

COMMUNIQUE FROM HEAVEN



From The Beginning To The End

Afzal Ali

Communiqué from Heaven

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the Beginning
to the End



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This Book is a must in your
library and should be read by all

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All Chapters are Expanded Versions of Booklets written by the Author bearing the same Titles.

Introduction

Today, we embark on a journey from the beginning of man to our eternal destination. Many are heedless concerning our roots and history that go back to the beginning of creation to our first parents Adam and Eve in the Garden in Eden and not to any other place, country or ancestors. Therefore it is necessary for us to know who we are, where we came from, what happened to our first parents when they went against the word of God and fell short of God's purpose for their lives and offspring, how they became separated from God under a death sentence with their offspring born with their inherited sin nature, God's promise of reconciliation through a sinless Saviour who would be made in the likeness of men, how religion, murder and other such like sinful acts entered the world, And where we are going to be in eternity according to the decision we make concerning our promised Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ, Who being found in fashion as a man, died for our sins and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated on the throne of God, to fashion our vile body like unto his glorious body.

This book is a must in your library and should be read by all.

People are fearful of what is upon the world and unsure of their future. Many are also unaware that the Law written on the two Tables of stone, the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, the Jewish Feasts of the Lord and Jewish Marriage Customs were to find fulfilment in Jesus Christ. Jesus said all that is written in the law of Moses and in the prophets and in the psalms concerning him must be fulfilled.

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As this journey progresses to the end, the contents of this book will help many to make the most important decision in their lives to receive Jesus as their Saviour, and pass from death unto life in him, and to be witnesses unto him to regions of the world in obedience to his command, to make a people ready for his coming, to rule with him in his Millennial reign as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS and thereafter unto the new earth in eternal glory.

This Study is commended to you.

Chapter 1

FROM THE MIND OF GOD OUR MAKER

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are compiled in the Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible and is the Manual of God given to man. Since a manual is a book of instruction and information that reveals the mind of the maker concerning the purpose, operation and maintenance of their product, God who made man, spoke unto us in the past by the prophets, and now in these last days has spoken unto us by his Son, Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:1-3.)

We have the Scriptures, the mind of God our Maker, the key to knowledge that will take us from our beginning, and lead us to make an informed decision concerning our future, that will culminate in either one of two final destinations in eternity.

In the beginning God made man in his image and likeness, male and female he created them, to share himself in a creation that is his exact representation, whom he would visit to have fellowship and communion, and enjoy

each other in perfect harmony, for all things were created by him and for him. (Genesis 1:26-27; Colossians 1:14-19; Revelation 4:11.)

God gave man charge to care for all the creation on earth and use them in the service of mankind as his stewards on earth. God blessed Adam and Eve to multiply and fill the earth with their kind, and placed them in the garden in Eden to live and work. He commanded them to eat freely of every tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because to eat of it would bring death to them and their offspring, that is, they would cut themselves off from his presence and fellowship, and would lose their representative position as stewards in the garden, since they would no longer be like him and would be subjected to death and decay, unable to carry out his will and fulfil his purpose, as they would have entered into a state of disobedience. By this command, we are able to see that the will of God for mankind was life immortal, and to allow them the freedom to choose with the ability to obey him and do right when tested. (Genesis 1:28-30; 2:7-25.)

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast... And he told Eve that if she eats of the tree God commanded them not to eat from, she would not die as God said, but her eyes would be opened to the things that God was hiding from them, and she shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Eve tempted by these thoughts, that the only way to increase her knowledge and advance to be wise as God was to eat of it. She saw the tree as good for food and one to be desired, and she took of the fruit and ate, and gave her husband Adam and he also ate, despite the fact that God who made them, made his will concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil known to them, and that their existence, position and state as created would only be maintained if they obeyed his word.

Adam and Eve, after eating, became aware of their nakedness, that they had been deceived by Satan by believing he was telling the truth and God was telling the lie. They

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realised that they had gone against the good of God's word that was best for them, that they had committed evil and missed the purpose for their existence when they disobeyed the very words God gave them that would have kept immortal, and in their original state and position in fellowship and perfect harmony with God had they obeyed.

They knew they had lost the image of God and their representative position as his stewards on earth and their place in the garden, and that God could no longer live with them, as the enjoyment of his fellowship and the security of his presence would be a thing of the past. Their decision to go against God changed the course of human history, man became mortal beings under the sentence of death and subject to decay, living outside of their purpose in a way they were not made to live, dissatisfied, discontented and unfulfilled, doing what they were not made to do, becoming what they were not made to become, and going where they were not made to go. My friend, because our first parents neglected God's word and fell short of what God intended for man to be, a new creation man was now needed to fulfil God's purpose for creating mankind.

Adam and Eve in their sin tried to hide their nakedness by using fig leaves to cover themselves. It was their attempt through their own effort to cover their sin which only God could do. The way of reconciliation and restoration to their original purpose and destiny must come from God, the one who made them and not from their devised religion with its works to find reconciliation. (Genesis 3.) John 3:16.)

God graciously carried out the death sentence on Adam and Eve by moving them out of the garden, to keep them from eating of the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, lest if they continue to eat from both trees, they would live separated from him and his purpose for them in a sinful state with its evil consequences forever. (Genesis 3:22-24.)

Beloved, even though Adam and Eve fell short of what God required of them, his purpose for man remained

unchanged. He visited them in the cool of the day and gave them hope by a word of promise to reconcile and restore mankind to their original purpose forever through the seed of a woman.

Between the time of the promise and its fulfilment through the seed of a woman, God temporarily substituted the shed blood of sinless animals, and their skins were used to cover their sin and nakedness. This foreshadowed Jesus Christ, conceived sinless in the woman Mary by the Holy Ghost while a virgin, to give his life as the sacrifice for the sins of man, by shedding his own blood to redeem and clothe us with his righteousness. (Genesis 3:15-21; Matthew 1:18-25.)

When the fullness of time was come for God to fulfil his promise to Adam to reconcile and restore sinful mankind to his image and likeness and to their original purpose, he sent forth his Son Jesus Christ, his exact image and perfect representation made of a woman. Jesus being in the nature of God was made flesh in the likeness of men and as mankind are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus also took part of the same, fashioned himself as a man and took our place in a substitutionary death on the cross, to bring man back to their perfect and harmonious relationship with God that once existed with our first parents. (Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:14-15.)

Now the blood of sinless animals that acted as a substitute for the sins of mankind is no longer required. Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman had come as promised, and he shed his blood and tasted death for every man that through his death and resurrection, he rendered the devil, death, hell and the grave powerless, the man in Christ is no longer in fear of death which kept us in bondage all our lives. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ...But thanks be to God which has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians15:53-57.)

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The first man Adam was of the earth, the second man Jesus is the Lord from heaven, and just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall those who are in Christ bear the image of the heavenly. Since death came by one man Adam, the resurrection of the dead came also through a man Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:47-49, 21-22.)

Therefore if any man be in Christ he becomes a new creation, the old man in Adam is passed away and all things become new, he is raised from death, forgiven of his sins, renewed in the image and likeness of God, and is restored to his original purpose and fellowship with God forever. (2Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 2:10-15; 3: 3-4.)

Beloved, mankind are descendants of Adam and Eve and sinful by nature, and our roots and history go back to our first parents in the garden in Eden and not to any other place, country or ancestors. The questions of how we came into being, where we came from, what has happened to us, what is our purpose, and where we are going in eternity with Jesus, and without Jesus have been answered by God himself. As our Maker, he is the only one to obey concerning his purpose for us, how to live our lives, how to get back to him and reach the destiny he has for us. He that has the Son has life, and he who is without the Son has no life. These things are written unto you that you may know that in Jesus, you know you have eternal life. (1John 5:10-13;)

Remember the devil in dealing with Eve did not come in a way that would have caused her to see him for who he is. He deceived her into believing his lie, that he was on their side and God was hiding knowledge from them. Let God be true and every man a liar. (Romans 3:1-4; John 8: 44.)

You have been brought on a journey from the beginning of man to either one of two final destinations in eternity, one with Jesus who is seated at the right hand of God after he left earth, a place he has gone to prepare for those in him, where the past is forgotten and everything is perfect, no more death, crying, sorrow or pain, a place where all things are made new, the new heaven and the new earth, the

new Jerusalem, the new world order. It is a fixed state and position with those in Christ, a place where God will come again to live with them forever in glory. (Isaiah 65:17; John 14:1-7; Revelation 21:1-5.)

The other is hell and the lake of fire. It is a fixed state and place of abode with the devil and all who rejected Jesus as their Saviour, where the past is remembered, everything is evil, imperfect and incomplete, continuing in the old order of things, where there is torment forever. (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:10-15.)

Beloved, one day we will have to vacate our present body and this present earth in order to enter the other. Jesus said we must be ready in him when that day comes. Now is the accepted time to be prepared, now is the day of salvation, We have the Mind of God our Maker, that only through the seed of the woman Jesus Christ we are made ready to enter into the presence of God, into a perfect and harmonious relationship with him that would be forever in the New earth, God coming again to live with man in Christ, his restorative purposes reaching its climax, they are his people and he is their God, his purpose for creating man is fulfilled in the New Creation Man in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 24:44; 2 Corinthians 6:2; 5:17-18.)

It is God who has decided for us to be like him. He has determined our purpose in creation, and today he is calling you to be that new man in Christ to be renewed in his image and likeness and be restored to your original purpose forever. If you are in Christ give him thanks for your salvation, but if you are not in Christ, I beg you to please respond favourably to his call.

Dear God, my Creator, I acknowledge your love for me in giving Jesus who paid for my sin to make me a new man in him, renewed in your image and likeness and restored to your purpose in him. Lord Jesus, I thank you for giving your life for me to be reconciled to God. I receive you as my Saviour and look forward to your coming to live with you forever. Amen

Chapter 2

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT IS GOD LIKE? WHO IS JESUS?

Beloved, the gist of this message takes us to the Beginning and the End, the creation of the heaven and the earth, the creation of man, how sin and death entered into man, how disorder in creation entered into the world, and God's promise to the first man and woman to send a Saviour to redeem their offspring through the seed of a woman to make a new creation man, and restore order in creation as it was in the beginning, culminating in a new heaven and a new earth, where the inhabitants will be God himself, the Saviour and the new creation man. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 2:15-17; 3:1-7,15, 22-24; Revelation 21:1-6.)

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 anything made. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared him. (John 1: 1-3, 14, 18.)

God, who at different times and in various ways spoke in time past to our forefathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, the exact image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:1-3.)

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman were created in God's image and likeness. God placed them in the garden in Eden to dress and keep it and have dominion. God blessed them to be fruitful and fill the earth with offspring and commanded them to eat freely from all the trees in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they shall not eat of it, for the day they eat of it they shall surely die. Adam and Eve went against the good of God's word that would have saved them from death, and committed evil by disobeying God and eating from the tree that he commanded them not to eat from. At that standpoint, they lost the image and likeness of God and thereafter became separated from him and their position in the garden. This evil act against the good of God's word placed mankind under the penalty of death as God said. Death is both physical and spiritual. Physical death is our separation from the body, and spiritual death is our separation from God. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15-17; 3:6.)

Before God carried out the death penalty by putting Adam and Eve out from his presence in the garden, God gave them a promise that he would send a Saviour through the seed of a woman, to reconcile their offspring who would inherit their sin nature with its penalty. At this juncture, God instituted the substitutionary death of an unblemished animal to cover their sin and nakedness, and then put them out of his presence until the time of the promised Saviour would come through the seed of the woman and shed his sinless blood in substitutionary death, to take away our sins once and for all, and reconcile us to God from separation into his presence, and into our original state and position with

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God in creation that was lost in Adam. (Genesis 3:15, 21-25; Hebrews 9:14; 10:10-12.)

When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman to redeem mankind that we might receive the adoption of sons... (Galatians 4: 4-7.)

Now the birth of our Saviour was in this manner. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin whose name was Mary who was betrothed to Joseph. The angel said to her that she was highly favoured by God and she shall conceive in her womb and bring forth a Son and shall call his name Jesus. Mary received the word of the angel, conceived and was found with child of the Holy Ghost before the consummation of her marriage to Joseph. Joseph being a just man, was not willing to expose her to public shame and was minded to divorce her secretly, but while he thought on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take Mary to be your wife: for that which is conceived in her womb is of the Holy Ghost, and she shall bring forth a Son and you shall call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins. Joseph did as the angel of the Lord told him, took Mary as his wife and did not consummate their marriage until she had brought forth her firstborn Son: and he called his name JESUS. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38.)

The angel of the Lord also came upon the shepherds in the field who were watching their flock by night and said to them, Fear not: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in Beth-lehem; the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord: And this shall be a sign, you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. (Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-6; Micah 5:2.)

Jesus sinless conception and birth through the seed of the woman Mary, fulfilled God's promise to Adam to reconcile man to himself. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive, therefore salvation is not in any other. There is no other name under heaven given among men

whereby we must be saved. For God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing our trespasses unto us, but made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creation, the old creation man in Adam has passed away; behold, all things become new, that is, man in Christ has God's image, likeness and presence restored to his original sinless form and position in creation with God, thereby fulfilling God's purpose in creating man. (Galatians 4:4-7; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 1Corinthians15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1Timothy 2:5; Colossians 1:14-17; 1John 3:2.)

Beloved, since God is Spirit and could not be seen by the eye or mind of the flesh, he became the perfect human being an action in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus being the brightness of his glory and the exact representation of his person, lived in Israel thirty three years and communicated with man to unveil God's being and purpose. (John 1:18; 14:7; Hebrews 1:1-3.)

Many people loved and followed Jesus, and it was for this reason religious and political rulers sought to kill him. He was arrested and brought to trial before the rulers including Pilate, and after many false witnesses gave evidence against him, Pilate examined him and found him without fault, yet rejected him and put him to death by crucifixion as a criminal. This was Providential, since Jesus came to pay the redemption price by shedding his own blood in death for sinful man to be reconciled to God, and free us from sins power and penalty of living eternally separated from God. (John19:1-18; Hebrews 9:24-26.)

Jesus died for our sins and was buried, and after three days the Saviour arose just as he said, having conquered the devil, death, hell and the grave. He then showed himself to hundreds of his followers and was taken up into heaven at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty, having paid the redemption price for man's salvation. (1Corinthians 15:3-8; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 8:1; 12:2.)

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Friend, in spite of man's efforts, increased knowledge and advanced technology, people are becoming more wicked, selfish and fearful. Lives are becoming more meaningless, without purpose, direction and hope. Nations are perplexed and distressed and gripped in fear, as wars and threats of wars, crime and lawlessness, poverty, famine and hunger, pestilences, earthquakes in various places and great disasters are on the increase and declared by Jesus to get worse prior to his coming again. Jesus said all these things must come to pass to serve as labour pains to cleanse this world of sin, to make way for the new, sinless and everlasting earth as promised to those who put their trust in him, and personified as a woman in labour awaiting the birth of her child. (Matthew 24.) (Luke 21.) 2Timothy 3:1-4; Romans 8:22-23.)

While these events have brought fear and hopelessness to those who have not received Jesus as their Saviour, they have brought hope to those who have received him. Jesus told his followers that they must not be troubled and terrified by these passing things, but instead to look for their redemption and gathering unto him, as these cleansing judgments signify the nearness of his return. (Luke 21:25-28.)

Beloved, having read this brief account of God's revealed life and purpose in Jesus Christ, and with the evidence of who Jesus is before you, you now have the opportunity like Pilate and the apostle Peter, to examine Jesus and answer life's most important questions. Who is JESUS to you? What will you do with him? And to make life's most important decision as to where you will live beyond this life. There are only two final destinations in eternity. **1.** The New Earth. All who received Jesus as their Saviour will be there with Jesus. (Mark 16:16a; (Revelation 21.) **2.** The Lake of Fire. All who rejected Jesus as their Saviour will be there with the devil, the an'-ti-christ, and the false prophet. (Luke 16:19-31; Mark 16:16b; Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14-15.)

Remember my friend, Pilate after his examination of Jesus found him without fault yet rejected him, put him out of his life and condemned Jesus to die as a criminal, but

Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God and upon his confession and reception of Jesus, Jesus pronounced the blessings of the kingdom of heaven upon him. (John 19:4, 6; Matthew 16:15-16.)

What about you my friend? Having examined Jesus life by reading this brief account of his purpose, his birth, his life, his death, his burial, resurrection and ascension to the throne of God, I am sure you have not found any fault with him. You must give careful consideration as to what you do with Jesus and where you will end up in eternity. Please don't be careless with your soul. Your answer and decision will determine your future and eternal destiny. That perfect world we are yearning for where there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain, where all tragic aspects of human life are eliminated, and where all things are made new is made available to us in the Lord Jesus Christ, and will climax in the new earth. (Hebrews 9:24; Revelation 21:1-6.)

Please don't be like Pilate and treat Jesus as a criminal and put him out of your life. Maybe you are not like Pilate. You have seen Jesus as a very good and loving person but not as your redeemer and Saviour. If you reject Jesus and die without receiving him as your Saviour, you would have condemned yourself to eternal damnation in the tortures of hell and the lake of fire, where you will remember all the opportunities God in his love and mercy had given you to make Jesus your Saviour including this one. (Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 11:29; Mark 16:15-16.) Beloved, the memory and conscience of those there will torment them forever and ever, there will be no way out, as time and opportunities to make it right with God will be no more, having entered an unchanging and unending state and place. (Mark 9:44; Revelation 20:10, 15.)

You don't have to be there beloved. This report brings you good news of great joy, unto you this day, into your life, into these situations, there is hope. Jesus, once the Babe in Bethlehem is no longer in a manger. He was crucified, buried and risen from death and ascended into heaven and is now in the presence of God for us. (Hebrews 9:24.)

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Because of Jesus love and concern for us by taking our place in death to save us and bring us back to God, no longer should you commit the sin of rejecting him. To reject Jesus is to reject God's love and his gift of salvation paid for by Jesus with his own blood. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved... but he that believeth not condemns himself, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (Acts 20:28; John 14:1-6; 3:16-18; 5:24; Romans 5:15-19; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Mark 16:15-16.)

My friend, if you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, I beg you to open your heart and receive Jesus as God's gift to you. Now is the accepted time, behold, today is the day of your salvation, tomorrow is promised to no one. Jesus is outside of your life and wants to come in, but will only do so if you allow him in. Please repent and receive Jesus now and be ready for his coming and the end of this age to live with him in a glorious eternity. (Revelation 3:20; 2 Corinthians 6:2.)

Your confession: Dear Lord Jesus, I open my heart to you and like Peter, I confess that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I believe you died for my sins and you rose again from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God for my justification. Lord Jesus, I receive you as my Saviour and my Lord. Thank you for saving my soul by mediating on the cross on my behalf, and restoring me to my original sinless form and position in creation to be with you forever. Amen.

Chapter 3

HOW TO BE IN RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD

The lives and work of many people have brought the world to attention and rightly so, as they would have touched the lives of many by their humanitarian efforts. While our work might be worthy of commendation in the realm of our temporal existence, it could also become deceptive and destructive in the eternal, if we believe our works would earn us salvation. This belief is not based on right knowledge of God's way of salvation, that we are saved by grace through faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and not by works of righteousness which we have done. It is the unmerited gift of God paid for by Jesus and given to us to receive by faith, so that no man can boast before God in what he did and obtain a righteous standing with him. It is according to God's love and mercy which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Ephesians 2:4-9; Titus 3:4-7; 2 Timothy 1:9-10.)

The Scriptures cite the life of a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus as an example of the most respected religious leader of his day, one who went to Jesus by night and told him that he knew Jesus as a teacher come from God, for

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no man can do the miracles he did except God was with him. Jesus did not respond to Nicodemus comments, but shifted his focus to his most important need, that is, the salvation of his soul. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again to see and enter the kingdom of God, that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Jesus told Nicodemus not to focus too much on the spectacular, but to ponder on what he said that is the prerequisite to the kingdom, he must be born again. (John 3:1-8.)

Another man named Cornelius, a devout man who feared God with his household, who gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always. Cornelius deeds came up as a memorial before God and he was told by an angel of God, to send men to Joppa and call for Simon Peter who will tell him what to do to be saved. Cornelius sent two of his household servants and when they found Peter, he went with them to Cornelius house and gave Cornelius the words for him to be saved with his household. Peter told them that whosoever believe in Jesus shall receive remission of sins, and all them which heard the word believed, and the Holy Ghost fell on them all and they testified and praised God for their salvation. (Acts 10.) Acts 11:11-18.)

It is very clear that the notable qualities of both Nicodemus and Cornelius were not the determinant for them to receive salvation from sin and its penalty of living eternally separated from God. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:22-23.)

Jesus was once asked by a great multitude as to what work they would have to do to please God to earn everlasting life. Jesus answered and said, that the work of God that gives everlasting life is for them to believe in him whom God has sent. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 6:26-29; 3:16.)

Jesus said he is the bread of life and anyone who feeds on him shall live forever, and the true work of God to receive

everlasting life is to believe in his finished work of redemption, and not in what they would do to earn it. Therefore the work of God for us to obtain salvation is for us to trust in Jesus work on the cross, where he died for our sins and receive him as our Saviour. On the cross Jesus said, It is finished, bowed his head and gave up the ghost, having finished the work which he came to do, that is, Jesus died for our sins and was buried and he rose from the dead, and is now in the presence of God seated at his right hand interceding for us. (John 6:35, 38, 58; 4:34; 5:36; 17:4; 19:30; Hebrews 8:1; 9:24-28; 10:12.)

Jesus said the real poor, blind, naked, miserable and wretched of the earth are not those who have little of life temporal necessities, but those who are not clothed with his righteousness and are therefore not rich toward God, in contrast with those who have his righteousness imputed to them, they are the rich toward God who have inherited the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. (Revelation 3:17-20; Luke 12:16-21; (Romans 4.) Ephesians 1:3-14.)

Jesus said, For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36-38.) That means the salvation of our soul is of most importance, and no one could offer God his deeds in exchange for salvation. It is God who justifies, it is Christ who died and rose again from the dead, it is God who acted in Christ to reconcile us to himself, not imputing our trespasses unto us, but putting our sins on Jesus who knew no sin, that we might be made righteous and holy in him. Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and are saved from wrath through him. (Romans 8:31-34; (Romans 5.) 2Corinthians 5:17-21; 1Corinthians 15:1-4.)

The Scriptures cite the life of Abraham as an example of one who believed that it was impossible for God to lie, and he would perform what he promised by giving miraculous procreative life to his aged weak body and his wife Sarah barren womb, and that his posterity would bless all

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nations of the earth. Abraham acted by faith on God's word, and the promise began to take effect when Sarah conceived and Isaac his seed was born. God tested Abraham's faith and asked him to offer up Isaac his only son born of promise, for a burnt offering on a mountain in the land of Moriah. Abraham obeyed and believed God would provide a lamb to die in his place, and if not, God would raise Isaac from the dead, an event that occurred figuratively, when God provided a ram as a substitute offering that pointed to Jesus who died in our place on the cross at Mount Calvary, and was buried and God raised him from the dead for our justification, that the blessing of Abraham might come on us through Jesus Christ, and if we are in Christ, then we are Abraham's spiritual descendants and heirs according to the promise. (Genesis 12:2-4; 21:1-8; 22:1-18; Romans 4:1-8, 17-25; Hebrews 11:8-19; Galatians 3:5-9,16-29.)

The next appearance of Isaac after his experience on the mountain at Moriah was when he went out in the field to receive Rebekah as his bride, who was blessed to be the mother of thousands of millions, And the next appearance of Jesus after his ascension at the Mount of Olives into heaven, is when he returns in the clouds to receive his bride, the church. (Genesis 24.) Acts 1:6-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.) Acts 1:9-12; Ephesians 5:22-32.)

Beloved, since we honour those whose life and work in some way has helped to furnish our earthly needs, how much more should we receive and honour Jesus, whose love and work is greater than any other, no one is to be compared with him, one whose love and power miraculously brought healing to the sick and the oppressed, multiplied food to the hungry, raised the dead to life, stilled storms and worked many other miracles, But his love and work took him beyond our temporal needs, having done what no other could, that is, Jesus paid the redemption price for our sin as the only mediator between God and men, when he gave his life a ransom for all. (Mark 2:1-12; 8:1-9, 22-23; 4:39; (John 11.) 1 Timothy 2:5-6.)

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This my friend is the greatest love of all, a love that was demonstrated on the cross where Jesus died for our sins, the greatest mediating work of all done to man, that is the work of reconciling us to God, and the greatest power of all, that is to rise from death giving us the victory over the devil, death, hell and the grave, and he rendered the Law of gravity powerless in his ascension from earth to heaven to be seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us, and he is coming again to receive those who received him as their Saviour, that where he is, there they will be also. (Mark 15:25; 16:1-7, 19; 1Corinthians 15:1-4, 51-57; John 14:1-6.)

To treat Jesus death, burial, resurrection and ascension to God's right hand as our mediator and intercessor irrelevant and meaningless to save you from sin and its penalty of living eternally separated from God, is to dishonour him and insult the Spirit of grace, and to die without receiving Jesus as your sin bearer is to damn your soul to hell and the lake of fire, to be tormented forever with the devil and other unbelievers. (Mark 16:15-16; Hebrews 10:29; (Revelation 20-21.)

Beloved, it is not God's will that we end up in hell and the lake of fire, and I am sure it is not where you want to be. God is calling us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus. If you are not in Christ, please answer God's call and confess Jesus as your Saviour and be in right standing with God before it is too late. (Romans 10: 9-15; John 3:16; 1Peter 5:10.)

Dear God, I thank you for giving Jesus to die for my sin. I turn from the belief of salvation by works, to your way of salvation by grace through faith in believing that Jesus died for me, he was buried and you raised him from the dead for my justification. Lord Jesus, I receive your gift of righteousness, and I confess you as my Saviour. Thank you for saving my soul, thereby making me ready for eternity with you, as I give you the honour that is due to your Name. Amen.

