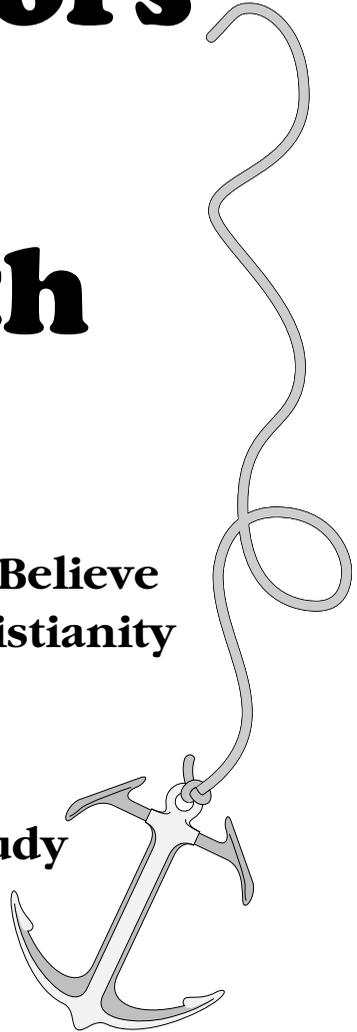


Anchors of Faith

**Why You Can Believe
In Biblical Christianity**

A Bible Study

**by
Thomas Fittis**



“...we have an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...” Hebrews 6:19



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Introduction

“There are hundreds of different religions in the world. How can anyone know which one is right? There is no basis for faith! Religious faith is like a leap in the dark. You can’t really be sure, all you can do is hope for the best!”

Statements like these reveal a misunderstanding about the nature of true faith. When someone claims to be a Bible believing Christian, often he is judged as someone who has turned his back on reason and intellect in order to embrace “faith”. Somehow faith is viewed as the opposite of truth and reason. What is true faith? Is it a leap in the dark? Does God expect us to ignore our intellect in order to believe? No! The opposite is true. God wants us to think! Faith, if it is to be true faith, must be based on truth. Faith without reality as it’s foundation is a faith in vain. Christian faith does not involve leaping into the dark but rather standing upon the revealed evidence that God has given of Himself. That evidence is something that you can discover for yourself, if only you know where to look.

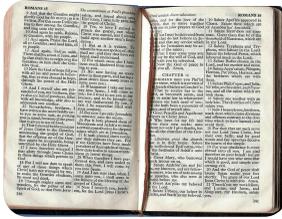
If you are not a believer yet, maybe it is because no one has ever explained to you what you should believe or given you good reasons why you should believe.

“Anchors Of Faith” is a Bible study designed to help you see for yourself that Christianity is something that you can believe in without committing intellectual suicide. Christians believe because there are good reasons to believe, there are anchors for our faith that give a foundation “both sure and steadfast”.

In these short studies we will focus upon three foundational truths of Christianity: The Bible - God’s book; Jesus - God’s Son; and Salvation - God’s gift. As you examine these “anchor truths” you will discover that no other religion has a book like the Bible, has a Saviour like Jesus, or has a message like that of Salvation, the gift of God.

We think the evidence is compelling! However, if the evidence does not convince you then you should remain unconvinced. The only legitimate reason for accepting the Christ of the Bible is that you are persuaded that He is indeed TRUE! So we invite you to check it out! Take a look for yourself at some of the reasons why YOU can believe in Biblical Christianity.

“And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 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.” (John 20:30-31).



Anchor 1

The Bible - God's Book

We begin our study with the subject of the Bible because our faith is based upon what this book says. If the Bible is a lie then Christianity is a lie and our faith is unfounded and in vain. It is vitally important that we establish in our own minds that the Bible is true, and therefore can be trusted.

In this lesson we will discover how the Bible answers these three important questions: - What does the Bible claim to be? - What did Bible characters think of the Bible? and - What evidences support the claim that the Bible is God's Book?

What does the Bible claim to be?

The Bible claims to be "God's word", God's special revelation to mankind; a letter from God to man.

1Thessalonians 2:13 "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

2Timothy. 3:15-16 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

What did Bible characters think of the Bible?

What did the Jews think of the Bible?

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Acts 17:11 "These (Jews) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."



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What did Jesus think of the Bible?

