

Everything will turn out just the way He planned it.

Heaven will be filled with men and women who bear **His image and likeness** in their character and conduct. Sin will no longer be even a possibility. God's people will be sealed in righteousness. The prophet David foresaw this when he wrote: "*As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.*" (Psalm 17:15)

Ransomed men, women, and children will be forever secure as God's new creation, "*conformed to the image of His Son.*" (Romans 8:29)

*"It has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."* (1 John 3:2)

#### FOR HIM!

From the beginning, the Creator's purpose was to establish His kingdom among mankind in such a way that we might know and appreciate His glory, purity, love, justice, mercy, and grace.

All through the long war with Satan, it was always God's plan to "*visit... the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.*" (Acts 15:14) The Lord will have what He came to earth to win: a redeemed people in His own image who, from thankful and adoring hearts, will love, enjoy, and praise Him forever.

The third and final stage of God's plan to reverse the curse could begin at any moment. Are you ready? Does the thought of Jesus' return fill you with joy or with terror?

The Bible gives us many more insights into the end times which we don't have time to view on this journey through the Scriptures. For now, it is enough to know that our trustworthy Creator will make good on a little prophecy buried in the last chapter of His Book:

*"There shall be no more curse!"* (Revelation 22:3)

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## A PREVIEW OF PARADISE

Much of the world's population holds a *yin-yang* view of evil. *Yin* means *shady* and *yang* means *sunny*. Perhaps you've seen the yin-yang symbol—a circle with a unique blend of black and white. While this ancient Chinese philosophy contains truth, it blurs the distinction between good and evil, right and wrong, life and death. It views good and evil as a natural and never-ending feature of man's existence.

As we have seen, the Bible provides a different analysis of good and evil. It does not support the idea that suffering and sadness have always been and will always be an integral part of our universe. The Scriptures are clear. A day is coming when Evil, Pain and Death will take their final bow and vanish from the stage of history.

This graph depicts God's unalterable program:

← ETERNITY [ TIME ] ETERNITY →  
**PERFECTLY GOOD [ Good / Evil ] PERFECTLY GOOD**

The current mix of evil and good is bracketed. It will not be around forever.<sup>265</sup>

The first two and the final two chapters of God's Book portray a sin-free world, a world in which God is rightly loved and exalted. It is between those first and last chapters that we see God

working out His plan to deal with sin and its curse, and to redeem for Himself a people who know Him, love Him, and *want* to spend eternity with Him.

Like any good story, God's history of redemption has a beginning, a middle, and an end.

**BEGINNING:** Genesis 1 & 2:

*A perfect world* – before evil entered.

**MIDDLE:** Genesis 3 to Revelation 20:

*A corrupted world* – God's intervention.

**END:** Revelation 21 & 22:

*A perfect world* – after evil is eradicated.

## THE BOOK OF ENDINGS

Just as the first book of the Bible is the *book of beginnings*, so the last book of the Bible is the *book of endings*.

### Genesis

- ◇ Beginning of all things
- ◇ Creation of heaven & earth
- ◇ God creates the sun for earth
- ◇ Satan's first temptation of man
- ◇ God's first judgments
- ◇ Entrance of sin & death
- ◇ "First Adam" loses dominion
- ◇ God promises to crush Satan
- ◇ First lamb sacrificed
- ◇ Man shut out of earthly paradise
- ◇ Man cut off from the Tree of Life
- ◇ Mankind separated from God

### Revelation

- √ Consummation of all things
- √ Creation of new heaven & earth
- √ God is the Light of heaven
- √ Satan's final temptation of man
- √ God's final judgments
- √ Abolishment of sin & death
- √ "Last Adam" restores dominion
- √ Satan cast into the Lake of Fire
- √ God's Lamb glorified
- √ Man in heavenly Paradise
- √ Man eating from the Tree of Life
- √ Rescued mankind forever with God

The list could go on and on, but you get the idea.

## THE REVELATION

As we complete our journey together, we want to reflect on the "end" of God's story, which is really the inauguration of a whole new beginning.

The Bible's closing book begins with these words:

*"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near... To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood... to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega [first and final letters of Greek alphabet], the Beginning and the End,' says the Lord, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"* (Revelation 1:1-3, 5-8)<sup>266</sup>

God gave these words "to His servant John." John was one of the twelve disciples who accompanied Jesus during His earthly ministry.<sup>267</sup> Six decades after Jesus returned to heaven, His Holy Spirit inspired John to write this final book of God's library.

*Revelation* means *unveiling*. This fascinating book unveils events no human could conceive. It outlines how the Lord will vindicate His name and restore the dominion that man lost through sin. This book also gives us a preview of Paradise.

## THE THRONE

A select few of God's prophets and apostles were given a glimpse of God's dwelling place, but none more clearly than John the apostle. John wrote:

*"After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat*

*there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian [two precious stones<sup>268</sup>]. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne.*" (Revelation 4:1-3 NIV)

John struggled to describe heaven's throne room. It was unspeakably glorious. Soaring around the throne of God were angelic beings that declared incessantly: "**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!**" (Revelation 4:8)

John could only report that what he saw slightly resembled things he had seen on earth, but everything was infinitely more beautiful and spectacular. He gazed on a place of sparkling light and intense, supernatural colors. He heard deep thundering sounds and myriads of joyful, praise-filled voices, but what captivated John most was *the One* seated on the throne.<sup>269</sup>

## THE THRILL

The religions of the world portray Paradise in many ways.

Some descriptions are positively boring. Perhaps you've seen the cartoons: people sitting around on clouds, dutifully plucking harps. That is not how the Bible describes God's majestic abode.

Others describe paradise as a male-centered garden of non-stop sensuality. That concept is also wrong. When the Lord was on earth, He taught that, in His Father's house, His redeemed people "*neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.*" (Matthew 22:30)

Heaven is a God-centered realm where the joy, wonder, and thrill of being in the presence of infinite wisdom and love will never fade. Heaven is a place where relationships are on a higher plane than anything known on earth. God designed earthly marriage to give us a faint idea of the glorious relationship that will exist between the Lord and His redeemed people throughout eternity. Even the best earthly marriages fall short of illustrating the intense joy and holy companionship that people united to Christ will enjoy with Him. The Scripture calls this "*a great mystery*" (Ephesians 5:32) and goes on to say, "*Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!*" (Revelation 19:9)

Paradise is all about being with HIM.

The angels that were created untold millennia ago are more awed today by God's presence than ever. So it will be for the redeemed children of Adam. We will need all eternity to take in the splendor, wisdom, and perfection of the Lord our God!

*"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still **with You.**"* (Psalm 139:17-18)

The thrill and joy of being with the Lord will never grow old. The question is not whether we will ever get bored, but rather, will we ever be able to take our eyes off Him?

*"In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."* (Psalm 16:11)

## THE THROG

The apostle John not only got a glimpse of the Lord on the throne, he also saw the throng of the redeemed.

*"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes... and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"* (Revelation 7:9-10)

Do you remember how God promised to offer His *blessings to all nations and peoples on earth* through the Savior born in the family line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?<sup>270</sup> God allowed John to look into the future and witness the fulfillment of His promise.

Every people group on earth, every nation, and every language will be represented around God's throne. With grateful and joyful voice, this innumerable throng of redeemed sinners will forever praise and worship *the Lamb* who shed His blood to deliver them from eternal death and give them eternal life.

*“They sang a new song, saying: ‘**You are worthy... for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.**’*

*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!**’” (Revelation 5:9-12)*

### MY REDEEMER!

Four thousand years ago, the prophet Job exulted:

*“**I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!**” (Job 19:25-27)*

Does your heart yearn, like Job's, to “see God”? Do you know Him as your Redeemer?

All true believers share Job's sure hope. My friend, I cannot speak for you, but I know that I shall see my Redeemer face to face I am going to walk and talk with “*the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*” (Galatians 2:20)

Yes, I look forward to wonderful times of fellowship with the people of God from every era, along with family and friends who are already with the Lord, and with all my heart, I hope you will be among them too. But, above all, I want to see *Jesus!*

He took my hell for me.

Without question, one of the most staggering truths my mind can attempt to contemplate is this:

**HE** wants *me* to spend eternity with **HIM!**

On the night that Jesus was arrested to be condemned and crucified, He prayed:

*“**Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**” (John 17:24)*

This is the heart of God's message. He designed humans to be with Him, but He will not force you to accept His offer.

He leaves the choice with you.

*“To him who overcomes, I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. ...Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (Revelation 2:7; 1 John 5:5)*

### THE PERFECT HOME

The last two chapters of the Bible record John's glimpse of the eternal home base, where believers from every era will live together with their Creator-Redeemer and participate in all that He has prepared for His people.

*“Now I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.” (Revelation 21:1-2)*

This glorious city will come “*down out of heaven from God*” to unite with our recreated planet. The new earth will have “*no more sea.*” There will be no more separating continents.

*“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)*

All will be perfect. The celestial city will be glorious beyond imagination. John had difficulty describing it.

*“The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs [2200 kilometers]. Its length, breadth, and height are equal...*

*The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones...*

*The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And **the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass**. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, **for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light**. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light...*

*But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, **but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life**.” (Revelation 21:16-24,27)*

This colossal city will be glorious in every detail; even its streets are of “*pure gold, like transparent glass*.” Every component is designed to reflect the glory of the Lord.

The city has no temple or sun, since the Lord Himself is the city's worship center and Light Source. “*The Lamb is its light*.”

Heaven will be illuminated by the same One who, on the first day of creation, said, “*Let there be light*.” The Light of that city will be the same dazzling splendor that dwelt in the Holiest Place of the Tabernacle, the Temple, and in Jesus Himself who said,

*“I am the light of the world.” (John 8:12)*

This heavenly city will have the form of a perfect cube, as did the Holiest Place in the Tabernacle which symbolized Heaven.

The dimensions of the city, length, width and height, are 2200 kilometers (1500 miles) in each direction. Apparently, the city will tower up through the new earth's stratosphere and out into space.

This glorious home will have ample room for every person who was ever born. However, not all people will be there, “*but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life*.” Only those who, while on earth, placed their trust in the one true God and His Salvation will be there.

The final chapter describes the garden found within the city.

*“He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life**... and there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of **the Lamb** shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see **His face**, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ...And they shall **reign forever and ever**.” (Revelation 22:1-5)*

## THE PERFECT STORY

God's story has come full circle.

*“In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life**.”*

What began in a lovely garden ends in a magnificent city with an exquisite garden. In contrast to Eden, the heavenly Paradise will not include *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, but it will feature *the tree of life* from which Adam and Eve were cut off when they sinned. Perfect holiness and everlasting life will be the only option in the heavenly city.

The time of testing and living by faith will be history.

*“The throne of **God** and of **the Lamb** shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall **see His face**... And they shall **reign forever and ever**.”*

Never in eternity will God's people forget the great price paid by "God and... the Lamb" to redeem their helpless souls from judgment and qualify them to live forever with Him.

Sweet, unbreakable fellowship between the Lord and His people will be a constant feature. That God should be with us and that we should be with Him will be even more wonderful than anything Adam and Eve could have known had they never sinned.

Why will it be *even more* wonderful?

The answer is found in the word **redemption**.

*"He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*  
(Colossians 1:13-14 NIV)

What could be more wonderful than being **rescued from the worst possible fate** as condemned law-breakers in the dark dungeon of sin and death, and then being **brought into the best possible state** as favored citizens in God's kingdom of light and love?

That is what our Creator-Redeemer has done for all who trust Him alone for salvation. Out of His great love, with His infinitely valuable blood, He has delivered helpless sinners from hell and qualified them for heaven.

It is the Perfect Story, the Story of Redemption to be reviewed and appreciated throughout eternity.

