

The Origin of the
Cosmos
and
The Evidences of
God

By

Germaine Charles
Lockwood

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The Origin of the Cosmos and the Evidences of God

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Publisher's Statement

I have known of Germaine Lockwood and his work for many years, first hearing of him because of his efforts to take the gospel to the Scandinavian countries. A mutual friend, brother Randal Harley, frequently up-dated me through the years concerning brother Lockwood's extensive radio work, covering Russia and other European countries, as well as the Middle East, and much of the rest of the world. Even to this day that work continues. He has been one of the forerunners in this type of work among churches of Christ and only eternity will reveal all of the good that has been done.

Besides being a radio speaker, brother Lockwood is a writer. Seeing the need among his listeners for literature concerning evidences and creation, he wrote and printed **The Origin of the Cosmos and the Evidences of God** a number of years ago. The book has been out of print for some time, so we requested that we be allowed to re-print it. We are happy that this work will again be in circulation and we pray that we can give it an even wider circulation than it has already had. We are also hoping to follow this with the printing of other books brother Lockwood has written in preparing sermons for his many radio broadcasts.

We are grateful to brother Lockwood for making these materials available to our readers. We would request that you study the lessons carefully and then encourage your friends to do likewise. All of us need to be aware of writings that will strengthen our defenses against the onslaught of humanism and evolutionary doctrines, and we especially need to provide our young people with good books such as this one, in order to ground them in the faith. There is no substitute for a strong faith in God and living the Christian life.

J. C. Choate
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Chapter I

Introduction

I asked a man at the Moscow airport, “Do you believe in God?” He replied, “I do not believe in what I cannot see.” I said, “Do you believe there are radio waves in this room?” He did not answer.

Our senses are very limited. Much of reality is beyond our senses, beyond our ability to experience. Much of our knowledge comes from evidences, testimonies of witnesses, historical records, sound reasoning, and other sources.

In a court case, knowledge is obtained by the examination of evidences, by the testimonies of witnesses, by reasoning and argumentation. The judge and jury must consider the evidences and testimonies. All the knowledge presented together leads the judge and jury to determine if there is assurance of conviction.

You need to examine the evidences of God. Will you consider the knowledge presented? Will you have assurance, conviction? Assurance and conviction are called faith (Hebrews 11:1).

In order to believe in a person, you need to know about the person and to know the person. You can learn about a person from others who know the person. You can learn about a person by seeing what the person has done. You can also learn to know a person by having the person speak to you, by the person’s word (Romans 10:17).

Chapter II

The Origin of the Universe

Something exists now. Something must have always existed, because something cannot come from nothing. What has always existed? What is the first cause of the universe?

If you asked your friend how long the candle in his room had been burning, and he answered, "Forever," would you believe him? Certainly not. Now consider that the cosmos, the energy-material universe is like a burning candle.

The Energy-Material Universe

Since the first atomic bomb explosion, we have known that material is a form of energy. Material is a part of the energy universe. Elements such as iron, sulphur, and hydrogen are just different arrangements of energy. So then, we live in an energy universe in which material is a form of energy.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics

The energy level of the universe is known to be running down. Energy goes from higher levels to lower levels, from higher temperatures to lower temperatures, from usable forms to unusable forms, and never in the opposite direction. Material can be changed to another form of energy, such as in an atomic explosion. Such changes are always downward in level. This is called the second law of thermodynamics in physics, chemistry and engineering. The universe is going toward its heat death.

A Beginning

The first law of thermodynamics states that energy-material

is neither being created nor destroyed now, but only changing form and level. Every change in the energy-material universe is toward a lower level, which is the second law of thermodynamics. The universe is running down. If the energy-material universe had always existed, it would have already run down to the heat death of the universe. Since it has not done this, we know that the energy-material universe has not always existed. The energy-material universe had a beginning.

The Sun

For an example that is easy to understand, look at the sun which gives energy to our earth. The sun is “burning up.” If the sun had existed forever, it would have already burned out. You can understand that the material universe had a beginning.

Radioactive Elements

Radioactive elements are also running down in energy level. Material is changed into radiated energy. If the energy-material universe had always existed, the radioactive elements would have already run down.

The Eternal First Cause

The energy-material universe has not always existed. There was a beginning to the energy-material universe. Materialism is clearly unscientific. Materialism is a false philosophy of the nineteenth century, a myth.

What is the origin of the energy-material universe? It has not always been here. There must be a first cause of the energy-material universe, or it would not be here today. There must be a first cause that has existed forever, or there would be nothing in existence now. You cannot get something from nothing. There

must then be a self-existent eternal first cause. The Bible declares:

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

In the Bible, God claims to be the eternal, self-existent First Cause of the universe.