Matthew 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

Matthew 22:29 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

Luke 24:25-27 “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Luke 24:44-46 “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:” (See also Luke 4:16-20)

What did Peter think of the Bible?

2 Peter 1:19-21 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

2 Peter 3:15-16 “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.”

Acts 1:15-16 “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.”



What did Paul think of the Bible?

Acts 17:2-3 “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.”

Acts 28:23-24 “And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.”

Why do Christians quote the Bible? You can see for yourself that accepting the Scripture as authoritative is not the invention of modern Christianity. Right from the beginning the Old and New Testaments were regarded as the measurement of truth, by true believers. When Jesus wished to prove His identity, to what did He appeal? The Scriptures! When Paul persuaded people of truth, what did he use to reason with them? Not tradition, not experiences, but the Scriptures!

What evidences support the claim that the Bible is God's Book?

Certainly, the Bible claims to be God's revelation of Himself to man but how can we be sure that this claim is authentic? Let's examine some other evidences that point to the trustworthiness, truthfulness, and supernatural character of the Scriptures. Keep in mind now that if the Bible is God's book we ought to be able to find the finger prints of God all over it. In other words, we ought to be able to discover evidence that distinguishes the Bible from every other book in the world.

The Evidence of Historical Accuracy

Because the Bible is rooted in historical and geographical fact, we would expect to find evidence of those historical places and people mentioned. Unlike other religious books, which have neither basis in history or geography, the stories of the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible are verified by secular records. The land of the Bible is there for all to see and study. Today we are able to walk the streets of Jerusalem, sail the waters of Galilee, travel the Jericho road, drink from Jacob's Well. Indeed through the study of archaeology we find many of the ancient places, customs and people mentioned in Scripture. Halley's Bible Handbook lists 112 specific examples where archaeology has supported the biblical accounts. Brilliant archaeologists such as Sir William Ramsey, William F. Albright, Robert D. Wilson, Dr. Nelson Glueck have attested to the historical accuracy of the Bible.



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“Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.” Dr. Nelson Glueck.

Jericho is one example of historical accuracy

G. Frederick Owen, D.D., Ed.D. has given a description of the archaeological discoveries at Jericho. Incidentally, you can visit this site today and see the ruined city as it is described here.

“Jericho, the first city captured by the incoming Israelites under Joshua, is now an eight-acre mound called Tell es-Sultan that lies beside the spring known as Elisha’s Fountain.”

“It was excavated by Charles Warren (1868), Ernst Sellin (1907-11), John Garstang (1929-36), and Miss Kathleen Kenyon (1952-58).”

Concerning his excavation Garstang states:

“There were two thirty-foot-high walls that ran nearly parallel, circling the summit of the mound. On top of the walls which remained were houses strikingly reminiscent of Rahab’s house.”

Note: Joshua 2:14-15 “And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.”

“This city had ended by violent destruction with traces of intense fire appearing everywhere, ‘reddened masses of brick, cracked stones, charred timbers’.”

Note: Joshua 6:24 “And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein.”

“The walls had fallen outward, down the slope. The inner wall had been pulled outward and lay in the space between the walls. All indications were that the city had been destroyed suddenly, for grain bins were full and foodstuffs were in abundance. In some instances bread was in brick ovens ready to cook, when all was destroyed by falling rubble.”

Note: Joshua 6:20 “So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight



before him, and they took the city.”

Source: [Archaeological Supplement by G. Frederick Owen, D.D., Ed.D. of the Thompson Chain Reference Bible, Page 338.]

What the Bible described thousands of years ago is what we find true historically through the study of archaeology. Archaeology testifies that the Bible is historically accurate.

The Evidence of Scientific Accuracy

The Bible is not a science book. However, statements made in the Bible thousands of years ago reveal astounding scientific facts that man generally has only come to acknowledge in modern times. Let's look at three examples.

The fact that the earth is a globe

Written by the prophet Isaiah over 700 years before Christ:

Isaiah 40:22 “It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:”

The word for “circle” here is the Hebrew word which means “sphere or globe.”

Mankind did not know that the world was round until the fifteenth century with the voyages of Columbus. Yet over 700 years before Christ, Isaiah described the earth as a globe.



The fact that the earth rotates on an axis

Job 38:13-14 “That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.”