Chapter 4

THE GREAT FUTURE EVENT BE READY FOR IT

The Great Future Event is the coming of Jesus Christ for his Church. The signs he gave to us that will precede his coming are upon us, and the knowledge he gives to us for us to make an informed decision regarding our readiness and where we will live in eternity, require our immediate attention. (Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:10; Luke 12:40; 17:26-30.)

In order for you to get the gist of this message, allow me to take you in the beginning for a summary of the creation of the heaven and the earth, the creation of man, how his fall came about, how death, hell, religion and disorder in creation entered the world, and God's plan to redeem fallen humanity and restore order in creation, culminating in a new heaven and a new earth. (Genesis 1-2.)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and all that is therein, the creatures of the waters and of the earth and across the sky, and God blessed them to fill the earth, the waters and the sea after their kind.

And God created man in his own image after his likeness, and formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Man, the climax of God's creation, was told to be

fruitful and fill the earth with his kind, and to have dominion over the rest of creation and make it subservient. God blessed them with seed bearing plants, and trees that bear fruit with seed in it according to their kind that is for their food. And the Lord God planted a garden in the east in Eden, and there the Lord God made all kinds of trees to grow out of the ground, trees good for food, the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the garden. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and to care for it, And he commanded the man to eat freely from every tree, except the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that he eats thereof he shall surely die. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-9, 15-17.)

In order for the man to fulfil his mandate to fill the earth with his kind, the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and as he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh, And the rib which the Lord God took from the man, he made a woman and brought her unto the man as part of himself, equal at his side, with the ability to conceive and bring forth after their kind and establish the family unit. 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. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife and were not ashamed. (Genesis 2:18-25.)

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made, and he told the woman that if she eats from the tree that God told her not to eat from, she would not die as God said, but her eyes will be opened, and she shall be as gods knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasant to the eyes, a tree to be desired to make one wise as God, she took of the fruit and ate, and gave unto her husband with her and he ate. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves. And they heard the voice

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of the Lord God in the garden, and Adam and his wife hid from the presence of God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called to the man and asked him where he was. Adam's response was that he was afraid, because he was naked and he hid. God asked him who told him that he was naked, and if he had eaten from the tree he commanded him not to eat from.

The man said to the Lord God that the woman he gave to be with him, gave him fruit from the tree and he ate it, blaming both God and the woman and not himself for his sin. The Lord God then questioned the woman as to what she had done. She said she was deceived by the serpent and she ate, blaming the serpent and not herself, and the Lord God told the serpent, Because he did this...he will put enmity between him and the woman, and between his seed and her seed, her seed (child) will crush his head, and his seed will bruise his heel...that is, the child of the woman would get the victory over Satan. To the woman, God said, in sorrow or labour pains you will give birth to children. And to Adam, God said, because you have eaten from the tree which I commanded you not to eat from; In the sweat of your face you will eat your food from the ground that is cursed with thorns and thistles, until you return to the ground from which you were taken, for dust you are and you will return to dust, the origin of your body and the source of your food that brought about your death. And Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of every human being. (Genesis 3:1-20.)

When Adam and Eve transgressed the known will of God concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the harmonious relationship between God and man, and the inseparable union God had planned as a family unit was disrupted and disorder entered creation. From then on, human progress, development and dominion over the earth were changed to the necessity of redemption through sacrificial substitution, as God's relationship with man became redemptive, to fulfil his purpose in creating man to have fel-

lowship with him, and their inseparable union as a family unit.

To accomplish this end, in sacrificial substitution, the Lord God covered the nakedness of Adam and Eve with garments of skin obtained through the death of an innocent animal, as their covering of fig leaves could not stave off death that God had established for eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 3:21; John 1:29,36; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:23.)

And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become like 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 forever in their sinful condition with its evil consequences, the death sentence was put into effect, and the Lord God graciously sent them out from the garden of Eden to till the ground from where he was taken, with the promise that they will return to life and fellowship with him through the seed of the woman, who would die to take away sin, and open the way for him to form a new man and a new inseparable family unit. God then placed on the east side of the garden of Eden, Cher'-u-bims and a flaming sword which turned in all directions, to guard the entrance to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:22-24.)

And Adam lay with his wife and she conceived: and gave birth to Cain, and she conceived again and gave birth to his brother Abel. Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground, And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord, and Abel, he also brought unto the Lord an offering of the firstlings of his flock... and the Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, because he offered innocent blood, shed in substitutionary death that the Lord God established to cover sin, thereby expressing his faith in an expiatory sacrifice, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: But on Cain and his offering he had no respect, because he did not bring the blood of the sinless substitute offered in death that God required. (Genesis 3:21; 4:1-5; Hebrews 11:4.)

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At this juncture, religion entered the world through Cain, when he brought offerings of his own determination in worship to be reconciled with God. Because it was the work of his sinful flesh, and not the sacrifice of the sinless substitute in death that God established to cover sin, God dissociated himself from Cain's offering, and graciously made a final appeal to Cain for him to bring the required sacrifice, But Cain instead of obeying, became angry with God and with his brother Abel, whom he murdered, and sin began to manifest itself in the works of the flesh through idolatry, conflict, jealousy, hatred, wrath, strife, envying, murder and such like. (Genesis 4:6-8; Galatians 5:19-21.)

Abel's sacrifice was a type of the promised sinless seed of the woman, who was to be offered in substitutionary death on the cross to take away the sin of the world, to reconcile man to God, and destroy the works of the devil. (Genesis 3:15; John 1:29; 1John 3:8b.)

When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son Jesus, made in the likeness of men, born of a woman, Mary, a virgin at that time; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, bare our sins in his own body through his death of the cross to reconcile us to himself. For our conversation is in heaven; from whence we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, that is, Jesus fashioned himself as a man for our vile body to be fashioned like unto his glorious body. Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in him, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. (Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:7-8; 3:21; 1Peter 2:24; 2Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:23-25.)

Beloved, it is only when our sin is removed in Christ that we can return to life and fellowship with God and have dominion restored. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and no man will get to the Father except through him. Any other

way is the way of Cain, who rejected salvation through the blood of the sacrificial animal and tried to appease God by his human effort, the way that God has dissociated himself from. If you are in the way of Cain who introduced the broad way of religion by whatever name it is named, God is graciously appealing to you to be reconciled with him through the way he has determined, Jesus Christ. For by grace we are saved through faith in the work of Christ when he shed his blood for our sins, and not of our works lest any man should boast, it is the gift of God. (John 14:1-6; Ephesians 2:8-9.)

Jesus was bruised by Satan in crucifixion as he paid for our sins and purchased our redemption. He was planted in death, and by his resurrection from the dead and his ascension to the throne of God, Jesus crushed Satan's power of keeping man separated from God, rendered him powerless over death, hell and the grave, and has opened the way into God's presence by his blood to those who would receive him as their Saviour. (1Corinthians 15:3-4; John12:24; Hebrews 9:24,26b; 10:18-20.)

Jesus says all power is given unto him in heaven and in earth, and those who are in him must not fear. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the ending. He was the one who was alive and was dead; and behold, he is alive forevermore, Amen; and he has the keys of hell and death, that is, Jesus has all authority to determine where our soul goes at death, and he has determined those who die in him go to be with him forever, and those who die without him go to hell and the lake of fire. (Matthew 28:18; 11:27; John12:24; Revelation 1:8-10, 17-18; Luke16:19-31; Romans 5:8-11.)

After the fall of man wickedness increased, and the earth was filled with violence and God destroyed all flesh from the earth, except Noah who obeyed God and built the Ark to the saving of his house. Noah entered the Ark together with his wife, his sons and their wives, as they found grace in the eyes of the Lord, while the people who rejected God's mercy to enter the Ark perished. In Noah and his family, God repeopled the earth, and once again man defied God and

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built the Tower of Babel to establish a worldwide empire independent of him. God by his grace confused their language, scattered them and divided them into nations speaking different languages, to prevent them from continuing to live independent of him. (Genesis 6-9.) (Genesis 11.)

At this juncture in man's history, God wanted a people to entrust the Holy Scriptures to be his witness to other nations. God called Abraham to be the father of that people, and promised that his seed will be multiplied as the stars of the heaven. These promises were passed on to Abraham's son, Isaac, and then unto Abraham's grandson Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, the nation from whom the twelve tribes were descended, and through the tribe of Judah and the line of David, the promised Messiah would come, and all nations of the world would be blessed through him. (Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-7; 17:1-5; 35:10.)

In time past, God spoke to the fathers by the prophets in different times and in various ways, but now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and by whom he made the worlds: Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:1-3.) Jesus Christ whom the prophets spoke about shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:31-33; Isaiah 9:6-7.)

The Feasts of God (holydays) were God's appointed days for his chosen nation, Israel. God determined their approach to him, and set the appointed times, seasons, places, sacrifices and offerings. Feast days were announced by the blowing of trumpets, and Israel had to learn and understand the distinctive messages that were sounded for them to respond appropriately, and keep his appointed feasts. (Leviticus 23.) Exodus 23:14.) The prophets were also called to make

a clear and distinct sound by lifting up their voices like a trumpet, to show the people their transgressions, and also to sound an alarm and warn them of coming events in the world. (Isaiah 58:1; Joel 2:1; Amos 3:6.)

In order for Gentiles to participate in the feasts, they had to become proselytes of Israel's God and enjoined by the rite of circumcision, the sign and seal of the covenant God made with Abraham. This brought them as one and entitled them to the promises and privileges of the Old Covenant, no longer strangers from the covenant of promise. (Genesis 17:1-14; Exodus 12: 43-50.) While it is in Christ who is our peace, that both Jew and Gentile are made one, having broken down the middle wall of partition, and together we partake in the promises and privileges of the New Covenant relationship with God, as fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God. There is neither Jew nor Greek (Gentile), there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for we are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you be Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. (Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 3:11.)

The blowing of the trumpets was also associated with calling Israel together for worship, and when this specific sound was heard, the believing Jews would stop work and gather at the temple door for worship, leaving the unbelieving Jews and non Jewish workers in the field. This will find fulfilment in the Feast of Trumpets when Jesus comes in the clouds for his church, likened to his bride, and the trumpet shall sound: and the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we who are alive in him will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, changed into glorified bodies, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (Matthew 24:40; Luke 17:34-36; 1Corinthians 15:51-57; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18.)

In the book of Revelation, the Lord Jesus Christ who with a great voice as of a trumpet, is calling us to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches, and the blowing of trumpets

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are also associated with judgments. (Revelation 1:10--4:1.) (Revelation 8-15.)

Jesus fulfilled everything revealed by God to Israel written in the law, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning him. Jesus fulfilled them for us as the law acted as our schoolmaster to bring us to him to be justified by faith, but after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster, For we are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Since the law required perfect obedience with no power to keep it, Jesus erased the legal document that held us condemned as sinners and nailed it to the cross, therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved, and he that believes on him is not condemned or damned in judgment. (Luke 24:44; 18:31-33; Acts 3:18; Matthew 5:17; Romans 10:4; 5:1; Hebrews 1:1-3; Galatians 3:22-26; Colossians 2:13-20; John 3:16-18.)

Jesus likened to the Sheaf of the firstfruits, fulfilled all that were symbolized on the Feast Day of the Sheaf of the firstfruits. This sheaf was a representative sheaf waved by the priest before God, and was symbolic of the coming harvest. (Leviticus 23:9-11; Exodus 23:19.) And so Christ, the firstfruits of the resurrection, the firstborn from the dead, entered into God's presence for us as the forerunner of the great harvest of those that are his at his coming. Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: Beloved, now are we the sons of God...and we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1Corinthians 15:20-23; 1John 3:2; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians1:18; Hebrews 10:24-26; Revelation 1:5.)

Israel shadowed the New Testament Church that is comprised of both Jew and Gentile believers. That which happened to physical Israel who experienced the natural fulfilment under the Old Covenant, pointed to spiritual Israel, who will experience spiritual fulfilment under the

New Covenant in Christ, therefore to live in the temporal Old Covenant, is to miss the eternal New Covenant. (1 Peter 2:5-9; 1Corinthians15:46; 2 Corinthians 4:18.)

Feasts, new moon and Sabbath days are a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ. He is the body, the substance, the antitype of all that was ceremonial of the First Covenant, For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant, established upon better promises with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: (Hebrews 8: 6-13; Colossians 2:16-17.)

On the Day of Atonement, Israel had to cease from their own works and rest in the work of the high priest, who entered into the Most Holy Place with the atoning blood of the sacrificial animal in Sanctuary service. Now Jesus was both the High Priest and the sacrifice when he offered himself and shed his blood on God's altar, the cross. As our great High Priest, Jesus entered the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary with his own atoning blood, presented it to the Father on the Mercy Seat, and took his place at the Father's right hand as our heavenly High Priest, making a new and living way open for all humanity to enter into the Holiest by his blood, thus fulfilling the work of the earthly high priest with the blood of the sacrificial animal with his own blood. Therefore the external Feast of the Passover, and the work of the earthly high priest entering within the veil on the Feast Day of Atonement with the blood of animals are no longer required. The believer ceases from his own works and rests in the finished work of Christ, in whom we have now received the atonement, and is our passover sacrificed for us: By which we are sanctified through the offering of his body once for all, therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven...but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (Leviticus 16.) Hebrews 6:20; 9:11-15; 10:1-22; Romans 5:11; 1Corinthians 5:7b, 8.)

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Also the external Feast of Pentecost (fiftieth), acted as a shadow that pointed to the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell humanity as promised by Jesus. This was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem fifty days from the waving of the Sheaf of Firstfruits and the resurrection of Jesus on the apostles, and the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brethren. The number were one hundred and twenty that ended the age of the flesh, and began the firstfruits of the Spirit. As they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, being the firstfruits of the Spirit, they began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance and the Church of Jesus Christ was born. (Leviticus 23:15-16; Genesis 6:3,13; Acts 1:1-8, 14-15; (Acts 2.)) God's purposes seen in the Feasts, shadowed his eternal purpose in Christ and the Church. Therefore to live in the shadow is to miss the substance. To hold to the type is to miss the antitype, Jesus Christ. (John 15:26; 16:7-15; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 3:6-11.)

The Feast of Passover was celebrated as a memorial of Israel's redemption and deliverance from Egypt's life of sin and bondage (Exodus 12.) whereas, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in remembrance of him as the Passover sacrificed for us. Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, fulfilled the details of the Old Testament type and established the supper at the time of the Passover, when he was about to be slain as the true Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and gave it to the disciples and told them to take and eat for this is his body. And he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them and told them to drink all of it; For this is his blood of the new testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins. And he will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until he drinks it new with them in his Father's kingdom. (Matthew 26:1-2, 26-28; Mark 14:1, 22-25; Revelation 19:7-9.)

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do shew the Lord's death till he come. Just as the Passover

meal reminded Israel of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt, and looked forward to entering the land of Canaan, (Exodus 6:3-8.) the Lord's remembrance meal looks back to the cross where he died for our sins, and looks forward to his coming to bring us full salvation, and take us away from this sinful age to be with him forever in a sinless world order, thus closing off the Old Covenant Passover Feast of the body and blood of the lamb, and establishing the New Covenant in his blood with the bread and the wine of his table, that represented his broken body and his shed blood, henceforth, the Passover Feast finds fulfilment in Christ, sacrificed for us. 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. (1Corinthians 11:23-26; Revelation 21:1-4; Hebrews 9:28.)

Jesus was seen by many as a good teacher, one to quote, but not as one to follow and allow his teaching to change their hearts and destiny of their souls. Many saw him as a Saviour only in temporal terms, but not as the Saviour of their souls and the only mediator between God and men, hence the reason they rejected him, not realizing that man's greatest need is the salvation of his soul and not only food, shelter, a quest for things or to expend our lives to achieve power and world peace. Jesus said in the world we will have tribulation, but we must be of good cheer, for he has overcome the world, and all power is given unto him in heaven and in earth. (John 16:33; Mathew 28:18.) Therefore it is for man to make peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace, and this is the central purpose for our lives. There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave his life a ransom for all. For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Isaiah 9:6; Acts 5:31; 1Timothy 2:5; Mathew 6:25; 16:26.)

This life is not an end in itself, but is a pilgrimage for those in Christ to the city that is to come, the city of the living

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God, the heavenly Jerusalem, the inheritance God has promised, the new Jerusalem in John's vision of the believers eternal state, the heavenly city Abraham saw afar off beyond the land of Israel and desired. Has God cast away his people whom he foreknew? Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid, blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in, and so all Israel shall be saved... For this is God's covenant with them... (Hebrews 12:22-28; 11:8-10; Revelation 21:2-4, 9-21; (Romans 11.)

Beloved, are you in Christ and on your way to the heavenly Jerusalem? God has provided eternal forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ for us to receive his promises and the eternal inheritance, the holy city, new Jerusalem that the apostle John saw, the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God, the very city Abraham looked for and confessed saying plainly, that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth seeking a heavenly country. (Revelation 21:22.) Hebrews 11:8-16; 13:14.)

The new and living way into God's presence is now open to all by the blood of Jesus. (Hebrews 9: 11-17, 24-28; 10:19-22.) We cannot shift blame, the way to salvation is when we acknowledge that we are sinful and separated from God and cannot save ourselves by good works, or by any other means outside of the work of Jesus on the cross. It is only when we believe that Jesus Christ died as our substitute on the cross as payment for our sin and by a decision of faith, we receive Jesus as our Saviour. The person who makes that decision is reconciled to God and is passed from death unto life by believing on his name and shall not come into condemnation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; John 5:24.)

This is the hope of those in Christ as the blowing of trumpets will find fulfilment at his coming. For the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air to be forever with him. (1Corinthians 15:51-57; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18.)

The apostle John 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. And John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. It is the city Abraham looked forward to inherit with his seed (posterity), And if you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. And he that sat upon the throne said, the former things are passed away and Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto John, Write: for these words are true and faithful... It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. (Revelation 21:1-6; Hebrews 11:8-16; Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 8:17.)

Blessed are they who keep God's prescribed way of salvation in Jesus Christ. They have the right to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Revelation 22:14; John 3:16; 14:1-6.) They are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ and are dressed in his righteousness, for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife has made herself ready to enter in through the gates into the city, as the Cher'-u-bims and the flaming sword that were placed to debar the first Adam, his wife and their offspring from entering and eating of the tree of life is removed, to allow admittance to the last Adam, Jesus Christ and his bride the Church, with the Old Testament saints and those killed for their testimony of Jesus, and those sealed by God in the great tribulation, whereat all Israel shall be saved. It is a place where all things are made new, Eden restored forever. It is a place of eternal happiness as the tragedies of human life are no more, man in a new earth and a new heaven, where God himself will come to live with mankind. (Revelation 19:7-9.) (Revelation 21.)

As it was in the beginning before sin and disorder entered, so shall it be in the end. He is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the ending. In the

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beginning God created and God said...And the word said made all things and the said word has determined the end of all things. This is the said word of God that has come to you today and how you respond to his word will determine your future and eternal destiny. (Genesis1.) John 1:1-3, 14; (Revelation 22.)

This offer to live in the new Jerusalem is made to you at this moment. Please allow the history of Israel with their God appointed feasts that acted as types and shadows point you to the antitype, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let Israel's history become the history of your salvation. Be like Abraham and confess that you are a stranger and a pilgrim on the earth and join the pilgrimage in Christ heading to the new earth, the holy city, the new Jerusalem, where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, nor any more pain, for the former things are passed away and all things made new.

If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved, for with your heart you believe unto righteousness; and with your mouth confession is made unto salvation. If you have never received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, I beg you to do it now. (Romans 10:9-10.)

Dear God, I acknowledge your love in sending Jesus to atone for my sin as my Passover Lamb. I respond to your love and accept your offer of salvation. By faith I receive Jesus as my Saviour and await the trumpet sound that will announce his coming to take me to be with you forever, Amen.

The following Scripture verses are just a few that assure you of salvation in Jesus Christ. (John 3:14-18; 1John 5:10-13, 20; Ephesians 2:4-9; 2Corinthians 5:17-21.)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Chapter 5

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS (ILLUSTRATED)

God told Moses to speak unto the children of Israel and let them bring an offering of all that he required to make him a dwelling place among them, according to his specified pattern, and all that he had shown Moses with the furnishings thereof. (Exodus 25:30.)

The Tabernacle was a portable tent with curtains draped around wooden frames that served as a meeting place between God and the Israelites. The tabernacle and the outer court with their furnishings and their use by the appointed priests and the work of the high priest with the blood of the sacrificial animals, were God's appointed way for man to atone for their sins for one year through the atoning blood of the sacrifice, and then to be repeated annually on the day of Atonement.

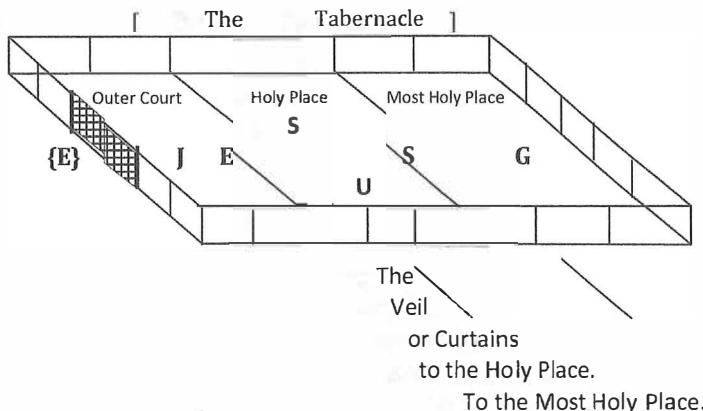
The Tabernacle was divided into two compartments namely: the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. (Exodus 25:1-15.)

The layout of the Furnishings of the Outer Court and the Holy Place as specified to Moses took the shape of

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a cross, and are symbolized by the letters **J E S U S** with details hereafter. The furnishings in the Outer Court and the Holy Place pointed to the man Jesus on the cross, who came in the flesh and dwelt among men as the Lamb of God, our Passover who was sacrificed for us. Jesus took away our sins once for all, closing off the old covenant ceremony of animal sacrifices with a new covenant in his blood, and sat down on the right hand of God as the only mediator between man and God, making a new and living way into God's presence open to all who believe and receive him as their Saviour. **G** symbolizes the Furnishings in the Most Holy Place where God dwelled among the Israelites in the wilderness with details hereafter. **{E}** symbolizes the Entrance Gate. (John 1:14,17; 1Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 8: 6-13; 9:24-26; 10: 8-12,18-20; 1 Timothy 2: 5-6.)

Hereunder is a sketch of the Entrance Gate, the Outer Court and the Tabernacle with their Furnishings and their significance.



The Furnishings in the Outer Court and the Tabernacle, the purpose of the sacrificial offerings and the work of the high priest on the day of Atonement with the atoning blood of the sacrificial animals, served as a shadow of Jesus on

the cross as the sacrifice for our sins once for all, and his entrance into heaven with his own blood to appear in the presence of God for us as our Great High Priest and sacrifice. (Exodus 25:30.) (Hebrews 7:10.)

{E} ████ The Entrance Gate. (Exodus 27:16.) It was thirty feet wide and this was the only entrance and the only way to God's presence in the Most Holy Place. There was no other way to enter, therefore the people could not make their own way and come from any direction to enter into God's presence, nor bring any type of offering to atone for their sins.

Significance: The priests entered through the Entrance Gate which was thirty feet wide that symbolized their entrance into their priestly service in the tabernacle from thirty years old. (Numbers 4:3, 23.)

Jesus the Word was made flesh when he was conceived without sin by the Holy Ghost and dwelt among men. Jesus who had no sins to be cleansed of as did Aaron and the priests, entered an unchangeable priesthood when he was thirty years old, and he submitted to John's baptism to close the ceremonial pattern of washing by the priests at the Laver. When he was baptized...the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon him, And a voice from heaven said, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. (John 1:1-4, 10-14, 17-18; Luke 3:21-23; Matthew 3:13-17; Hebrews 7:23.)

Since there was only one entrance and only one way into God's presence in the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle in the wilderness, Jesus said, he is the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father except through him. He is the door, by him if any man enter in he shall be saved. Wherefore Jesus is able to save those to the uttermost who come to God through him. (John 14:6; 10:9; Hebrews 7:25.)

The Outer Court: The Furnishings were the Brasen Altar and the Brasen Laver:

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The Brasen Altar: (Exodus 27:1-8; (Leviticus 16.)

The Altar was a raised platform with four horns at the top of each corner.

On the day of Atonement, the priests would go to the Laver and wash their hands and feet to purify themselves before ministering before God. At the entrance to the courtyard, the high priest would lay his hands on the head of the unblemished animals to be sacrificed for his sins and his household and for the people, to symbolically transfer their sins unto the animals to be put to death to atone for their sins in substitution. The animals were then placed on the altar in succession and tied, and were held in place with fleshhooks and slaughtered. When slaughtered, the high priest caught the blood that was offered as an atonement, sprinkled some on the four horns of the Altar and on the ground, and took the rest of the blood together with fire taken from the altar, washed at the Laver and proceeded to the Holy Place, took some of the blood and placed it on the four horns of the Altar of Incense, filled the golden censer with live coals taken from the Altar, mixed it with the fire taken from the Brasen Altar, sprinkled incense on it, and then proceeded with the rest of the blood beyond the veil with the cloud of incense preceding him into the Most Holy Place. (Leviticus 16:12-13.)

In the Most Holy Place, the high priest took the blood and sprinkled it on the Mercy Seat where God was invisibly enthroned between two Cher'-u-bims. With the blood of the sacrificial animals on the Mercy Seat, their sins were covered for one year and not taken away permanently, as it had to be repeated annually in remembrance of their sins, for it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. The portable tabernacle, the sacrifice, the furnishings and the work of the high priest foreshadowed Jesus, the true tabernacle and sacrifice to redeem mankind once for all. (Hebrews 10:1-14; 7: 11-28.)

