offered God's blood on the Mercy Seat on Sunday the fourth day. There was also an ark inside Israel's temple on earth Exodus 25:10-11. Once a year, on the day of Atonement the high priest offered blood on the mercy seat.

Deep: Astronomically huge body of water separating the 2nd and 3rd heaven. Sometimes referred to as the sea. *Genesis 1, Revelation 21:1*- see chapter Deep

Dragon: Satan

Etymology: The study of the origin and history of words.

Firmament: As defined by Genesis 1:8, it is Heaven, outer space, universe, space containing the 1st and 2nd heavens.

Gap fact: The theological term for the idea that there is indeterminate amount of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2

Gap theory: The theological term for the idea there is indeterminate amount of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2

Heaven: As defined by Genesis 1:8, it is the firmament, outer space, and universe, space containing the 1st and 2nd heavens.

Herod: A ruler in Galilee at the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

High Priest: The highest ranking priest in the Levitical order. Once a year he would offer blood on the Ark of the Covenant in the temple's holy of holies.

Ice: Frozen water. In the context of this study it is the outer surface of deep. Also referred to as the sea of glass. *Job 38:30; Revelation 4:6*

Jonah: Old Testament prophet whom Jesus selected as a sign of his death, burial, and resurrection. *Matthew 12:39-40*

Judas Iscariot: One of the original twelve Apostles. Judas is also the son of perdition, man of sin, antichrist.

Law: What God requires in writing, the Bible

Leviathan: Satan

Mercy Seat: The propitiatory; the covering of the Ark of the Covenant. This was of gold, and its ends were fixed to two cherubs, whose wings extended forward.

Noah's flood: A flood that covered the entire earth.

Paradise: Abraham's bosom.

Perdition: Entire loss or ruin- hell, the utter loss of the soul or of final happiness in a future state; future misery or eternal death. The impenitent sinner is condemned to final perdition.

Pharisee: One of a sect among the Jews, whose religion consisted in a strict observance of rites and ceremonies and of the traditions of the elders, and whose pretended holiness led them to separate themselves as a sect, considering themselves as more righteous than other Jews.

Preadamite: An era or world existing before the creation of Adam.

Propitiation: Render favorable, To conciliate; to appease one offended and render him favorable; to make propitious.

Repent: Repentance is defined in the context where it is presented. A definition that works every time is a *turning or change of direction*. God himself repents numerous times. In fact, considering the first 8 times repentance is mentioned in the Bible- 5 of those times God is doing the repenting. Obviously, if God is repenting it has nothing to do with turning away from sin. When men repent it almost always means to turn away from sin. (Judas Iscariot's repentance not included).

Scribe: A writer, a doctor of the OT law; a man of learning; one skilled in the law; one who read and explained the law to the people. Keeper of Bible texts, A ruler of the Jews.

Sea of glass: Frozen surface of the deep. *Job38:30*

Sides of the North: The sides of the north is a location in the 3rd heaven where God's temple and throne are located. *Psalm 48:2 Isaiah 14:13*

Universal flood: Flood that filled the entire universe. *Genesis 1:2; 2 Peter 3:5-6*

Whale: Largest animal on earth lives in the ocean. A great fish.

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