The earth is turned as “clay to the seal”.

In ancient times clay cylinders were used as a primitive form of printing. A text or inscription seal was carved on a flat piece of wood. A cylinder of soft clay was then rolled over the seal, imprinting the image unto it. The cylinder of clay was then left to dry and became a permanent record of the inscription.

As the clay cylinder turned on an axis so also the earth revolves on its axis.



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The fact that the earth is suspended in space

Job 26:7 “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.”

What does the earth hang upon? Hundreds of years ago men had different ideas about the answer to this question. The Ancient Greeks believed it was carried on the shoulders of “Atlas”! Others thought the earth floated in a substance called ether. Eastern religions taught, and still do teach, that it was carried on an elephant which stood on the back of a giant turtle! It wasn’t until 1,687 AD. that Sir Isaac Newton discovered what Job had written 1,500 BC.

Now ask yourself a question. How did these humble Bible writers understand such important scientific truths so long ago in history?

God created the world and all the laws which govern it’s function. So it should come as no surprise that when He writes of His creation in the Bible, He writes with accuracy in every detail even though written thousands of years ago. These things also make you wonder what other important scientific truths are revealed in Scripture that man has not yet discovered!

The Evidence of Prophetic Accuracy

Is it possible for man to predict the future? Certainly guesses could be made concerning the near future which may or may not come true. General predictions or vague prophecies could be made. But is it possible for someone to give detailed, specific, predictions concerning events that will take place 500, 1,000, 2,000 years into the future and then for these predictions to be fulfilled to the letter in every detail. This is humanly impossible! Yet these are the kind of detailed prophecies and fulfilments we find in the Bible.

Consider a few samples of Bible prophecies.

Prophecies concerning Abraham and Israel

Genesis 12:1-3 “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: (1) And I will make of thee a great nation, and (2) I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And (3) I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and (4) in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

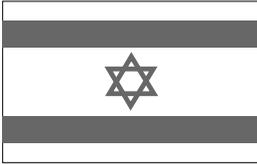
- (1) Abraham is the father of the nation of Israel.
- (2) The name “Abraham” is revered by three of the world’s largest religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam.



(3) Concerning Abraham's seed Israel. God would bless them that bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel. When people bless Israel they prosper, when they curse Israel they are cursed. Consider some of the nations that have cursed Israel:

Egypt, one time ancient world superpower enslaved Israel under Pharaoh. Hebrew boys were killed at birth by the Egyptians. Today they are a third world country. They were cursed of God. Similar fates came to other enemies of Israel such as the Babylonian and Roman Empires.

In more recent times Adolf Hitler tried to exterminate the Jews completely and succeeded in slaughtering over six million men women and children during the second world war. Nazism sowed wickedness and reaped judgement. They sowed a curse on the Jews and reaped a curse from God.



Why is it that the nation of Israel over and over again has been unjustly persecuted through the centuries? Have you ever wondered how, in spite of that persecution, they still survive with their identity intact and today are the most influential nation in the middle east? God has a future plan for Israel which will be fulfilled.

(4) In Abraham all the nations of the earth would be blessed. It was through Abraham and his descendants that Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world would come. "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham." (Matthew 1:1).

Prophecies concerning Christ

Some of the most wonderful prophecies in the Old Testament concern the person and work of the Messiah. God promised, centuries before He was born, a Saviour who would come to save man from his sins. There are hundreds of such prophecies but we will consider just a few.

His Birth:

Where: ?

The Bible Predicted in 710 BC. that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

This scripture was fulfilled when Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to be taxed



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and there Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1 “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,”

How: ?

The Bible Predicted in 741 BC. that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. It was to be a supernatural conception and thus a sign.

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.”

This scripture was fulfilled when Mary, a virgin, gave birth to Jesus.

Matthew 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying. 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.”

What Tribe: ?

Genesis 49:10 “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a law-giver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”

The Bible Predicted in 1,689BC. that the Messiah would be born of the tribe of Judah. It was Judah who would hold the sceptre, signifying sovereignty, until Shiloh come. The word Shiloh means “rest giver” and is a title of the Messiah. So the Messiah would be born from the tribe of Judah.

This scripture was fulfilled when Jesus was born of Mary whose lineage was that of the tribe of Judah.