*"I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"* (Revelation 7:9-10)

## HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Around the globe, people of every age love stories of romance and rescue, stories with happy endings.<sup>271</sup>

Whether an ancient legend dramatized by a village storyteller to a group huddled around a flickering fire under the night sky, or a fairy tale read by a parent to a child at bedtime, the stories share a similar plot. It goes something like this:

*A young maiden in distress, enslaved by some evil character, is delivered from her hopeless predicament by some combination of supernatural intervention and brave warrior or handsome prince. Having rescued his beloved, the hero takes her to be his bride, to live with him in his magnificent home.*

And how does the tale end?

***And they lived happily ever after.***

Why do people tell such stories?

They tell them because God has built into the human soul a desire to be delivered from evil, to be loved, and to live happily ever after. That is why children and adults alike love such tales.

But God's story is no imaginary tale.

A figment of the imagination is not rooted in history, nor is it confirmed by archaeology. An invented story is not written by dozens of people over fifteen centuries, nor is it heralded by hundreds of detailed prophecies. A make-believe hero could not speak with the heavenly wisdom of Jesus, nor would he tell those he has come to rescue,



*"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be... mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."* (Luke 18:31-33)

Fiction cannot provide hell-bound sinners with a cleansed conscience and assurance of eternal life.

Fantasy cannot give us a personal relationship with our Creator and transform our sinful and selfish hearts into those with a passion to glorify God and serve others.

Only God's story can do this.

It's the real thing.

To sum up:

The story and message of the one true God is about His eternal Son who became a man, lived a perfect life, shed His perfect blood, and rose from the dead to rescue helpless sinners from Satan, sin, death, and hell, so that He might share with all who believe the endless delights of His wisdom and love in the glory of His Father's home.

*That is God's good news for a world in distress.*

It is because of what He has done for us that we can live *happily ever after*.

*"I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever."*  
(Ecclesiastes 3:14)

## INVITATION AND WARNING

God's Book concludes with these words:

*"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*

*And the Spirit and the bride [rescued sinners] say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says,*

*'Surely I am coming quickly.'*

*'Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!'*

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."* (Revelation 22:16,13,17-21)

Thus, with a final "*Amen*" (meaning, *It is trustworthy and true*), the Author, who exists outside of time, concludes His story and message.

## GOD AND MAN TOGETHER

Do you remember Adam's response when the LORD came into the garden calling out, "*Where are you?*"

Adam shamefully replied:

*"I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid."*  
(Genesis 3:10)

The man and the woman attempted to hide from their Creator-Owner because they had sinned.

But now, at the end of history, how do believing men, women, and children react to their Creator-Redeemer's promise to come back to take them to live forever with Him?

They joyfully respond:

*"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"* (Revelation 22:20)

What brought about such transformation? Why do some of Adam's descendants no longer want to hide from their Lord? Why instead are they passionate about the prospect of seeing Him face to face?

The answer is found in the message of the one true God:

*"God... has saved us and called us to a holy life—  
not because of anything we have done  
but because of his own purpose and grace.  
This grace was given us in Christ Jesus  
before the beginning of time,  
but it has now been revealed  
through the appearing of our Savior,  
Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death  
and has brought life and immortality to light  
through the gospel."* (2 Timothy 1:9-10 NIV)

## ONE RULE

Just as God made His one rule clear to Adam in the earthly garden of paradise, so He has made His one rule clear to Adam's descendants regarding the heavenly city of Paradise:

*“There shall by **no means** enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but **only** those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.”* (Revelation 21:27)

Is *your* name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? If it is, then here is a personal message from Him to *you*:

*“Let not **your** heart be troubled;  
**You** believe in God, believe also in Me.  
 In My Father's house are many mansions;  
 If it were not so, I would have told **you**.  
 I go to prepare a place for **you**.  
 And if I go and prepare a place for **you**,  
 I will come again and receive **you** to Myself;  
 that where I am, there **you** may be also....  
**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**  
 No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*  
 — Jesus (John 14:1-3,6)

# EPILOGUE

**W**riting this book has been an exhilarating journey for me. I have been blessed beyond description in musing on my glorious Creator-Redeemer, His story, and message. His presence and guidance have been evident throughout this project. To Him alone be all the praise.

## THANK YOU

Though I have refrained from including a long list of names, let there be no doubt: this book would not be what it is apart from the patient support of my wonderful wife Carol and the invaluable input of gifted friends and family. The cover and drawings are the work of my brother Dave. From my heart I thank you all.

*“God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name.”* (Hebrews 6:10)

I am also grateful to the countless Muslim inquirers whose e-mails motivated me to write.

Above all, I want to thank *you* for joining me on this brief journey. I say *brief* because it could have been much longer. The Scriptures we have read along the way comprise less than 4 percent of the total verses in the Bible. So even though we have come to the end of our journey, we've really just begun.

## THE CONTINUING JOURNEY

While the one true God has made His message plain for all who want to understand it, He Himself is complex, profound, and infinite. Neither man nor angel will ever comprehend everything there is to know about Him. The apostle John expressed this reality in the final verse of the Gospel record:

*“There are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)*

I can relate. Perhaps the most difficult aspect of writing ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE was selecting which Scriptures to include and which to leave out. Truly, the Word of God is inexhaustible. It is delicious and satisfying to the soul. As our friend in Lebanon discovered (Chapter 7), “I realize that it’s not enough to say, ‘I’ve read the Bible.’ It’s a book that needs to be *perpetually read.*”

Now that you have completed this journey, you may want to go back through ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE and look up in a Bible the many verses cited, reading the section in which each quotation is found. Better yet, read through your Creator’s entire library as you breathe this prayer to Him:

***“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.”*** (Psalm 119:18)

If you feel the need for further documentation or clarification, look over the endnotes. Take time to mull over the chapter review questions at the back of the book. And do not hesitate to write to me with your comments or questions. I will be happy to hear from you, even if your e-mails compel me to write another book!

With this 3,500 year-old blessing I bid you farewell:

*“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.”* (Numbers 6:24-26)

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# ENDNOTES

***“Teach me what I do not see.”***  
(Job 34:32)

## PROLOGUE

<sup>1</sup> Sahel: the semi-arid transition zone that separates Africa’s Sahara from its tropical rainforests. This band of sand and scrub-brush stretches from Senegal to Sudan.

<sup>2</sup> *Monotheists* believe in one God, *polytheists* believe in many gods and goddesses, *pantheists* view everything as part of god, *secular humanists* exalt man instead of God, and *atheists* claim there is no God.

## CHAPTER 1: BUY THE TRUTH

<sup>3</sup> In ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE, this phrase and more than 1,000 other quotes from the Scriptures of the prophets come from the Bible. Sometimes only a portion of a verse is quoted, as is the case here. Proverbs chapter 23, verse 23, in its entirety reads: *“Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”*

<sup>4</sup> Barrett, David B., George T. Kurian and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Survey of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*. London: Oxford University Press, 2001.

<sup>5</sup> “Today, Scriptures are available in no less than 2,403 languages, with the complete Bible having been translated into at least 426 languages, and the New Testament into some 1,115. In addition, parts of the Bible have been made available in a further 862 languages.” (United Bible Society, 2007, [www.biblesociety.org](http://www.biblesociety.org)) See also: [www.wycliffe.org/About/Statistics.aspx](http://www.wycliffe.org/About/Statistics.aspx)

<sup>6</sup> Foxe, John (edited by G.A. Williamson). *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*. Toronto: Little, Brown & Company, 1965.

<sup>7</sup> It is inaccurate to speak of any country as a “Christian nation” since Christ said, *“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”* (John 18:36)

<sup>8</sup> Wurmbrand, Richard. *Tortured for Christ – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*. Bartlesville, OK: Living Sacrifice Book Co., 1998.

<sup>9</sup> *The Way of Righteousness* radio series has been or is being translated into some 80 languages for broadcast worldwide. [www.twor.com](http://www.twor.com) [www.one-god-one-message.com](http://www.one-god-one-message.com)

<sup>10</sup> The full Qur'anic verse states: “*And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: Therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: A guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah.*” (Sura 5:46) Unless otherwise indicated, the English translation of the Qur'an used in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE is by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. *The Qur'an Translation*. New York: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., 2003. **Note:** The Qur'an is divided into chapters called *suras*. Verse numbers may vary slightly depending on the Qur'anic translation. When looking for a verse, it may be necessary to search surrounding verses.

<sup>11</sup> Who is the “We”? In the Qur'an, Allah often refers to himself in first person plural. In the Bible, the LORD also sometimes refers to Himself in the plural. **Note:** Arabic speakers use the word “Allah” in two ways: 1) “Allah” is the generic term for “God” used by Arabic Christians, other non-Muslims, and Muslims. When used this way it is *not* God's proper name. Among Arabic speakers, no one group owns the generic term *Allah*. 2) Muslims use “Allah” as God's primary proper name. More about this in chapter 9.

<sup>12</sup> E-mail excerpts in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE are presented anonymously to protect the identity of those who wrote them.

<sup>13</sup> “p.b.u.h.” stands for “peace be upon him,” often added by Muslims after writing or speaking the name of a prophet. The Arabic formula Muslims use after Muhammad's name is: *Salla Allahu Alaihi Wa Sallam* (s.a.w.), which means: “the prayers of Allah be upon him and peace.” They base this practice on this Qur'anic verse: “*Lo! Allah and His angels pray upon the prophet. Oh ye who believe, pray on him and salute him with peace.*” (Sura 33:56) The use of this formula is inconsistent with the Bible, which says: “*It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*” (Hebrews 9:27) Once a person has died, his or her eternal destiny is fixed. No amount of praying can change where or how he or she will spend eternity (Revelation 22:11).

<sup>14</sup> [*sic*] is Latin for “thus” and “so.” It is used in brackets following a printed quotation to show that the original has been quoted accurately even though it contains an apparent error. **Note:** Except for condensing and correcting spelling and grammar (to make them more easily understood), e-mail quotes used in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE are presented as they were received. For example, this particular e-mail from “Ahmed” had virtually no capital letters. This has been corrected.

<sup>15</sup> *The Meaning of the Glorious Koran: An Explanatory Translation* by Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall. New York: Meridian, 1997.

<sup>16</sup> For example, the Qur'an says in sura (chapter) 40, verses 70-72: “*Those who reject the Book and the revelation with which We sent Our apostles: but soon shall they know, —when the yoke shall be round their necks, and the chains; they shall be dragged along—in the boiling fetid fluid; then in the Fire shall they be burned....*” Also: “*In their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: Therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: A guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah.*” (Sura 5:49) “*O ye who believe! Believe in Allah and His Apostle, and the scripture which He hath sent to His Apostle and the scripture which He sent to those before him. Any who denieth Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Apostles, and the Day of Judgment, hath gone far, far astray. ... We have sent thee inspiration, as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him: We sent inspiration to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David We gave the Psalms.*” (Sura 4:136,163) For more such Qur'anic statements, see first page of chapter 3 and accompanying footnotes.

<sup>17</sup> Proverbs 23:23. Instead of “buying” the truth, many people “sell” it for fear of what family or friends might think of them if they are caught studying the Bible (even though it is the world's best seller and contains the ancient Scriptures, which the Qur'an commands Muslims to believe).

## CHAPTER 2: OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

<sup>18</sup> Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *Treasury of World Masterpieces: The Celebrated Cases of Sherlock Holmes*. R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company, 1981, p. 17. (First published in Great Britain in 1891.)

<sup>19</sup> Romans 14:1-15:7; Matthew 7:1-5

<sup>20</sup> Doyle, p. 16

<sup>21</sup> Numbers 12

<sup>22</sup> 2 Kings 5

<sup>23</sup> Jonah 4

<sup>24</sup> See these books in the Bible: Daniel, Ezra and Esther

<sup>25</sup> John 4

<sup>26</sup> “The Greatest Journey,” *National Geographic Magazine*, Mar. 2006, p. 62.