Significance: Just as the innocent animals to be sacrificed were presented to the priest at the entrance to the courtyard for him to lay hands on the unblemished animals to be killed on the Brasen Altar in the outer court to symbolically transfer the sins of the priests, their household and the people unto the animals to atone for their sins in substitution for one year, Jesus, the unblemished Lamb of God, presented himself on earth, outside of heaven both as our unchangeable High Priest and sacrifice, the horn of our salvation, and two days before Passover, Caiaphas the high priest that year, together with the chief priests and the elders of the people consulted how they might take Jesus by subtility and kill him.

While Jesus was yet speaking to his disciples about his death, they came and laid hands on him to be killed, and Caiaphas the high priest said that one man should die for the sins of the people that the whole world perish not. This he spoke not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation and not for that nation only, but for the people that are scattered all over the world. Then from that day forth they took counsel together to put Jesus to death. (Hebrews 13:12; John 1:29, 36; Luke 1:69; Matthew 26:1-4, 47-59; John 11:46-53.)

Jesus said no man took his life from him. He willingly chose to die for us, and he laid down his life on the altar of the cross at Mt. Calvary in substitution to take away our sins once for all. Jesus said he had the power to lay it down, signifying his death and burial, and he had the power to take it up again, signifying his resurrection and ascension to the throne of God. Just as the animals on the Brasen Altar were on a raised platform and held in place with fleshhooks and slaughtered, Jesus body was held on the cross with nails and raised, crucified on a hill, where he shed his blood to reconcile man to God. (John 10:17-18; 19:16-18, 30; Luke 22:22; Isaiah 53: 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.)

Just as the blood of the animal was sprinkled on the four horns of the altar and on the ground signifying that the

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innocent blood that was shed had the power to cover the sins of all the people for a year and had to be repeated annually, Jesus blood was spilled on the four corners of the cross and on the ground, as he died for the sins of the whole world once for all. Horns are symbolic of power and strength and they symbolize the power of Jesus blood to remove our sins once for all to all who believe. (Luke 1:69; Romans 5: 6-19.)

Jesus did not have to offer himself often as the high priest who entered the Most Holy Place once every year with the blood of others; then he must have had to suffer often, but now once in the end of the age, he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself by which we are sanctified through the offering of his body once for all. And every high priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same offering and the same sacrifices which can never take away sins: But Jesus offered himself without spot to God and after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, he obtained eternal redemption for us having entered in once as our great High Priest into the Most Holy Place with his own blood, and sat down on the right hand of God, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Now where remission of sin is, there is no more offering for sin. (Hebrews 9: 24-28, 11-15; 10:10-12, 18.)

When Jesus body was broken in death, the veil of the temple that separated sinful man from God was simultaneously torn miraculously in the middle from the top to the bottom, signifying that Jesus, our Great High Priest by his sacrificial death, made the way open into God's presence for us to enter with boldness by his blood, by a new and living way which he has consecrated for us through the veil, that is his flesh. (Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45; Hebrews 10:19-20.)

E

The Brasen Laver: (Exodus 30:17-21; 38:8.)



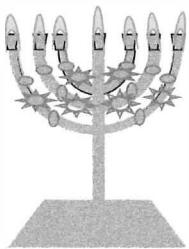
It was a mirrored brass wash bowl and base that held water and used by the priests to wash their hands and feet thereat

before serving in the Outer Court and the Tabernacle. The reflective surface helped them to wash thoroughly before ministering before God.

Significance: Jesus washed the disciples feet to close off the old ceremony of washing at the Laver, and brought in the cleansing process of the new covenant priesthood through his word. All believers are priests unto God and we are to use his word to mirror image our lives and then use it as water to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, for us to serve God acceptably in ministering before him in our body, which is his temple. (John 13: 3-10; 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-27; 2 Corinthians 3:18; James 1:22-25; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 John 1: 8-9.)

The First Veil: \ The Veil separated the Outer Court from the Holy Place from the top to the bottom. The Furnishings in the Holy Place were the Seven Branched Candlestick, the Table of Shewbread and the Altar of Incense.

S



The Seven Branched Candlestick:

It was a shaft of pure gold ham-
mered into seven branches deco-
rated alike with three branches com-
ing out of each side of the shaft with
bowls, buds and flowers like almond
blossoms.

The priests were to keep the lamps fuelled with pure olive oil burning continuously, as it was the only source of light in the Holy Place and placed opposite the Table of Shewbread to throw light on it and on the Altar of Incense. (Exodus 25:31-40; 26:35.)

Significance: Jesus is the light of the world and those who follow him shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life. The main shaft represents Jesus, the true light of the world and he has raised up his church as the seven golden candlesticks of which he is in the midst. The church is empowered by the Holy Spirit which was shadowed by the

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pure olive oil, to walk as children of light in him, to shine before men to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and point them to him as the bread of life symbolized by the Table of Shewbread, and to throw light on the Altar of Incense that symbolized Jesus life, a sacrifice and a sweet-smelling savour unto God. (Matthew 4:16; 5:14-16; John 1:1-14; 8:12; Revelation 1:12-20; 2:1; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:2, 8.)



The Table of Shewbread:

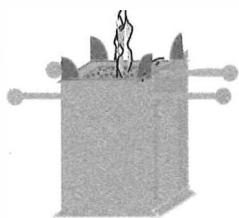
It stood on the right side of the Holy Place opposite the seven branched candlestick, outside the Most Holy Place before the

face of God. Each Sabbath, twelve loaves of freshly baked bread were placed on the Table overlaid with pure gold in two rows, six on a row upon the Table representing the twelve tribes of Israel. The bread of the past week were eaten by the priests in the Holy Place in communion with God. It was a reminder that the twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes before the face of God, and that they were always provided for. (Exodus 25:23-30; Leviticus 24:5-9; (Exodus 40.) (Numbers 4:7.)

Significance: The Shewbread looked forward to Jesus, the Word made flesh, born in Bethlehem, the fruitful house of bread and dwelt among men as the bread of God, the bread of heaven, the bread of life to give life to the world which no man could live without. Jesus chose the broken bread of the Passover, the symbolic memorial of his broken body as living bread for man to feed on and live forever, and the wine as the symbolic memorial of his shed blood to reconcile man to God. Jesus said, except we eat his flesh and drink his blood we have no life in us, meaning that the symbolic emblems of the bread and wine of the Passover that Jesus ate and drank with his disciples, pointed to his death on the cross as our substitute in

paying the penalty that sin demanded that the animal sacrifice foreshadowed. Jesus said we are to feed on him, that is, to feed on his word and live forever in communion or fellowship with God, not as those who ate manna in the wilderness and are dead. Jesus said to remember him and not the Sabbath, for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you do proclaim the Lord's death until he comes, meaning, we are to look back to Jesus as having paid for our sins to satisfy the justice of God, and to look forward to his coming to gather all believers to be with him forever. (John 1: 14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Luke 2: 4; John 6:32-58; Matthew 26:1-2, 18-19, 26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.)

S



The Altar of Incense:

The Altar had four horns at the top of each corner and was placed in front of the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Incense was burnt each morning and

evening by the priests who interceded on behalf of the people. On the day of Atonement, the High Priest placed some of the blood of the sacrifice on the four horns of the altar, took the burning incense and mixed it with the fire and blood from the Brasen Altar, placed it into the golden censer, and would then enter the Most Holy Place in the cloud of the incense to cover the Mercy Seat. He then took the blood of the sacrifice and presented it to God by sprinkling it with his finger on the Mercy Seat as a sweet-smelling savour. The Altar was overlaid with pure gold. (Leviticus 16:12-14; Exodus 30:1-10; Hebrews 9:2.) Significance: Incense gives a sweet odour like perfume. Jesus gave himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour, and he ever liveth to make intercession for us. (Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 7:25.)

The church is unto God a sweet savour of Christ, the holy priesthood, the temple of the Holy Ghost, who are to present our bodies as living sacrifices in making intercession for all men to be saved and to come into the knowledge

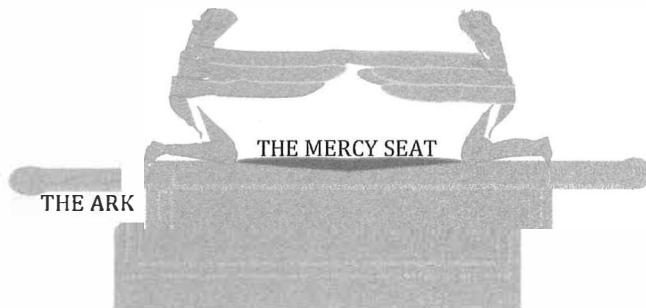
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of the truth through the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, doing all in the name of Jesus with prayers, thanksgiving and praise that rises to heaven. (Revelation 5: 8; 8:3-4; Ephesians 5:2; 1Peter 2:5,9-10; Romans 12:1-2; 1Timothy 2:1-6; 2Corinthians 4:1-7.)

* The Second Veil \\ This Veil separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place from the top to the bottom.

G The Most Holy Place. It served as the second portable tabernacle where God dwelt among the children of Israel in the wilderness. The length and breadth and the height of it were equal, and it foreshadowed the cube of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. (Exodus 26:26-28; Revelation 21:16.)

The Most Holy Place housed the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat which was the Cover for the Ark.



The Most Holy Place was entered into only once a year on the day of Atonement by the high priest alone, with a cloud of incense preceding his entrance to offer the atoning blood of the unblemished animal on the Mercy Seat to make atonement for their sins. (Hebrews 9:7.) In the Most Holy Place, the high priest took the blood and sprinkled it on the Mercy Seat where God was invisibly enthroned between two Cher'-u-bims. With the blood of the sacrificial animals on the Mercy Seat, their sins were covered for one year and

not taken away permanently, as it had to be repeated annually in remembrance of their sins. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. The portable tabernacle, the blood of the sacrifice, the furnishings and the work of the high priest foreshadowed Jesus, the perfect sacrifice and High Priest who redeemed mankind once for all. (Leviticus 16:12-14; Hebrews 10:1-14; 7:11-28.)

The Ark was a rectangular box or chest covered with gold inside and outside and served as a receptacle for the Two Tables of the Law, the Golden Pot of Manna and Aaron's Rod. (Exodus 25:10-16; Hebrews 9: 3-5.)

The Mercy Seat was of pure gold with two cher'-u-bims of gold on either end with their wings stretched out facing each other looking down on the Mercy Seat where God was invisibly enthroned between them. (Exodus 25: 17-22.)

The Contents of the Ark and their Significance:



The Two Tables of the Law: By the law is the knowledge of sin that makes all the world guilty before God, that he might have mercy upon all. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. They pointed out to man that he is sinful, unable to keep the Law and is in debt to God with sin and under the penalty of death and need to be saved. This debt was cancelled by nailing it to the cross of Christ in full payment. Jesus fulfilled all that concerned him that was written in the law of Moses and in the prophets and in the psalms. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believe. The law acted as our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ to be justified by faith in his work on the cross and not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, but after faith is come, we are no longer under our schoolmaster. For we are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. And if you be Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. (Exodus 20:1-17;

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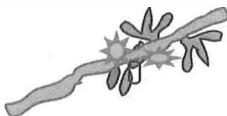
Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Romans 3:19-25; 11:32; 6:23; Luke 24:44; Acts 13:29-33; Romans 10: 4; Galatians 3:19-21.)



The Golden Pot of Manna: It served as a reminder to the Israelites that they were unthankful when they grumbled against Moses and Aaron saying that they brought them in the wilderness to kill them with hunger.

Even though God provided them with manna from heaven while on their way to the land of the Canaanites, they said they were longing to die in Egypt where they ate all the food they wanted.

Jesus said their fathers ate manna in the wilderness and are dead, and he is the bread that came down from heaven to feed mankind that they may eat and live forever. (Exodus 16: 1-4, 32-35; (Numbers 13-14.) Deuteronomy 8: 1-16; John 6:32-58.)



Aaron's Rod: It served to remind them of their rebellion against Aaron as God's appointed high priest. God resolved the dispute with twelve rods with the names of the twelve tribes placed before the Ark. Aaron's name was ascribed to the rod of Levi, and it came to life and budded with blossoms and almonds overnight, thereby confirming Aaron as his high priest. (Numbers 17: 1-11.)

Significance: It serves to remind those who are rejecting Jesus as their Saviour, that God has not appointed them to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ whom he has ordained; And just as Aaron's rod budded and came to life overnight to confirm him as God's chosen high priest, God has given assurance unto all men in that he has raised Jesus from the dead to be at his right hand on the Throne, thereby confirming Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for sin and our Great High Priest after the order of Mel-chis'-ed-ec and not

after the order of Aaron. (1Thessalonians 5:9; Acts 17:31; Colossians 1:18; 1Corinthians15:3-8, 20-23; Hebrews 7:11-28.)

The Significance of the Mercy Seat or Cover for the Ark: Israel's sins and iniquities and their inability to keep the Law written on the two tables of stone, their murmurings and grumblings against Moses and Aaron saying they brought them into the wilderness to kill them with hunger, and their rebellion against Aaron the high priest, were represented by the two tables of stone, the golden pot of manna and Aaron's rod in the Ark. They were covered in the Ark by the Mercy Seat, and all God saw when he looked down was the atoning blood of the unblemished animal on the Mercy Seat, and he was satisfied that the death penalty for sin was carried out to cover their sins for one year and to be repeated annually, as those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually can never make them perfect, for in those sacrifices there is a remembrance of their sins. In the Ark of the Covenant that was in the Temple Solomon built, all that was in the Ark were the two tables of the law, signifying that their sins were still under the blood of the sacrificial animal. (Hebrews 10: 1-12; 2 Chronicles 5:10.)

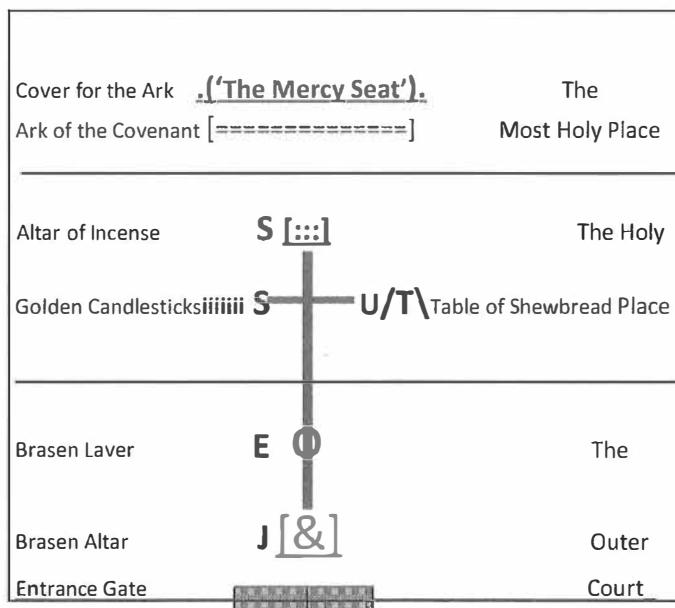
But Jesus the perfect sacrifice, the new and Great High Priest appointed by God, finally dealt with human sin to remove it through the offering of his body once for all, therefore animal sacrifices are no longer required by God and is not acceptable to him. God's justice was fully satisfied that the penalty of the law for sin which is death was carried out in Jesus Christ, who was made sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Our sins are now under the blood of Jesus once for all.

Just as the cloud of the incense preceded the high priest with the blood of the sacrificial animal, and placed on the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle where God was enthroned between the cher'-u-bims to cover the sins of the people for one year, Jesus after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, was received by a cloud and taken

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up into heaven with his own blood placed on the Mercy Seat as our Great High Priest and sacrifice, and sat down on the right hand of God on the throne of THE MAJESTY in the heavens, having taken away our sins once for all, but this is only effective to all who believe that Jesus died for our sins and have received him as their Saviour. (Hebrews 4:14; 8:1-2; 10:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Leviticus 16:12-14; Acts 1:9; John 1:12; 3:16; 1 John 5:10-13.)

The symbolic layout and summary from the Entrance Gate to the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place.



The layout from the Entrance Gate to the Mercy Seat prefigured Jesus ministry of redemption for us.

The layout of the Furnishings in the Outer Court and the Holy Place took the shape of a cross and each shadowed Jesus ministry on the cross.

Jesus said all that was written in the law and in the prophets and in the psalms concerning him must be fulfilled. (Luke 24:25-27, 44.)

E [■] The Entrance Gate pointed to Jesus for fulfilment. The Gate was thirty feet wide. (Exodus 27:16.) Jesus entered into his priestly service at the age of thirty years. (Luke 3:21-23; Numbers 4:3, 23.)

Just as there was only one entrance to the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle, Jesus is the door, by him if any man enter in he shall be saved. He is the way, the truth and the life and no man will get to the Father except through him. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all. Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him. (John 10:9; 14:6; 1Timothy 2:1-6; Hebrews 7:25.)

J [&] The Brasen Altar pointed to Jesus for fulfilment. Jesus died for our sins on the cross at Calvary once for all. (Luke 23: 33; Revelation 1:5-6; Hebrews 10:18-20.)

E () The Brasen Laver pointed to Jesus for fulfilment. Jesus began his priestly ministry at thirty years of age at his baptism to fulfil all righteousness to close off the ceremony of the priests washing at the Laver before ministering in the Outer Court and in the Tabernacle before God. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God... to be cleansed by the washing of water by the word, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Luke 3:21-23; Matthew 3:13-17; Ephesians 5:25b-27; Revelation 1:5-6.)

S iiuiii The Lamps on seven golden candlesticks pointed to Jesus for fulfilment. Jesus is the light of the world and just as the shaft of pure gold was hammered into seven branches with three branches on either side fuelled by pure

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olive oil to give light in the Holy Place, Jesus is in the midst of his church represented by the seven golden candlesticks, empowered by the Holy Spirit to shine in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God and the glorious gospel of Christ Jesus the Lord, and be witnesses unto him. (John 8:12; 12: 46; Revelation 1:20; 2:1-2; 2Corinthians 4:5-7; Acts 1:8.)

U /T The Table of Shewbread pointed to Jesus for fulfilment. Jesus is the bread of life. (John 6: 41-58.)

S [::] The Altar of Incense pointed to Jesus for fulfilment. Jesus life was a sweet smelling savour unto God. (Ephesians 5:2.)

The Most Holy Place pointed to Jesus for fulfilment.

(‘The Mercy Seat’). Cover for the Ark:

----- Ark of the Covenant:

Jesus died for our sins and is in the presence of God for us with his own blood as shadowed by the atoning blood of the sacrificial animals on the Mercy Seat, and all our sins are under his blood and taken away once for all. (Hebrews 8:1-2; 9:11-17, 24-26; 10:12.)

Now we have such a High Priest who fulfilled all that was written about him in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man, the true sanctuary of which Moses tent was but a shadow and example of heavenly things. (Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:11-12.)

John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, the Lamb’s wife coming down from God out of heaven and heard a voice saying, the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell

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with them. The length and breadth and height of that Great City of pure gold are equal, as was the Most Holy Place in Moses tabernacle. It was the city Abraham looked for, whose maker and builder is God, where all things are made new, the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. (Revelation 21:1-6, 16, 22-27; Exodus 26:26-28; Hebrews 11: 9-10.)

Jesus is now on the throne of God and invites us to enter with boldness by his blood of the new covenant, the new and living way he made open for us to come and sit with him on his throne to be with him forever. (John 14:1-6; Hebrews 10:19-20; Revelation 3:20-21.)

If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, today is the day of your salvation, now is the time to acknowledge that Jesus paid the price for your sin once for all and confess him as your Saviour. (Romans 10: 9-10.)

Lord Jesus, I believe you paid the price for my sins once for all, and God confirmed you as my High Priest and sacrifice, in that he raised you from the dead to be at his right hand. I now confess you as my Saviour and my Lord and I am looking forward to your coming to take me to be with you forever. Thank you for saving me. Amen.

Chapter 6

JEWISH MARRIAGE CUSTOMS ANALOGOUS TO JESUS AND THE CHURCH

God has likened the relationship between Jesus Christ and the church as a husband and wife relationship and it is emphasized in Scripture as a great mystery. (Ephesians 5:23-32.) Jesus being a Jew, compared the marriage customs of a Jewish betrothal (engagement) and wedding in his time with himself and the church, portrayed as his bride, and also spoke of his return by using Jewish wedding analogies.

When Jesus returns, he is coming for those who died in him, and for those in him who are alive, and we all shall be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air to be forever with him. For the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife, part of himself, made from the blood and the water that flowed from his side when he was pierced with a spear on the cross, has made herself ready to be at his side from where she was taken, a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. To her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen

is the righteousness of saints. (1Thessalonians 4:13-18; John19:34; Revelation 19:7-8.)

We are in the period of the church age between the already fulfilled Feast of Pentecost, and the yet to be fulfilled Feast of Trumpets when the Lord Jesus Christ will return for his bride the church and her witness will come to an end. God will then turn again to Israel to fulfil his purpose in them and so all Israel shall be saved. (Isaiah 59:20-21; Romans 11:25-32.)

Have you made yourself ready in Jesus to meet him when he comes? If not, he is calling you to be his bride so that where he is, there you will be also. The signs Jesus gave us of his return are upon us and it requires your urgent attention and immediate decision. There is no time for delay, now is the accepted time, today is the day of your salvation, your tomorrow and your eternal destiny will be determined by what you do with the knowledge you get today. (Matthew 24: 42, 44; 25:10; Luke 12:40; 7:26-30; 2Corinthians 6:2; James 1:22-25.)

God instituted marriage to establish the family unit. The first Adam got his wife Eve made from a rib taken from his side, and through their disobedience to God, they brought death on their offspring and all mankind became sinners under the sentence of death. While the last Adam, Jesus Christ, gets his bride from his sinless blood and the water that came forth from his side that was pierced with a sword, and through Jesus obedience unto death, his blood and water mixed with the dust from which the first man was formed and the natural and spiritual came together to make a new creation man in himself. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things become new. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ, shall all be made alive. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Genesis 2:7; John 19:34-37; 2Corinthians 5:17; 1Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 6:23; 1Peter 1:3.)

Allow me to walk you through the Jewish Marriage Customs in Bible times that are analogous to Jesus and the

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church. Jesus is portrayed as the husband who feeds and nourishes his bride with the words (the marriage contract) that his Father gave him, and likened to the Jewish marriage contract (ketubah), so that the significance of his sayings would be agreed to, for no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church. Jesus sees the church as having become his own body by marriage union and does everything for her good. By loving her, he is loving himself. (Ephesians 5:23-32; John 17: 8, 14.)

In a Jewish betrothal (kiddushin) and marriage contract, once the proposal was made and the bride price (mohar) was agreed to, the bridegroom (chatan) would leave his father's home to go to the bride's home with the bride price that had to be paid to the girl's father. Sometimes the couple gave one another a ring or a bracelet or a sum of money, or it was to be paid in work by the man or an exchange made in characteristics. Weddings were a time of celebration and feasting and took place outdoors in a bridal canopy (huppa), open on all sides, under the heavenly canopy of the clouds and the stars in the open sky, and symbolic that the marriage should be blessed with as many children as the stars in the heavens, and analogous to God's promise to Abraham that his children would be as the stars of heaven. (Genesis 15:5; 22:17; 26:4; Hebrews 11:12.)

It was the responsibility of the Jewish bridegroom to provide the meal and the wine at the betrothal ceremony. Once the bridegroom paid the bride price, the betrothal covenant was sealed and binding as marriage with the reading of the marriage contract by the bridegroom that outlined his responsibilities to the bride (kallah) to provide food, clothing, protection and all other needs, and analogous to Jesus saying to his disciples to take no thought for your life, what you shall eat, or what you shall drink...nor what you shall put on. (Matthew 6:24-34.)

After the reading of the marriage contract, the groom would then give the document to the bride, the betrothal benediction would be pronounced in the presence of two

or three witnesses, and they were regarded as husband and wife. As a symbol that the covenant relationship had been legally established, the groom and the bride would drink from a cup of wine. (Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16; John 8:16-18.)

The marriage contract or covenant included a promise by the bridegroom to the bride that he will go back to his father's home to prepare a room for her, and when it is ready, he will come back to take her there, and sometimes they would return to the bride's home to live and to celebrate the marriage supper. From then on the bride was set apart (Kiddush) for the bridegroom and the bridegroom would then depart to build the room, and the bride would eagerly await his return usually at midnight with the sounding of the trumpet (shofar).

In making a comparison with a Jewish betrothal and marriage covenant and Jesus marriage covenant, the price of redemption was agreed to before the foundation of the world, and Jesus left his Father's home in glory and came to man's home on earth to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. He stripped himself of his beauty and glory, made himself of no reputation, took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men, and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death as the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world, to finish the work of redemption by paying the price for his bride with his body and his blood that he likened to the meal and the wine that was provided by the Jewish bridegroom to seal his marriage contract. (Hebrews 9:26; Revelation 13:8; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 2:5-11.)

With reference to a marriage in Cana of Galilee, Jesus, his mother and the disciples were invited and when they got there, the mother of Jesus told him they had no wine. Jesus reminded her that since it was not his marriage, he had no responsibility to provide the meal and the wine as it was the responsibility of the bridegroom, for the time of his marriage had not yet come, that is, it was not the time for him

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to be slain to provide his body and his blood as the price for his bride to seal his marriage covenant. However, Jesus met the need miraculously and joy was restored. It was the beginning of his miracles, typical of his grace and it emphasized the significance of the miracle to encourage faith in him, pointing them to look beyond the present marriage to his own marriage to those who would agree with the price he paid with his body and blood on the cross for his bride, the church. (John 2:1-11; Revelation 19:7-9.)

Jesus at his last Passover meal established on the night he was betrayed, celebrated it with the disciples in remembrance of his undying love for mankind. He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to the disciples and told them to take it and eat it in remembrance of him, as it represented his body which will be broken for them. And then he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them and told them to drink all of it in remembrance of him, For it represented his blood of the new testament which will be shed for many for the remission of sins, and he will not drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when he will drink it new in reunion with them at the consummation of his marriage, and the consummation of all things in his Father's kingdom. From that time, Jesus celebrated no more Passover meals with them, as he was to be slain as the perfect Passover Lamb to take away the sin of the world, and provide the way back to God in paying the agreed bride price with his blood to seal his marriage covenant with his church, thereby bringing glory to his Father in finishing the work of redemption his Father gave him to do on earth. (Matthew 26:26-29; John 17:4; 19:30; Ephesians 5:25-27.)