Matthew 1:1 “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas (Judah)

In Revelation 5:5 the Bible calls Jesus the “Lion of the tribe of Judah”.



What Family: ?

The Bible predicted in 590BC. that the Messiah would be born of the family of David.

Jeremiah. 33:14 “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. 15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.”

This scripture was fulfilled when Jesus was born of Mary who was of the family of David. You may remember that Bethlehem was also called “the city of David”.

Matthew 1:1 “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

His Life:

He would be a light unto the Gentiles

Isaiah 49:6 “I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.”

A Gentile is someone who is not a Jew. The Bible predicted in 712BC. that the Messiah's light, revelation and salvation would effect not just the Jewish nation but further abroad to non Jews, to everyone on the earth.

Isaiah 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”

Who was it that came to Jesus in His infancy? It was Gentile kings from the east who came to worship Him.



This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus Christ came and lived His life as the “light of the world”.

Luke 2:29 “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

It is still being fulfilled today as Jew and Gentile come to Christ's light and partake of His salvation.



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He would make a triumphal entry into Jerusalem

The Bible predicted in 487BC. that the Messiah would make His entrance into Jerusalem riding upon an ass, in humility.

Zechariah. 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

This was fulfilled when Jesus officially presented Himself to Israel as their Messiah and entered into Jerusalem upon an ass. He did this just a few days before His crucifixion. We know this as Palm Sunday.

Matthew 21:4 “All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.”

His Death:

The Messiah would die!

Daniel wrote concerning the Messiah’s death in 538BC.

Daniel 9:25 -26 “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:”

To be “cut off” means to be cut off out of the land of the living, - to die. See Isaiah 53:8

He would be pierced

Zechariah. 12:10 “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.”

In this prophecy given in 487BC. God the Son is the one speaking “and they” speaking of Israel “shall look upon me” Jesus “whom they have pierced, and they



shall mourn for Him”. This prediction has still a future fulfilment when Israel as a Nation will recognize Jesus as their Messiah. But again, the prediction is that the Messiah would be pierced.

This was of course fulfilled when Jesus was crucified and was pierced in His side by the soldier's spear.

John 19:36-37 “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.

Another prophecy by Zechariah in 487BC. explains that the Messiah's hands would be wounded.

Zechariah. 13:6 “And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”

Psalm 22 is a prophecy of the crucifixion of the Messiah written 1,065 years before Christ was born. The whole chapter gives a vivid description of what Christ suffered on the cross. Note in v16 the detail of this prophecy.

Psalm. 22:16 “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet”.

He would have His clothes taken

Another detail given in Psalm 22 is that the suffering Messiah would have his clothes taken and men would gamble over them.

Psalm. 22:18 “They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”

This was fulfilled when Jesus was stripped of his clothes at the crucifixion. Jesus had one garment that was special, woven from top to bottom without seam. The New Testament tells us that the Roman soldiers drew lots and gambled to see which one would win that special garment. (See also John 19:23-24.)

Matthew 27:35 “And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.”

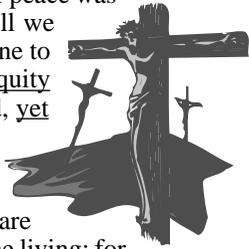


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He would suffer in our place

Psalm 22 gives us a detailed description of the events of the crucifixion. It tells us how He died. However, in Isaiah 53 we are given the meaning of the crucifixion. This prophecy given in 712BC. describes why He died.

Isaiah 53: 3 “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; **he was despised, and we esteemed him not.** 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:** the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.** 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, **yet he opened not his mouth:** he is brought **as a lamb to the slaughter,** and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 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.”



Question

How is it humanly possible for Micah, Isaiah, Moses, Jeremiah, Daniel, Zechariah, David, to know these detailed facts concerning the Messiah hundreds of years before He came?

Answer

Isaiah 46:9 “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,** saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”.

Who really is the author behind these human writers? The Bible claims God as the author! Jesus told us it was the Word of God. Peter and Paul, the other Apostles, the Jews all said the same thing, the Bible is God’s Book! Now, what do you think?



Anchor 2 Jesus - God's Son

More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of this life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

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

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep.

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

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

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

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

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

He never practiced psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.