A person might ask, "Where did God come from?" That person has missed the fact that there must be an eternal, self-existent first cause. Something must have always existed. It is not the energy-material universe. The eternal, self-existent First Cause calls Himself Jehovah, which means, "I AM" (Exodus 3:14,15).

There is a Creator of the energy-material universe.

**It is He who made the earth by His power,
Who established the world by His wisdom;
And by His understanding He has
stretched out the heavens (Jeremiah 10:12).**

**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host
(Psalm 33:6).**

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

Do you believe in God?

Chapter III

Laws in the Cosmos

In science we study the laws found in the creation. Atheists have said that we do not need to believe in God, because the universe functions according to laws. But where did these laws come from? These laws are mathematical and rational. Could mindless energy have made mathematical laws out of chaos? No! These laws show an intelligent lawgiver. Irrational energy could not have produced rational laws. Why do the laws of the universe continue to function? Why are these laws regular?

Men have studied the universe in which we live. They have found that there are laws of physics and chemistry. These laws were not originated by men, but only discovered. These laws existed before men discovered them. It has taken much intelligence, knowledge and hard work just to discover these laws. Men did not make these laws. Did nature make these laws? Nature has no mind. Nature is dumb, blind and deaf. No, nature could not have made the laws that govern nature. Did these laws come about by chance? Chance is random, disorderly, destructive. Chance also is dumb, blind and deaf. No, chance could not have originated the laws of creation.

Physics and Mathematics

Scientists have found that the laws of the universe are mathematical in nature. These mathematical laws were not invented by men, but only found to exist already. Mathematics show a rationality in the order of the universe. In physics and engineering mechanics, experience has proven the mathematical laws to be reality. For example, men were sent to the moon and they

were even brought back; the calculations were accurate. The rationality of mathematical laws in the universe demands a rational intelligent origin. Random chance evolution could not have brought forth these laws from chaos. The cosmos shows the work of a Great Mathematician. To accept science, one must logically believe in God who created science.

The Periodic Law in Chemistry

Take for example the material elements. They are made out of energy. The great Russian chemist, Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev, discovered the periodic law. He set up the periodic chart of the elements. Mendeleev found that elements are constructed according to the periodic law, not chance. Chemical elements also react according to laws of chemistry.

Laws Show the Lawgiver

Yes, the laws of the universe demand an intelligent Law Giver, a Mind. The laws of physics show the great Physicist. The laws of chemistry show the great Chemist. In the Bible, the great Law Giver calls Himself, God. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

**It is He who made the earth by His power,
Who established the world by *His wisdom*;
And by *His understanding* He has
stretched out the heavens (Jeremiah 10:12).**

**The Lord by *wisdom* founded the earth.
By *understanding* He established
the heavens (Proverbs 3:19).**

**Do you know the *ordinances* of the heavens,
Or fix their rule over the earth? (Job 38:33).**

Why Do the Laws Continue to Function?

In science we assume that the laws of the universe are regular and will continue to function. This is only an assumption, as there is no reason for it unless God keeps it this way.

...and upholds all things by the word of His power...
(Hebrews 1:3). (See also Colossians 1:17.)

You should believe in God. He is the cosmic Law Giver and Sustainer.

Chapter IV

Design in the Inorganic Cosmos

We live in a cosmos, not a chaos. Cosmos is a Greek word meaning harmonious arrangement, order. Yes, there is order in the universe. Did this order come from a chance explosion? Explosions do not produce order. Explosions produce disorder, chaos. Order comes from intelligence, from mind. There is a great Architect of the cosmos, a great Designer. It is an interesting contradiction for an atheist to talk about the cosmos.

Design of the Material Elements

The material elements were created from energy. The energy was arranged in a marvelous system of order, which you can study in physics and chemistry. This system shows the power and intelligence of the Creator.

Invisible energy was arranged to form more than 100 elements. These elements were ordered to have a great variety of properties. Consider the properties of hydrogen, oxygen, iron, aluminum, gold and uranium. The physical properties of the material elements show purpose and design.

Electromagnetic Energy and Waves

We can study light, heat, sound, magnetism, electricity, gravity, and various electromagnetic waves which include: radio waves, microwaves, x-rays, infrared waves, light, ultraviolet rays, gamma waves and atomic radiation. How is it that all of these are in the cosmos? How is it that they have such marvelous

properties? Why is energy in such varied forms? These are so essential and necessary for our lives. They are so useful. They show great design and purpose in their creation. Yes, there must be a great Physicist, the Creator of light, heat, sound, magnetism, electricity, gravity, electromagnetic fields and waves.