From then on, the Passover Feast that commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt with the flesh and blood of the lamb was replaced with the Lord's Supper that was established in remembrance of Jesus death, burial, resurrection and ascension to his former glory at his Father's right hand, and of his promise to come again to receive those that are his unto himself. For as often as you eat this bread and drink

this cup, you do shew the Lord's death till he come. It looks back to the cross where Jesus gave his body and blood that sealed the new marriage covenant and looks forward to his coming for his bride to consummate the marriage. For our citizenship is in heaven; from where we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who will change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body. (1Corinthians 11:23-26; Philippians 3:20-21; 1John 3:2.)

In making the exchange in our characteristics, Jesus was conceived without sin, took our sin upon himself so that we might receive his righteousness, and anybody who would lay their sin on him would receive his righteousness in exchange, which is their wedding garment that would make them ready for his coming and fit for God's presence. (2 Corinthians 5:21.)

Jesus marriage covenant was sealed in his blood which the wine represented in the presence of three witnesses: The Water, The Blood and The Holy Spirit. (1John 5: 6.) In the covenant, Jesus is saying, I am yours and you are mine, I in you and you in me... your well being is my responsibility, Don't let your heart be troubled, In my Father's house are many mansions: and I am going there to prepare a place for you and I will come again to receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you will be also. (John 14:2-3.)

It came to pass that the Lord was parted from them and carried up into heaven...and a cloud received him out of their sight...and two men stood by them in white apparel said...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51.)

In a Jewish wedding, when the bridegroom had the bridal room (yichud) ready, it was the time for him to go back to the bride's home at midnight with his attendants to take his bride to his father's house in the privacy of the bridal room. Since his bride did not know the exact day and time of his coming, she would be in a state of readiness with her face veiled and in her wedding dress awaiting his arrival

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that would be preceded with a shout, the bridegroom is coming, and with the sound of a trumpet (shofar), and the bride would go out to meet him for the marriage union (nis-suin), when the veil would be removed from her face and laid on the groom's shoulder to indicate that he has taken up his responsibility to fulfil all the promises in the marriage contract. When this is done, the bride would stand beside the bridegroom joined together as one, and the bridegroom and his attendants will snatch the bride and her bridesmaids and take them to his home in torchlight procession rejoicing, sometimes with singing, music and dancing and once there, the bride and groom would go into the bridal chamber for seven days to fulfil her week i.e. to consummate the marriage, and then for the first time a pronouncement is made before the guests that they are husband and wife. (Matthew 25:1-13; Genesis 29:27.)

Jesus is portrayed as the bridegroom who has gone to prepare a place for his betrothed church and when it is ready, it would be the time for him to come to be joined together with her as one, a type of joining together in holy matrimony. He will come with a shout for his church portrayed as a veiled bride, yet in corrupt flesh that the veil represents, but dressed in her marriage garment of his righteousness in readiness for his coming and the marriage union, when the veil of corrupt flesh that debars entrance into God's presence will be removed, and we will be joined together as his bride in the clouds, and for the first time, the new creation man in Christ will be revealed at his side as a part of himself from where she was taken, a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

This rapturous event will take place 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 all be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality...For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the attending arch-angel and with the

trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds (huppa) to meet the Lord in the air to be forever with him...then shall be brought to pass the saying, O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians 15:51-57; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18.)

This is a victory for all those who are in Christ, their names are written in the Lamb's book of life which is heavens marriage register. (Luke 10:20; Revelation 20:15; 21:27.) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife has made herself ready for that glorious day that is sure to come, when the Lord Jesus Christ shall return to take his bride to the bride-chamber in his Father's home in heaven to consummate the marriage to fulfil her week i.e. to complete the salvation of his church by rewarding her according to her works, while the great tribulation is taking place on earth. (Revelation 19:7.) This is significant of a Jewish wedding celebration that takes place over a period of seven days and is known as bridal week. (Genesis 29:27.)

It is the period of time the bride would remain in the privacy of her honeymoon chamber and would come out at the end of the week for the marriage supper that typifies the end of the seven year tribulation on earth, when the Lord Jesus will return as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS with his bride to her home on earth, to live and to take up the reins of government with her for one thousand years, bringing peace to a troubled world as the Prince of Peace, thereat fulfilling the words of the prophet Isaiah, the government shall be upon his shoulder: Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order and to establish it... The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Revelation 19:1-16; 20:6; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:31-33.)

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This is the hope of those in Christ, as these Jewish marriage customs will find fulfilment in Christ and his church. They were Old Covenant Jewish Marriage Customs passed on and observed in the time of Jesus, hence the reason Jesus spoke of his relationship with the church and of his return to receive her unto himself by using these Jewish wedding analogies. Today, all Jewish marriages may not reflect these customs due to modernisation and different geographical locations of the Jews. (Ephesians 5:25.)

In the Old Testament laws of sexual conduct, the blood stained linen was proof of the bride's virginity. Jesus was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood as the proof of the virginity of his bride, the church. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (Deuteronomy 22: 13-15; Revelation 19:7-9, 13; 1 John 5:7.)

Allow me stir up your minds by way of remembrance. The first Adam got his wife Eve from part of himself, a rib taken from his side, while the last Adam, Jesus Christ gets his bride the church from part of himself, the blood and water that flowed from his side when he was pierced with a spear; and the marriage agreement was sealed in the presence of three witnesses. **1.** The Water that flowed from Jesus side to form a new creation man in him, and at the inauguration of his public ministry by his baptism in water to fulfil all righteousness. **2.** His Blood that was shed at Calvary to purchase his bride, and obtain man's redemption as the seed of the woman promised by God to the first Adam. **3.** The Holy Spirit when he descended on Jesus like a dove at his baptism and lighting upon him, the heavens were opened unto him and a voice came from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (1John 5:6-8; Matthew 3:15-17; 17:1-5; Mark 1:9-11.)

These three witnesses verify that Jesus is the Christ. 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 bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are

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three that bear record in heaven. The Father, The Word and The Holy Ghost: And his name is called the Word of God and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, The Spirit, The Water and The Blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater:

For this is the witness of God which he has testified of his Son. He that believes on the Son of God has the witness in himself: he that does not believe God has made him a liar: because he does not believe the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that has the Son has life: and he who is without the Son has no life. These things are written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life... (1 John 5: 6-13; 3:16, 33.)

Beloved, Jesus is in love with you and he is reaching out to you asking you to be his bride. His love is not expressed only in words, but is demonstrated on the cross where he shed his blood to seal his marriage contract, and all you have to do is to agree that he paid the price for your sin, receive him as your Saviour, and become his bride. This marriage proposal is made to you at this moment, but marriage is based on the couple's mutual love. Will you respond to his love and accept his proposal and agree to his marriage contract and say yes to him to put on your marriage garment of his righteousness, and be ready for his coming to be joined together with him forever for a life of eternal glory when he returns to remove the veil of your corrupt flesh and be that glorious bride without spot or wrinkle? Or will you reject his love and his bride price, and turn him away for a life of eternal torment with the devil in his eternal home which is the lake of fire? (Revelation 20:15.)

The apostle John saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away... And John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her

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husband. If your response to Jesus marriage proposal is yes, this is your eternal home, this is the heavenly city Abraham looked for and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Blessed are they who are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, the last Adam. They have the right to enter in through the gates into the city and the right to the tree of life (Revelation 21:22.) Hebrews 11:8-16.)

Jesus says he is coming quickly. The response of his bride is Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Let the history of Israel and the Jewish Marriage Customs analogous to Jesus and the Church become the history of your salvation. If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus died for your sins, and shall believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved, for with your heart you believe unto righteousness; and with your mouth confession is made unto salvation. If you are not saved, I beg you to confess Jesus as your Saviour. Please do it now. This could be your last opportunity. (Matthew 25:6,10b, 13; Romans 10:9-10.)

Dear God, I acknowledge your love for me in sending Jesus to pay the price for my sin. Lord Jesus, I respond to your love and accept your offer to make me your bride and register my name in heaven in your book of life. I now receive and confess you as my Saviour, and by faith I receive your gift of righteousness which is my marriage garment that makes me ready as your bride for your coming to take me to live with you forever. Amen.

Friend, if you confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you are assured of salvation. You are now a new creation man in Jesus Christ, dressed in your wedding garment of his righteousness, awaiting his return to take you to be with him forever. Your name is written in the book of life in heaven which is heaven's marriage register. (John 3:16; 1John 5:10-13; 2Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 10:20; Revelation 19:7-8; 20:15; 21:27.)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Chapter 7

THE BREAD OF LIFE

God created man, male and female in his image and after his likeness, and formed man from the dust of the earth to partake of his divine Spirit (Breath), to represent him as his stewards on earth. God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. God blessed them and said to them, be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with their kind and have dominion over other earthly creatures. God planted a garden in Eden and there he put the man he had formed to cultivate it and make it subserving. Out of the ground the Lord God made every tree to grow that is good for food, and the earth brought forth grass and herb yielding seed after its kind, the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind whose seed is in itself, every green plant, every seed bearing plant and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. In the midst of the garden was the tree of life that signified life without death to those who ate of it, and also in the midst of the garden was the tree of knowledge of good and evil that led to death to those who ate of it. The Lord God commanded the man to eat of every tree of the garden freely, except the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for the day he eats of it he shall surely die. (Genesis 1:27-30; 2:7-17.)

The first man Adam and his wife Eve, the helper God made for him to fulfil his commission, fell to the craftiness of

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one of God's creatures the serpent, a snake from its hiss. To hiss is to show derision towards or to denigrate, to treat with contempt and ridicule, to show wilful disregard for authority. Adam and Eve, instead of carrying out God's mandate in exercising dominion over the serpent, believed the serpent's denigration of God, went against their creator and ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. By that act of mistrust in God, they wilfully disregarded the authority of his Word, and that decision led man to be separated from God, from the tree of life, and all that is good, to suffer the evil of that decision as man became mortal beings, having to die physically and to suffer by the deeds of the sinful nature that is opposed to God, and manifested in the following manner of behaviour: Adultery; fornication; lasciviousness i.e. gay abandon of all morals; idolatry i.e. replacing God our creator with idols and images made by man and worshipping their own creation and not their creator; witchcraft i.e. magic, occultism, necromancy, bewitching influence or charm; hatred i.e. adversarial relationships; conflict and discord; rivalry; anger; seditions i.e. to incite to undermine authority, to rebel and stir up public disorder and inflict violence against the peace; heresies i.e. deviating beliefs, doctrines and practices that are contrary to the Word of God; murders; drunkenness; revellings and such like: (Galatians 5:19-21a; Romans 8:7-8.)

Adam and Eve, after eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, became aware they had been deceived by the serpent to go against their creator and was ashamed of their nakedness. They realized they had put themselves under the death penalty that would cause them to lose God's presence and stewardship position in the garden, and dominion over the other creatures, and will have to contend with the evil deeds of the flesh and with thorns and thistles to get their food, because the ground outside of the garden was cursed. (Genesis 3:1-21.)

God knew that day would come, and because of his love and purpose for creating man, he made provision before the foundation of the world by preparing himself a body

through the seed of a woman to redeem man. God put the death penalty into effect and banished Adam and Eve from his presence and from the garden, to prevent them from eating from the tree of life that would have enabled them to live forever in a sinful condition suffering its evil consequences without dying. Before God put man out from his presence, he graciously gave them a promise to send a Saviour through the seed of a woman who would crush the serpent's head, and taste death for every man to save them from their sins and its effects, and bring them back into a harmonious relationship with him forever. (Genesis 3: 22-24; Hebrews 4:3; 9:26; 10:5; 1 Peter 1:18-21; Revelation 13:8.)

Since man was created in God's image and likeness and was given dominion in the earth and lost it through sin, the characteristic or attribute of the Saviour had to be sinless in order to save sinful man. For that promise to be fulfilled, God who is invisible, prepared himself a body to fashion himself as a man to become visible, to destroy the works of the devil and restore in man his image and likeness and dominion that man had lost, to bring them back into union with him from separation. (Hebrews 10:5b; 2 Corinthians 5:21.)

When the time came, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin espoused to a man named Joseph of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. The angel told her that she was highly favoured with God and she shall conceive in her womb and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS. He shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Mary then asked the angel how will that happen since her marriage was not yet consummated? The angel said to her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon her, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow her, and the holy child which shall be born of her shall be called the Son of God, For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said to the angel, let what was said be done unto her and the angel departed. (Luke 1:26-38.)

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Now the birth of Jesus was on this wise: When his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, she was found with child before they came together to consummate their marriage. While Joseph gave thought to end the betrothal secretly because he did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace, the angel of the Lord appeared to him saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take Mary for your wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost, and she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:18-21.)

Joseph did as the angel told him and did not consummate their marriage until Mary brought forth her firstborn son. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet Isaiah saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name Emanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matthew 1:22-25; Isaiah 7:14; 9: 6-7; John 7:42.)

When the time came for JESUS to be born, the Roman Emperor Augustus by Divine Providence issued a decree for a census to be taken throughout the Empire, for citizens to return to the town of their ancestral origin to be registered and taxed. Joseph who belonged to the house and lineage of David, was required to register in Bethlehem the city of David. The decree by Augustus brought Joseph and Mary from the town of Nazareth into Judea, unto Bethlehem at the appointed place and time for the Saviour to be born as was foretold by the prophet Micah. But you Beth-lehem Eph'-ratah (Fruitful House of Bread), though you are small among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel whose origins are from of old, from everlasting, that is, the Saviour was from eternity and not his human birth, and Jesus identified himself as the I AM before Abraham was. (Luke 2:1-5,11,15; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:5-6; John 7:42; 8:57-58; Exodus 3: 13-14.)

When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman in the likeness of men, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law that we might

receive the adoption of sons. (Philippians 2:7; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:5.)

While in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king, that which was spoken by the prophet Micah was fulfilled when Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, and again by Divine Providence, she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room available for them at the lodging place. (Luke 2: 6-7.) Bethlehem means House of Bread since it was a grain producing city. The grain was ground into flour and made into bread. A manger is a crib for fodder, a feeding trough for animals, a channel in which grain and pieces of grass and water is put as food for animals to feed. Swaddling clothes are strips of cloth.

When Jesus was born, there were shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flocks by night and to their surprise, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were afraid. The angel said to them, Fear not: For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds left for Bethlehem with haste to see this thing which the Lord had made known unto them, and they found Mary and Joseph and the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they proclaimed that which they were told concerning this child. (Luke 2: 8-17.)

The significance of Jesus being laid in a manger at birth and wrapped in swaddling clothes was by Divine Providence.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth...and the fruit tree yielding fruit after it's kind, whose seed is in itself upon

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the earth: and it was so. (Genesis 1:11-12, 29.) Jesus said, Except a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit, that is, that which is planted is not made fruitful except it die. (John12:24; 1Corinthians15:36.)

Jesus likened himself to the grain of wheat when sowed in death, springs to life and gives rise to several new ears as it brings forth more of itself, after it's kind. Jesus had to be born in the House of Bread, laid in a manger and likened to that grain of wheat, sown in death, buried and rose again to be the bread of life, to bring forth life after himself, spiritual life, everlasting life to those who believe and receive him as their Saviour. Jesus said he is the resurrection and the life, and whosoever believes in him, though he were dead, yet shall he live: It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh profiteth nothing and the words that he speak, they are Spirit and they are life. Except a man be born again by the Spirit of God, he cannot see nor enter the kingdom of God. For that which is born of the flesh is flesh (natural); and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (1Corinthians 15:3-4, 36-38; John 3:3-8; 11:25-26; 6: 63.)

The swaddling clothes or strips of cloth that Jesus was wrapped in while he laid in the manger represented the stripes or wales he received in his body, that is, the raised marks left on his body after being whipped. 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. Jesus took upon himself all that sinful mankind has to bear, so as to take them off from us who believe. (Matthew27:26; Mark15:15; John 19:1; Isaiah 53:4-5; 1Peter 2:24.)

Since natural food is central to physical life, the Word of God is central to spiritual life and God our creator provided Jesus, the Word of God made flesh as the bread of heaven (Spirit/soul food) for our salvation. For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

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For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn us in the world, but that through him we might be saved...but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-21.)

Jesus referred to himself as the bread of God and the bread of life, the true and living bread which came down from heaven to feed mankind, to give life unto the world, the bread that no human being could live without. On the night of his betrayal before his crucifixion, Jesus chose the broken bread of the Passover as the symbolic memorial of his striped and broken body for our healing and the wine as his shed blood to bring forgiveness for our sins.

As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it and brake it, and gave it to his disciples and said, Take eat: this is his body which is given for you, And he took the cup, and gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is his blood of the new testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins, this do in remembrance of him. The disciples partook of the bread and the wine as symbolic emblems of Jesus flesh and blood that pointed to his death on the cross, as our substitute in paying the death penalty that sin demanded, to give his life a ransom for all who believe, to be testified in due time. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do proclaim the Lord's death till he come, that is, looking back to Jesus as having paid for our sins, and looking forward to his coming to gather all believers to be with him forever. (Matthew 26: 26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-26.)

Jesus told the multitudes not to labour only for the food which pertains to physical life that will perish, but to labour for that food which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give them. At that saying, they asked Jesus what work must they do to work the works of God and gain everlasting life? Jesus answered and said unto them, the work of God is for them to believe on him whom God

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has sent. They then asked Jesus for a sign greater than the manna or bread from heaven their fathers ate in the desert, and what sign would he give? Jesus said unto them, Moses gave you not the real bread from heaven, For your fathers ate manna in the wilderness and are dead, But his Father gives you the true bread from heaven, and if any man eat from this bread, he will not die but have everlasting life. For he is the bread of God which came down from heaven, not to do his own will, but the will of his Father who sent him to give life to the world, to give everlasting life to those who believe and receive him as their Saviour. (John 6:27-58; 3:16.)

Since manna was literal food for the physical body and sustained physical life only, it had no value beyond this life, as it had no power to give everlasting life to those who ate it. Jesus the true bread from heaven is bread to the soul and is superior to the manna. He is the living Word made flesh, the bread of God which came down from heaven to give everlasting life to those who feed on him. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him: and without him was not anything made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-18.)

Jesus did not mean we don't have to work to feed the physical body, but it should not be the supreme aim in our lives, as the physical is not the most important thing in life since it is only temporal. Man does not consist of body only which one day will perish, but also spirit and soul which lives on beyond physical death, and must be fed with the word of God unto eternal life in Jesus Christ. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God. (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4.)

Jesus said if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that he gives is his flesh... Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood you have no life in you, and whoever eats his flesh and drinks his blood has eternal life, and he will raise him up at the last day...For his flesh is meat (food) indeed, and his blood is drink indeed,

and whoever eats his flesh and drinks his blood dwell in him and he in them. Just as when we eat literal food it becomes part of us and we become a part of it, likewise Jesus becomes a part of us and we a part of him.

In making a comparison, just as the grain, grass and water were put into the trough as food for animals to feed on to sustain the physical and temporal life, Jesus was placed in the manger as the grain of wheat to be sown in death and raised again to life to bring forth many after his kind to feed on him and live forever. As the living Father sent him and he lives by the Father: so the one who feeds on him shall live by him and live forever. (John 6: 50-58; 14:20; Luke 22:15-20.)

Through Jesus perfect life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, he is the bread likened to the tree of life for humans to feed on and live forever. What the natural bread is to physical life, Jesus is to Spirit life as God used the natural and the physical to teach us the spiritual. (1 Corinthians 15: 45-50.)

Remember when Adam did what God told him not to do, sin and death entered and brought the separation between God and man. But we see Jesus...suffering death, crowned with glory and honour; that by the grace of God he should taste death for every man in bringing many sons unto glory. For God demonstrated his love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, therefore, if we fail to receive Jesus as the only mediator between God and man and not apply his mediating work on the cross as payment for our sins to reconcile us to God, and his resurrection to the right hand of the Father, we would die in our sins separated from God to remain eternally separated from him, to live with the evil of our decision in the lake of fire, because we would have rejected God's only provision for our sin because of unbelief, with no more opportunity after death, because after death is judgment. So Christ was sacrificed once to take away our sins, and he will appear a second time to bring full salvation to those who receive him and are

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awaiting his return to be with him forever. (1Timothy 2:4-6; John 8:23-24; Hebrews 2:9; 9:27-28; Romans 5:8-11.)

For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation. Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the Word that was in the beginning, the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, for there is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved, but by the name of Jesus. (Romans 3:23; Acts 4:12; John 1:1-4, 12-14; 14:1-6; Hebrews 2:1-6.)

Jesus came into this world not as a political saviour, but as the Saviour of mankind, to deliver us from the power of sin and death unto the power of the Spirit of life in him and reconcile us to God. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so shall by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (Romans 3:23; 5:15-21; 6:23; 1Corinthians15:20-23.)

The first Adam, the head of the old humanity, lost God's image and purpose for man and brought death and separation from God, while the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, heads the new humanity reconciled to God, who draw their life from him. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away and all things become new. The man in Christ is restored in God's image and likeness to their original creation, formation, position and purpose forever. (2 Corinthians 5:17.)

For by grace we are saved through faith in the work of Christ and not of ourselves, it is the gift of God and not of our

effort lest any man should boast. Therefore, eternal life is not something to be earned, but to be received by faith as God's gift to us paid for by Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus died for our sins and was buried, and that he rose from the dead and entered into heaven itself to appear in the presence of God for us, thereby making the way clear for us to enter by his blood, as he is set at God's own right hand. (Ephesians 2:8-9; 1:20-21; 1Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 1:20-21; Hebrews 9:24; 10:19-20.)

Jesus who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in him, but the benefits of his work on the cross and his resurrection to the right hand of the Father becomes effective only to those who believe and receive him as their Saviour. Jesus, the offspring of the woman, the Saviour of mankind, crushed the serpents head and the promise made to Adam was fulfilled in his victory over Satan, death, hell and the grave, a victory in which all who believe will receive. 2Corinthians 5:19, 21.)

Untoyouthis day, into your life, salvation has come to you in Jesus Christ, God's gift of righteousness. God who is invisible, became visible in the person of Jesus Christ, Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation... and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father. (Hebrews 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-18; Philippians 2: 5-11.)

The babe likened to a grain of wheat that was once in the manger, rose to life after death to become the Bread of Life and Saviour of mankind. Please receive him as your Saviour and be reconciled to God in him and have everlasting life. Since we are all God's creation and not all his children, God has given us the right to become his children by receiving Jesus, For we are all children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, and by receiving

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him as your Saviour, your name will be written in heaven in the Lamb's book of life, and you will live with him in eternal glory in a new earth, under a new heaven, the holy city, the new Jerusalem, where all things are made new, and this is where you belong my friend. (John 1:12-14; Galatians 3:26-29; Luke 10:20; Revelation 21:1-5, 27.)

As a minister of reconciliation and an ambassador for Christ with the message of reconciliation, I beg you to receive Jesus and confess him as your Saviour and be reconciled to God. It is not God's will that any should perish, but that all come to repentance, and since there might not be another opportunity to do it, now is the appointed time, today is the day for you to become a child of God and have your name written in the Lamb's book of life, because whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire, and you my friend don't have to remain in the old humanity in Adam, and suffer from the evil of your decision to reject Jesus as your Saviour, and end up in the lake of fire with the devil forever. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Revelation 20:15.)

The fulfilment of God's plan for the new humanity in Christ to be restored in his perfect image and likeness awaits his coming, when our vile bodies will be changed and fashioned like unto his glorious body. For we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is, and this my friend is our immovable, eternal future paid for by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2.)

Remember we were born into this world separated from God as descendants of Adam, the head of the old creation in a body of sinful flesh to suffer the evil of Adam's decision by the deeds of the flesh, but now God has given us the right to choose to be born again of his Spirit by receiving Jesus, the head of the new Spiritual creation and prosper from the good of our decision to live with him forever with the right to the tree of life restored, but your decision determines where you will live beyond this life in eternity. Your

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eternal future is at stake. If you are not in Christ, I beg you to give the more earnest heed to this word, choose Jesus and don't be careless with your soul in neglecting so great salvation. (John 3:3; Revelation 22:1-4, 14.)

If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus died for your sins, and believe in your heart that he rose from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:9-10.)

Your word of confession unto your own salvation:

Dear God, I acknowledge your love for me in sending Jesus who willingly laid down his life in paying the price to save me from my sin, so that I could be reconciled to you. I admit I was seeking salvation through religion and self righteousness, trying to work my way into heaven, but now I know that Jesus became sin for me that I might be made righteous with you.

Lord Jesus, I believe in my heart that you died for my sins and you rose from the dead, and is set in the heavenly places at the Father's right hand interceding for me. I now confess with my mouth and declare that you are my Saviour and my Lord. Thank you for saving me and making me into a new creation man, renewed in your image and likeness, and writing my name in heaven in your book of life as I await your return to take me to live with you forever. Amen

Chapter 8

THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD

People die because of sin that came through the first man, Adam. In him a death sentence has been passed unto all mankind, but by Christ came the resurrection of the dead and those who are in him shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15: 20-23; Romans 6:23.) Children of Israel of the stock of Abraham and all mankind, it is to us this message of salvation is sent. We declare unto you glad tidings how the promise God made to the fathers, he fulfilled the same in that he brought them out of Egypt and raised up Jesus, a Saviour, Son of David, Son of Abraham, and through him is preached the forgiveness of sins. (Acts 13:16-39; Matthew 1:1.) He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord shall give unto him the throne of his father David; And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:32-33; 2:11; Revelation 22:16.)

It is the reason for that Passover almost two thousand years ago, when Jesus took upon himself our sins and judgment when he died for our sins to reconcile us to God.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread of the Old Covenant was celebrated in Three Parts. **1.** The Feast of Passover. **2.** The Feast of Unleavened Bread. **3.** The Feast of the Sheaf of Firstfruits.