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

We are either going to be forever with Him, or forever without Him. He is the incomparable Christ. - *copied*.

The Scripture teaches that it is very important what we believe about Jesus.

Jesus said, John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”

As we consider what the Bible says about Jesus Christ we will focus on two aspects: The Person of Christ and the Work of Christ.

The Person of Christ

Who is Jesus Christ? False religions and cults have portrayed Him as merely a good man or a prophet. Some have said He is an angel or some other form of created being. But the Bible clearly identifies Jesus Christ. He is the eternal Son of God; God the Son who became flesh through the virgin birth. He is both God and Man, Emmanuel - God with us!

Matthew 22:41-46 “While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, [The Son] of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any [man] from that day forth ask him any more questions.”

The point that Jesus makes here is that yes Christ would be the son of David, in other words human, and yet He also would be God because David called Him Lord.

Jesus is both Man and God. At His conception, Jesus took upon Himself humanity. God became a man, yet without ceasing to be God.

Consider some other verses that reveal Christ as God:

John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Jesus - God's Son



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.”

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.”

Thomas called Jesus God in John 20:28 “And Thomas answered and said unto Him, my Lord and my God”.

We are not saved through the suffering of a mere man or an angel but rather through the suffering of God Himself. Our Saviour is not a creature but the Creator. This reveals the great price that God paid for us and helps us to understand the depth of His love, and his commitment to us.

Consider some other verses that reveal Christ as Man:

Jesus is 100% God and yet He also is 100% Man. This is important. Christ is able to relate to men in all of our problems and suffering because He is a man Himself.

Hebrews 2:16-18 “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

The Work of Christ

As we consider what Jesus has come to accomplish we must realise that there are two stages to His mission. His first coming as Saviour and His second coming as Judge. He is the “Lamb of God”, this speaks of His humility and suffering; and He is the “Lion of the tribe of Judah”, this speaks of His power and glory. Lets look at these two works of Christ.

Jesus - the Lamb of God

Again, falsehood abounds as to the purpose of Jesus work on the cross. Why did Jesus die? Was Christ the victim of circumstances? Was He a martyr? Was His crucifixion simply an example of how to suffer or was there a greater purpose for His death. From Isaiah 53 we find that Christ died as a substitute. He died, suffering God the Father's anger and punishment for our sin, verse 10 and verse 5, so that we all may escape such punishment.



Anchors Of Faith

What we find in Scripture is startling. Far from being a victim in an out of control situation, we find Jesus in control, victoriously fulfilling the predetermined plan of God for man's redemption. Read on!

John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."



The Old Testament is full of predictions, typology and illustrations about the coming Messiah. One illustration that the Old Testament uses is that the Messiah would be "as a Lamb led to the slaughter". Isaiah 53: 7. Also, in Genesis we find that the lamb took Isaac's place on the altar and died in his stead. Abraham prophesied, "and God will provide himself a lamb" Genesis 22:8. - a substitute sacrifice.

One of the most interesting prophecies about Jesus is found in the picture of the Passover Lamb in Exodus 12. The Jewish Passover was initiated 1,500 BC. which makes it the oldest religious holiday in the world. The lamb's blood was to be applied to the door posts of the Hebrew home. God promised, when He saw the blood, the death angel would pass over that home and spare the first born of that family. However, there were certain important qualifications that the lamb was to have and the whole ceremony was to be observed in a very specific way. The following are seven credentials of the Passover Lamb.

Credential No. 1 - The Passover lamb was to be without blemish. "Your lamb shall be without blemish," (Exodus 12:5).

Credential No. 2 - The Passover lamb was to be a male of the first year. "a male of the first year:" (Exodus 12:5).

Credential No. 3 - The Passover lamb was to be sacrificed by the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel. "and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening." (Exodus 12:6).

Credential No. 4 - The Passover lamb was to be sacrificed outside the gate. "Thou mayest not sacrifice the Passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:" (Deuteronomy 16:5).

Credential No. 5 - The Passover lamb was to have none of it's bones broken. "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." (Exodus 12:46).

Credential No. 6 - The Passover lamb was to be sacrificed at the right time. "And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening." (Exodus 12:6).

Jesus - God's Son



Credential No. 7 - The Passover lamb was to have it's blood applied. "And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you." (Exodus 12:22-23).