The Earth

Let us look at the earth upon which we live. If the earth were closer to the sun, it would be too hot for life. If the earth were farther away from the sun, it would be too cold for life. If the earth rotated at a slower pace, it would get too hot during the long days and too cold during the long nights. The earth has an atmosphere that allows life. There is the water cycle that is necessary for life. The earth is tilted 23 1/2 degrees so that we can have fruitful seasons. There is the nitrogen cycle that is necessary for life. There is the oxygen—carbon dioxide cycle that is necessary for life. That all of these conditions could have just happened all together at the same time by chance is mathematically highly improbable. Now, you can believe in chance if you wish, but such a faith is blind and is against mathematics. There must be an intelligent Creator.

**For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens,
(He is the God who formed the earth and made it,
He established it and did not create it a waste place,
But formed it to be inhabited), I am the LORD, and
there is none else (Isaiah 45:18.) (See Jeremiah 10:12.)**

Rain

Long ago, Job was asked in Job 38:25-28:

**“Who has cleft a channel for the flood,
Or a way for the thunderbolt;**

**To bring rain on a land without people,
On a desert without a man in it,
To satisfy the waste and desolate land,
And to make the seeds of grass to sprout?
Has the rain a father?
Or who has begotten the drops of dew?"**

Consider the wonderful properties of water that allow it to be transported from the seas to far away land. This allows food to grow. Water turns to vapor under the heat from sunshine. The lighter-than-air vapor rises and forms clouds that are blown by the winds. When the clouds are cooled, water condenses and falls as rain. Certainly you should be able to see the intelligent purpose in this great transportation system. The properties of water show the existence of God. We can truly say:

...He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness (Acts 14:17).

Snow

We meet the question that God asked Job in Job 38:22:

**“Have you entered the store houses of the snow,
Or have you seen the store houses of the hail?"**

Snow is beautiful. It makes the land lighter in the dark winter time. It insulates plants and animals from the cold. Snow, as you know, is a form of water. Snow also brings nitrogen to the soil, which is fertilizer. Yes, we can see design and purpose in this beautiful white blanket that covers the land. Purpose and design show the work of an intelligent Creator. I cannot believe in chance. Can you?

Ice

**“From whose womb has come the ice?
And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth?
Water becomes hard like stone,
And the surface of the deep is imprisoned”**
(Job 38:29,30).

Why does ice float? Because water expands when it freezes. However, water is the only naturally found material that expands when it freezes. Why is it the exception? All other natural materials contract and become heavier when they freeze. If ice were heavier than water, by spring, northern lakes, rivers, and seas would be solid ice. Their fish would all be dead. As it is, ice floats and protects the water below from the cold air. How do you account for this? Why is water an exception to the rule? Can you not see purpose and design in this? The fact that water is an exception to other natural materials shows intelligent, purposeful design. This shows the work of the Creator.

The Creation Shows the Power of the Creator and His Great Intelligence

We can see design all about us in the cosmos, in the world, in material, in light, in electromagnetic waves, and in other forms of energy. The design is there. It shows the work of the Designer. Yes, there are storms and dangers, but the cosmos shows order, design, purpose and planning.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes,

His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse

(Romans 1:18-20).

If you do not believe in God, you are without excuse. You can know that God exists by looking at what has been made. Are you worshiping the creation or the Creator? You need to believe in Father God as the creator of “Mother Nature.” To worship “Mother Nature” is idolatry.

Chapter V

Design — Organic

As a design engineer, I know that structures and mechanisms are not built by chance. It takes intelligence, knowledge and work to design and build structures and machines. Chance is the enemy of the design engineer. Time causes disorder, destruction and decay. Do you believe that trees and clay, if given enough time, could become a house by chance? No, you cannot believe in chance and time to design and build. It takes great intelligence to invent, design and construct.

For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God (Hebrews 3:4).

The atheist must believe that life originated by chance. Living cells are exceedingly complex, made up of complex macromolecules such as nucleic acids and proteins. All must be just right or the cell cannot live. Also the first living cell must have had a system for obtaining and using energy. And the first living cell must also have had a reproductive mechanism or life would have died out. Now, to believe that life came about by chance is a most difficult faith to believe in. It is mathematically impossible. To believe that material by chance created life is unscientific.¹ Even with all our human intelligence, knowledge and laboratory controlled conditions, man has not created a living cell. If humans ever do create a living creature, it will just show how much intelligence and knowledge that it took in the beginning. Life comes from life. The general theory of evolution is unscientific. Living creatures show a living Creator.