1. The Feast of Passover. God told Moses and Aaron to speak to all Israel that this month shall be the beginning of months, the first month of the year to you, and for every household to take a lamb without blemish, a male of the first year, and set it aside on the tenth day of the first month of the sacred year, in preparation of the Passover to be killed in the evening of the fourteenth day, and the blood had to be applied to the two side posts and the upper door post of their houses to save the occupants inside from death. The shed blood applied was the evidence that substitutionary death had already taken place in those houses through the mediation of the sacrificial lamb, and those inside the houses where the blood was applied were saved from death, while the firstborn in the houses without the blood suffered death. This Feast was observed as a memorial of the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel, who dwelt in the land of Egypt for four hundred and thirty years and their deliverance from Egyptian slavery and bondage. (Exodus 12.) Leviticus 23:5; Numbers 28:16; (Exodus 6:2-8.)
2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread: It was celebrated on the fifteenth day, the day after the Passover that ended in the evening of the fourteenth day at 6 p.m. and began the fifteenth day. The Hebrew day was from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Leviticus 23: 6; Numbers 28:17.) This feast Day was a High day, an extra Sabbath apart from the weekly Sabbath. (John 19:31.) This was a day of rest and each household were to eat the flesh of the lamb roasted with fire

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with bitter herbs and unleavened bread, signifying that Israel had ceased from their own works, and rested in the finished work of the unblemished lamb. They were to eat it in haste and dressed in readiness to leave Egypt, after sojourning there for four hundred and thirty years. (Exodus 12: 8-11.) Out of that period, they were enslaved by the Egyptians for four hundred years. The children of Israel did all that the Lord commanded, And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day i.e. the very same day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. (Exodus 12: 15-17, 40-42, 50-51; 34:18; Acts 7:6-7.)

3. The Feast of the Sheaf of Firstfruits was celebrated on the first day of the week, the day after the weekly Saturday Sabbath. On that day, they brought a sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest to the priest, for him to wave it before the Lord as a representative sheaf, signifying there is more to come exactly like the first, the pre-eminence of the gathering of the full harvest to follow. (Leviticus 23:9-11.)

These Feasts acted as a shadow to lead to Christ for fulfilment, as he is the Body and substance of the shadow. Jesus said all that were written in the law of Moses and in the prophets and in the Psalms concerning him he must fulfil, therefore Christ is the antitype of these feasts to fulfil God's eternal purpose. (Colossians 2:16-17; Galatians 3:24-29; Hebrews 8:5; 1:1-3; Luke 24:27,44; John 5:46; 18:31-33.)

From Adam to Christ is four thousand years or four days with the Lord, since one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (Psalm 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8.)

In order for Jesus to fulfil the ceremony of the Old Testament Passover memorial as the Lamb of God, he was

set aside for four thousand years or four days with the Lord in preparation to die for sinful man to save them from eternal death. In the time of the Passover, Jesus entered Jerusalem on the tenth day of the first month of the sacred year, to be set aside in preparation for his crucifixion on the fourteenth day, a Wednesday, as the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world. He was greeted by the multitudes waving palm branches, but the chief priests and elders sought to bring false witness against Jesus to put him to death but found none, but other false witnesses accused him of blasphemy, because he said he is able to destroy the temple of God and build another in three days made without hands. Many others accused Jesus of many things, and they laid hold on him and led him to Caiaphas the high priest and the elders, then to King Herod and the governor Pontius Pilate to be questioned about the accusations and was found without fault. (Matthew 1:21; Philippians 2:5-8; John 1:29, 36; 18:24-38; 19:4, 6; Mark 11:11; 14:1-2; Matthew 27:11-26; Luke 19:37; 23: 4, 14, 22.)

At the time of the Passover, it was the custom of the governor to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd to pacify the Jews. An insurrectionist and murderer called Barabbas was released, and by God's Providential overruling, Jesus the unblemished Lamb of God was chosen to be crucified in his place to take the place of sinners, and fulfil the requirement of the Passover sacrifice of an unblemished lamb by the sacrifice of himself. (Mark 15: 6-15; Luke 23:16-25; (Isaiah 53.) Colossians 1:20-22; Hebrews 9:26.)

Jesus was nailed to the cross at the third hour or 9 a.m. on the fourteenth day, a Wednesday, and the next day, Thursday, was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a Sabbath day. That Sabbath day was a High Day, an extra Sabbath apart from the weekly Saturday Sabbath. (Mark 15:25; John 19:31.) When Jesus was crucified, there was darkness between the sixth and ninth hour, the ninth hour or 3 p.m. being the time of the evening sacrifice, when the high priest killed the last Passover lamb and said. It is finished. Simultaneously, Jesus

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as both the Great High Priest and the sacrificial Lamb, having finished his work of redemption as the Lamb of God without spot or blemish, at the ninth hour or 3 p.m. said, It is finished: and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost. (John 19:30.) At that moment, the veil of the temple representing sinful flesh that separated man from the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom, signifying that a new and living way into God's presence was made open by the blood of Jesus. (Mark 15:38-47; John 17:4; 19:14-18; Luke 23:44-46; Hebrews 9:3, 8, 11-12.)

Jesus was hurriedly taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb before the twelfth hour or 6 p.m. because of the High Sabbath the next day, Thursday, in celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The twelfth hour or 6 p.m. ended the Wednesday and began the Thursday that ended at 6 p.m. since the Hebrew day was from evening to evening, that is, from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. (John 19:31-42; 20:19.)

Now where remission of sin is, there is no more sacrifice for sin. Having a High Priest over the house of God, let us with a true heart and full assurance of faith, enter with boldness into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way, which he has consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. (Hebrews 10:18-22.) God made Jesus to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him, for there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself a ransom for all. (2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Mark 10: 45; 1 Timothy 2: 5-6.)

Jesus perfect life is testimony that his substitutionary death brought salvation to sinful man. Just as the shed blood of the unblemished lamb that was applied to the houses in Egypt saved the occupants inside from death, Jesus the unblemished Lamb of God, shed his precious blood on Calvary's cross to save us from eternal death, that is, from living eternally separated from God, but we must believe that his blood was shed for our sins and receive him as our

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Saviour for his blood to take effect and reconcile us to God.
(1 Peter 1:18-25.)

For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us, let us keep the feast not with old leaven...but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Jesus established and brought into effect the will of God to save sinful man by shedding his own blood, for where a will is, there must be the death of the testator. Now his blood speaks of God's love and mercy, and his offer of reconciliation and fellowship with him, for the life of the flesh is in the blood and God has given it to make an atonement for our souls. (1Corinthians 5:7b; Hebrews 9:15-22; Leviticus 17:11.)

Jesus said except we eat his flesh and drink his blood we have no life in us, but the person who believe and receive him has eternal life, he is passed from death unto life. Jesus gave his sinless body and shed his blood on the cross to save our souls, and as the true Passover Lamb, he closed off the ceremony of the Old Covenant Passover Feast of the body and blood of the lamb, and established the New Covenant Feast in his body and blood, symbolized by the bread and the pure blood of the grape of his supper in remembrance of him. Just as the Passover Feast was a memorial of God's redemption of Israel from the land of Egypt into the promised land, the supper instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ reminds believers of their redemption in him, and his coming again to take them to be with him forever in glory.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death till he come: Just as Israel ceased from their own works and rested in the finished work of the unblemished sacrificial lamb of the Old Covenant celebration of the Passover Feast, believers cease from their own works and enter into spiritual rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the unleavened Bread of God, the unblemished Lamb of God, our Passover sacrificed for us. (Matthew 26:2, 26-28; Mark14:1,12, 22-24; John 6:51-56; 12:24; 1Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26; Hebrews 8: 6-13; 4:10-11; Deuteronomy 32:14.)

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Jesus was once asked by certain Scribes and Pharisees for a sign to prove who he said he was after he healed and did many other things on the Sabbath that they said were illegal. Jesus answered and said he is Lord of the Sabbath, and referred them to the sign of the prophet Jonah, who after being three days and three nights in the belly of a whale was vomited out by the whale unto dry land, the sign Jesus gave that pointed them to his own burial of three days and three nights in the heart of the earth and his resurrection when he said he will rise again.

Three nights: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and Three days: Thursday, Friday and Saturday. (Matthew 12:1-14, 38-41; 16:1-4; Mark 8:31; Luke 11:29-32; John 2:19; Jonah 1:17.)

When the weekly Saturday Sabbath ended at 6 p.m. and began the Sunday, the first day of the week, Jesus rose from the dead after three days and three nights just as he said as the firstfruits of the resurrection and the firstborn from the dead, and Mary and other women came to the tomb early in the morning when it was yet dark to anoint his body, but they found the tomb empty, and angels appeared to them and said, he is not here, he is risen. At that time, Jesus appeared to Mary, and as she attempted to touch him, Jesus stopped her saying he was not yet ascended before the Father to present himself as the Great High Priest and the sacrifice with his own blood, and the firstfruits of the resurrection, which was symbolized by the sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest presented to the priest, and waved before the Lord in the old memorial ceremony. (Leviticus 23: 9-14; John 20:1-17; Luke 24:1-9; Mark 16:1-7; Matthew 28:1-10.)

At the time the Jews presented the sheaf of the firstfruits to the priest to be waved before the Lord in the earthly sanctuary signifying there was more to come exactly like the first, Jesus ascended to the heavenly Sanctuary to appear in the presence of God for us with his own blood, the firstfruits of the resurrection, the firstborn from the dead, and representative of the full harvest of souls yet to come at his coming. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven

with a shout, with the voice of the arch-angel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air to be forever with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.)

The empty tomb and Jesus ascension to heaven bear witness that Jesus, the firstfruits of the resurrection had been reaped, and is before God with many more to come exactly like him. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of the resurrection...But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; after-ward they that are Christ's at his coming. Sin has brought death, but thanks be to God who has given us the victory of new life through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 9:11-12, 24-28; 1Corinthians 15: 20-23, 51-57.)

Friend, Jesus Christ is not like others who have died with their name on their tombstone, here lies Name. The angel said about Jesus, he is not here, he is risen, go your way and tell others that he is risen from the dead. (Matthew 28: 6-7.)

The message of the cross is that Christ died for our sins and was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures having conquered death, hell and the grave. (1Corinthians 15:3b-4.) Jesus is the living one who was dead, and is alive for evermore and has the keys of hell and death. All power is given unto him in heaven and in earth and beneath the earth, and he is gone into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father of glory who has highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name. Jesus has absolute control over hell and death and heaven and earth, angels and authorities and powers and every name that is named have been made subject to his name. (Revelation 1:18; Matthew 28:18; Ephesians1:19-22; Philippians 2:8-11; 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 1:3; 10:12; 12:2.)

That is good news my friend, Jesus, the most powerful being and the highest authority in the universe is offering you salvation, for there is no other person or name appointed by God to save you. (Act 4:12.) I am sure the purified earth of

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the Millennial Age, where Jesus will sit on the throne of David as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, and the new earth under a new heaven, the holy city, the new Jerusalem, where God himself will come to live with man is where you want to be after this life, but failure to go through Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness for your sins will leave you in your sins under God's judgment separated from him. You will not go to be with God, because you would have rejected the benefit of the redeeming work of the blood of Jesus that would have presented you holy and blameless and without blemish before God. (Revelation 21:1-4; John 8:24; Ephesians 1:4.)

Beloved, please allow me to ask you the following questions. Should you die now, where will you be? Are you saved from damnation by receiving forgiveness for your sins through the blood of Jesus? Have you made peace with God through Jesus Christ? Is your eternal future secure? Are you afraid to die because you do not know for sure where you will go, what will happen to you and whom you will live with? Should Jesus come now to gather his body of believers to be with him in glory in the perfect age, will you be among us or will you stay back to face the tribulation of the last days of this age with your last opportunity to receive Jesus? Should you continue to reject Jesus in those days and die without receiving him as your Saviour, you will remain under God's judgment to live forever in the tortures of hell with the devil. (Revelation 20:14-15; 1 John 5:11-13; Mark 16:16b.)

Have you considered that if you should die without Jesus, you will die in your sins separated from God and there will be no more opportunities to make it right with God. (John 8:24; Luke 16:19-31; Hebrews 9:27.) Since sin caused man to be separated from God, then it is impossible to get back to God with the same sinful nature that caused the separation. Have you realized my friend that these are not questions about your social, intellectual or financial life, neither are they inquiring whether you are a religious or a good person, living a good life or doing things worthy of commendation? They have put you under urgent self examination, now

is the time, today is the day for you to answer honestly and decide your future where you will live after this life and with whom, whether in the new earth with Jesus under a new heaven in glory where the former things are passed away and all things are made new, or with the devil in hell and the lake of fire where the memory of those there will torment them forever remembering all the opportunities God gave them to receive Jesus as their Saviour. (Revelation 21:1-4; 20:14-15.)

Since Jesus empty tomb tells us that the grave is not the end of man, then my friend, these questions should be of great concern to you and they should not be neglected or treated with contempt. It is time to make peace with God through Jesus Christ so that where he is there you will be also. (John 14:3.) If you are not in Christ you are still in your sins separated from God and not in a right relationship with God, and people go to hell only because they never received Jesus as their Saviour. You don't have to be one of those, admit you have sinned and cannot redeem yourself and you are in need of forgiveness through Jesus Christ, the one who died to redeem you and whom God raised from the dead to be at his right hand, the firstborn from the dead, the firstfruits of the resurrection, the beginning of the new creation man with more to come exactly like him. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away and behold, all things become new, and all who are in him are of the new creation man who will live with him forever. (1Corinthians 15:3-4, 20, 23, 53-57; Colossians1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Beloved, since this is the message and purpose of the shed blood of Jesus, there is no reason why you should reject Jesus and live without hope in the world and outside of God's presence in eternity. Your future and eternal destiny depends solely on you and nobody else. You are told, Jesus has appeared once to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin bringing full salvation. For our conversation is in heaven; from where also we look for the Saviour,

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the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body... (Hebrews 9:26-28; Philippians 3:20-21.)

The Feasts of the Old Covenant with their set days and times were appointed by God for man to approach him. In the New Covenant, the way to God is Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life and no man will get to the Father except through him. (John 14:6.) We now come to God not by what we have done, but by what Jesus has done for us on the cross as our Passover sacrificed for us.

Allow me to stir up your minds by way of remembrance. When Jesus finished his work of redemption and gave up the ghost, the veil in the temple that kept sinful man from God's presence in the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom. This veil represented sinful flesh that caused the separation between God and man and was removed through Jesus perfect life, his death, his resurrection and ascension into heaven at the right hand of the Father. Jesus bridged the gap between our Holy God and sinful man and opened a new and living way into God's presence for us by his blood, but it is only effective in removing our sins for us to be reconciled with God, when we believe and receive Jesus as our Saviour, therefore the only person to stand in the way of your salvation, and damn your soul in eternity will be you, if you fail to believe and receive Jesus as your Saviour. (Acts 13:38-39; Romans 3:22-25; John 3:16; Hebrews 10:19-20; Mark 15:16.)

It is in Christ that the Three Parts of The Feast of Unleavened Bread are fulfilled.

- (1). Passover: Jesus, conceived without sin by the power of the Holy Ghost, is the Lamb of God without blemish, who died to take away the sin of the world. He is our Passover sacrificed for us. (Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7.)
- (2). Unleavened Bread: Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God is the Unleavened Bread of God, the Unleavened

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Bread of life, who came down from heaven to give life unto the world. (John 6:32-57.)

(3). Sheaf of Firstfruits: Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection, the firstborn from the dead. (1Corinthians 15:20-23; Colossians1:18.)

Just as the sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest was brought to the priest for him to wave it before the Lord to be accepted on the day after the weekly Sabbath to signify that there is more to come exactly like the first, the pre-eminence of the full harvest to follow; Jesus ascended into heaven to be in the presence of God with more to come exactly like him, the pre-eminence of the gathering of the full harvest of souls to follow, that is, all who have received him as their Saviour. We know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (Revelation1:5; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 9:24; 10:9-12; John14:1-6; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1John3:2.)

There is neither Jew nor Gentile in Christ, For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, And if we are in Christ, then we are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:26-29.) If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, please confess him as your Passover sacrifice, who died for your sins and pass from death unto life in him. (John 5:24.)

Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my sin before you and admit that I am unable to save myself. Thank you for dying and bearing my sin and judgment on the cross. I accept forgiveness in your blood and receive you as my Saviour, awaiting your return to take me to be with you forever. Amen. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Chapter 9

RISE WITH JESUS

Jesus said he is the resurrection and the life and whosoever believes in him, though the body be dead yet it shall live again, raised in incorruption, a spiritual body at his coming, while the life of the soul shall be swallowed up of immortality, as death could never triumph over those in Jesus. They will experience resurrection to life by his power, never to be separated from him who is the source of resurrection and life. In Jesus is the victory over death, hell and the grave, he has the keys to their domain, therefore resurrection and life is the nature of Jesus, and he demonstrated it by raising Lazarus from the dead after being buried for four days, and by his own resurrection after being buried for three days and three nights. (John 11:25-26, 41-45; 1Corinthians 15:42-44, 53-54, 3-4; 2Corinthians 5:1-4; Revelation 1:18; Matthew 12:40; Luke 24:4-8; Jonah 1:17.)

Jesus died for our sins, was buried, rose again and ascended into heaven to be in the presence of God for us. He is seated at the right hand of the Father as proof that his work of redemption is accepted by the Father, and those who believe in him stand fully acquitted in him. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 9:24; Ephesians 1:19-20; Romans 4:7-8; 8:31-34; 2 Corinthians 5:19.)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, that is, whosoever put their faith in Jesus for salvation shall not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He that believes on him is not condemned, but he that does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. That person has sentenced himself to live eternally separated from God. (John 3:13-18, 36; 1:12; Mark 15:16b.)

Jesus resurrection is a prototype of the resurrection to come. Jesus said as the Father has life in himself, so he has given the Son to have life in himself, and he has given him authority to execute judgment also. Marvel not at this: the hour is coming when the dead shall hear his voice and shall come forth, those who received Jesus as their Saviour shall come forth unto the resurrection of life, as they would have done good by believing God's report that eternal life is in his Son, thereby not making God a liar, and those who rejected Jesus as their Saviour shall come forth unto the resurrection of damnation, as they would have done evil by not believing God's report that eternal life is in his Son Jesus Christ, thereby making God a liar. (John 5:24-29; 1 John 5:10-13.)

The resurrection of those who believed God and received Jesus as their Saviour, will find fulfilment at the ingathering of those that are his at his coming. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: the trumpet shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 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...O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law, but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians15: 51-57.)

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For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and the voice of the arch-angel, and with the trump of God: and the believers in Christ who died, and the believers in Christ who are alive when he comes shall all be changed, as our vile bodies that are subject to sin, decay and death, will be raised indestructible, fashioned like unto his glorious body, and will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord, never to be separated from him. This is the hope and comfort of all believers. We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians3:20-21; 1John 3:1-3.)

The resurrection of unbelievers will find fulfilment at the end of the Millennial Age, when they will be cast into the Lake of Fire to be damned forever with the devil. (Revelation 20:14-15; John 5:29b; Mark 16:15-16.)

Beloved, if you are not in Christ, I beg you in Christ's stead, be reconciled to God in Christ. Please don't leave yourself open to damnation. Receive Jesus now, only in him can man be reconciled to God. Therefore on hearing that Jesus paid for our sins and by believing and receiving him, the power of God is manifested unto salvation through the new birth. It is an act of God which gives eternal life to the one who believes in Jesus, born again by the Spirit of God, made a new creation man in Christ, a citizen of the household of God, an heir with God and a joint-heir with Jesus. (John 3:3-8; (Ephesians 2.) Romans 8:17.)

In Adam the first man, we bear the image of the earthly, in Christ the second man, the Lord from heaven, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Therefore there is a direct relationship between Adam's sin and death, and Christ righteousness and life. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead, For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive, Christ the first fruits, afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. (1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 47-49; Romans 5:12-19.)

Since we are born separated from God in a natural body that is of an inherited sinful corrupt nature in Adam, we must manifest the works of the flesh in some of the following: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like. (Galatians 5:19-21.)

These workings of the flesh made us all guilty before God and they qualify us for salvation. God hath concluded all under sin, that he might have mercy upon all, that his righteousness which is by faith of Jesus Christ be given to them that believe. Righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach to any people. Reproach means that it is our sin that has made us the object of God's love, and the righteous justice of his grace, and of his kindness and merciful action in our perfect Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. That is to say, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing our trespasses unto us, but made Jesus to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet perhaps for a good man some would even dare to die, but God stood with us and exhibited his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us to reconcile us unto himself, to bring us into a right relationship with him through the righteousness of Christ, But for this to take effect, we must receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour. (Romans 3:19-24; 8:1-8, 32-39; 5:6-21; Galatians 3:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Proverbs 14:34; James 2:13; Titus 3:3-7; Ephesians 2:4-9.)

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and his miraculous sinless birth qualified him to be the only Saviour of mankind, when he paid the price for our sin in death, to make salvation available to us as his gift. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 1:30-31; 2:10-11; Romans 6:23.)

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Because the earthy or natural man is born in sin and shaped in iniquity, he is not suited or fit for God's presence, and therefore cannot inherit the kingdom of God. For this reason, there is the need for change that must come through the new birth by the Spirit of God and not by our deeds, religious practices, prayers or other well intentioned activities and such like. These activities cannot bring about the change from natural to spiritual, since the natural man is soul controlled and suited for physical life, while the man that is born again is controlled by the Spirit of God and is suited for life with God. God is Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth, for what man knoweth the things of man except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, except the Spirit of God is in him. (John 4:24; 1Corinthians 2:11-16.)

As the fig tree cannot of itself change its nature to bear olives, nor can the grape vine of itself change its nature to bear figs, neither can the natural man through his own effort, change his sinful nature to become righteous with God and bear the fruit of the Spirit. Any change of fruit that a farmer wants, must come about by a change of seed that must be determined by the farmer in accordance with the type of fruit that he wants, likewise, since we are all God's creation, any change from our natural being which is at enmity with God, to spiritual to be like God, must be determined by God himself, and he sent Jesus to save us from our sin and reconcile us unto himself. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. In Christ, man is back with God to their original creation and purpose as it was in the beginning without sin. (James 3:11-12; Matthew1:21; 2Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:1-6.)

Forasmuch then as we are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus took part of the same; that through death, he might destroy him that had the power over death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Jesus, conceived without sin,

was fashioned as a man and took our sins upon himself, died on the cross and he was buried, that is, he was planted in death, and was raised up from the dead to bring forth the new creation man in him. This is illustrated in Scripture as a seed planted in the ground to die, to bring forth its life and fruit. Jesus said except a grain of wheat falls into the ground and die it abides alone, but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit after its kind, symbolising his death, burial, resurrection and ascension at the right hand of God as the head of the new creation man made fit for God's presence and kingdom, born again by the Spirit of God to new and everlasting life with God. (Philippians 2:8-11; Hebrews 2:14-17; John 12:24; 1Corinthians15:50.)

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, that is, our first birth in Adam made us natural beings born under the law of sin and death separated from God, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit, that is, our second birth in Christ, born again by the Spirit of God, brought us under the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, reconciled to God and freed from the law of sin and spiritual death. Marvel not that Jesus says to us, we must be born again by the Spirit of God to become new creation beings in him to enter the kingdom of God, and that is the only prerequisite for entrance. To have one birth, the natural only is to face two deaths, both physical and spiritual, which is to live eternally separated from God, And to have two births, the natural and spiritual is to face one death, the physical only. Physical death is separation from the body and spiritual death is separation from God. (John 3:5-7; Romans 8:1-3; 2Corinthians 5:17.)

Jesus says there are only two companies of people in the world, the old creation man in Adam and the new creation man in him, born again by his Spirit and we are going in only two ways in this journey of life from time to eternity, and we will end up in either one of only two destinations in eternity. Those in him are on the strait and narrow way that leads to life and eternal glory, and those not in him are on the broad way that leads to destruction in the lake of fire, and

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we belong to one of these groups, and we are going to one of these two destinations in eternity. Please allow me to ask you at this juncture to which group you belong? Which way are you on? And to which destination in eternity? There is no third group of people, neither is there a third way between. Either we are standing not guilty before God in Christ as a new creation man saved from sin and judgment and on our way to eternal glory, or we are standing guilty before God, dead in our trespasses and sins in Adam as the old creation man outside of Christ, under the sentence of death, and on our way to eternal damnation. (Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 8:31-34.)

God knows our frames and remembers that we are dust, He knows we came into this world with our inherited sin nature, and we must bear the fruit of our sin nature. He knows our wrongs, our strengths, our weaknesses and shortcomings. He knows our good deeds cannot earn us salvation, and our sinful deeds cannot disqualify us for salvation, for it is our inherited sinful nature with its evil deeds that qualify us for salvation in Jesus. (Psalm 103:13-17.)

Beloved, God is not waiting to punish us for our sins, but is seeking to save us in Christ who came into the world to save sinners. Therefore the only sin that would send us to hell and the lake of fire to live eternally separated from God, is our rejection of Jesus as our Saviour and nothing else. This rejection will cause us to die in our sins separated from God, and we will sentence ourselves to live eternally separated from him, having rejected his grace and mercy and our only way of salvation in Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 1:15; John 8:24; Mark 16:15-16b.)

It is only reasonable to conclude that if sin caused man to be separated from God, then it is impossible for us as Adam's descendants in our earthly natural bodies, to be reunited with God with the same sinful body that caused the separation. God who created us knows we were born with an inherited sin nature in Adam and must sin, just as apple seeds must bring forth apple trees to bear apples. For this

reason, God did not send Jesus to condemn us in our sin but to save us, because we are already condemned in sin and have come short of the glory of God, and all God is asking of us is to admit we have sinned, and are unable to save ourselves by ourselves, and to receive Jesus as our Saviour, that is all we have to do, nothing more. Jesus said the only work that man can do that is acceptable to God to obtain salvation, is to believe and receive him whom God has sent. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. (Romans 3:23-25; John 6:28-29; 3:16-18.)