<sup>27</sup> Psalm 90:1-12; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:18; James 4:13-15

<sup>28</sup> In human history, God has permitted and/or sent a variety of catastrophic events upon the earth. In Noah's generation, after a hundred years of patience and warning, God sent a worldwide flood in which all but eight

souls were exterminated (Genesis 6-8). (Many view this universal flood as a myth even though the geological and fossil record corroborate it.) In Abraham's day, all but three souls perished in the fire that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. During and after the time of Moses, God ordered the Israelites to destroy the Canaanite nations (Joshua 1-10). These battles were carried out under specific commands from God and often included miraculous interventions from heaven, such as Jericho's wall falling outward (confirmed by archaeology) after the Israelites had marched around the city on seven consecutive days. God waited hundreds of years before judging these nations, giving them time to repent and turn from their idolatry, immorality, and human sacrifice (Genesis 15:16; Exodus 12:40), yet they ignored the witness of godly men like Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. Only a few Canaanites repented and believed in the one true God who had sent ten supernatural plagues on Egypt and opened a path in the Red Sea. When God used His ancient people to carry out His judgments, He remained fair and impartial. For example, the Torah records that God first punished the Israelites (because of their idolatry and adultery) with a plague in which 24,000 Israelites died (Numbers 25-31). Only after God had judged Israel did He send them to execute His judgment on the surrounding corrupt and evil nations. It is false to assume these nations were innocent. The Scripture tells us that they were so grossly corrupt that *"the land vomited out its inhabitants."* (Leviticus 18:25 NIV) God's goodness and patience are great, but His wrath is also great and His judgment sure.

<sup>29</sup> One reason God does not instantly judge evil is to give sinners time to repent and accept His provision of salvation: *"Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:8-9 NIV)

<sup>30</sup> Chapters 8, 12, 28 and 29 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE provide answers to these three supposed contradictions.

<sup>31</sup> Matthew 7:1-20; Compare Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 6.

<sup>32</sup> Several websites continue to post a long list of *"101 Clear Contradictions in the Bible,"* although for many years now another article has been posted called: *"101 Cleared-up 'Contradictions' in the Bible."* [www.debate.org.uk/topics/apolog/contrads.htm](http://www.debate.org.uk/topics/apolog/contrads.htm)

<sup>33</sup> Two rules for correctly interpreting any verse in the Bible:

- 1) Read the surrounding context.
- 2) Compare Scripture with Scripture.

To illustrate, in Deuteronomy (5th book in the Bible), Moses spoke this prophecy to the children of Israel: *"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear..."* (Deuteronomy 18:15) What did Moses mean when he said to the Israelites that God would raise up a Prophet *"from your midst, from your brethren"*? Some say Moses was talking about the Ishmaelites; others say the Israelites. The surrounding context provides the correct answer (e.g., Deuteronomy 17:15,20; 18:2,5, etc.). Who was this special *"Prophet"* God promised to *"raise up"*? While many try to make this prophecy fit the founder of their particular religion, the correct interpretation is clearly stated later on in the Scriptures. Read John 5:43-47, John 6:14, and Acts 3:22-26.

<sup>34</sup> BC = Before Christ / AD = *Anno Domini*, meaning, *"In the year of our Lord."* Many today now use BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era) which removes "Christ" from the abbreviation although the dividing point in history is still the birth of Christ.

<sup>35</sup> If you have ever borrowed money from a bank, then you signed a kind of testament—a legal document. The bank's part in the covenant was to give you the promised sum; your part was to pay back the loan over a specified period of time. Failure to respect your part of the contract would result in unpleasant consequences. Similarly, the Bible spells out the covenants our Creator provides for mankind, promises that make it possible for people like you and me to enjoy His eternal blessings. God making *"a covenant"* (Jeremiah 31:31) with people is unique to the Scriptures of the Bible.

<sup>36</sup> We will consider this divine hallmark of Scripture in chapter 5. One powerful example of God announcing history before it happens is found in the book of Daniel, chapters 7 to 12. Daniel describes the history of world empires from 400 BC to the time of Christ and goes on to describe events yet to take place in the last days. Daniel wrote it all down between 600 and 530 BC.

### CHAPTER 3: CORRUPTED OR PRESERVED?

<sup>37</sup> Additional examples of Qur'anic references which tell Muslims that the biblical Scriptures are inspired by God: Sura 2:87-91,101,136,285; 3:3-4; 4:47,54,136,163; 5:43-48,68; 6:92; 10:94; 20:133; 21:105; 28:43; 29:46; 32:23; 40:53-54,70-72; 45:16; 46:12; 57:27, etc.

<sup>38</sup> Down through the centuries, the Old Testament Scriptures have been jealously guarded by the Jewish religious community. Think about it. Would they have allowed anyone to tamper with their Holy Scriptures, books for which many were willing to die? There is no other known

case in history where one religious community (Christians) has based its faith on a book (Old Testament) that is revered and protected by another religious community (Orthodox Jews). Would not this fact alone have made it impossible for anyone to alter the Old Testament Scriptures?

<sup>39</sup> *The Holy Qur'an*. Translated by M.H. Shakir. Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., Electronic version, 1993.

<sup>40</sup> Metzger, Bruce M. and Michael D. Coogan. *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1993, p. 754.

<sup>41</sup> See footnote number 37.

<sup>42</sup> We have no verifiable Qur'anic or Islamic documents before AD 750 (more than 100 years after Muhammad's death). <http://debate.org.uk/topics/history/bib-qur/qurmanu.htm>

<sup>43</sup> Metzger and Coogan, p. 683.

<sup>44</sup> Here is an example of apparent variants found in ancient manuscripts. In the Old Testament book of Second Kings, we read: "*Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king.*" (2 Kings 24:8) Meanwhile, the book of Second Chronicles states: "*Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king.*" (2 Chronicles 36:9) How can such differences be explained? Some scholars suggest that it was at the age of 8 that young Jehoiachin's father took him into *partnership* in the government, and that he began to *reign* at 18 following the death of his father, which is possible. However, a more likely explanation is that this numerical variation is simply the result of an early-century scribe penning "8" instead of "18." If this were the case, that wrong number would be transcribed into all the manuscripts which "descended" from that scribe's copy. Whatever the case, such variations do not affect or alter God's message to us in any way. In most cases, the sheer volume of ancient Bible manuscripts allows scholars to determine the correct rendering by comparing the various texts.

<sup>45</sup> The Hadith records: "*Uthman then ordered Zaid bin Thabit, 'Abdullah bin Az-Zubair, Sa'id bin Al-'As and 'Abdur Rahman bin Hari-bin Hisham to rewrite the manuscripts in perfect copies... They did so, and when they had written many copies, 'Uthman returned the original manuscripts to Hafsa. 'Uthman sent to every Muslim province one copy of what they had copied, and ordered that all the other Qur'anic materials whether written in fragmentary manuscripts or whole copies, be burnt.*" (Hadith, Sahih Bukhari, VI, No. 510) (The *Hadith* ["Sayings"] are ancient writings by Muhammad's wives and acquaintances. Muslims base many beliefs and practices on the Hadith.)

<sup>46</sup> Even before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which proved the Scriptures had remained unchanged, one could simply compare

the present day Old Testament Scriptures with the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament completed around 270 BC). The Septuagint substantiates the claim that the Old Testament Scriptures are uncorrupted and preserved.

<sup>47</sup> Abegg, Martin Jr., Peter Flint and Eugene Ulrich. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*. San Francisco: Harper, 1999, page xvi.

<sup>48</sup> McDowell, Josh. *A Ready Defense*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993, pp. 42-48. [www.debate.org.uk/topics/history/bib-qur/bibmanu.htm](http://www.debate.org.uk/topics/history/bib-qur/bibmanu.htm)

<sup>49</sup> The New Testament Scriptures are translated from a few primary Greek texts (Majority Text, Textus Receptus, Alexandrian Text). The NKJV translates the New Testament from the Majority Text, while the NIV translates from the Alexandrian Text. Where "significant" variations occur between Greek New Testament texts, most Bible translations include a note in the margin indicating those variations. The lengthiest passages in question are Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11, each 12 verses in length. While these passages are absent in a few of the oldest surviving manuscripts (Alexandrian Text), they are found in the hundreds of others (Majority Text). Keep in mind that *older* does not necessarily mean *more accurate*, since the various texts descended from different ancient copies. It is most likely that a distracted copyist omitted these selections by accident. Whatever the case, all truths taught in these omitted passages are also taught elsewhere in Scripture. God's message remains unaffected. Is it wise to reject God's message because a few ancient copies are missing a few sections—sections which in no way change God's message?

<sup>50</sup> In recent times, books have been published and movies produced which are calculated to cast doubt on the Bible. Some Bible critics point to contradictory, "alternative gospels." All such "gospels" were written long after the time of Messiah and lack historical corroboration.

<sup>51</sup> This statement is also found in Matthew 11:15; 13:43; Mark 4:9,23; 7:16; Luke 8:8; 14:35; Revelation 2:7,11,29; 3:6,13,22;13:9.

#### CHAPTER 4: SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

<sup>52</sup> *Webster's New World College Dictionary*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. See: *science*.

<sup>53</sup> Bucaille, Maurice. *La Bible, le Coran et la science*. Paris: Seghers, 1976, p. 35. In response to Dr. Bucaille's book, Dr. William Campbell has written *The Qur'an and the Bible in Light of History and Science*. Second Edition; Middle East Resources, 2002. Dr. Campbell's carefully-researched rebuttal can also be read online in six languages. <http://answering-islam.org/Campbell>

<sup>54</sup> Biological evolution suggests that the population of life forms such as *algae and apes*, when spread over millions of generations, can change into populations of *plants and people*. According to evolution, man, monkeys, and minnows share a common ancestry. The truth is that neither random evolution nor purposeful creation can be proven by modern science. Both require faith.

<sup>55</sup> [http://www.gma.org/space1/nav\\_map.html](http://www.gma.org/space1/nav_map.html)

<sup>56</sup> Additional verses that affirm the hydrologic cycle: Psalm 135:7; Jeremiah 10:13; Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10

<sup>57</sup> [www.artsci.wustl.edu/~landc/html/cann](http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~landc/html/cann); *Newsweek Magazine*: “a trail of DNA...led [scientists] to a single woman from whom we all descended.” *Newsweek*, January 11, 1988, pp. 46-52.

<sup>58</sup> *Time Magazine*: “...there was an ancestral ‘Adam’ whose genetic material on the chromosome is common to every man now on earth.” *Time*, December 4, 1995, p. 29. **Note**: Scientists claim that our common male ancestor does not date back as far as our common female ancestor. Their claim lines up with the Bible, which shows that we all descend from Noah. But our common mother is Eve, since Noah had three sons and *three daughters-in-law* from whom all people come.)

<sup>59</sup> [www.pbs.org/wnet/redgold/basics/bloodletting.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/redgold/basics/bloodletting.html)

<sup>60</sup> [www.bible.ca/tracks/matthew-fontaine-maury-pathfinder-of-sea-ps8.htm](http://www.bible.ca/tracks/matthew-fontaine-maury-pathfinder-of-sea-ps8.htm) **Note**: Maury discovered that the paths of the seas are so fixed that the navigator can literally “blaze his way” across the ocean. (Rozwadowski, Helen M. *Fathoming the Ocean*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005, p. 40); When David wrote of “*the paths of the seas*,” the only seas known to him and his people were the Mediterranean, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and the Red Sea. These bodies of water did not have “*paths*” or significant observable currents.