Since Jesus is the "Lamb of God", and since He is the fulfilment of the Passover Lamb picture, we would expect Him to fulfil the qualifications and credentials prophesied. The early Christians certainly believed that Christ was the fulfilment of these predictions. The Apostle Paul stated in 1Corinthians 5:7 "*For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:*" The Apostle Peter said in 1Peter 1:18-19 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" The Apostle John said in Revelation 1:5 "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood".

We have the privilege however, of examining the evidence for ourselves. As we look at the credentials of the Passover, we find that they are an inextricable part of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus fulfilled every credential!

Christ's fulfilment of Credential No. 1 - the Passover lamb was to be without blemish.

According to Scripture, Christ was without blemish, without any kind of sin or fault.

"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." (2Corinthians 5:21).

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:" (1Peter 2:22).

If any one wanted to find fault with Christ it was Pilate. He wanted to find some fault whereby He might find Jesus guilty and so be justified in putting Him to death to appease the Jews. However three times in these scripture passages - John 18:38; 19:4,6 - he declares "I find no fault in Him". Jesus was without fault because He was God in the flesh, a perfect sacrifice for sin.

Christ's fulfilment of Credential No. 2 - The Passover lamb was to be a male of the first year.

The first year, means the first year the ewe had lambed. The lamb was to be the first born of his mother. The Bible teaches us that Christ not only was the first born of Mary, He was virgin born! Indeed Mary had a little Lamb.



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“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”. (Matthew 1:23).

This is significant because the sin nature that all men inherit from their fathers was not given to Jesus via Joseph for Joseph was not His physical father. Jesus was therefore without sin because He was God come in the flesh, Emmanuel, God with us.

Christ’s fulfilment of Credential No. 3 - The Passover lamb was to be sacrificed by the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel.

It is interesting to note that at the time of the crucifixion it was a public holiday for Israelites. The whole Jewish nation had made pilgrimage to Jerusalem for this special feast. The Scripture states that the whole congregation cried out that Jesus be crucified.

“Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.” (Matthew 27:22).
See also John 18:40;19:6.

Jesus was put to death by the whole congregation of Israel. May we add that it was because of our sin that He went to the cross, so we could say that all of us caused Him to be put to death, for He is “the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”

Christ’s fulfilment of Credential No. 4 - The Passover lamb was to be sacrificed outside the gate.

“Thou mayest not sacrifice the Passover within any of thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee:” (Deuteronomy 16:5).

Where was the place called Calvary located? Where did Jesus die?

“For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.” (Hebrews 13:11-13).

The historical site of Calvary is outside the ancient city wall of Jerusalem. Jesus was sacrificed outside the gate!

“There is a green hill far away, without a city wall, where our dear Lord was crucified, He died to save us all.”



Christ's fulfilment of Credential No. 5 - The Passover lamb was to have none of its bones broken.

John 19:31-37 “The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, **they brake not his legs:** But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. [Psalm 34:20] And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.” [Zechariah 12:10].

Christ's fulfilment of Credential No. 6 - The Passover lamb was to be sacrificed at the right time.

Of all the days in the Jewish calendar, on which one do you think Christ was crucified? That special holiday that we mentioned earlier, what holiday was it? **IT WAS THE PASSOVER!**

“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? Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.” John 18:39

“And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!” John 19:14.

You will notice on your calendar that even though the Roman and Jewish calendars are slightly different, Good Friday and the Jewish Passover are always within a few days of each other. Check it out! Jesus died at exactly the right time!

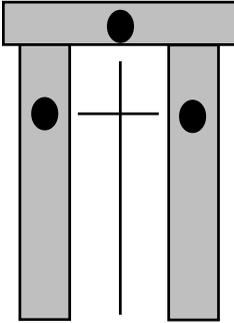
My friend, are you starting to believe yet?

Christ's fulfilment of Credential No. 7 - The Passover lamb was to have its blood applied.

As those Jewish families in Egypt prepared for the Passover, they may have had the right kind of lamb, killed in exactly the prescribed manner, yet if the last procedure was not carried out, it would all be to no avail. The father of the home would pour the lamb's blood into a bowl. He would then dip a bunch of hyssop, a small bush, into the blood and proceed to apply the blood to the lintel and the two side



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posts of the door of the house. Exodus 12:22. God promised, “When I see the blood I will PASS OVER you.” Death would not come to the house were the blood was applied.