The general theory of evolution lacks a mechanism.²

Mutations are mistakes in the genetic code and cannot produce progressively more complex structures, organs, and kinds of animals.³ The fossil record does not show evolution. It does not show gradual changes, step by step from one kind to another. There are not just missing links, but a missing chain.⁴ More than 90% of the kinds of animals that have lived on earth have become endangered species and then extinct. Natural history shows the opposite of evolution: degeneration and extinction. The general theory of evolution is unscientific.⁵ It is mythology.

DNA

The DNA molecules in your cells contain the information that was used for the growth and function of your body. These instructions in each cell would fill several sets of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. It would be more logical to believe that a set of encyclopedias is the result of an explosion in a print shop, than it would be to believe that the DNA system of living cells came about by chance. There is a Great Biochemist!

Male and Female

Sexual reproduction systems have exceedingly complicated structures, mechanisms and systems. All must work properly together or there is no offspring. A half-evolved system would not work. These systems show purpose, planning and design.

...male and female He created them (Genesis 1:26).

Birds

Look at a bird. It is designed for flight. It has light bones: thin, hollow and porous; this is for light weight. The feathers are clearly designed for flight. Air goes through them when the wings go up, but the feathers hold the air when the wings go

down. If everything had not been just right the first bird could not have flown and survived. Can you believe that this is the result of chance mutations? No, not at all! This shows intelligent design. A long time ago, Job was asked:

**“Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars,
Stretching his wings toward the south?
Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up,
And makes his nest on high?”** (Job 39:26,27).

No, it took greater intelligence than we have to design and build living birds.

Radar and Sonar

Men invented, designed and built radar during the 1930's, which was very important during World War II. However, bats and porpoises had been equipped with similar systems long before men built radar. It would be as illogical to believe that the bat's system is the result of chance and time as it would be to believe that the radar system on a ship built itself by chance.

Heart

An engineer copied the valve of the human heart in order to design the poppet valve for the gasoline engine. Someone else had prior patent claims on that design. If engineers could design a power steering pump that would work as long as your heart, they would be doing very well. Can you believe that the heart is the result of chance mutations? Such a faith is unscientific. It is mythology! Mutations are mistakes in the genetic code. Mistakes cannot design and build mechanisms. The heart shows intelligent design. If the heart were not complete and right, the first creatures would have died. The theory of evolution is

mythology. God the Designer must exist!

Brain

Engineers have studied the human brain in order to improve the design of their computers. Could a computer build itself by chance? Who designed the human brain? The most highly organized matter on this earth is your brain. Billions of neurons are well-packaged in your skull. Only God could have designed and constructed the human brain.

Ears

Your ears are fine audio instruments with excellent fidelity and frequency response. Dynamic microphones are designed like your ears, only not as well. You do not have just one ear but two. How do you account for that? It would be silly to buy a stereo system if you only had one ear. But you do have a very fine, compact stereo system built right into your head. Do you believe that this is the result of chance mutations? If such could happen, then the Electro Voice Company ought to fire their engineering department and leave it to chance.

Thomas Edison said, "There must be a Great Engineer."

Eyes

Your eyes focus automatically. My camera must be focused by hand. The apertures of your eyes open and close automatically according to the amount of light. I have to set the aperture of my camera by hand. You can see color as well as black and white. Why do you have two eyes instead of one? So that you can see stereoscopically and judge distances. Are your eyes the result of chance or intelligent design? Look at a camera. Can you believe that it came about by chance? Possibly, you have

never seen a camera designer or maker, but you know that they exist from what they have made. Your eyes are much better than a camera. Your eyes have about 7,000,000 cones and 100,000,000 rods.

**Pay heed, you senseless among the people;
And when will you understand, stupid ones?
He who planted the ear, does he not hear?
He who formed the eye, does he not see?**
(Psalm 94:8,9).

**The hearing ear and the seeing eye,
The Lord has made both of them** (Proverbs 20:12).

The mathematician Gallup wrote:

**I could prove God statistically. Take the human body
alone — the chance that all of its functions would just
happen is a statistical monstrosity.**
(Gallup, "Human Yardstick", *Saturday Evening Post*,
January 21, 1939, p. 71)

David wrote:

**I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made: Wonderful are thy works;
And my soul knoweth it very well** (Psalm 139:14).

**Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has
made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and
the sheep of His pasture** (Psalm 100:3).

The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'
(Psalm 14:1).

A rational, sane, objective person can know that God exists.

You can refuse to have God in your knowledge if you want to, but it is contrary to clear evidences.

It is written in Romans 1:18-22:

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because *that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.* For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

Will you believe in God?