<sup>61</sup> *World Book Encyclopedia* 1986; Stars.

<sup>62</sup> “On a clear dark night, a few thousand stars are visible to the naked eye. With binoculars and powerful telescopes, we can see so many stars that we could never hope to count them. Even though each individual star is unique, all stars share much in common.” (Cornell University Astronomy website: <http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/stars.php>) The Bible also states that the number of stars cannot be counted. (Genesis 15:5; 22:17).

<sup>63</sup> Ramsay, Walter M. *The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1953, p. 222.

<sup>64</sup> Josephus, Flavius. *Josephus: The Essential Works*. (Paul L. Maier, editor) Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1988. pp. 268,277. The book includes photos of the Pilate-inscription stone and Herod’s theater.

<sup>65</sup> Bruce, F.F. *Archaeological Confirmation of the New Testament. (Revelation and the Bible)*. Edited by Carl Henry) Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1969.

<sup>66</sup> Josephus, Flavius. *Antiquities* 18: 2, 2; 4, 3

<sup>67</sup> Photo and details on Caiaphas’ burial box: <http://www.kchanson.com/ANCDOCS/westsem/caiaphas.html>

<sup>68</sup> Glueck, Nelson. *Rivers in the Desert*. NY: Farrar, Strauss & Cudahy, 1959, p. 136. Glueck specialized in Middle East digs.

<sup>69</sup> Mormonism is a religion followed by millions of people worldwide. Unlike the Bible, the Book of Mormon is not confirmed by archaeology. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC concluded: “Smithsonian archaeologists see no direct connection between the archaeology of the New World and the subject matter of [the Book of Mormon].” (Martin, Walter. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1997, pp. 200-202.) See also footnote 91 on the same subject in chapter 6. For a comparative view of archaeology as it relates to the Bible and the Qur’an, see: <http://debate.org.uk/topics/history/bib-qur/contents.htm>

<sup>70</sup> Free, Joseph P. and Howard F. Vos. *Archaeology and Bible History*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992, p. 294.

<sup>71</sup> Both Muslims and Mormons claim that one of the greatest proofs that their holy books are from God is seen in the literary style in which they are written. *A Muslim website* states: “The Great Challenge...of the Holy Quran: ...Ever since the Quran was revealed, fourteen centuries ago, no one has been able to produce a single chapter like the chapters of the Quran in their beauty, eloquence, splendor...” ([www.islam-guide.com/frm-ch1-2.htm](http://www.islam-guide.com/frm-ch1-2.htm)). *A Mormon website* makes a similar claim: “Book of Mormon Challenge: ...You must write your record using a number of ancient Hebrew poetry and writing styles which will not be rediscovered and announced to the English speaking world until years after you publish your record...” ([www.greatlakesrestorationbranches.org/newpage34.htm](http://www.greatlakesrestorationbranches.org/newpage34.htm)).

<sup>72</sup> Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, provides an example of the intricate types of literary construction found in the Scriptures. Psalm 119 is an alphabet acrostic, composed of 22 sections with 8 verses each. All 8 verses of each section begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In section 1, each verse begins with *Aleph* (first letter of the Hebrew alphabet). Section 2, all eight verses begin with *Beth* (second letter of alphabet), and so on through the entire Hebrew alphabet. Try to duplicate that! No, don’t. Instead, read Psalm 119 and immerse yourself in the power of its words.

## CHAPTER 5: GOD'S SIGNATURE

<sup>73</sup> Wallenfels, Ronald and Jack M. Sasson. *The Ancient Near East*. Volume IV. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2000; also see: Carl Roebuck. *The World of Ancient Times*. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1966, p. 355.

<sup>74</sup> "Alexander the Great reduced the city after a siege of nine months (332 BC), though he did not completely destroy it. From this blow Tyre never fully recovered..." (Avery, Catherine B. & Jotham Johnson. *The New Century Classical Handbook*. NY: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1962, p. 1130.)

<sup>75</sup> Matthews, Samuel W. "The Phoenicians: Sea Lords of Antiquity," Washington, DC: *National Geographic*, August 1974, p. 165.

<sup>76</sup> Genesis 26:3; 28:15 **Note:** The land God promised to give to the nation descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was strategically placed "in the midst of the nations." (Ezekiel 5:5) See also Acts 1:8; 2:5.

<sup>77</sup> Josephus, Flavius, *The Complete Works of Josephus*. (William Whiston) Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1967, pp. 566-568, 580-583, 588-589.

<sup>78</sup> To illustrate, before World War II, countless Jews in Hitler's Germany did not want to be recognized as Jews. They spoke German, paid German taxes, and fought for Germany in World War I. Yet the Nazis labeled them as Jews. And within a few years, 6 million were exterminated in "the Holocaust...called history's best documented crime." (Phillips, John. *Exploring the World of the Jew*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1993, p. 109) See also headline article: "Nazis Admit Murdering 6 Million Jews in Europe." Bourne, Eric. *The Palestine Post*, Sunday, December 16, 1945.

<sup>79</sup> Isaiah 44:18; Jeremiah 5:21; John 5:39-47; 2 Corinthians 3:12-16; Romans 9-11. **Note:** About 2600 years ago, God revealed to Ezekiel that Israel's rebirth would happen in three distinct stages. He compared Israel to a valley littered with *dry bones*, which would *come together* as a body and ultimately have *life breathed into them* (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

<sup>80</sup> Compare Genesis 37-50 with the life of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. Recommended reading: *Joseph Makes Me Think of Jesus*, by William MacDonald. Grand Rapids, MI: Gospel Folio Press.

## CHAPTER 6: CONSISTENT WITNESS

<sup>81</sup> "What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (Romans 1:19-20 NIV) Even people who do not have the Scriptures, "show the work of the law written in their hearts, their

*conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them...*" (Romans 2:15). Yet, instead of seeking for more truth, most people pursue falsehood.

<sup>82</sup> By computing the ages of the genealogies recorded in the Bible, we learn that Adam did not die until Noah's father (9<sup>th</sup> generation after Adam) was more than 50 years old (Genesis 5).

<sup>83</sup> "Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God.'" (Exodus 8:19) See also Exodus 12:30-33. For the full story: Exodus 5-14.

<sup>84</sup> While Moses wrote the first section of Scripture, it is likely that the book of Job was written before the Torah (around the time of Abraham), making it one of the oldest pieces of finished literature in existence. If this date is correct, then the Bible was written over a period of about 2,000 years.

<sup>85</sup> DeHaan, Dennis. *Our Daily Bread*, May 6, 2006. Grand Rapids, MI: RBC Ministries.

<sup>86</sup> Some ask, "Why would God allow false prophets to proclaim their deceptive messages?" Moses answered that question in the Torah. "**If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—and let us serve them, you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**" (Deuteronomy 13:1-3)

<sup>87</sup> 1 Kings 18; 1 Kings 19:18; Romans 11:14

<sup>88</sup> Smith, James E. *What the Bible Teaches about the Promised Messiah*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993, pp. 470-474; Also: Phillips, John. *Exploring the World of the Jew*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1993, pp. 80-81.

<sup>89</sup> Taylor, John. "Jones Captivated San Francisco's Liberal Elite," *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 12, 1998.

<sup>90</sup> Smith, Joseph. *Pearl of Great Price*. Joseph Smith – History; 1:15-16.

<sup>91</sup> Unlike the Bible, which is confirmed by history and archaeology, the book of Mormon is unsubstantiated. Professor Thomas Stuart Ferguson founded the Department of Archaeology at Mormonism's own Brigham Young University for the sole purpose of discovering confirming evidence for their "holy book." After 25 years of dedicated research, the department found nothing to confirm the flora, fauna, topography, geography, peoples, coins, or settlements described in the Book of Mormon. Ferguson concluded that the geography of the Book of Mormon is "fictional." (Martin, Walter. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1997, pp. 200-202)

## CHAPTER 7: THE FOUNDATION

<sup>92</sup> The Bible contains 66 individual books—39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Later in history, the Roman Catholic Church (which, like many Protestant churches, elevates their church traditions above the Word of God) decided to include 11 additional books between the Old and New Testaments. These books, known as the *Apocrypha* (or *Deuterocanonical* books), were written primarily in the era between the Old and New Testaments. While they contain interesting historical and legendary material, Hebrew believers never accepted them as inspired Scripture. Many of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 are commentaries which comment only on the 39 Old Testament books and not on the Apocrypha. When the Messiah was on earth, He frequently quoted from the Old Testament, but never from the Apocryphal books. The Apocrypha is never quoted in the New Testament. The 39 books contained in the Old Testament were written by prophets to whom God spoke directly and to whom He confirmed His word, “bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.” (Hebrews 2:4) As for the New Testament, believers who lived in the time following Christ’s visit to earth accepted the apostles’ authority and New Testament Scriptures as equal to the Old Testament prophets and Scriptures. This could not be said of the Apocrypha.

<sup>93</sup> Luke 24:25-48; John 5:39-47. Resources that present God’s message chronologically: [www.one-god-one-message.com](http://www.one-god-one-message.com) / [www.goodseed.com](http://www.goodseed.com)

## CHAPTER 8: WHAT GOD IS LIKE

<sup>94</sup> Cosmologists’ attempt to figure out the history of the universe is based on a “combined observational and theoretical effort.” (Loeb, Abraham. “The Dark Ages of the Universe,” *Scientific American*, November 2006) While their knowledge is based on *observation and theory*, the knowledge of those who believe the Bible is based on *observation and revelation*—revelation that bears the divine signature (as observed in chapters 5 and 6 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE). God has revealed His truth in such a way that we can *know* it is true.

<sup>95</sup> The book of Job 38:6-7 indicates that the angels were observing and rejoicing when God created the earth. Job is a poetic book; thus angels are described as “morning stars” and “sons of God.” These two expressions do not indicate different beings. This double description is an example of parallelism, a characteristic of Hebrew poetry. See also Job 1:6; 2:1.

<sup>96</sup> More than half of the Bible’s 66 books refer to angels. For example: Genesis 3:24; 16:7-11; 18:1-19:1; 1 Kings 19:5-7; Psalm 103:20-21; 104:4; Daniel 6:22; Hebrews 1:4-7,14; 12:22; Matthew 1:20; 2:13,19-

20; 22:30; 26:53; Luke 1 & 2; 2 Thessalonians 1:7, Revelation 5:11; 18:1; 22:6-16, etc. (Revelation uses the word *angel* or *angels* 70+ times).

<sup>97</sup> Deuteronomy 10:14; 2 Corinthians 12:2,4; John 14:2; Psalm 33:13; 115:3; 1 Kings 8:39

<sup>98</sup> Vine, W.E., M.A. *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revel Company; 1966, p. 229.

<sup>99</sup> God’s six days of creation and the seventh day of rest initiated for mankind a divinely appointed time cycle which is observed around the world to this day. Unlike days, months and years, *the week* is unrelated to astronomy. It is ordained by God.

<sup>100</sup> Proponents of the “big bang” hypothesis theorize that light preexisted the sun and earth by 9,000,000,000 years! (Loeb, Abraham. “The Dark Ages of the Universe,” *Scientific American*; November 2006, p. 49.)

<sup>101</sup> The next time you take a drink of water, you might want to tell your Creator, “Thank You!” Besides the fact that H<sub>2</sub>O (water) quenches our thirst and keeps us alive, it is truly amazing. Water is the only liquid that expands when frozen; thus it becomes less dense and floats. If water behaved like other matter and condensed when frozen, it would sink to the bottom of the seas, lakes and rivers. Much of it would not melt and eventually our fresh water would be locked up, frozen at the bottom. Good thing our Creator thought of this!