For by grace we are saved through faith in the work of Jesus on the cross, and not of our works for us to boast, it is the gift of God. A gift is something that is given to someone at the expense of the giver, it is not earned, likewise, salvation is not earned, it is God's gift to us paid for by Jesus Christ through the blood of his cross. (Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 5:15-21; 6:23; 1Corinthians 6:20; 7:23.)

Therefore it is not by our deeds whether they are good that will save us, or whether they are bad that will condemn us. It is our belief in Jesus Christ as having paid for our sins that will save us, and our unbelief that will leave us condemned. Just as gifts are to be received to get their benefits, Jesus must be received for us to obtain salvation. It is either we are in Christ, justified by his blood, saved from sin and its penalty and on our way to eternal glory, or we are not in Christ, not saved and facing the death penalty of living eternally separated from God. (Romans 5:9-11.)

In making a comparison, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and was warned of God to prepare an Ark for the salvation of his house, from a flood that would engulf the then world and cleanse it from evil. Noah obeyed God, built the Ark and preached salvation from the flood by entrance into the Ark. Noah through his preaching, gave the people the opportunity to enter the Ark before the flood came, but only Noah and his family believed, entered the Ark and were saved from drowning, as the flood waters engulfed the earth

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and caused the Ark to rise above it with its occupants safe inside, and those who remained outside in unbelief and failed to enter the Ark, drowned beneath the flood waters that would have caused them to rise above it, had they obeyed and entered the Ark. (Genesis 6-7.)

Likewise, before God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to cleanse them from sin with brimstone and fire, Lot found grace in the eyes of the Lord and was given advanced notice of what he was going to do. Lot preached to the occupants of the cities to leave the cities before they were destroyed, but only those who obeyed and left the cities before the brimstone and fire rained upon the cities were saved, and those who failed to give heed to Lot's message to leave, remained in unbelief and perished with the cities when the brimstone and fire fell. (Genesis 19:1-25.)

I am sure that all the people who perished in the flood in Noah's time, and with the brimstone and fire in Lot's time, were not equally degraded in sin, as there were small and great sinners, not every man was a criminal, a murderer or a thief. There must have been the intellectual, the rich and the poor, the religious and God fearing people who attended religious services and prayer sessions, serving their gods in their various ways and religions, many were living good lives and doing many good deeds in their own eyes. Some might have been popular and were even seen as role models to emulate, but the question must be asked, why did they all perish? The simple answer is good or bad qualities, nor any of the above mentioned were the determining factor as to who were to be saved and who were to perish. The only determining factor was obedience to board the Ark before the flood came, and to leave Sodom and Gomorrah before the brimstone rained upon the cities, it was all that was needed to save them from destruction, nothing more, there were only two companies of people, those who obeyed God through the message of Noah and Lot and were saved, and those who disobeyed and perished.

When Adam chose to go against God's word, he chose evil for all mankind to come into the world with a sin nature under the sentence of death, on our way to live eternally separated from God. But God now gives us the right to make our own choice to be reconciled with him by receiving Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and be on our way to eternal glory. There will be no excuse. We will not be able to shift blame to Adam or anybody else. God has given us the right to choose our eternal destination. It is our personal decision that will determine where we end up in eternity and with whom. It is either with Jesus in heaven and the new earth, or with the devil in hell and the lake of fire. (1 Corinthians 15:22; John 1:12; Mark 16:15-16; Revelation 21:1-5; 20:14-15.)

Beloved, it is not God's will that you live separated from him in eternity, but that you repent and receive Jesus as your Saviour. For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ and now is the accepted time. (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:2.)

As in the time of Noah and Lot, those who perished had advanced knowledge of what God was going to do. It gave them the opportunity to be saved by entering the Ark and by leaving Sodom and Gomorrah. That was all they had to do to be saved from the flood and the brimstone and fire, nothing more, and today, all you have to do to be saved from sin and its penalty of living eternally separated from God, is to receive Jesus as your Saviour to be reconciled to God, that is all, nothing more. Therefore the only sin that will damn a person to hell and the lake of fire to live eternally separated from God with the devil, is his rejection of Jesus Christ, that is all it would take to end up there and nothing else.

Why should anyone choose to live in hell and the lake of fire with the devil, when Jesus died on the cross and paid the penalty for us to bring about reconciliation? Remember Adam through sin lost his place and position with God. When he was put out of God's presence, he was given a promise of the return of his offspring through the seed of the woman. When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son

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Jesus, made of a woman Mary, a virgin at that time to redeem us and bring us into a right relationship with him. (Genesis 3:15, 24; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 5:17-21.)

The apostle Paul prayed for the people of his day to be saved, as he saw they had a zeal for God but not according to right knowledge. They were ignorant of the righteousness God required, and went about to establish their own way of righteousness, not submitting to God's way of righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ, who ended the law for righteousness to everyone who believe. (Romans 10:1-4.)

Jesus made mention of his coming at a time similar to the time of Noah and Lot. We have the benefit of understanding the times they lived in, and we have seen the outcome of those who obeyed, and those who disobeyed. What about you my friend? God has also given us knowledge concerning our salvation, and our personal decision will determine where we will live in eternity. Time is fleeting and eternity is forever. Please don't make the error of the majority as in the time of Noah, and in the time of Lot, or the majority walking the broad way of religion and self righteousness that seem right to them, but leads to destruction. (Luke 17:26-30; Matthew 7:13b; Proverbs 14:12; 16: 2,25.)

We have the benefit of the scriptures, we are not ignorant of God's way of righteousness. If you are at this moment not in Christ, you are going the wrong way, with the wrong group of people outside the safety of Jesus Christ, and on your way to hell and the lake of fire. It is Jesus who gave the command to preach the gospel to every creature, the one who hears and believes in him shall be saved, but the one who hears and believes not will damn his own soul. (Romans 10:13-15; Mark 16:15-16.)

Beloved, if you are not in Christ, take the name sinner, repent and acknowledge that you are on the wrong way heading to eternal damnation by following the majority, in trying to save yourself by your religious practises and other well intentioned deeds. It is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to God's mercy he saved

us in Christ. I beg you, plead guilty, turn from self righteousness and receive God's pardon and his righteousness that is provided for us in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 7:13-14; Titus 3: 4-7.)

Jesus took our place in death and made salvation free, but we have to receive him as our Saviour to bring it into effect. Jesus says the person who comes to him he will in no wise cast out. This offer is made to you at this moment, I urge you to accept it before it is too late, now is the only moment in time you are sure of, don't put it off any longer, tomorrow is promised to no one, while we are all God's creation, we are not all his children. We have to become his children by faith in Jesus Christ, as many as received Jesus, to them God gives the right to become his children and if children, then heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus. I beg you to exercise your God given right, receive Jesus and have your name registered in heaven in his book of life as a child of God, and a citizen of the household of God. (2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 16:25; John 1:12-14; Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 8:17; Luke 10:20; Ephesians 2:19.)

Jesus told us to be ready for his coming. Are you ready to meet with him in the air, and leave with him when he comes to be forever with him? And what if you should die without receiving Jesus as your Saviour before he comes? You will die in your sins separated from God, and will be in hell awaiting the resurrection of unbelievers at the end of the Millennial Age to be cast into the lake of fire. I am sure you don't want to end up there. The lake of fire is a place of everlasting torment, where the memory and conscience of those there will live on to torment them, remembering all the opportunities God gave them to receive Jesus as their Saviour and they did not, having counted the only way of salvation through faith in the atoning blood of Jesus of no value, and by their rejection of his covenant blood, they despised and insulted the Spirit of grace. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Matthew 11:28-29; Luke 16:19-31; Hebrews 10:26-31.)

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On the other hand, should you be alive and not in Jesus when he comes to gather those that are his before the tribulation period, you will be left on earth to face the tribulation of a magnitude never experienced before and the rule of the an'-ti-christ, who will employ his economic system to test loyalty to him. This will be one final opportunity for those who are alive to prove their loyalty to Jesus and receive him as their Saviour and be martyred to join the saints awaiting the Millennial reign of Christ as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, but if you reject your final opportunity during the tribulation to receive Jesus and take the mark of the an'-ti-christ, you will be doomed in eternity in the lake of fire with the an'-ti-christ, the devil, the false prophet and all those whose names are not written in the book of life. (Revelation 13:11-18; 14:9-11; 19:20; 20:4, 10, 15.)

I beg you, the time is at hand. Receive Jesus now and be ready to depart with him. Don't be left behind to face the tribulation. Consider what Jesus underwent for us to be with him, and not end up in hell and the lake of fire. By Providence, as it was written of him, he was placed in a manger in Bethlehem, the House of Bread to be born to become the Bread of Life. (Micah 5:2; John 6:31-58.)

Jesus was misunderstood, mocked, criticized, betrayed, denied, spat upon, made to carry his own cross, given a crown of thorns, called many degrading names, rejected and then put to death by crucifixion as a worst criminal, even though he was found without fault, but greater love hath no man than this that Jesus laid down his life for us. It was all by Providential overruling. Nobody took Jesus life from him, but for the joy of seeing us reconciled to God to bring us back to our original purpose in creation to live with him, and to enjoy him and all things forever, Jesus endured the cross, despised the shame, and is set down at the right hand of God, fulfilling the promise God made to Adam as the Saviour of his offspring. (Matthew 24:44; (Matthew 26-27.) (Mark15.) (Luke22:63-23:56.) John 15:13; (John18:24-19:42.) Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 3:5-11.)

My friend, in conclusion, I am sure that there is nothing about the devil and the an'-ti-christ that appeal to you, nor will you enjoy the great troubles that are yet to come upon the earth, after the body of believers are caught up together to meet the Lord Jesus in the air to be forever with him, neither is there anything about everlasting torments in the lake of fire that you would enjoy.

Your past matters not with God, yesterday is gone and never to be relived, while tomorrow is promised to no one, only today and now matters. It is either you are in Christ or not in Christ, and this is what will determine how you live the rest of your life, and where you will live in eternity. You have heard from God, do not harden your heart like those who perished in Noah and Lot's time. God knows our troubles are not outward, but they are the inward issues of the heart because of our sin nature inherited in Adam. God has not left us in ignorance, Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life, and no one will get to the Father except through him. Jesus is not one among many ways for us to be saved, but he is the only way, neither is there any other name given under heaven among men, whereby we must be saved but by the name of Jesus. Jesus name is not one among many names made available for salvation, but the only name. His name is above all other names, the angel named him Jesus for he shall save people from their sins, and he was pointed out as the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world. (John 14:6; 1:29; Acts 4:12; Matthew 1:21.)

Remember Jesus, conceived without sin was fashioned as a man and became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him, therefore Jesus is the only one qualified to save sinners. (Philippians 3:10; 2Corinthians 5:21.)

Jesus death on the cross bridged the gap between our Holy God and sinful man. The veil of the flesh that kept man separated from God was dissolved by Jesus death, And by his resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God the Father, a new and living way into God's presence was opened

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by his blood, to give man access and boldness to enter as his children. (1 Timothy 3:5; Matthew 27:51-52; Hebrews 10:19-20; Ephesians 2:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:1-4.)

Let me stir you up by putting you in remembrance of the times of Noah and Lot as mentioned by Jesus that will exist prior to his coming. In the time of Noah, all the people needed to do to rise above the flood waters to be saved from drowning was to enter the Ark, and in the time of Lot, all the people had to do to be saved from the brimstone and fire was to evacuate the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and today all we have to do to be saved from living eternally separated from God in hell and the lake of fire, is to receive Jesus as our Saviour, and we will become children of God with our names written in heaven awaiting Jesus return, to be caught up together with him in glorified bodies, and then to return to earth with him after the cleansing process of the tribulation period is complete, to live in the sinless Millennial Age, and then unto eternal glory under a new heaven in a new earth. (Luke 17:26-37; (Revelation 20: 4-21:27.)

This is the word of faith that is proclaimed to you, that if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus died for your sins, and shall believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you shall be saved, For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation, For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:8-18.)

Please do it now. Don't play games with your soul. Don't allow yourself to be deceived, there is no more opportunity to change your destination after you die. How long will you separate yourself from the truth? You cannot claim ignorance, you have been told. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. He is the way to the Father and the new earth in eternal glory. The devil is the deceiver, the father of lies and the way to hell and the lake of fire. If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, the time has come for you to make the most important decision to receive and confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and pass from death unto life in

him, settling your eternal destination in the new earth in the glorious presence of God our Father and Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ once and for all. (Hebrews 9:27-28; Numbers 14:11; Luke 16:19-31; John 14:6; Revelation 21:1-5; 20:10.)

He that has the Son has life and he that is without the Son has no life. These things are written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and this life is in his Son. If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour please do it now. (1 John 5: 9-13; John 3:16; 10:27-29.)

Prayer of Confession:

Dear God, I acknowledge your love for me in sending Jesus who paid the price for my sin for me to be reconciled with you. I admit I was seeking salvation by following the majority in the broad way of religious activities and self effort to earn righteousness. Now I know that Jesus who knew no sin, became sin for me so that I could be made righteous with you in him. Lord Jesus, I believe in my heart that you died for my sins and you rose from the dead, and I now confess you as my Saviour and the Lord of my life. Thank you for saving me and making me into a new man, as I await your coming to take me to be with you forever. Amen.

Beloved, if you confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you are assured of salvation, you are a child of God, a fellow citizen of the household of God, a new creation man in Jesus Christ made ready for his coming and God's presence. (Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:19; Romans 8:17; 1 John 3:1-2.)

Rejoice because your name is written in the book of life in heaven. (Luke 10:20; Revelation 20:15; 21:27b.)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3-5.)

Chapter 10

UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNS AND PURPOSE OF THE TIMES

Great Disaster Ahead -- Be Ready For Evacuation

We are living in a world today that is marked by certain events that are causing much pain and concern, as all man's efforts to right what is happening are failing. We have come to the place where we are asking, what shall we do? Is there a way out? Are there any solutions, any answers? Should we throw our hands in the air and surrender?

God didn't leave us to fend for ourselves and be independent of him. He left us his Word because people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Where there is no revealed truth to give insight into our past to know where we came from, what happened to us, where we are at present, where we are going in the future and where this world is heading, people are exposed to danger and are set at nought, therefore it is imperative for us to have the knowledge of God, so as to act upon it to save ourselves from destruction, but when known and not acted upon, we will remain helpless and hopeless to face destructive consequences because of our inaction. (Proverbs 29:18; 19:2; Hosea 4: 6.)

For this reason, Jesus revealed the timetable of events and conditions that must first come upon the earth to serve as precursors to his coming, and to make us ready in him for his coming. He described them as the beginning of sorrows that will become progressively worse, serving as agents to bring an end to this age that is characterized by sin to usher in a new beginning. (Matthew 24:8; Mark 13:8.)

Here are some of the events and conditions that Jesus said must come to pass to cleanse the world of sin, and to make us aware of his near return. The first is deception, as there will be many in formal religion having a form of godliness, characterized by accepted customs of ceremony with external appearances of being holy. Jesus said they are the ones who lay aside the Word of God to hold on to their tradition, teaching the doctrines of men, thereby making the Word of God of no effect. (Matthew 24:3-4; 15:8-9; 23:28; 7:20-23; Mark 7:6-9,13.)

There will be wars and talk of wars, nation shall rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and pestilences that will destroy vegetation and bring contagious diseases that will kill the body, great earthquakes shall be in various places, and cosmic disorder resulting in climate change that will bring negative effects on earth. It will be a time of instability, nations in a state of quandary tossed to and fro by disturbing elements, men's heart failing them for fear looking at the things which are coming upon the earth and their inability to stem them, love growing cold in many, and hopelessness will begin to set in. (Matthew 24.) Mark 13:5-8,10; Luke 21:8-11, 25-26; Revelation 6:1-8.)

This know also that in the last days of this age perilous times will come, men shall be self centred, materialistic, arrogant, proud, irreverent toward God, disobedient to parents, lawless, rebellious, ungrateful, profane, devoid of love, irreconcilable, dishonouring agreements, slanderers, lacking self restraint, brutal, rude, hostile to those who should be honoured, betrayers, egoistic, lovers of pretence, titles

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and position in organized religion more than they love God, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof, from such we are warned to deflect. (2 Timothy 3:1-5.)

Remember Jesus described these events and conditions as the beginning of sorrows. Sorrow is always God's way to bring forth new life and likened to the labour pains, the travail in child birth, the process in the final stage of pregnancy leading to the delivery of offspring. Delivery is the action taken to aid in the birth of offspring, to bring forth from one environment and deliver to another, to carry to a destination.

After man fell into a sinful condition that brought about a separation between God and man, God promised Adam and Eve that he will send a Saviour to redeem mankind, and bring them back to him from separation through the seed of a woman. He told Eve that in sorrow she shall bring forth children, and her desire shall be for her husband and he shall rule over her. (Genesis 3:15-16, 23-24.) In her sorrow came a strong desire to obey God and for the help, protection and headship of her husband Adam, a longing that came only after she knew that she would have to bring forth children through much travail, because of her action that was independent of God and her husband Adam.

When the fullness of time was come for God to fulfil his promise to Adam in sending forth the Saviour for his offspring, he sent forth his Son made of a woman through his Word with an angel to the woman Mary, who was a virgin at that time to bring him forth. Mary received and believed the Word God gave her through the angel, conceived Jesus through the Holy Ghost, and in travail brought him into the world to be the Saviour of mankind. (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31-35, 38; 2:10-11; Galatians 4:4-5.)

The passing events and conditions revealed by Jesus and likened to the labour pains as in childbirth, is the purifying process to cleanse the world of evil, and to make us aware that we are in the final stage of this period of time on earth that is about to give birth to the new Millennial age. These

events and conditions are also designed to aid in the birth of children into the kingdom of God through the preaching of the gospel to all nations, as they signal the near return of Jesus for his Millennial reign, as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS with those who have become children of God by receiving Jesus as their Saviour. (John 1:12; Galatians 3:26.)

Jesus gave an analogy from human life of how sorrow is transformed into joy through the metaphor of childbirth. A woman in the final stage of pregnancy leading to childbirth, has sorrow because the time to deliver the child has come, but as soon as the child is delivered, the pain is no more, for joy a man is born into the world. (John 16:20-21.)

In making a comparison using the metaphor of childbirth and the cause of sorrow or travail that came upon Eve, the passing events and conditions of the times that are upon the earth, are also serving as labour pains to create in man a deep longing for salvation in Jesus Christ, and birth into the kingdom of God to live in the sinless age, a longing that was not in us before, having lived our lives independent of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Salvation means saved from sin and its consequences, and from living eternally separated from God, deliverance from impending disasters to a place of safety, to preserve from harm. Man's greatest need is for salvation and not material things, a greater need for the knowledge of God than academic and intellectual. God words are unchangeable, they have disclosed the signs and purpose of the times and conditions, that point us to Jesus Christ to obtain salvation and our place of safety in him before this age ends. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.)

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman sinned, when they disobeyed God and this brought about their separation from God when they were put out of his presence from the garden in Eden. (Genesis 3:23-24.) At this juncture in the history of mankind, Adam and Eve were childless, therefore all their offspring are born with a sin nature separated from God with the need to be reconciled. Sin also brought distor-

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tion in the universe, mankind and creation both animate and inanimate, are subjected to disorder, frustration and futility by decree of God, the ground cursed, mankind, the earth and the universe under pressure travailing and groaning in pain together longing for change, but these groans are not meant to be pains of hopelessness, but pains as in childbirth, they are the symptoms to lead man to Jesus Christ for new life, eternal life, life in the Spirit, looking up with hope for his coming, and no longer in fear looking at the things which are upon the earth, but looking for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. (Romans 8:21-25; Luke 21:26-28; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-5.)

Jesus said the conditions that preceded the flood in the time of Noah, and the brimstone and fire that fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah in the time of Lot, would again exist with greater intensity prior to his coming and the kingdom of God. (Luke 17:26-30; (Revelation 6-19.)

God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and his thoughts were only evil continually, as the earth was filled with violence and he decided to destroy man from the face of the earth to cleanse the earth from evil. Noah and Lot found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and God told them what he was going to do, and what action they were to take to save themselves and others from the impending disasters. God told Noah to build an Ark and gave him the specific details concerning the Ark to save his household and to bring every living thing, male and female after their kind into the Ark to keep them alive from a flood that he would send to cleanse the earth from the evil to start anew. God also told Lot that Sodom and Gomorrah would be cleansed from the evil through brimstone and fire, and they were to leave before it rained upon the cities. Both Noah and Lot treasured the advanced knowledge God gave them about the future more than any other thing in the world, and they did as God told them. Noah took action and did all that God commanded him and prepared the Ark to save his household and others who believed, and Lot moved out with his

family and all who gave heed to his message. (Hebrews 11:6-7; 2 Peter 2:4-9.)

God through the preaching of Noah gave the people advance notice to enter the Ark, the place of safety before the flood came, but only Noah and his family went in and were sealed by God from destruction. When the flood came, the Ark floated on the waters, and all those who scoffed and rejected God's offer of salvation perished in the same flood that caused the Ark to rise with its occupants safe inside, likewise Lot. On the day he was led out of Sodom and Gomorrah with his family, the cities were destroyed together with those who scoffed and rejected God's offer of salvation. (Genesis 7:1-16; 19:16,24.)

In comparison, the painful events that are described as the beginning of sorrows that must come to pass, are necessary to lead man to Christ for salvation and escape the impending disasters that will cleanse the world from sin, the devil and all evil, to make way for the sinless age to bring in the new man in Christ where righteousness will reign. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away and behold, all things become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21.)

Beloved, if you never received Jesus as your Saviour before the tribulation period, you will be on earth to face the tribulation events and the rule of the an'-ti-christ. The tribulation events will be intensified with no parallel in history, as the an'-ti-christ will proclaim that he is God, and will rule the world with lying wonders and deceptive miracles to show that he is God. He will implement systems of allegiance to him. The first test to indicate allegiance to him is to make and animate an image to be worshipped, and those who refuse to comply will be killed. (2Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9; Revelation 13:13-15.)

The second test of allegiance is to set up an economic system using a mark or the number Six hundred threescore and six to identify his name, which men will have to receive in their right hand or in their foreheads in order for them to

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buy or sell and failure to comply will end in death. This system will be implemented to force men in that time by economic means to comply to get their needs met and forsake the Lord Jesus Christ. (Revelation 13:16-18.) I beg you, never take that mark. Be faithful to Jesus, choose death rather than renounce Jesus and you will have your place with Jesus in the kingdom of God, and will rule and reign with him a thousand years, and thereafter unto the new earth. (Revelation 21.) Here are they that keep the Word of God that he has prescribed and commanded for these events and remain faithful to Jesus. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth... (Revelation 14:12-13; 20:4.)

These systems will be implemented to cause men to turn away from the living and true God to damn their souls in eternity. They will be an ultimate test of loyalty, a battle for the soul, allegiance either to God or the an'-ti-christ. If any man worship the an'-ti-christ and his image and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wrath of God and shall be tormented with fire and brimstone without relief. They have no rest day nor night, who worship the an'-ti-christ and his image, and whosoever receive the mark of his name. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9; Revelation 14:9-11.)

We are in the electronic age of the microchip that will progress to identify and control the peoples of the world when implanted in the body in the new world order. Computerized imaging, wireless transfers, direct deposit and smart cards to access food, health and other benefits, will lead to one smart card that will eliminate all other forms of identification, and progress to a cashless society that will prevent crime and other evils. All this is to program and condition the minds of people to accept the system of the mark, and number of the an'-ti-christ for its convenience and security, that will end with the implementation of the only fool-proof system of body identification with his mark or number of his name inserted in the chip and implanted in the body. Mark means a scratch, cut or etching, a graven or sculptured

figure, a stamp as a badge of servitude. This is a warning to all to receive Jesus now and be ready to leave this present earth in him, and not face these events of the future that is sure to come to pass.

Remember Jesus said as it was in the days of Noah and Lot, so shall it be also before his coming. Remember with Noah and Lot, God did not ask them to take action to stop the coming disasters, but to preach the message of the coming disasters to urge them and others to move to the place of safety prepared by God during their passing. Today our place of safety is in Jesus Christ. He is our refuge and our fortress, hence the reason this gospel of the kingdom is being preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations to save man before the end of this age, and deliver them from these disasters and bring them to safety in Jesus Christ in the kingdom of God. (Luke 17:26-30; Matthew 24:14.)

Since Jesus has opened our eyes to the realization that everything in this age is passing, and the birthing process of the new is upon us and our only hope is in him, that should make us receive Jesus as our Saviour and to make every effort to get this message to the world, since there is no salvation in any other name given under heaven for man to be saved, but in the name of Jesus. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 4:12.)

There was a man of the Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews and the most respected religious leader of his day, who trusted in the law and in his religious activities to save him and lead him back to God. Jesus told him that he must be born again to see and enter the kingdom of God, born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God which liveth and abideth for ever. Must means something that is absolutely necessary to obtain a certain result. Another very religious man named Cornelius, a devout man who feared God with his household, who gave much alms and prayed to God always, he was told by God through an angel to call for Simon Peter who will tell him the words whereby he and his household shall be saved. And this is the word by which the gospel is preached unto

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you to get you saved. (John 3:1-7; Acts 10:1-6; 11:14; 1Peter 1:23-25.)

It is very clear that the notable qualities of Nicodemus and Cornelius and their families that seemed right to them could not save them, since those qualities were not the basis for salvation. It is by grace we are saved through faith in the work of Jesus on the cross and not of our works, it is the gift of God. Therefore salvation is not earned by our works and like both Nicodemus and Cornelius, it is absolutely necessary for us to receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour to be born again by the Spirit of God, to be delivered from the impending disasters into the kingdom of God, and saved from living eternally separated from God in the lake of fire. (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; Ephesians 2:4-10.)