The Bible says that men can only be spared God’s Judgment when they have had the blood of Christ applied to them.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1Peter 1:18-19).

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:” (Colossians 1:14).

God says to the world today, “receive the gift of my Son, trust in His sacrifice to save you. If you do, I will cover you in His precious blood, and when I see His blood I will pass-over you.”

God did not say, when I see your good works I will pass over you, or when I see your confirmation or church membership or baptism, I will pass over you. No! We are not to trust in these or any other work that we may do. Salvation is in God’s Son and in Him alone.

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” (Romans 4:5).

Man’s religion involves men reaching up to God, striving by works to be accepted by God. Biblical Christianity teaches that God has reached down to man and provided acceptance in the work of Jesus Christ. God will save anyone who trusts Jesus Christ as Saviour.

My friend, you can look the world over but you will not find a message like this one. Bible Christianity is unique!

Jesus - the Lion of the tribe of Judah

We have seen that Jesus is the Lamb of God sent to take away our sin. However, we also need to remember that He is also the Lion of the tribe of Judah who will open the books of judgement.

Revelation 5:5 “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold,

Jesus - God's Son



the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”

The world has not seen the last of Jesus! He promised, “I will come again” John 14:3. Many think of Jesus in His humility and suffering as the Lamb, but fail to recognise His future coming as the Lion in power and glory to “judge and make war”, Revelation 19:11-21.

Consider these verses about that future coming:

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 “...the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; ...” (Compare Isa 66:15-16)

Zechariah 14:3-4, 5 “Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, (compare Acts 1:11-12). ...and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.”

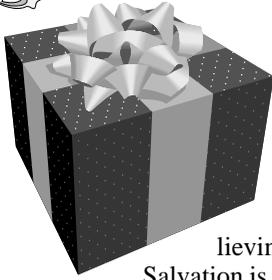
Matthew 24:30 “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (See also Matthew 25:31f)

Matthew 24:44 “Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

Throughout God's dealings with man we see Him as both Judge and Saviour. It is interesting to note that He is always Saviour before He is Judge. Kindness is always shown before anger comes. God always extends the hand of grace before the hand of wrath falls. It is up to each of us to decide which hand we will receive. We have the choice to bow the knee before Him as Saviour or as Judge but most assuredly we will bow, and for every soul He will be one or the other.



Dear friend, is Jesus your Saviour or your Judge? Will you meet Him as the Lamb or as the Lion?



Anchor 3 Salvation - God's Gift

Now we come to the last chapter of this booklet. Anchors one and two are foundational to this chapter. Believing the Bible is God's book and believing Jesus is God's Son are necessary to believing that Salvation is God's gift. But it is this last step that is man's greatest need - receiving God's gift of salvation. It is Salvation that makes the difference between an eternal home in heaven or an eternal torment in hell.

Let's explore this central theme of scripture and see for ourselves three simple truths:

First, the Bible teaches that man has a problem.

Second, the Bible teaches that God has done something to solve man's problem.

Third, the Bible teaches that man must decide for himself whether or not to accept God's solution to his problem.

Man Has A Problem

A man goes to the doctor's office for a checkup. After the examination the doctor tells the patient, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that you have a sickness that left unattended will take your life. The good news is that I have a cure that will completely heal you. If the man said to the doctor, "I am not sick, you don't know what you're talking about", do you think he will let the doctor administer the cure? Notice that the man must believe the bad news if the good news is to do him any good.

The bad news is that all are sinners

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 3:19 "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."



The bad news is that sin must be punished

Some mistakenly believe that God can overlook sin. However, the Bible teaches that God, instead of overlooking sin, treats it with the utmost seriousness and demands that all sin be punished.

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin [is] death; ...”

John 3:36 “...he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Jesus spoke more about hell than He did about heaven. Here is His description of what it is like to die and go to hell.

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

Revelation 20:14-15 “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Friend, make no mistake about it, until a man receives God's gift of Salvation he is in serious trouble with God? The fact that Jesus had to come and pay such an awful price tells you something of the seriousness of our dilemma. But thank God there is good news!