<sup>102</sup> The moon’s dark side was first seen by man on December 24, 1968, when the Apollo 8 spacecraft orbited the moon. Interestingly, on that same day, the three astronauts read Genesis chapter 1 as viewers watched on television. (Reynolds, David West. *Apollo: The Epic Journey to the Moon*. NY: Harcourt, Inc., 2002, pp. 110-111)

## CHAPTER 9: NONE LIKE HIM

<sup>103</sup> Additional examples in the Bible where God refers to Himself as “We” and “Us”: Genesis 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8 (Note: In the Qur’an, “Allah” constantly speaks in the plural form. The Qur’anic verses quoted in chapter 3 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE demonstrate this.)

<sup>104</sup> Genesis 1:1-3 While the opening section of Genesis does not explain God’s existence as a tri-unity, the way it is worded is in perfect harmony with explanations later revealed in the Bible. The Scriptures make it clear that all three Persons of the Godhead were involved in creation.

<sup>105</sup> When David became King over Israel, the Scripture narrates: “The children of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became **a unit** [echad], and took their stand on top of a hill.” (2 Samuel 2:25) The same word used to declare: “**the LORD is one**” is used to describe this unity in which there is plurality.

<sup>106</sup> Many Old Testament verses affirm God's complex oneness: Genesis 17:1-3; 18:1-33 God appeared to Abraham in bodily form. These were face-to-face encounters and not a dream or vision. Genesis 35:9-15; Exodus 3:1-6; 6:2-3; 24:9-11; 33:10-11. Compare Exodus 33:11 with 33:20. Moses spoke face-to-face with One of the Persons in the Godhead (the Son), but he was not allowed to see the face of the other Person in the Godhead (the Father). Complex? Yes. God is God. See John 1:1-18. Here are more Old Testament passages that cannot be rightly understood apart from the concept of God's plural oneness: Psalm 2; Psalm 110:1 (compare Matthew 22:41-46); Proverbs 30:4; Isaiah 6:1-3 (compare John 12:41); Isaiah 26:3-4; Isaiah 40:3-11; Isaiah 43:10-11 (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7); Isaiah 48:16; Isaiah 63:1-14; Isaiah 49:1-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Daniel 7:13-14; Hosea 12:3-5; Micah 5:2; Malachi 3:1-2, etc.

<sup>107</sup> Luke 15:11-32; Read also the First Epistle of John.

<sup>108</sup> Read Psalm 2, in which the prophet David refers to the Messiah as *God's Son*. Consider too some of the Son's other names and titles. He is called: "*the door*;" (John 10) but that does not mean He is a door of wood or metal. He is also called: "*the Bread of Life*," (John 6) but that does not mean He is a loaf of bread. Nor does "*Son of God*" imply that God took a wife and had a son. Read John, chapters 1, 3 and 5.

<sup>109</sup> *Le Soleil*, March 14, 1984: «Bienfaiteur sincère, il considérait ses 2.000 employés **comme ses enfants** et partageait leur problèmes, leur soucis et leur joie. Le 'Vieux' comme l'appelaient familièrement et tendrement son personnel, était **un grand fils du Sénégal**.» (Translation: "A sincere humanitarian, he considered his 2000 employees **as his children**, sharing their problems, cares, and joys. The 'Old Man,' as his personnel tenderly called him, was **a great son of Senegal**.")

<sup>110</sup> Like God Himself, the Holy Spirit will not be forced into our preconceived mold. One of God's prophets, who was given a glimpse of Heaven, beheld the Holy Spirit as "*seven lamps of fire...burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God*." (Revelation 4:5) Another prophet described Him as the One who imparts seven qualities that come from God alone: "*The Spirit of the LORD...the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD*." (Isaiah 11:2)

<sup>111</sup> When on earth, the Son of God promised His disciples, "*The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you*." (John 14:26) These words display the perfect unity that has always existed between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is a Personal Being ("*He...*"). For more about the Holy

Spirit, see chapters 16, 22, and 28. Better yet, read *the Epistles* and *Acts* in the Bible, paying close attention to the role of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>112</sup> The Gospel documents the Son speaking to the Father of "*the glory which I had with You before the world was*." We also hear the Son saying: "*Father...You loved Me before the foundation of the world*." (John 17:5,24) See also Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6. As for the Holy Spirit, one of His titles is "*the eternal Spirit*." (Hebrews 9:14)

<sup>113</sup> Exodus 20:22; Hebrews 12:25; Luke 3:22; 5:24; John 1:1-18; 3:16-19; 17:22; Acts 5:3; 7:51; Galatians 4:6; etc.

<sup>114</sup> In the Arabic language, the term *Allah*, in its original meaning, is the Arabic equivalent of the English term *God*. Whether in an Old Testament verse like Genesis 1:1: "*In the beginning God created...*", or a New Testament verse like John 1:1: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*," the generic word for *God* in Arabic is *Allah*, meaning *the Supreme Being*. It is important to understand that the Supreme Being has personal names by which He wants to be known. "Allah" is not God's proper, personal name, although many believe it to be so. Neither is "God" His proper, personal name, though some may think it so.

#### CHAPTER 10: A SPECIAL CREATION

<sup>115</sup> Guinness, Alma E. *ABC's of The Human Body*. Corporate Author: The Reader's Digest Association, 1987, p. 22.

<sup>116</sup> Gates, Bill. *The Road Ahead*. NY: Penguin Group, 1995, p. 188.

<sup>117</sup> To illustrate a greater spiritual truth, the Bible describes the harmonious system of the human body: "*...the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body....*" (Ephesians 4:16)

<sup>118</sup> These thoughts are adapted from John Phillips' superb commentary on Genesis (Phillips, John. *Exploring Genesis*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980). **Note:** The Scripture distinguishes between spirit, soul, and body. See 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12-13; John 4:24.

<sup>119</sup> The notion that Eden was located in the region of Iraq is based on the geographical information of Genesis 2:13-14. **Note:** Some refer to the Garden of Eden as *the garden of paradise*, though the Scripture does not. The earthly Eden must not be confused with the heavenly Paradise.

<sup>120</sup> Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1960, p. 7.

<sup>121</sup> Adam (*Adamah*) is the Hebrew word for *man*, literally meaning *red earth* because he was taken from the ground. Eve (*chavvah*) means *life*—"*because she was the mother of all living*." (Genesis 3:19-20)

## CHAPTER 11: EVIL'S ENTRANCE

<sup>122</sup> “How you are fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer**, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!” (Isaiah 14:12) In this verse, the name *Lucifer*, meaning *light bearer*, does not appear in the Hebrew text. It is a Latin translation of the Hebrew word *helel*, meaning *shining one*. Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 provide an example of the law of double interpretation. On the surface, these passages refer to earthly kings. Isaiah refers to the “king of Babylon,” and Ezekiel writes of the “prince of Tyre.” Yet both passages make statements that cannot apply to mere men. When these scriptures are studied in light of others (Luke 10:18; Job 1:6-12; Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8; etc.), it becomes clear that these passages are commentaries on the fall of Satan, the instigator and influencer behind these wicked kings.

<sup>123</sup> Revelation 12:4

<sup>124</sup> Matthew 10:28; 23:33; Mark 9:43-48

<sup>125</sup> Revelation 20:10-15

## CHAPTER 12: THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

<sup>126</sup> A common question: What happens to babies and little children that die? Will they be judged for their inbred sin nature (Psalm 51:5; 58:3)? The Righteous Judge will do right (Genesis 18:25). He does not condemn a person for that which he or she is incapable of understanding. He holds people accountable for what they know and *could have known* had they made an effort to seek God’s truth (Romans 2:11-15; Psalm 34:10; Isaiah 55:6). A human becomes accountable before God once he or she is mature enough to make moral choices (Deuteronomy 1:39; Isaiah 7:16; 2 Samuel 12:23; Matthew 18:10; 2 Timothy 3:14-17). Only God knows at what age an individual becomes accountable for his or her sins and choices. Whatever the case, God’s message to each of us is: “Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

<sup>127</sup> Revelation 20:14-15; 2:11; 21:8; Matthew 25:46

## CHAPTER 13: MERCY AND JUSTICE

This chapter has no endnotes.

## CHAPTER 14: THE CURSE

<sup>128</sup> “Pythons and boa constrictors...have nub-like legs beneath their skins and tiny, half-inch claws that protrude out above the nubs but nestle close to their bellies near the anus. Actually, even the nubs are not legs but rather a remnant of upper-leg (thigh or femur) bones. The males still use the spurs, but only during courtship and fighting, not to walk.

No other snakes have legs.” (www.wonderquest.com/snake-legs.htm / includes photos). Some interpret this biological fact as support for their evolutionary hypothesis. The point to be grasped is: the anatomy of snakes is in harmony with what Scripture recorded thousands of years earlier.

<sup>129</sup> Also: Revelation 20:2; Luke 10:18 and 2 Corinthians 11:3,14: “As **the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness**,” so “**Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**”

<sup>130</sup> Exodus 29:7; 1 Samuel 10:1; 2 Kings 9:6; Psalm 45:7

<sup>131</sup> Chapter 18 presents three reasons why God encoded His rescue plan. One of the delights of studying the Scriptures chronologically is to discover the unfolding drama of God’s plan to deliver sinners from Satan, sin, and death. God, in His wisdom, revealed His plan progressively, “line upon line, here a little, there a little.” (Isaiah 28:10)

<sup>132</sup> In a comic strip entitled, “You Call That Intelligent?” *Time Magazine* belittles the concept of an Intelligent Designer (God): “Couldn’t aging have been handled with more flair and dignity? For instance: What if old people instead of getting wrinkly and decrepit, just sort of poetically faded away?” (Handy, Bruce and Glynis Sweeny. *Time*, July 4, 2005, p. 90) Also, the book *The Improbability of God*, in a chapter entitled *Neither Intelligent nor Designed*, states: “Is it any more than an overweening human ego that proposes Intelligent Design for such a poorly designed creature?” (Bruce and Frances Martin in *The Improbability of God* by Michael Martin and Ricki Monnier. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2006, p. 220)

## CHAPTER 15: DOUBLE TROUBLE

<sup>133</sup> Associated Press, May 20, 2006

www.abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=nation\_world&id=4189656

<sup>134</sup> Ceremonial washings were a part of Old Testament law (see Leviticus). They were intended to teach sinners their spiritual uncleanness before God. Since He has provided full cleansing and righteousness through the Messiah, such rituals are no longer required by God. Read Acts 10 and Colossians 2. To this day, many religions emphasize outward rituals of cleansing. This e-mail came to me from a Muslim in London: “All non-Muslims including Christians are dirty...Muslims are so clean and near to Allah because they wash...”

<sup>135</sup> After God announced the Commandments orally (Exodus 20), He called Moses up into the mountain and gave him two stone tablets on which the LORD Himself wrote the Commandments (Exodus 24:12; 31:18). “The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.” (Exodus 32:16)

<sup>136</sup> See Luke 18:9-14; Ephesians 2:8-9.

<sup>137</sup> The Messiah is the only One who kept all of God's laws and could say, "I delight to do Your will, O My God, Your law is within my heart." (Psalm 40:8) The Law points us to Him. "The Law was our **tutor** to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified **by faith**." (Galatians 3:24) God's solution for man's sin is powerfully outlined in Romans 3:20-27.

#### CHAPTER 16: THE SEED OF A WOMAN

<sup>138</sup> "For as in Adam all **die**, even so in Christ all shall be made **alive**." (1 Corinthians 15:22); read also Romans chapter 5; Galatians 4:4-5.