In Adam we had our first birth, our natural birth, born of the flesh separated from God with an inherited sin nature under the law of sin and death, both Physical and Spiritual. Physical death is separation from our body and Spiritual death is separation from God. When we believe in Jesus and receive him as our Saviour, we receive our second birth, our spiritual birth, born again under the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and freed from the law of sin and spiritual death into relationship with God and back to him from separation, for joy a man is born into the kingdom of God, he has become a fellow citizen of the household of God, with his name registered in heaven in the book of life. (Luke10:20; Ephesians 2:19; Romans 8:2; Revelation 20:15; 21:27.)

The Collapse of Business and Commerce: For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. (Revelation18.) We are admonished not to put our trust in uncertain riches, but to think of the kingdom of God and prepare for it by receiving Jesus as our Saviour and using our wealth for the preaching of the gospel, thereby converting it into true riches in the salvation of souls, laying up treasure for ourselves in heaven and not on earth. Jesus said what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (1Timothy 6:17; Mark 8:31-37.)

Jesus is not denying us of our involvement in business and commerce, neither is he depriving us of our riches that is needed to sustain physical life, but is directing us in the best use of it that is most profitable, as it goes beyond the temporal into the eternal. Treasures on earth are temporal, fleeting and subject to loss through decay by the elements of nature and stolen by thieves, but treasures laid up in heaven go beyond the reach of decay and thieves, they are everlasting. Therefore, be always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (Matthew 6:19-21; 1Timothy 6:17; 1Corinthians15:58.)

Friend, please don't allow mammon to claim you and keep you separated from God, neither allow it to be the determinant in your life to claim your soul, which lives on beyond time and is of most importance. What if the mentioned passing events and conditions were not upon us and all was peaceful, we still have to die and leave this present earth, our money and possessions behind. Have you ever considered when that time comes they will be useless to help us? The worse thing that could happen to anybody is to die without Jesus, that would be their greatest tragedy. If you die without receiving Jesus as your Saviour, you would die in your sins separated from God with no more opportunity to be reconciled.

Jesus was among a multitude of people, and one man requested of him to speak to his brother concerning the division of their temporal inheritance. Jesus said he is not a judge or divider of their inheritance, and told the multitudes to take heed and beware of covetousness: for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses. It is not that Jesus is depriving us from leaving temporal inheritance for our children's children. We are admonished to leave them an inheritance, (Proverbs 22a.) But it must not be at the expense of the salvation of our soul which is eternal. (Mark 8:31-37.)

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Jesus then spoke a parable unto them about a certain rich man, who was only concerned about possessing temporal riches and gave thought within himself, and said to himself that he has to build larger buildings to store his goods that were plenteous, and when that happens, he would say to his soul to take ease, eat, drink and be merry, for he has goods laid up for many years, but God said to him that he was foolish to think only of satisfying the body and showed no concern for the salvation of his soul, which was required the very night when he thought to do those things.

Jesus said this man who kept laying up earthly treasure for himself was not rich toward God, as he had everything except eternal life. This man never gave thought to the fact that one day he will leave his body in death at the appointed time set by God, and he will have to leave everything behind. He never thought about when that time comes where he will go, what will happen to him, who he will live with and if he would be able to change and move if conditions are not what he was accustomed to. Deceived by riches and possessions to satisfy his body only, he died without his soul saved, and so is everyone whose life is likened to this foolish man, who gave no concern for his soul and where he will go at death without Jesus, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace in his kindness toward us. (Luke 12:15-21; Mark 10:22-25; Ephesians 1:7,18; 2:7.)

The Collapse of Nations and Governments: Jesus Christ, the rightful ruler of the Universe will come to rule on earth as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS and finally the doom of the devil, the an'-ti-christ and the false prophet into the lake of fire, together with all who rejected Jesus. (Revelation 19.) Revelation 20:10, 14-15.)

God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us, that whether we are alive in him or died in him, when he comes we should live together with him. Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time bringing complete salvation, in

a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump, the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible and we all shall be changed, for the Lord shall descend from heaven with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we which are alive in Christ shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Death is swallowed up in victory. We are confident, to be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord. (1Thessalonians 5:10-11; 4:15-18; 1Corinthians 15:52-55; 2 Corinthians 5:8.)

The consummation of the salvation of those who are in Christ, clothed in glorified bodies in the presence of God, and saved from the presence of sin and judgments, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, thunders and lightnings, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give light, the stars will fall from heaven and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works therein shall be burned up, the seas and the waves roaring and will become blood. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, the heavens and the earth reserved unto fire in the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men, fire will cleanse the earth from the curse for man's habitation, the heavens will be cleansed of Satan and all demonic forces, and the earth will be rid of all wicked men for righteousness to fill the universe. Seeing the certainty for such things to happen, you ought to be in Christ, looking for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. (Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:23-25; 2 Peter 3:3-18.)

Beloved, seeing you know these things before, the transitory nature of the material universe ought to make a difference in your system of values and priorities, which should cause you to be diligent and be found in Christ. Since nobody will choose to stay on board a sinking ship, or to remain in a building that is on fire, or in a building that is being demolished, likewise, this is no time for indecision. You are in a great emergency with the opportunity to get ready in Christ

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for evacuation before all these things come upon the earth. You have been told, the first man Adam led his posterity into sin and death, while the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ leads us from death unto life. (John 5: 24-25; Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24.)

God now gives eternal life to those who come to him through the merits of Jesus sinless birth, his death, burial, resurrection and ascension into his presence. Jesus said he is the way, the truth and the life and no man will come to the Father except through him. Jesus is the only way back to God, there is no other way or name to do it, without him you are dead in trespasses and sins, you have no hope and is without God in the world, and will be unable to rise above sin and its resulting effects and you will have to live with its tormenting conditions forever and ever, without the new birth, there will be no newness. (John 14:1-7; Ephesians 2:12.)

Sin means falling short of God's glory, his requirements and standards, missing the mark or goal and not sharing in the prize or benefits. Remember physical death is separation from the body, while spiritual death is separation from God.

My friend, salvation has come to you as God's gift in Jesus Christ, but you have to receive him to appropriate its benefits. Jesus left the words that his Father gave him with his disciples and they received them, and now we have received the words passed on to us in the authorized writings of the Old and New Testaments in the King James Version of the Holy Bible that are true and faithful. They are God's written revelation of his will to man, and with them you are given the opportunity to be reconciled to God by receiving Jesus as your Saviour and escape the wrath to come. To remain impenitent is to leave yourself open to death without Jesus, to live eternally separated from God with the devil, or to the severity of the great tribulation judgments where God will give you his last call of grace to receive Jesus and not take the mark of the an'-ti-christ, but how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation. (John 17:8; Revelation 21:5; Hebrews 2:1-3.)

You have been brought to the moment of your birth into the kingdom of God. As the entrance of the womb is the way for a child to be born into the world, so is Jesus the way to be born into the kingdom of God. As many as received him, to them he gives the legal right to enter the kingdom as children of God. Jesus is the door, by him if any man enter in he shall be saved. (John 1:12-13; 3:1-8; 10:7-18.) Your time to receive Jesus for your new birth and the right of entry into the heavenly kingdom culminating in the new earth has come. It is a personal act. You must receive Jesus as your Saviour by faith. Do it now and be ready to enter the kingdom of God in Jesus, and to await the Millennial reign with him and then unto the new earth under a new heaven forever. (Revelation 21:1-6.)

Having taken a look into our past, present and future, the way out of destruction and back to God through the reconciliatory work of Jesus Christ on the cross is laid open before you. You are informed, you have the benefit of the word of God and like Noah and Lot, Nicodemus and Cornelius, you have to make the most important decision in your life with the knowledge God has given you of the certainty of such things to happen, and where you will live in eternity with Jesus and without Jesus.

Remember Jesus said there are only two groups of people in the earth, the new creation man in him reconciled to God and the old creation man in Adam separated from God and they are going in only two different ways, the narrow way in Jesus that leads to life and the broad way of religion and self righteousness that leads to destruction and they are going to only two destinations in eternity. One with Jesus to eternal glory in the new earth, and one without Jesus to eternal torment in the lake of fire with the devil, the an'-ti-christ and the false prophet, and you will go to either one according to the one you follow and the way you choose.

To receive Jesus is to choose to follow him in eternal glory in the new earth under a new heaven forever.

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The New Earth: Man is going there with Jesus. It is the final place of all who receive Jesus as their Saviour. This day will surely come and the past will not be remembered. There will be no more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, neither any more pain: for the former things are passed away and all things become new. (Revelation 21:1-6, 27; Isaiah 65:16-17.)

To reject Jesus is to choose to follow the devil in the lake of fire burning with brimstone forever.

The Lake of Fire: Man is going there without Jesus. It is the final place of the devil, the an'-ti-christ, the false prophet and all who reject Jesus as their Saviour. This day will surely come and those there will curse their religion and wonder what they could have been and where they could have been, but it will be too late to change and move as conditions will remain the same forever. There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth by its occupants, as their memory and conscience will live on to torment them forever. (Revelation 19:20; 20:10-15.)

If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, today salvation has come to you and your household in Jesus Christ. You have the opportunity to confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that he died for your sins, was buried and God raised him from the dead to be your Saviour. I beg you, please receive Jesus now, confess him as your Saviour and have your name written in heaven in the book of life before it is too late, because whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire, and you don't belong there. (Romans 10:9-10; Luke 10:20; Revelation 21:27; 20:15.)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of your salvation in Jesus Christ. (John 3:16; 1 John 5:10-13.)

Dear God, I admit that I am on the wrong way of religion and self righteousness heading to eternal destruction. Thank you for giving me advanced knowledge of the things that must come to pass and the reasons for their passing. I acknowledge your love for me in sending Jesus to pay the

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price for my sin and opening the kingdom for me to enter. Lord Jesus, I thank you for dying for me and I respond to your love and confess you as my Saviour and Lord. Thank you for saving me today and making me ready for your coming to take me to be with you forever. Amen.

The time designated in the Scriptures as the last days is now here. The affairs of the earth will be under the rule of our Lord Jesus Christ, and those who are his will reign with him forever and ever. (Revelation 20: 4-6; (Revelation 21.)

Chapter 11

BREAKING NEWS THE FUTURE REVEALED

Blessed or supremely fortunate and well off are those who read and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written for the time is at hand. (Revelation 1:3.) Jesus said while the present heaven and the present earth shall pass away to make way for a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, his words shall never pass away. (Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 3:13-14.)

Therefore as men are wise in their physical and temporal affairs, knowing how to discern the face of the sky and forecast the weather and changes in climatic conditions to prepare accordingly and not suffer the consequences of unpreparedness, (Matthew 16:1-4; Luke 12:54-56.) they should be more knowledgeable and wiser in recognizing the urgency of their spiritual need regarding the salvation of their souls, in light of the knowledge and understanding that the signs of the times are an indication that man must make preparation now, to live and reign with Jesus in the millennium and in the new earth by receiving Jesus as their Saviour. Failure to receive Jesus will leave that person unprepared and unrighteous to live in the new, where only

righteousness will dwell, and that person will have to live eternally separated from him.

We have the opportunity now to inquire into the affairs of our souls and receive Jesus as our Saviour, as he gives ample warning by revealing the process to the change from the present to the new, by the things which must come to pass. (Matthew 24.) (Luke 21.) (Revelation 4-22.)

The Opening of the Seven Seals: (Revelation 6:1-- 8:5.) Luke 23:30.) Peace will be taken from the earth and people would kill one another, the world will be filled with wars, food will be scarce, people will die in a fourth part of the earth with pestilences, hunger, wild animals and furious men. There will be a great earthquake, the sun will become black and the moon as blood, the stars will fall on the earth and the heavens will be rolled up as a scroll, mountains and islands will move out of their places, and people will hide in caves and behind mountains, tragically praying for the mountains and rocks to fall on them, to hide them from the one who sits on the throne, and from what is upon the earth.

The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets: (Revelation 8: 6 -14:20.) They will bring hail and fire mingled with blood, one third of the earth's vegetation will be burnt up, the sea will become blood, and one third of its creatures will die, one third of the ships will be destroyed, one third of the waters will become poisonous causing death. There will be cosmic disasters, a third part of the sun, the moon and the stars will be darkened, an angel will fly across the sky shouting woe, woe, woe to those on earth. The heavens will be shaken with great signs and fearful sights on earth, the bottomless pit will be opened causing heat as a great furnace, and demons will be released to torment those that are not sealed by God in their foreheads from these judgments that will last five months. Man will prefer to die than live, but will be unable to die, until the sounding of the sixth trumpet, when one third of the population will die, and those who live through these troubles will refuse to repent of worshipping the work of their hands, that they should not worship devils

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and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and of wood, which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk, nor speak, neither is there any breath in them. (Revelation 9:1-6, 18-21; Psalm 115:2-11; 135:15-20; Isaiah 46:5-12; 40:18-22, 25-28.)

Beloved, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone graven by art and man's device. Today, if you are one of those who ignorantly worship and serve idols created by man, and do not worship and serve the living and true God who created you and gave you life and breath, and sent Jesus to save you, God now commands you to repent. It is not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour, because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man Jesus, whom he ordained, and has given assurance unto all men by raising him from the dead to be at his right hand. (Acts 17:24-31; Romans 1:23-25; 2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 10:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.)

Jesus Christ is God incarnate and he came to earth to save man, while the an'-ti-christ will be Satan incarnate, and will seek to ruin man. The an'-ti-christ will first present himself to the world as a man of peace, with economic and political brilliance, with the ability to solve world troubles and the collapsing economic conditions. His appearance will be timed to meet the world emergencies, as the world leaders are talking peace and are planning on establishing a New World Order, through a One World Government, a One World United Religious System, and a One World Economic Order and declared in Scripture to happen, as they see this as their only hope of peace in the world.

The an'-ti-christ will have the answers to lead them out of their perplexities, political, economic and religious upheavals. He will bring to the forefront a false prophet who will seek to unite all religions, allowing them the freedom to their various forms of worship in a peaceful manner, through the Unified World Religious System. Among his first acts will be to covenant with Israel to allow the temple to be

rebuilt and worship resumed. He will bring false peace and security, and it will be a time when prosperity will be at its zenith, but when they think they are peaceful, secure and prosperous with nothing to disturb them, all will be short lived. When they shall say Peace and safety, then cometh sudden destruction. The an'-ti-christ whose coming is after the working of Satan with his power, will oppose and exalt himself over everything that is associated with worship, and will claim to be God, displaying deceptive signs and lying wonders, and every sort of evil to deceive those who refused to love the truth and be saved. For this reason, God will send them a strong delusion to believe the lie, that they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 1Thessalonians 5:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-10; Revelation13:2.)

The false prophet will do miracles in full view of those on earth. He will bring fire down from heaven on the earth to deceive those on earth by the means of the miracles, and will cause an image of the an'-ti-christ to be made and worshipped to deceive the nations. The an'-ti-christ will oppose all that is called God or worshipped as God, and will exalt himself and show that he is God to be worshipped, thereby denying worship to the living and true God, and all that is called god and worshipped by the Unified Religious bodies, and those who refuse to worship the image will be killed. (2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation13:13-15.)

The an'-ti-christ will then establish an economic dictatorship by implementing a system, demanding that man will have to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads in order for them to buy or sell, and that no man will be able to buy or sell, unless they receive the mark, or the name of the an'-ti-christ, or the number of his name. His number is Six hundred threescore and six, indicating that the future of Business and Commerce will be based on body identification of the an'-ti-christ that will damn souls if taken. (Revelation 13:16-18.)

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If you are one of those on earth at that time, because you refused to receive Jesus as your Saviour and missed the rapture or gathering unto him, never receive that mark or worship the image. You must remain loyal to God and to Jesus Christ by not receiving the mark and by refusing to worship the image. Those who refuse will be killed and will get the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name. They will come out of the great tribulation to stand before God and Jesus Christ on his throne, and will live and reign with him a thousand years and then unto the new earth, (Revelation 7:9-17; 6:9-11; 15:2; 20:4; 21:1.)

But if any man worship the an'-ti-christ and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his right hand in order to buy or sell, that person will show loyalty to the an'-ti-christ, and shall drink of the wrath of God, and shall be tormented forever and ever. (Revelation 14:9-11; 19:20.)

You must also give careful consideration to the fact, that if you should die without receiving Jesus before those systems are implemented, you will escape the religious and economic systems of the an'-ti-christ and the great tribulation judgments, but you will not escape hell and the lake of fire. Therefore, since you do not know when you will die, now is the only time you have to receive Jesus as your Saviour. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, rose as the firstborn from the dead, ascended to heaven, and he is seated at the right hand of God, and given a name that is above all other names, with all power and authority in heaven and in earth, and beneath the earth, (Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2:10.) And he will come again to gather unto him at his appearing those who received him as their Saviour. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.)

Jesus resurrection from the dead as the firstfruits of those who die in him is the ground of the believers hope. They will follow and rise by virtue of his resurrection to be with him forever, born again to a living hope to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven,

and kept by the power of God through faith. (1Corinthians 15:20-26; Colossians 3:1-4; 1Peter.1:3-5.)

This inheritance in Christ is God's gift of salvation and is not earned, but is the effect of his mercy and grace, backed by the authority of Jesus over death, hell and the grave, and his resurrection and ascension to God's right hand. This is the means of the victory for those in Christ over death, hell and the grave. (1Corinthians15:51-57.) Jesus has the keys of hell and death, and has absolute control over death and the realm of the dead. Jesus has opened the way to the kingdom of heaven through the preaching of the gospel for all to believe and receive him as their Saviour, (Revelation.1:17-18; 20:4-6; Matthew 16:18-19.) And those who reject him will have no hope, they will be without God in the world, and the only thing they will have to look forward to, will be the resurrection unto judgment to the lake of fire. (Ephesians 2:12-13; Romans 6:23a; Revelation 20:14-15.)

Remember Adam sinned and brought death to mankind. Man by relation to him became sinners, lost God's image and likeness and paradise, and became separated from God.

Jesus on the other hand, brought resurrection life to mankind, and man by relation to him, is reconciled to God and have his image, likeness and paradise restored as in the beginning of creation. (1Corinthians 15:21-26; Hebrews 10:10-20; Luke 23:43.) Therefore to die without Jesus is to die in sins separated from God, and that person will have to live eternally separated from God, as time and opportunity to receive Jesus to be reconciled to God to change destiny will be no more, as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. (John 8:24; Hebrews 9:27.)

Jesus having domain over the dead body and the soul, (Matthew 10:28; Revelation1:18.) has lifted the veil to life hereafter, revealing the place where departed souls go between death and resurrection. Those who die in Jesus go to be with him. To be absent in the body is to be present with him, and they have part in the first resurrection unto life ren-

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dering the second death powerless, and those who die without him would not have had their names written in his book of life, and they will go to hell to await the second death, and transition to the lake of fire. These are fixed places and positions that cannot change at death, there will be no opportunity after death to make it right with God. What a person is at death he will be forever, therefore praying for departed souls is of no effect with God. (Luke 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; Revelation 20:14-15.)

To believe that a person in Christ is only in a partial state of grace, and will have to undergo a limited amount of suffering after death to expiate sins that were not covered by God's grace in the work of Jesus Christ before entering into his presence is to deceive yourself, counting the blood of Christ insufficient, thereby insulting the Spirit of grace. (Hebrews 10:29.) The scriptures declare: For by grace we are saved through faith in the work of Christ and not of our works or human effort, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9.) And if by grace, then it is no more of works. (Romans 11:6.) God having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ unto himself...in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 1:5-7; Romans 3:24.) For we are all children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, (Galatians 3:26.) and if children, then heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. (Romans 8:17.)

And this is the report that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that has the Son has life, and he that does not have the Son of God has no life. These things are written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:10-13.)

Beloved, those in Christ will not have to suffer for sins in the hereafter, since their sins are already judged in Jesus and nailed to the cross, never to be remembered. (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17-18.) Those in Christ will be judged for rewards according to their works and not for sin. The fire is to test

our works to reveal what sort it is so as to reward us. It is not to purify our souls from sin. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer the loss of rewards, but he himself is saved. (1 Corinthians 3:8-15.) The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, hence the reason Jesus died and paid the death penalty for us. Those in Christ will partake in the fellowship of his sufferings in this life, by the things they will have to undergo for the truth, and for preaching the gospel, sharing in the experience of what Jesus underwent to atone for our sins, and not the suffering of self inflicted punishment, or flagellation to atone for their sin. They will suffer for righteousness sake by being reviled, criticized, condemned, hated, spoken evil of falsely, persecuted for the word's sake, for his name's sake, for preaching the gospel, that is, proclaiming that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, rose from the dead, ascended to be at God's right hand as the only mediator between God and man, and the only way to God, and he is coming again to receive all who received him as their Saviour. (1Peter 2:20-23; 3:14-17; 4:13-17; Philippians 3:10; Matthew 5:11; 1Timothy 2:5; John.14:1-6.)

Some will be persecuted even unto death, (Acts 7:59; 22:4.) but precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. (Psalm 116:15.) All who are in Christ are called saints and declared by God that they are guiltless, blameless, innocent, pure and prized before the Lord. Since this is their position in the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall lay any charge against whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies, and he has already pronounced a verdict of not guilty on those in Christ. (Romans 1:7; 8:33; 1Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2.)

The Pouring Out of the Seven Vials of the wrath of God: (Revelation 16.) These are the last seven terrible troubles that will end this age. There will be some plagues similar to those of Egypt, (Exodus 7-11.) but more intensified, as incurable sores will come upon those with the mark of the beast. The seas and rivers will become blood killing all in

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them, the sun will scorch men with intense heat, and men instead of repenting of their evil deeds, will blaspheme his name. The great river Euphrates will dry up to prepare the way for the battle of Armageddon, then the seventh angel will pour his vial into the air, and there will come a great voice out of heaven from the throne saying, It is done, having announced the seven dooms that will bring civilization to utter collapse and end this age, to begin the new.

When this last vial is poured out, there will be disclosures of what is to come upon the earth. Convulsions, scenes of noise and confusion, thunders and lightnings, and a great earthquake of unprecedented magnitude that will split the great city Babylon into three parts, causing collapse, as great Babylon will come in remembrance before God, will drink the cup of God's wrath, and simultaneously the cities of the nations will be laid flat, and every island and the mountains will disappear, as hail will bombard the earth.

Judgment of the Unified World Religious System or Religious Babylon: (Revelation 17.) The religions of the world are positioning themselves to unify under a one world religious order. The Unified Religious System is described as a great whore, who will act the part of... BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS...in seducing world leaders and nations with her compromise. She is depicted as a woman sitting on a scarlet coloured beast, with seven heads and ten horns, the seven heads represent the city of the seven hills or mountains, and the ten horns represent a confederacy of ten regions or kingdoms. The leaders of these ten regions, the an'-ti-christ and the false prophet, will work in tandem with the United Religious System for a short time, until the leaders of the regions will yield their power, authority and sovereignty to the an'-ti-christ, who will turn an'-ti religion, and will destroy the unified religious body to fulfil the words of God and accomplish God's sovereign purpose. (Revelation 17:9-17.)

The Fall of Business And Commerce or Commercial Babylon: (Revelation 18.) An angel will come down with

his glory from heaven to enlighten the world with Breaking News saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, (Revelation 18:1-2.) and is become the habitation of devils..Another voice from heaven calls people out of the Babylonian systems that are doomed to destruction, so that they will not partake of her plagues, disasters and projects that will be ruined, and occurrences that will cause great tragedy, misery, distress and destruction. (Revelation 18:4; Jeremiah 51:6-8; Isaiah 48:20; 21:9.)

In one day, Commercial establishments that controlled World Markets will fall, the merchants will mourn because their hope of gain, pleasure and luxury is gone. There will be nothing to make, nothing to sell, nothing to buy, their merchandise and all the dainty and goodly things they lusted after will be found no more at all. The products they traded with, their involvement in human trafficking, trading with the bodies and souls of men, will not be found again. (Revelation 18: 8-14.)

The merchants of these things, and those engaged in Maritime Commerce with the Business world, will be found weeping and wailing mourning at their loss. The sound of music, the entertainment world, manufacturing and the sound of the millstone in milling will be heard no more at all; And every light will be extinguished; and vows of marriage will never again be heard: For thy merchants were the great men of the earth; who seduced and deceived the nations with sorceries, and are found guilty of the blood of prophets, and of the saints, and all who were slain for their faith in Jesus Christ. (Revelation 18:15-24; 17:6.)

The an'-ti-christ, having succeeded in setting himself up as God, and ruler of the world with the kings of the regions, will rule until the day Christ comes to take the reins of government. They will make war with the Lord Jesus Christ in an effort to defeat him to continue their rule over the world, but righteousness will rule the world, and the Lord Jesus Christ shall overcome them, and the an'-ti-christ and the false prophet who deceived those that received the

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mark and worshipped the image, will be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 17:12-14; 19:20.)

There will be one thousand years of peace with righteousness prevailing, as Jesus Christ will begin his reign as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS and they that are with him, who are called and chosen and faithful. During this time, the devil will be bound in the bottomless pit, and will be released after the one thousand years are complete. Following his release will be the judgment of the Nations, the devil and those without Christ. They will be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:7-10, 14-15.) Those in Christ will be in paradise with God forever in the new earth under a new heaven. (Revelation 21:1-4.)

Beloved, in light of the disastrous end to this age and those who reject Jesus, you have no business being on earth when these judgments come. The devil fell from his position with God, and is doomed to the lowest depths to the lake of fire with the an'-ti-christ and the false prophet, and you have no right to be there with them. Even now, the spirit of the an'-ti-christ is active in organising the world against God to cause man to oppose and reject Jesus Christ and rob them of salvation (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; Hebrews 12:25.) And simultaneously, the Spirit of God is also active in the world drawing men to Jesus Christ to obtain Salvation through the preaching of the gospel. (John 12:32; 1Thessalonians 5:9.) Salvation means preservation from disaster, rescue and deliverance by redemption from the power and penalty of sin, to an inheritance that is undecaying, pure and perpetual, reserved and guarded in heaven, therefore salvation is not in religion, regardless of whatever name it is named, or in any other name, but in the name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12.)