God Has A Solution to Man's problem

God loves every one of us and desires that we might live with Him throughout all eternity. Jesus said in John 14:2 "I go to prepare a place for you". Heaven is a wonderful place. However, God's nature will not allow Him to let us escape Hell and gain Heaven as long as our sin debt is still outstanding. So God, because He loved us, made a way to pay for our sin without us having to be punished. He Himself became a man, the God-Man Jesus Christ. Jesus went to the cross to pay the debt that we owe to God. Jesus was punished as a substitute in our place.

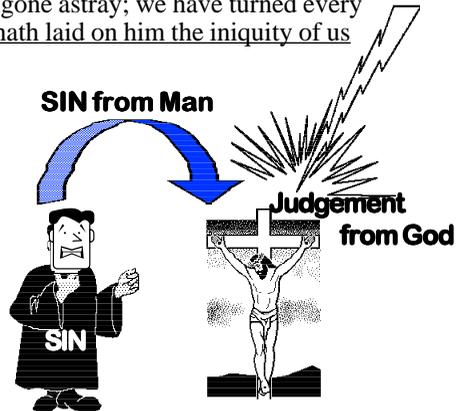
1Peter 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

Isaiah 53: 5 "But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 53:10 "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put [him] to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,"

Isaiah 53:11 "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."



Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus paid a debt He did not owe. We owe a debt we cannot not pay. This payment that Christ made for all however, is not transferred to our individual account until we personally receive Him as our own Saviour.



Receiving God's Solution

How do we receive God's Salvation? Some believe we have to work for salvation, we must earn it. But that is not what the Bible teaches!

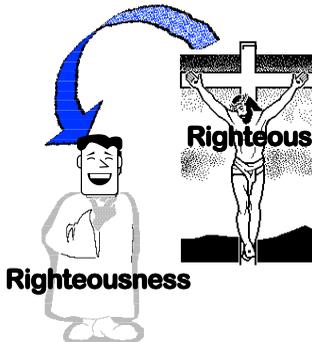
Salvation is a gift to be received by faith not works

If someone gives you a gift, do you expect to pay for it? After a hard week at work, do you go by the pay office to pick up your "gift"? No! you are going to pick up your "wages". There is a big difference between wages and a gift. Wages is something you work for, something you deserve. A gift is something you don't work for, something you don't deserve, something you simply receive and for which you are grateful.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

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

Righteousness from Christ



Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

The moment you trust or depend on Christ to save you, a transaction with God occurs. God takes the payment Christ made and transfers it to your account. This is God's gift to you. It is as if God stamps "paid in full" on your debt thus setting you free.

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

Also in that moment, He clothes you with His righteousness and makes you acceptable to Himself.



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Are You Willing To Receive God's Gift?

Salvation is truly God's gift to all, but like any other gift it must be willingly received.

Salvation is truly God's gift to all, but God will not give it to someone who does not genuinely sense his need of it, who is not genuinely sorry for sin and willing to turn from it to God. We must be serious with God. He knows our hearts.

Salvation is truly God's gift to all, but God does not force any one to receive that gift. To receive what God is giving, you must genuinely desire salvation. God knows your heart and if you do not want God's gift, God will not give it to you.

My friend, are you tired of living life without God? Are you sick of the emptiness; are you weary of the uncertainty? Do you want Him to save you and change you? Do you genuinely desire to receive God's gift of salvation? Do you believe?

God loves you and He invites you to come unto Him. Believe upon Him now!

John 4:10 “ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.”

If you would like to pray from your heart and express a genuine trust in Christ. You might pray something like this:

Dear God, I come to you just as I am, a sinner, deserving judgement and Hell. I believe you love me and you sent your Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay the debt that I owe. I ask you now to save me. The best I know how, I believe upon you and receive your gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Remember, this is a matter of the heart! It is believing upon Him from your heart that saves.

Romans 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Did you believe upon Christ? If you did, what does the Bible say of you?

Jesus said, John 10:28-29 “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”

Salvation - God's Gift



1John 5:11-13 “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 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 3:16-18 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Jesus said, John 6:37 “... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

Dear friend, If you have received God's gift of salvation, tell someone. Do not be afraid to let it be known that you have become a Christian.

Let the people who gave you this booklet know that you have been saved. They will help you and answer any questions you may have. God bless you.