<sup>139</sup> Neobirth Pregnancy Care Center: [www.neobirth.org.za/development.html](http://www.neobirth.org.za/development.html)

<sup>140</sup> "Bethlehem Ephrathah" was an older name for Bethlehem, the town south of Jerusalem (Genesis 35:16-19; 48:7). King David was born in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1,18-19; 17:12), as was his Greater Descendant (Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:1-12). Jews who lived in Jesus' day were confused since He grew up in Nazareth, Galilee (John 7:41-42).

<sup>141</sup> For biblical references, see the list of prophecies in chapter 5.

<sup>142</sup> For more on the meaning of "Messiah" see chapter 14, under subheading: THE TWO "SEEDS."

<sup>143</sup> Genesis 1:2; The Holy Spirit of God is not to be confused with Gabriel. The angel Gabriel was a created being. The Holy Spirit is the uncreated, ever-active Spirit of God Himself. See chapters 9 and 28.

<sup>144</sup> After Jesus was born, Mary lived with her husband Joseph as any normal couple would, and together they had sons and daughters (Matthew 13:55-56; Luke 8:19; John 7:3-10).

<sup>145</sup> The prophets foretold that the Messiah would be conceived of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14; He would be a descendent of the family line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah: Genesis 17:18-21; 26:3-4; 28:13-14; 49:8-10; He would be of the royal line of King David: 2 Samuel 7:16; He would be born in Bethlehem: Micah. 5:2.

<sup>146</sup> Matthew 2. King Herod was jealous at the thought of another "king" being born and attempted to destroy Jesus by ordering the execution of all male children in and around Bethlehem, two years old and under. Satan was behind it all. His goal was to destroy *the Seed of the woman*, who had invaded "his territory!" However, God preempted Satan's attempts to kill Jesus by warning Joseph and directing him to take Mary and the young child to Egypt for refuge. These events had also been foretold by the prophets (Matthew chapter 2; Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15). After King Herod died, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to Nazareth where the boy Jesus grew into manhood.

#### CHAPTER 17: WHO CAN THIS BE?

<sup>147</sup> Adapted from Jayyusi, Salma Khadra. *Tales of Juha*. Interlink Books. Northampton, MA, 2007, p. 19.

<sup>148</sup> Here are some of the ancient, non-biblical historical writers who made reference to Jesus of Nazareth: Tacitus, Roman historian (AD 55-120) [*Tacitus* 15:44]; Josephus, Jewish historian (AD 37-101) [*Antiquities* 18:3]; the Talmud, rabbinical commentary on the Torah [*The Babylonian Talmud*. Sanhedrin, 43a]; a Greek named Lucian [*The Death of Peregrine*, p. 11-13 in *The Works of Samasota*, translated by H.W. Fowler and F.G. Fowler, 4 volumes. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1949; Suetonius (AD 69-122), the chief secretary to Emperor Hadrian [*Claudias*, 25]. **Note:** J. Oswald Sanders wrote: "To contend that the Christ of the Bible is the offspring of mere human imagination and had no historical reality, would make the gospels as great a miracle in the realm of literature as the living Christ in the realm of history. Ernest Renan remarked that it would take a Jesus to invent a Jesus. J.J. Rousseau contended that it is more inconceivable that a number of persons should agree to write such a history, than that one should form the subject of it." (Sanders, J. Oswald. *The Incomparable Christ*. Moody Press. Chicago, 1971, p. 57.)

<sup>149</sup> Matthew 13:55-56. Jesus grew up in Nazareth (Matthew 2:22-23; Luke 2:51-52), working as a carpenter alongside His legal father, Joseph (Mark 6:3). Jesus' lowliness offended those who wanted a conquering hero, not a humble Servant.

<sup>150</sup> "Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph...." (Luke 3:23)

<sup>151</sup> Jesus frequently referred to Himself as "the Son of Man," a Messianic title meaning, "Son of Mankind/Humanity" (Greek: *Anthropos*). What a title! Whether we like it or not, we are all "sons (kin) of mankind." But in the case of the exalted Son of God, He **chose** to become *the Son of Man* and identify Himself with the human race. Thus, this title emphasizes Jesus' divinity as much as it does His humanity, since it points to God's personal intervention in humanity. Read Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 8:20; Luke 5:24; 22:69-70; John 5:27; 13:31; Revelation 1:13-18; 14:14.

<sup>152</sup> For example, this Old Testament verse Jesus quoted (in Luke 4:4) is from the Torah of Moses: Deuteronomy 8:3.

<sup>153</sup> Because of man's sin, Satan had indeed become "the ruler of this world" and "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience." (John 12:31; Ephesians 2:2) The Son of God had come to restore man's dominion which he had lost through sin.

<sup>154</sup> Psalm 110 and Psalm 2; Matthew 21:41-46

<sup>155</sup> Qur'an 19:19; Contrast this with 48:2; 47:19

<sup>156</sup> Qur'an 19:19; 3:45-51; 5:110-112; 19:19

<sup>157</sup> Qur'an 4:171

<sup>158</sup> The ultimate sin in Islam is "*shirk*" (Arabic for *association*). *Shirk* is the sin of regarding anything or anyone as equal to God.

<sup>159</sup> Notice the titles ascribed to the promised Messiah:

*Wonderful* = A title used for God alone. It means *Out of the ordinary*.

*Counselor* = The Messiah would be the Personification of Wisdom.

*Mighty God* = God Himself would take on a human body.

*Everlasting Father* = He would be the Possessor of Eternity.

*Prince of Peace* = He would provide for all who trust in Him: peace with God (Romans 5:1), peace with others (Ephesians 2:14-18), inner peace (Philippians 4:7), and ultimately, universal peace (see chapter 29).

<sup>160</sup> The prophet David foretold the LORD's coming to earth in Person: "*Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of Me.*" (Psalm 40:7) Malachi prophesied that God would send a forerunner to prepare people for the arrival of "*the LORD.*" (Malachi 3:1)

<sup>161</sup> Is it beneath God's majesty to come down to our level? Imagine you and your friend talking about two respected spiritual leaders, whom we'll call Omar and Aaron. Your friend says, "Aaron plays with toy cars, but Omar does not." As one who has great respect for Aaron, you respond, "Never! Far be it from Aaron that he should play with toy cars!" Initially such a reaction sounds reasonable and right. Then the story unfolds that both Omar and Aaron have young sons who love for their fathers to get down on the floor and join them in playing with their toys. Now what if we learned that Aaron was happy to spend time with his sons in this way, while Omar refused to do so because he thought it beneath his dignity? Who would be the better father, man and leader, Omar or Aaron? Similarly, when people say, "It is beneath the majesty of the Almighty that He should appear on earth as a man," their intentions may be good, but instead of magnifying God's majesty, they are marring it.

<sup>162</sup> John 13 tells of Jesus washing His disciples' feet, the job of a servant! To read the Gospels is to meet the ultimate Servant: the Lord Himself.

<sup>163</sup> Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6

<sup>164</sup> Jesus the Messiah was declaring His *eternal* existence. If He had wanted only to say that He existed before Abraham, He would have said, "Before Abraham was, *I was*," instead of "*Before Abraham was, I am.*" See chapter 9 about YHWH (Exodus 3:14).

<sup>165</sup> The word used for *worship* regarding those who worshiped Jesus is the same word used for those who worship God. (Compare Matthew 8:2 with Revelation 7:11. In both cases, *worshiped* is the Greek word *proskneo* meaning *to prostrate oneself in adoration, worship*.)

<sup>166</sup> If you still cling to the unsubstantiated notion that the Scriptures of the Bible have been tampered with, reread chapter 3, which is entitled: "Corrupted or Preserved?"

<sup>167</sup> Lewis. C.S. *Mere Christianity*. NY: Macmillan-Collier, 1960, pp. 55-56.

<sup>168</sup> For a review on God's complex oneness, reread chapter 9.

<sup>169</sup> Many stumble over another aspect of this story of Jesus and the rich young ruler. The man came running to Jesus and asked, "*Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*" (Matthew 19:16; Mark 10:17; Luke 10:25) To the crowd, the young man's question seemed good, but not to the Lord. Jesus knew that this religious man had not yet grasped the foundational truths about God's infinite holiness and man's utter sinfulness. This self-righteous man imagined that he could earn his way into paradise; that he could somehow be good enough. He was like a child holding out a grimy fistful of copper coins to the world's wealthiest man and asking him, "How many shall I give you that I may inherit your estate?" How did Jesus answer the man? He directed him back to the Torah and the Ten Commandments to show him that he could never, in his own strength, satisfy God's standard of perfect righteousness. There is *no "eternal life"* for those who think they can merit it by doing some "*good thing.*"

<sup>170</sup> Jesus also said: "*Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ... I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ... He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? ... Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*" (John 14:1,6,9-11)

<sup>171</sup> Isaiah 53:1; John 12:38; Luke 1:51; See also: Isaiah 40:10-11; 51:5; 52:10; 59:16; 63:5; Jeremiah 32:17.

<sup>172</sup> While God empowered two prophets (Elijah and Elisha) to raise a dead person back to life, no prophet ever claimed to be *the Source of Life*. Jesus alone could say, "*I am the resurrection and the life.*"

<sup>173</sup> Before the Messiah came to earth, He was in heaven. He was there when Lucifer was cast out. Thus, Jesus said to His disciples: "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*" (Luke 10:18)

## CHAPTER 18: GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN

<sup>174</sup> Hebrews 11:6; Jeremiah 29:13; Isaiah 29:11; Matthew 11:25; 13:13-14; Luke 8:4-15; John 6. Many of God's truths are revealed with a certain intentional indefiniteness, so that only those who search for His truth will find it. God will not force people to listen, understand, and believe.

Those who are *willing* will discover His truth. Those who are *willfully blind* will not.

<sup>175</sup> Did you notice that many prophecies were written in the past tense even though they were written hundreds of years before the event? God's plans cannot be thwarted. When the Creator says something will happen, it is as good as done. That is also why the Messiah is called "*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*" (Revelation 13:8)

<sup>176</sup> Read Psalm 2, written 1000 years before the Messiah's first coming to earth. Elsewhere in Scripture, the Messiah, at His second coming (described in chapter 29 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE), is likened to a massive stone falling from heaven. That "*stone*" will "*grind to powder*" all who have refused to submit to Him (Daniel 2:34-35; Matthew 21:33-44).

<sup>177</sup> For more words of Peter, read Acts chapters 2–5; Acts 10; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2:21-25; 3:18; etc. Also consider these words written by the apostle Paul: "***The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ...the weakness of God is stronger than men ...God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.***" (1 Corinthians 1:18,25,27)

#### CHAPTER 19: THE LAW OF THE SACRIFICE

<sup>178</sup> How did Abel know to do all this? God had told him. Hebrews 11:4 tells us that he brought the sacrifice "*by faith*"—faith in what God had commanded and promised. Later, the Scriptures would provide in written format God's detailed laws concerning the substitutionary sacrifice, which Abel had obediently presented long before. Genesis 4:4 states that Abel brought "*the firstborn*" (compare Exodus 13:12-13), a lamb "*of his flock*" (see Leviticus 5:6), and offered "*of their fat*" (see Leviticus 3:16). It is not stated that Abel offered his lamb on an altar, but it is likely he did so, just as the believers who came after him did. Genesis 8:20; 12:7; 13:4,18; 22:8-9; Exodus 20:24-26; Leviticus 17:11; etc.

<sup>179</sup> Daniel 6; Esther 3:8-15; 8:7-17

<sup>180</sup> Strong, James. *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. NY: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1948, p. 57. Compare Genesis 6:14 ("*cover*") with Leviticus 5:18 ("*atonement*"). The same Hebrew word *Kâphar* (atonement) is used in these verses.