The Word of God also admonishes the rich in this life who are without the truth, to put their trust and hope in his Son Jesus Christ, and not in the things that will end in disaster, or in riches that are uncertain, since great riches can give a false hope and appearance of security, supposing gain is godliness. The only sure thing in this world is the word of

God that is forever settled in heaven and endures forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. (1Timothy 6:3-10; James 5:1-3; Luke 12:21; Psalm 119: 89-91; 1Peter1:22-25.)

Thus saith the Lord,...let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understand and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:23-24; Ezekiel 7:19.)

My friend, God is not depriving us of our riches that are necessary for our temporal existence, but is asking us to abide in his word and escape the trap that make it easy for the rich to put their trust in their riches and not in God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. (Revelation 3:17-18.) God says instead of putting your trust in riches, you must put your riches in trust with him, by using it to accomplish his purpose in bringing lost humanity to eternal life and reward in Jesus Christ, through the preaching of the gospel to all nations, thereby giving man the opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as the Saviour of their soul, laying up in store a good foundation against the time to come. (1Timothy 6:17-19.)

Jesus said what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36-37.)

Will you allow your temporal prosperous state to cloud your vision of your eternal state, and cause you to overlook the salvation of your soul and exchange your soul for temporal riches, and remain in unbelief without God's true riches in Christ, the hope of glory? (Revelation 3:17-18; Ephesians 1:18)

Jesus said a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses, as all treasures laid up on earth will be lost, while all treasures laid up in heaven will be eternally safe. Therefore we must not live for this life only and disregard our soul in eternity, but to live our lives in light of eternity, by losing our lives to find his, rather than keeping ours and losing his, that is, the greatest use of our lives is to bring

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man to Jesus Christ which is life's true purpose. (Matthew 10:39.)

Please take time from your busy schedule. Step back awhile. Take a long hard look at your life and see where you are going, and if that is where you want to be when the time comes for you to depart this life.

Jesus said the poor are not those who lack the basic necessities of life, but those who are without him; And the rich are not those with abundance of things, but those who have received him as their Saviour, they are the rich toward God. (Luke 12:21; Revelation 3:17-22.) Have you realized that access to God is only through Jesus Christ and not in any other name, neither in titles or degrees, or the condition of our bank accounts? (Hebrews 10:19-20; John 14:6.)

Beloved in light of the Scriptures, please allow me to ask you the following questions. Are you rich toward God or are you poor? Are you monied and possession rich but spiritually poor with God? (Luke 12:16-21; Revelation 3:17-20; 1Timothy 6:17-19.) If you should die now, where will you go? (Luke 16:19-31.) If Jesus should come now to gather his saints before the cleansing judgments of the great tribulation fall upon the earth, will you go with him and escape these judgments, or will you be here to face them? Could you stand up to them? (1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1Corinthians 15:51-57; Matthew 24:21.)

You must agree with me that these are valid and sobering questions, and they need your urgent attention. Where will you be? Will you be with Jesus before the throne of God? (Ephesians 2:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8.) or will you be in hell awaiting your final destination to the lake of fire? (Luke 16:23.) or will you be on earth going through the tribulation judgments? (Matthew 24:21.) Where will you be? Will you be among those weeping and wailing mourning their losses? (Revelation 18:15.) or will you be with Jesus. You must answer honestly and decide your future and eternal destiny now. There is no time for delay. This is not the time to play games with your soul. The time is urgent. Your days are

numbered. How many days do you have left, do you know? How much time do you have left, do you know? You know when you came into this world because you are informed in your birth certificate, but do you know when you will leave? Do you know when Jesus would come? In light of God's word and the signs of the times that are upon us, either one could be at any moment, are you ready to be with Jesus where righteousness dwells? (Matthew 24:42-44.)

Please don't allow the devil to determine your future and eternal destiny, Jesus is the man of true peace and security. He has come to give us abundant and everlasting life, but to receive this life, you must receive him as your Saviour, and will reign with him during the thousand years, and then move on with him in the new earth where righteousness will dwell, and all man's desires and aspirations of living a perfect life, in a perfect world, with perfect people shall be fulfilled, and this is where you belong my friend. Man who had their beginning with God and lost their place in paradise in the garden in Eden, will be back in paradise with God through Jesus Christ in the new earth, which is God's prepared place for you. (Genesis 3:23-24; John 10:10; 14:1-4; Revelation 20:6; 21:1-6; Isaiah 65:16-17.)

You have no good reason or excuse to remain in unbelief and end up in the lake of fire with the devil, you have no business being there, none...Lake-{Greek- *limne*} means to be almost the thing specified, continuing in the future as in the past, to be cast down and never to rise again, near to the perfect destiny and never be able to get in, never. Fire-{Greek- *pur*-} means inflamed with grief, anger, mental pain and torture, as one's memory and conscience will live on to torment them, knowing where they could have been and cannot. It will be all self-inflicted, remembering all the opportunities God gave them to receive Jesus as their Saviour and they did not, even this one which could be your last. To reject Jesus is to damn your soul to the lake of fire. (Mark 16:15-16.) You have no business there. You don't belong there. The lake of fire is prepared for the devil, not for you. Please don't

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allow that old Serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, to take you down with him to the lake of fire from which there is no return. (Revelation 20:10.)

I beg you, be reconciled to God. This is a personal decision. Make peace with God through Jesus Christ. He is the only mediator between God and man. The ransom price for our release was paid in full by Jesus Christ. The gap between God and man has been bridged through his death that settled our sin account, making salvation available to all who would receive him. I beg you to open your heart and allow Jesus into your life, and he will take you with him into everlasting glory. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things become new. (1Timothy 2:6; 2Corinthians 5:17-21; Revelation 21:5.)

At this very moment, Jesus is outside of your life and wants to come in to save you, but will not, except you open up to him willingly. (Revelation 3:20.)

Remember, Jesus said men seek to discern the weather patterns and changes in climatic conditions, so they could prepare accordingly and not suffer the consequences of being unprepared, likewise, Jesus is asking you to give the more earnest heed to his word, to discern the climactic signs to this age to usher in the new, and the preaching of the gospel that heralds his coming to make you wiser in the affairs of your soul, to make you prepared and ready to live in the new earth under a new heaven by receiving him as your Saviour, and not suffer the consequences of being unprepared to live in the new by refusing and rejecting him.

This is Jesus invitation to you to come to him and receive everlasting life. Jesus said that he sent his angel to testify unto you these things. (Revelation 22:16a.) He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty, the first and the last. He who had the first word that brought everything into being, also has the last word, that will bring all things to their ordained end. (Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 1:8-11, 17-19; 22:13; 21:4-5.)

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And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. (Revelation 21:5.)... and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. (Revelation 22:6-7.)

Jesus revealed himself as the creator of all things, the one who is alive and was dead, and is alive for evermore, and has the keys of hell and death. (Colossians 1:16-18; Revelation 1:17-18.) Jesus has absolute power over death and the realm of the dead. Jesus spans time and eternity, and has opened his eternal kingdom to all mankind who would believe and receive him as their Saviour.

If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, please receive Jesus now, confess him as your Saviour and be born into his kingdom, and have your name registered in heaven in his book of life as a kingdom citizen of the household of God. (Romans 10:9-10; John 1:12; 3:5-7; Ephesians 2:19; Revelation 21:27.)

Prayer of confession: Dear God, I thank you for revealing to me that salvation is your gift in Jesus Christ and is not earned. I admit that I have been relying on religious activities and other works to save me. I now turn from the error of my ways and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation.

Lord Jesus, I believe in my heart you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I now receive you and confess with my mouth that you are my Saviour and my Lord and will be with you forever in glory. Thank you for saving me from the wrath to come, fill me with your Holy Spirit and grant unto me boldness to be a witness unto you. Amen.

Chapter 12

FROM BIRTH TO DEATH THEN WHERETO?

There is a time to be born and a time to die, therefore it is imperative that we know where we are going before our appointment with death comes, because it is impossible for us to change our destination at that juncture, and it is the only appointment that cannot be rescheduled. Behold, now is the accepted time; now is the day of your salvation. (Ecclesiastes 3:2; Hebrews 9:27; Luke 16:22-31; 2 Corinthians 6:2.)

These Scriptures are God's written revelation of his will to man, and the only word of authority given to man that is incapable of error or failure that sheds light on who we are, how we were created, who were the first man and woman on earth and where they were placed, what was God's purpose for their lives and their posterity, how sin came about by the first man and woman that made them subject to death, and how God by his grace had to put them out from his presence as mortal beings to vacate their corruptible body in death, to make it possible to enter into an incorruptible body as immortal beings through a promised Saviour, who would be conceived without sin to die for our sins to reconcile us to God. (1Corinthians 15:45-57; Genesis 3:15; 1Peter 1:3-5.)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth and all that is therein. God created man, male and female in his own image, after his likeness and formed the male man from the dust of the ground, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. From the rib of the first man Adam the male, God made the female, the woman Eve, the man with the womb, and brought her unto Adam to be his wife for him to be fruitful and fulfil his mandate to fill the earth with the human family, for God to have the pleasure of fellowship and the pleasure in seeing them enjoy his provision. The man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed, and were created with a free will to choose.

God placed Adam and Eve in the garden in Eden where he would fellowship with them, and commanded them to have dominion over all the earth and its creatures, with the responsibility to cultivate the garden and make it subservient.

Out of the ground God made to grow every tree that was good for food, the tree of life in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God commanded Adam to freely eat of every tree, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he shall not eat of it: for the day he eats of it he shall surely die. It was good because God made his will concerning the tree known to Adam, as it allowed Adam to exercise his free will to choose the good by entrusting his soul and those of his future offspring and their well being to the word of his creator by not eating, and remain peaceful in fellowship with God and enjoy his provision of food from all the other trees with his wife and future generations, and live forever with God in that environment to fulfil his purpose for creating man, And it was evil for Adam to distrust God who created him by disobeying his word, and choose to entrust his soul and the souls of his offspring by believing the word of a creation of God, the serpent and eat of it.

Even though Adam and Eve were given knowledge of the evil consequences of partaking of the tree of the knowl-

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edge of good and evil, and knew the serpent was a created beast who had nothing to do with their creation and purpose, instead of exercising dominion God gave them over the serpent, they chose to believe the serpent was telling the truth about their purpose, and what they would become if they eat of it, that they would not surely die as God said, but will be as gods knowing good and evil. They trusted the word of the serpent that was evil, and went against the word of God that was good and ate of the tree.

At that moment they knew they were deceived by the subtlety of the serpent, saw their nakedness and were ashamed, and by their own determination, they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves to hide their nakedness which only God could cover. On hearing God's voice, they hid from God in fear among the trees in the garden, knowing they had sinned and had lost God's image and likeness, and the peace and joy of his fellowship and provision, having placed themselves under the penalty of death to be displaced from the garden and the presence of God, to suffer the consequences of evil with their future posterity, who will be born separated from God to inherit their sinful nature with its evil manifestations that would end in death as God said. Before Adam and Eve were displaced from the garden, God graciously changed their clothing of fig leaves with the skin taken from animals, when their innocent blood was shed in substitutive death to cover their sin. (Genesis 1-3.) Matthew 27:4; Colossians 1:20-22; Hebrews 9:13-17.)

Even though man sinned against God, God's purpose for creating man for his pleasure in fellowship as family remained the same, and God graciously gave them the promise of reconciliation and return to his presence with their future offspring through a perfect Saviour, who would be conceived by the Holy Ghost in a virgin woman, to bring him forth to shed his innocent blood in substitutive death to remove our sins once for all to clothe us with his righteousness. (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Galatians 4:4; Luke 1:31; 2:10-11; Matthew 1:20-22; Romans 3:21-26.)

When Adam and Eve were put out of the garden from God's presence, God placed Cher'-u-bims and a flaming sword to keep them from eating of the tree of life that would have kept them alive in their sinful body with the evil manifestations forever, and this would have negated the purpose of the grace of death.

It was for this reason God had to keep them away from the tree of life for man to vacate their sinful earthly body through death, to make it possible for us to enter into a body glorified for God's presence through the Saviour. At this juncture Adam and Eve were childless, therefore all mankind are their descendants born separated from God to die, having inherited their sin nature with the evil manifestations, and have also inherited the promise of the Saviour who would die for our sins, but man must receive the Saviour in order to be reconciled to God, and have fellowship and all things restored as it was in the beginning with God. (Genesis 3:22-24; Hebrews 2:9; 2Corinthians 5:1-8; John 1:12-14; 3:16.)

The following behavioural patterns are some of the manifestations evidential of our inherited sinful nature: Adultery, fornication, impurity, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, conflict, discord, rivalry, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like: (Galatians 5:19-21.)

When the fullness of time was come for God to fulfil his promise of the Saviour, God sent forth his Son made of a woman, a virgin at that time to redeem mankind dead in trespasses and sins. The woman's name is Mary and the Saviour is our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself a ransom to make salvation available to all who would believe and receive him. Jesus who knew no sin, died on the cross for our sins, he was buried and God raised him as the first born from the dead, the first fruits of the resurrection, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Christ the first fruits, afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. The man in Christ is passed from death unto life, for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. For as by one man's

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disobedience we were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20-25; Luke 1:26-31; Colossians 1:18; John 5:24; 1Corinthians 15:3-4, 20-23; Ephesians 1:20; 2:5-8; Romans 5:17-19.)

Beloved, because all mankind are born separated from God with an inherited sin nature in Adam to die, if we die without receiving Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we will die in our sins to be eternally separated from God with no more opportunity to be reconciled to God.

Since sin caused man to be separated from God, it is impossible to get back to God without having our sins forgiven, but if we die in Christ we will die with our sins forgiven, reconciled to God and have God's image, likeness, purpose and fellowship restored as it was in the beginning, awaiting Christ return at the sound of the last trump to enter our incorruptible bodies, when the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible, and those alive in Christ shall be changed, for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, to bring to pass that which is written, death is swallowed up in victory, O death where is your sting? O grave where is your victory? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians 15:45-57;

Therefore it is only in Christ that we are made ready for God's presence to fulfil his purpose for creating man for fellowship to enjoy him and all things forever, but for this to come to pass, we must receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour to become a new creation man. If any man be in Christ he is a new creation: old things belonging to the age in Adam are passed away; and behold all things are made new in Christ. (John 1:12; 3:1-8; Ephesians 1:5-7; Colossians 1:14; 2Corinthians 5:17.)

Beloved, all who believe that Jesus paid for their sins and received him as their Saviour are going to be with Jesus forever, first in heaven, then in the purified earth for one thousand years, where Jesus will reign as King of kings and

Lord of lords, and then unto the new earth under a new heaven forever, where God himself shall dwell, whereas those who rejected Jesus as their Saviour are going to live after this life in hell, and then in the lake of fire forever with the devil. (Revelation 17:14; 20:6; (Revelation 21.) Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:14-15.)

The new earth is a fixed state and place of abode in the new order of things, where the past is forgotten and everything is good, perfect and complete. There shall be no lack, no evil, no sickness, no more death, neither sorrow nor crying or any more pain, for the former things are passed away. And Behold, All things are made new. (Revelation 21:1-7; Ephesians 2:5-6; Hebrews 11:16;)

The lake of fire is also a fixed state and place of abode where the past is remembered, where everything is evil and incomplete and continuing under the old order of things, a place where the memory and conscience of those there will live on to torment them forever and ever, remembering all the opportunities God gave them to be reconciled to him by receiving Jesus as their Saviour. (Luke 16:22-31; Revelation 20:10-15; Mark 9:44-48; Matthew 6:24.)

The stark reality is we will die and end up either in heaven and the new earth with Jesus or in hell and the lake of fire with the devil according to the decision we make. It is not God's will that we end up in hell and the lake of fire, and it was for this reason God made Jesus to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him, that where he is, there we will be also. (2 Peter 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; John 14:1-6.)

In conclusion, you have been enlightened from the word of God that is infallible, and forever settled in heaven for you to initiate immediate action concerning your eternal destiny. Since you do not know when your appointment with death will come, you must decide this matter now, because it is the only time you are assured of, tomorrow is promised to no one. Maybe before now because of your busy schedule and the cares of this life, you never gave thought about

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where you will be in eternity when the time comes for you to leave your present body and all things behind. (John 17:8, 15; Psalm 119:89; Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8.)

The time for decision has come. Whereto my friend? The way of heaven and the new earth with Jesus, and the way of hell and the lake of fire with the devil is set before you. Don't play games with your soul and make the wrong decision to lay aside the word of God to hold on to the doctrines of men in traditional religion, and their way of salvation which is contrary to God's way of salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only mediator between God and men and the only way to God, as no man will get to the Father except through him: For there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, but by the name of Jesus. Jesus is the seed of the woman who came in fulfilment of God's promise to Adam to save mankind. Remember Adam brought about man's fall when he acted on the word of the serpent, a creation of God and not on the word of God, our creator. I beg you, commit your soul to God our creator. It is impossible for God to lie, believe his word and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour to be reconciled to God to live with him forever in the new earth, with all things restored as it was in the beginning. (Mark 16:15-16; John 1:12-13; 3:16; 14:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Acts 4:12; (Revelation 21.) Revelation 22:1-5.)

When Adam and Eve chose to act on the word of the created serpent that was evil, and went against the word of God their creator that was good, by that decision, they chose evil for all mankind and brought us into sin and death, both physical which is separation from the body, and spiritual which is separation from God. But now, God has given us the freedom to make our own choice concerning our future and eternal destiny, therefore we cannot lay blame on Adam. God has given us the privilege to be born again by the Spirit of God as prerequisite to become his children, children born not of natural descent, as flesh gives birth to flesh, but children born of God are born of his Spirit, as Spirit gives birth

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to spirit, so it is a must for us to be born again to be freed from the law of sin and death and the consequences of the workings of the flesh, to be brought under the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus to enter the kingdom of God. As many as received Jesus, to them God has given the power or legal right to become his children, and if children, then heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us in Christ that we should be called the sons of God: (John 1:12-14; 3:1-8; Romans 8:2,16-17; Philippians 4:3; 1John 3:1-2.)

Beloved, we must admit we have inherited our sin nature from Adam and are born separated from God and need to be reconciled. Acknowledge Jesus paid the penalty for our sins when he died on the cross, believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, and confess him with your mouth and you shall be saved, For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (1Corinthians15:1-4; Romans 10:9-15.)

These things are written unto you who believe and have received Jesus as your Saviour that in Jesus, You know you are reconciled to God. You know you have eternal life for this life is in his Son. You know with blessed assurance that Jesus is yours and you are his. You know that where Jesus is that is where you will be. We know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1John 5:10-13; 3:1-2; John17:21,23; 14:1-6; Revelation 21.)

My friend, it is not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour, this could be your last opportunity to do it. There is a time to be born, and a time to die, that is, our appointment with death is set by God and cannot be deferred, and since we do not know when that time will come, now is the appointed time for you to receive Jesus as your Saviour and become a new born child of God, born of his Spirit, and have your name written in the book of life,

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which is heaven's register of the children of the household of God. (Ecclesiastes 3:2a; Hebrews 9:26-28; John 1:12; Revelation 20:15; 21:27; Luke 10:20; Ephesians 2:19.)

We have come from the beginning of man to our end in eternity through the study of this book. As this brief journey has come to an end, the eyes of your understanding of the scriptures have been opened, and the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ have enlightened you. I beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Dear God my creator, because of your love for me, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to die for my sins. I admit I was living outside of Christ trusting in the doctrines of men. Thank you for being patient with me, not wanting me to live separated from you, but for me to repent and receive Jesus as my Saviour.

Lord Jesus, I respond to your love for me and I now receive and confess you as my Saviour and my Lord. Thank you for making me free from the law of sin and death and bringing me into the law of the Spirit of life in you Lord Jesus, as I await your coming for me to enter my incorruptible body to be with you forever. Thank you for saving me and writing my name in heaven in your book of life, making me a citizen of the household of God. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Amen.

Appendix

THE TRANSLATION:

Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. By faith he was translated that he should not see death... because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5.)

Moses who represented the Law, died and was buried, and God raised him from the dead. (Deuteronomy 34:5-6.)

Elijah who represented the prophets, not seeing death, went up by a whirlwind into heaven. (2 Kings 2:11.)

Moses and Elijah honoured Jesus by fulfilling their ministry in representing the law, and the prophets that pointed to Jesus for fulfilment.

Jesus said, all that was written in the law of Moses and in the prophets and in the psalms concerning him must be fulfilled i.e. he must bring them to completion. (Luke 24:27,44.)

Jesus took Peter, James and John into a mountain to pray and was transfigured before them, and there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus Who appeared in glory, his raiment was white and glistening. Peter, James and John being witnesses to this transfiguration, were told by Jesus to make this vision known only after his resurrection, thereat, to begin their ministry to take the gospel of Jesus

Christ to all the world as a witness, before the end of this age. (Matthew 17:1-9; 24:14; Luke 9:28-31.)

Moses whom God raised from the dead represented the dead in Christ shall rise first: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arch-angel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord: And represented by Enoch and Elijah who went up into heaven not seeing death. (1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:9-11; 1Corinthians 15:51-57.)

This Rapturous event will take place in a year unknown on The Feast of Trumpets, which is the next Feast of three yet to be fulfilled, the others are, the Day of Atonement when all Israel shall be saved, and the Feast of Tabernacles which is the Millennial Age, when Christ will reign as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS with those that are his (Romans 11:23-27; Revelation 20:4-6.) Since the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Firstfruits and the Feast of Pentecost are already fulfilled. The Feast of Trumpets known as Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Awakening Blast and Head of the Jewish Civil New Year, begins at the new moon on the first day of the seventh month of the Jewish Sacred Year signifying a new beginning. The Feast of Trumpets is the only Feast that is celebrated over a period of two days, due to cloudy weather conditions at times that inhibit the sighting of the new moon, and days and times that are different in various parts of the world. (Numbers 29:1; Leviticus 23:23-24; Exodus 12:1-2; Psalm 81:3-4; Ezekiel 46:1; Revelation 4:1; John 6:39-40.)

Jesus, the beginning and the ending, the author and finisher of our faith (Revelation 1:8-18; Hebrews 12:1-2) used Jewish Marriage Customs concerning the time of the bridegroom's return to receive his bride. It was the father's prerogative to examine the bridal chamber, and when it is ready for the bridegroom to consummate his marriage, it

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will be the time for him to tell the bridegroom to return to receive his bride. It is for these reasons Jesus said no man knoweth the day or the hour, nor the angels, but his Father only. (John 14:1-6; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7-9; Matthew 24:36.)

This is our blessed hope in Christ, looking for the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Who died for us, that, whether we are alive or dead, we should live together with him. (Titus 2:13; 1Thessalonians 5:10; 2 Timothy2:11.)

Meet the Author

Afzal Ali was born in 1942 in the house that is pictured on the Cover and demolished after 106 years and is now the location of Faith Centre- Arima. He was raised in religion but not sure where he would go at death. Afzal was a former businessman, who after acquiring additional stock in January 1985, suddenly had no desire to sell the merchandise and this was also expressed by his wife. From then on, they both had a strong urge to find the living and true God who created them, not realizing it was the high and holy calling of God on their lives.

Afzal and his family were invited to a meeting at Faith Centre-San Fernando on Sunday March 24th1985. They attended that meeting where they received Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord and were baptized on the following Sunday.

Under the tutelage of Apostle Carlyle Chankersingh, Pastor of Faith Centre, the Lord Jesus Christ redirected his thoughts and desires and now has great comfort and assurance in knowing his end in eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ. Afzal was advised by his Pastor to attend Caribbean Mission Bible College, an affiliate of Kingsway Bible College and Theological Seminary, Des Moines, Iowa where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Afzal was given several ministerial positions at Faith Centre and upon graduation, he joined the Caribbean Mission Bible College Faculty.

In March 1992, he was sent by his Pastor to Arima where he began his Pastoral Ministry on Sunday 22nd. The joy and peace he experiences through the excellency of the

knowledge of Jesus Christ is indescribable and is passed on in feeding the flock of God and in preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for man to be saved.

Afzal currently resides at Arima with his wife Linda and their family. He is the Author of several Booklets and now his first Book. In addition to his Pastoral Ministry, Afzal takes the message of the gospel to many nations through the means of Radio, Newspapers, Magazines, Booklets, CD's and such like.

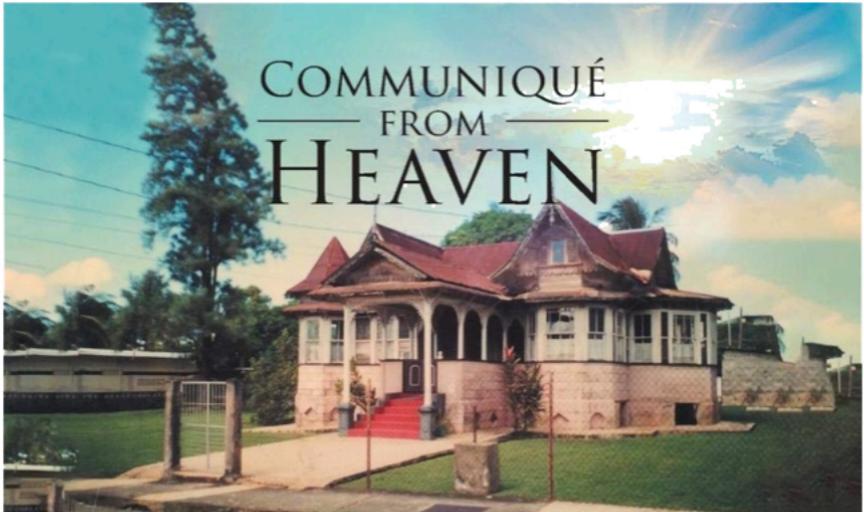
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The truths expressed in this Book are to lead thousands of millions of people to Jesus Christ for salvation through the work of the Holy Spirit.

As the light bearers, let us pass on the message of the gospel of Christ to lost people that they might be saved, and be among the thousands of millions awaiting the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to be with him forever in glory.

Afzal is committed to communicate Biblical truths to every believer and to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the world as a witness to all nations prior to the end of this age. For these reasons I commend these studies to you.

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