<sup>181</sup> Leviticus 5:7

<sup>182</sup> More than 50 times the Scriptures declare that the sacrifice had to be "*without blemish.*" For example, "*If his offering is of the flocks—of the sheep or of the goats—as a burnt sacrifice, he shall bring a male without blemish.*" (Leviticus 1:10)

#### CHAPTER 20: A MOMENTOUS SACRIFICE

<sup>183</sup> *Eid al-Adha* is the most significant Islamic holiday of the year. It points back to the event when God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice in place of his son. According to widespread Muslim belief the son to be sacrificed was Ishmael, not Isaac—although the Qur'an itself never states that it was Ishmael, and the Bible clearly shows that it was Isaac. The sacrifice of Eid is carried out by Muslims worldwide. It is also performed as a final ritual in the pilgrimage (*Hajj*) to Mecca. Pilgrims complete the Hajj by shedding the blood of an animal (usually a sheep or a cow) after the morning Eid prayer. Most Muslims believe these rituals provide them with a kind of "new birth" and that if they perform them correctly their sins are washed away. However, Muslims also acknowledge that these rituals cannot provide assurance of salvation since they immediately begin to accumulate more sins after the Hajj and sacrifice of Eid. (For the biblical perspective, read Hebrews chapter 10 and John chapter 3.)

<sup>184</sup> At first, Abraham's name was Abram. Because of space constraints, this part of the story is not explained in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE. See Genesis 17. For Abraham's full story, read Genesis 11 to 25; also read Romans 4, Galatians 4, and Hebrews 11.

<sup>185</sup> Deuteronomy 7:6-7; 14:2

<sup>186</sup> Here are a few examples in which God used the nation of Israel to bless non-Jewish people: Joseph saved the lives of millions of Egyptians (Genesis 37–50). Naomi, a daughter of Abraham, was a blessing to two Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth (Book of Ruth in Old Testament). The prophet Elijah was a blessing to a Sidonian widow (1 Kings 17; Luke 4:26). Jonah, though reluctantly, delivered a message of salvation to the Ninevites (Jonah). King Solomon was a blessing to Queen Sheba of Arabia (1 Kings 10; Luke 11:31). Daniel blessed the Babylonians (Daniel 1–6). Esther and Mordecai brought blessing to the Persian Empire (Esther), etc.

<sup>187</sup> Genesis 12:2-3; 22:16-18; Hebrews 6:13-20; John 4:22; Acts 1–10, etc.

<sup>188</sup> "*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called, concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.'*" (Hebrews 11:17-19)

#### CHAPTER 21: MORE SHED BLOOD

<sup>189</sup> I started counting the "sacrifice stories" in the Old Testament, but stopped counting after reaching the 200<sup>th</sup> story! The four words: "*blood,*" "*sacrifice,*" "*offering*" and "*altar*" are found more than 1400 times in the Bible (NKJV).

<sup>190</sup> Genesis 15:13-14 “*Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them **four hundred years**. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; **afterward they shall come out with great possessions**.’*” The fulfillment of God’s promise is recorded in Exodus 1:1-12; 12:35-41. God is sovereign. His plans always happen.

<sup>191</sup> Exodus 5-11

<sup>192</sup> Some time earlier, from within the burning bush on Mount Sinai, God had promised Moses: “*I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.*” (Exodus 3:12)

<sup>193</sup> Exodus 13-17; “*He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it ran in the dry places like a river.*” (Psalm 105:41)

<sup>194</sup> Exodus 28:9-19; Later, when the Messiah was on earth, He said, “*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.*” (John 10:9) Every element in the tabernacle pointed to His Person and work.

<sup>195</sup> “*And he shall **lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron’s sons, the priests, shall sprinkle the blood all around on the altar... and Aaron’s sons shall burn it on the altar.***” (Leviticus 3:2,5)

<sup>196</sup> The Tabernacle presented a kind of picture of the Savior who would come from heaven to earth. To those who really know that Savior, “*He is altogether lovely*” (Song of Solomon 5:16), like the inside of the tabernacle. To those who don’t know Him, “*there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*” (Isaiah 53:2-3), like the outside of the tabernacle.

<sup>197</sup> *Adam (Adamah)* is the Hebrew word for “man” and literally means “red earth,” because God formed Adam’s body from the earth’s soil.

<sup>198</sup> Numbers 3:23-39

<sup>199</sup> Leviticus 16; Today Jews call the Day of Atonement *Yom Kippur*, but the Day is devoid of its original meaning since they have no temple, no priesthood, and no sacrificial lamb. Ironically, one of the symbols of Judaism today is a wall (the Western Wall; a retaining wall built by Herod the Great to enlarge the Temple Mount area). Jews stand before it daily and pray for the Messiah—who has already come—to come! As foretold by the prophets, the Jewish nation is spiritually blind (Isaiah 6:10; 53:1; Jeremiah 5:21; Ezekiel 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6). One day their eyes will be opened to understand that Jesus (*Yeshua*) is the One who fulfilled the symbolisms of the temple, priesthood, and sacrifices (Hebrews 8–10; Ephesians 2). The wall of spiritual blindness will come down (Ephesians 2:14; Romans 9-11). See chapter 5 in this book, under subtitle: PROPHECIES ABOUT A PEOPLE. Also read the endnotes.

<sup>200</sup> 2 Chronicles 3:1, compare with Genesis 22:2. It was on this same location that Muslims built the Dome of the Rock mosque in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>201</sup> 2 Chronicles 7:5

## CHAPTER 22: THE LAMB

<sup>202</sup> One of the LORD’s titles in Scripture is *Immanuel*, meaning literally, “*With us (is) God.*” (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)

<sup>203</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Peter 1:13-14; Ephesians 2:21

<sup>204</sup> Isaiah 40:3-9; Malachi 3:1; Luke 1; John 1

<sup>205</sup> Throughout the Bible, whenever a man was chosen by God to be a priest or king, an authorized person such as a prophet would anoint him with oil to show that he was selected by God for a specific task. God anointed His Son with the Holy Spirit Himself. In Scripture, oil is often used to symbolize the Holy Spirit. **Note:** Just as all three Persons of the Godhead were involved in the work of *creation*, so the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were also involved in the work of *redemption*.

<sup>206</sup> “*The righteous will live **by his faith**.*” (Habakkuk 2:4) While the sacrifice Jesus came to offer would be sufficient to “*take away the sin of the world,*” it would benefit only those who believed that Jesus’ sacrifice was for them. This truth can be illustrated by our “Way of Righteousness” radio programs in Senegal ([www.twor.com](http://www.twor.com); [www.lesprophetes.com](http://www.lesprophetes.com)). On many broadcasts, listeners are offered a free copy of the Scriptures. All who write and ask for it, receive it free of charge. Is this offer valid for *all* the millions of people who tune in? *Yes*. Do *all* listeners write to us to request their free copy of the Scriptures? *No*. Most do not take advantage of the offer. Similarly, through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His Son, God has provided forgiveness and eternal life for all. However, only a small percentage of Adam’s offspring accept God’s offer. See Luke 14:15-24.

## CHAPTER 23: FULFILLING SCRIPTURE

<sup>207</sup> Isaiah 53; Psalm 22. See also Daniel 9:24-27, which outlines God’s plan of the ages. Part of this total plan was: “*Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.*” (Daniel 9:26)

<sup>208</sup> Matthew, chapters 21 to 25

<sup>209</sup> Betrayed: See Psalm 41:9; Zechariah 11:12-13 and Matthew 26:14-16; 27:3-10.

<sup>210</sup> As the Jews were celebrating their yearly Passover feast, Jesus would become the final and perfect Passover Lamb, delivering believers from God’s wrath against sin. “*For indeed **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.***” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

<sup>211</sup> The Gospel of John, chapters 13 to 17.

<sup>212</sup> What Jesus said to those who came to arrest Him was simply, “*I AM*.” The phrase “*I am He*” is the way the English translators have rendered it, but the word “*He*” is not found in the Greek text. Jesus was declaring who He is: the Eternal Self-Existent “*I AM*” who came down from heaven. It is no surprise, therefore, that when Jesus answered, “*I AM*,” the religious leaders and soldiers backed away and fell to the ground.

<sup>213</sup> “*I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!*” (Daniel 7:13) **Note:** The tearing of one’s clothes was a customary way of showing extreme grief or anger. Interestingly, the law God gave to Moses stated, “*He who is the high priest among his brethren... shall not...tear his clothes.*” (Leviticus 21:10) By this act (Matthew 27:65; Mark 14:63), Caiaphas disqualified himself as high priest. The new eternal High Priest was Jesus Himself who had come to earth to offer up His own body as the sacrifice. He is the Only One who can truly reconcile sinful man to a holy God (Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-16; 7:26; 8:1; 9:11,25; 10:19-22).

<sup>214</sup> John 18:38; 19:4,6; John 19:15; Luke 23:21

#### CHAPTER 24: PAID IN FULL

<sup>215</sup> If you have not yet grasped chapters 8 and 9, and 16 and 17 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE, you may find this statement blasphemous. I have even heard some sarcastically say, “So while ‘God’ was in the virgin’s womb, and later on the cross, who was taking care of the universe?” This question reveals a defective view of the Scriptures and of the God who gave them. “*Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.’*” (Matthew 22:29) Since God has always existed as a complex tri-unity, being on earth and in heaven at the same time poses no problem. If the sun can be in outer space at the same time its sunlight and heat are with us on earth, why cannot the Creator of that sun be in heaven and on earth at the same time?

<sup>216</sup> *Calvary (kranion)* is the Greek name for the Hebrew *Golgotha*, meaning *the place of a skull* (Matthew 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17). This hill where Jesus was crucified, located outside old Jerusalem and rounded like a bare skull, is a part of the same mountain ridge where Abraham offered up the ram in place of his son.

<sup>217</sup> The historian Josephus reported that before the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, the Roman soldiers “caught every day five hundred Jews; nay, some days they caught more.... The soldiers, out of the wrath and hatred they bore the Jews, nailed those they caught, one after one way, and another after another, to the crosses, by way of jest; when their multitude was so great, that room was wanting for the crosses, and crosses wanting for the

bodies.” Josephus also wrote the victims “were first whipped, and then tormented with all sorts of tortures...” (Josephus, *Antiquities* 11:1, p. 563)

<sup>218</sup> The Jews calculated time beginning at 6:00 in the morning. “*Now it was the third hour (6:00 + 3 hours = 9:00), and they crucified Him... Now when the sixth hour (12:00 noon) had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour (15:00).*” (Mark 15:25,33)

<sup>219</sup> Genesis 8:20; 22:2-8; Exodus 29:18. The phrase “*burnt offering*” is found 169 times in the Old Testament. Jesus became the final burnt offering for sin. Mark 12:33; Hebrews 10:6-14. **Note:** To further understand why God turned away from the Lord Jesus as He hung on the cross, read Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. In the same Psalm where David predicted that the Messiah would say, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” (Psalm 22:1), David tells us why God turned away from His Son. “*You are holy!*” (Psalms 22:3) God turned away from Jesus, because God is perfectly holy and “*cannot look on wickedness.*” (Habakkuk 1:13). During those hours of darkness, the sinless Son of Man was suffering in the place of the wicked as God lashed out against Him as though He were the sinner. Jesus, the holy Lamb of God, became the Sin-Bearer (without becoming a sinner). The song-writer expressed it well: “‘Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies! Who can explore His strange design?” (*Amazing Love*, Charles Wesley, 1707–1788)

<sup>220</sup> Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. 1883, p. 614.

<sup>221</sup> Read Hebrews 9 and 10. **Note:** As stated in chapter 22 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE, the glory of God, which once dwelt in the Holiest Place of the tabernacle and temple, was no longer behind the veil. It was in Jesus.

<sup>222</sup> John 19:31-37; Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20; Zechariah 12:10;13:6

#### CHAPTER 25: DEATH DEFEATED

<sup>223</sup> Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; 1 Corinthians 15. **Note:** Many who set out to disprove Jesus’ resurrection have ended up writing books proclaiming the overwhelming evidence that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. For example: Morrison, Frank. *Who moved the Stone?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987; McDowell, Josh. *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1993; Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.

<sup>224</sup> Not only had Jesus said that He would “*be raised the third day,*” (Matthew 16:21) but He also said, “*As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*” (Matthew 12:40). Many understandably argue that if Jesus was put in the tomb on Friday night

and was in the tomb only until Sunday morning, that is not three full days. However, the period during which Jesus was to lie in the grave is expressed in round numbers, according to the Jewish way of speaking, which was to regard any part of a day, however small, as a full day (e.g., Matthew 27:63-64; Genesis 42:17-18; 1 Samuel 30:12-13; Esther 4:16-5:1). Here is another point: The Scripture does not state that Jesus was crucified on Friday. While many are quick to shout, “Contradiction!” there are many good explanations to resolve such apparent “contradictions” in the Bible.

<sup>225</sup> Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16

<sup>226</sup> Acts 5:41 “...rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” Peter imprisoned and beaten: Acts 5; see also Acts 12. Jesus predicted Peter’s death as a martyr: John 21:18-19.

<sup>227</sup> Some quote what Jesus told a Gentile woman, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 15:24), but they don’t tell you that Jesus proceeded to heal her daughter! (For more examples of Jesus’ ministry and compassion to non-Jews, see Matthew 12:41-42; 21:33-43; Luke 9:51-55; 10:30-36; 17:11-19; John 4; 1 John 2:1-2; Luke 24:45-48.)

<sup>228</sup> Psalm 68:18; 110:1; Psalm 24

<sup>229</sup> Jesus “**sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**” because “He had by Himself purged our sins.” (Hebrews 1:3) “Every priest **stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God....**” (Hebrews 10:11-12) See also Hebrews 8:1; 12:2; Revelation 3:21.

## CHAPTER 26: RELIGIOUS AND FAR FROM GOD

<sup>230</sup> James 2:18; Matthew 5:13-16; Hebrews 11

<sup>231</sup> While God grants governments the right to defend their people, and assigns them the responsibility to use the “sword” as “God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil” (Romans 13:1-4; Genesis 9:6), the use of violence to spread God’s truth is in absolute opposition to the example and teaching of Jesus, who said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, **love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others?**” (Matthew 5:43-47)

Contrastively, the Qur’an says: “Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Apostle, nor acknowledge the Religion of Truth, even if they are of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya [a special tax for non-Muslims] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.” (Qur’an, sura 9:29)

<sup>232</sup> “This is the message you heard from the beginning: **We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.**” (1 John 3:11-12 NIV)

Two driving forces that inspired Cain to kill Abel were the devil and envy (Compare Matthew 27:18).

<sup>233</sup> How to meet the skeptic’s classic challenge: “Where did Cain get his wife?” Genesis 5 provides the answer. Adam and Eve had other “sons and daughters.” (Genesis 5:4) Evidently, Cain married one of his sisters. This would not yet have produced any harmful effects genetically. Later, God would forbid such intermarriage. And what happened to Abel after he was killed? Abel’s body returned to dust, but his soul and spirit went to Paradise, since God had forgiven him of his sins and declared him righteous on the basis of his faith. Hebrews 11:4

<sup>234</sup> Moses and other prophets describe the universal flood and geological upheavals of Noah’s day: Genesis 7–8; Psalm 104:6-8; Job 22:16; Matthew 24:37-39; 2 Peter 2:5-6.

## CHAPTER 27: STAGE 1: GOD’S PAST PROGRAM

<sup>235</sup> In one way or another, every section of the Bible relates to one of three themes:

- I. What God has done
- II. What God is doing
- III. What God will yet do

In theological terms, these three themes of Scripture are classified as:

1) *Justification* = When you believe the Gospel, God declares you perfectly righteous in your **position**. (Romans 3–5)

2) *Sanctification* = Now that you are justified, God is at work in your life to help you live righteously in your **practice**. (Romans 6–8 and 12–15)

3) *Glorification* = In heaven you will be **perfectly righteous** in both your position and your practice. (Revelation 21–22)

<sup>236</sup> Richardson, Don. *Lords of the Earth*. Oxnard, CA: Regal Books; 1977, pp. 354. (For another classic cannibal-conversion story by Don Richardson read: *Peace Child*. Oxnard, CA: Regal Books, 1975.)

<sup>237</sup> Acts 26:9-11; 7:58-60; 8:1-3; 9:1-2

<sup>238</sup> Acts 9:1-31; also Acts, chapters 11; 13-14; 16-28. In Acts, chapters 22 and 26, Paul tells his conversion story. See also Galatians 1:13,23; Philippians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 15:9; etc.

<sup>239</sup> A “saint” in biblical terms is one who is *set apart* for God; one who has been *declared holy* by God through faith in His way of forgiveness and righteousness. The man-made tradition of “canonizing” certain deceased people and thereby making them “saints” is completely contrary to what the Bible teaches (see Deuteronomy 33:2-3; Psalm 30:4; Proverbs 2:8; Daniel 7:21-27; Matthew 27:52; Acts 26:10; Ephesians 1:1, 2:19, etc.).

### CHAPTER 28: STAGE 2: GOD’S PRESENT PROGRAM

<sup>240</sup> What most do not realize is that they are siding with the enemy when they use such methods for protection. Deuteronomy 18:10-14; Isaiah 47:13; Acts 19:19; Galatians 5:19-21

<sup>241</sup> 1 John 2:1; John 14-16

<sup>242</sup> In chapter 1, we quoted an e-mail from Ahmed in which he wrote: “...there are predictions in your Bible, the original one, and in the Old Testament as well, to the coming of Muhammad (pbuh), even now...” One of the key passages to which Ahmed was referring is John 14 to 16.

<sup>243</sup> Pentecost means *fiftieth*. It was an Old Testament celebration in which the Israelites thanked God for His blessings (Leviticus 23:16). From the beginning, God planned to send down the ultimate blessing on this day: His Holy Spirit.

<sup>244</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:21; 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7-9; 22:17; John 3:29

<sup>245</sup> 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1-2; Romans 6-8

<sup>246</sup> The moment you repent of your wrong thinking and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for your sins and rose again, you are “*baptized into Christ*” (Romans 6:3), not with water (that happens later), but by the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-5; Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13). “*Baptized into*” means “united with, identified with.” When you believe, you become a part of God’s own family, made up of all who “*have been united together*” with His sinless Son (Romans 6:5). Your new, eternal position is “*in Christ*.”

<sup>247</sup> Acts 24:15; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:6, 11-15; Revelation 22:12

<sup>248</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:10. The Scripture speaks of no fewer than five special crowns (trophies/awards) believers can receive: 1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Peter 5:4; James 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:8. These crowns will not be for our own glory, but for His (Revelation 4:10). The Lord will not forget any good work that His redeemed people have done in His name and for His glory (Matthew 10:41-42; Hebrews 6:10).

<sup>249</sup> Sheikh, Bilquis. *I Dared to Call Him Father*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1978; p. 53.

<sup>250</sup> 1 John 2:27; John 4:14; 14:26; 16:13; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Ephesians 4:21

<sup>251</sup> There is a critical difference between mechanically reciting a prayer and truly connecting with God and receiving God’s answers to our prayers. Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 6:18; 1 John 5:14-15; John 14:13-14; 15:7; Philippians 4:6-9

<sup>252</sup> Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4

<sup>253</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6; 3:20-21

### CHAPTER 29: STAGE 3: GOD’S FUTURE PROGRAM

<sup>254</sup> A few pages from now we will read several verses from the Old Testament in which the prophets foretell the Messiah’s second coming to earth and describe the events that will accompany His return. Some of the passages we will consider are Zechariah, chapter 14, Daniel 7:13-14, Psalm 72, and Isaiah 9:6-7.

<sup>255</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

<sup>256</sup> See chapter 28, under subtitle: TWO JUDGMENT DAYS.

<sup>257</sup> Read Ephesians 5:27 and surrounding verses. This astounding theme is touched on in chapter 10 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE. The Scriptures consistently picture the Lord as the “*Bridegroom*” and His people as His “*Bride*.” Marriage, in its ideal form, was designed to give us a faint idea of the close, spiritual relationship the Lord God plans to enjoy with His people throughout eternity (Isaiah 54:5; 62:5; Psalm 45; Song of Solomon; Hosea 2:16,19,20; Matthew 9:15; 25:1-13; John 3:29; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 21:2,9; 22:17).

<sup>258</sup> Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14; The most complete description of the Tribulation is found in Revelation, chapters 6 to 19.

<sup>259</sup> Romans 11:26-27. **Note:** This event is prefigured in the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-45. Amazing parallels!

<sup>260</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:45-47; Romans 5:12-21. Terms such as “*First Adam*” and “*Last Adam*” are also mentioned in chapter 16 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE. Just as Adam’s sin caused all men to die, so Jesus’ righteousness and shed blood restores eternal life to all who believe.

<sup>261</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 19:6-14; Jude 14; Zechariah 14:5

<sup>262</sup> Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29; Revelation 5:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; John 3:17-18; 12:47; Daniel 9:24-27; Compare Isaiah 53 with Zechariah 14. Also consider the contrasts between “*suffering*” and “*glory*” in these passages: Luke 24:25-26; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Hebrews 2:9; Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 22; etc.

<sup>263</sup> Psalm 72 is titled: “*A Psalm of Solomon.*” It appears that Solomon wrote this Psalm, although it concludes with this statement: “*The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.*” (Psalms 72:20) This verse signals the end of the second of five sections found within the Book of Psalms. David was the primary writer of this second section.

<sup>264</sup> Who will be forever condemned? “*The cowardly [and the] unbelieving,*” that is, those who never believed God’s message because they were afraid of what their family and friends might say or do. When Jesus was on earth, He warned His listeners plainly, “*Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ... Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*” (Matthew 10:28,34-37)

#### CHAPTER 30: A PREVIEW OF PARADISE

<sup>265</sup> Matthew 13:24-30. This parable of Jesus declares that the mix of good and evil will endure for only a limited time.

<sup>266</sup> The remainder of the first chapter of Revelation provides an awe-inspiring description of the Lord Jesus, a stunningly different portrayal of Him than seen in most books, movies, and religions.

<sup>267</sup> Mark 3:14-19; John 19:26-27; John penned the following books of the Bible: *the Gospel of John; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John* and *The Revelation.*

<sup>268</sup> The jasper stone comes in many colors. The carnelian stone is generally a translucent red. Its color is deepened when exposed to light.

<sup>269</sup> Look who is on the throne. Compare Isaiah 6 (Isaiah’s vision, also presented in chapter 15 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE) with John 12:36-41.

<sup>270</sup> Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 1. (For more on God’s promises to Abraham, review chapter 20 in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE.)

<sup>271</sup> For example, the classic fairy tale of Cinderella, first told in China, also comes in versions for Europe, America, Persia, Iraq, Egypt, Korea, India, etc. Each country has its version, but the themes are similar. A longing for redemption and eternal life is embedded in the hearts of people worldwide. Solomon wrote: “*[God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV)

# REFLECTING ON THE JOURNEY

## DISCUSSION GUIDE CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS

The thought-provoking questions in this section are designed to help you gain maximum benefit from your journey through the Scriptures. Do you understand the main message of the prophets? Do you believe that message? Are you prepared to retell God’s story to others? Thinking through this final section can enable you to answer these questions with clarity and confidence.

You may freely photocopy these chapter review questions. They can be used for personal reflection or with friends, in small-group studies, classrooms, prisons, homes, or even as a correspondence course.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart ... and lead me in the way everlasting.” — Prophet David (Psalm 139:23-24)