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Chapter VI

Beauty

Have you ever said to someone, “Look at the beautiful flowers”? Yes, we all have. You expect the other person to just naturally agree with you that the flowers are truly beautiful. Yes, we must all admit that there is much beauty in the world. People will argue about which is the most beautiful. This shows that they expect the other person to agree to the real truth as to which is the most beautiful. This shows that beauty is real and is objective. Where did all this beauty come from? Did it come about by accident, by chance? No, such a faith would be difficult to believe. Chance and accidents lead to randomness, destruction, disorder and decay, which is certainly not beauty.

We live in a beautiful world: blue sky, mountain grandeur, rolling seas, crystalline rocks, glowing gems, clean white snow, tall green trees, brightly colored flowers, radiantly decorated birds, and animals with rich fur coats. How do you account for all this beauty?

Inorganic Beauty

Look at the crystalline structure of a diamond. People consider the beauty of a diamond to be so great that they are willing to pay much money for diamonds. The same is true for the beauty of gold. Now then, we must admit that there is universal beauty in the cosmos.

When you look at a painting of sea and sky, would you ask me to believe that it happened by chance, that a cow kicked a box full of paints onto the canvas? No, you would not believe that!

The painting shows the intelligent work of an artist. Even though we have never seen the artist, we know of his existence by his beautiful work. Order, color, structure, form, and decoration are parts of beauty. They show intelligent work with a sense of beauty. Do not the real sky, sea, gold, diamonds and snow show that their origin demands an intelligent sense of beauty? Is there not a Master Artist? It would be more logical to believe that a painting was the result of an accident, than it would be to believe that the real world came about by chance. We need to be logical. We need to admit that there must be an intelligent Creator with a sense of beauty far greater than ours.

Flowers

Did the flowers decide for themselves that they wanted to be beautiful? No, you cannot say that, as flowers have no intelligence, no sense of beauty. They cannot decide or plan. Some say that Nature did this. But nature is deaf, blind, and without intelligence. Beauty is the orderly result of intelligence that has worked to produce beauty. There must be a Master Artist, who created the cosmos. Intelligent men can breed and cross flowers in order to get different varieties. However, they are only working with what already exists. This does not account for the origin of the flowers or their beauty.

Look at the beauty of wild flowers. The colors of wild flowers reflect the handiwork of an artful creator, rather than random chance.

There are thorns, thistles, decay, and death in this sin-cursed world (Genesis 3:17-19). However, this in no way removes the fact that there is beauty in this world and cosmos for which you need to account.

Birds

The most beautiful peacocks might get the females. This might account for that which survives, but it does not at all account for the origin of peacocks with their iridescent tails. Could you grow such a tail if you wanted to? No, not even if your life depended upon it. How could such beauty come about by chance? To believe that chance mutations produced such beauty is ridiculous. Such a faith is not science, it is mythology.

Insects

Butterflies are like winged flowers. They come from worm-like caterpillars. Could caterpillars have decided for themselves that they wanted to become jewel-like butterflies? Obviously not. Without the butterfly stage, there would not have been eggs for caterpillars. Who programmed such artistic patterns into the caterpillars? Surely, it was not the caterpillars. You need to admit that there must be a Creator.

**The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands
(Psalm 19:1).**

**He has made every thing beautiful in its time. He has
also set eternity in their heart... (Ecclesiastes 3:11).**

**...”Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory” (Isaiah 6:3).**

**And why are you anxious about clothing?
Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not
toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even
Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one
of these. But if God so arrays the grass of the field,**

which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith? (Matthew 6:28-30).

Chapter VII

Instinct, Wise Behavior, Unlearned Knowledge and Abilities

At which university do beavers study civil engineering? Who teaches birds nest architecture? Which school of navigation teaches geese how to navigate by the stars? What chemist taught bees how to make wax? Who gave spiders the knowledge to construct webs? Where did the eels get their ability to navigate all the way from south of Bermuda to the streams and ponds of Europe and back? The unlearned knowledge and amazing abilities of creatures show the work of the intelligent, wise Creator.

Insects

The mother garden spider lays her eggs in the fall of the year. In the spring, the little spiders hatch out. What school does the little garden spider go to in order to learn how to weave a web? If he cannot weave a web he will starve to death. He never saw his mother and he does not go to school. Yet, he goes out and spins a web just like the others of his kind do. Where did he get this knowledge? Obviously it is programmed into him. This is commonly called instinct. The first spiders must have had this knowledge or they would have starved to death. Did they get this equipment, system, and unlearned knowledge from blind material chance? No, such a faith is ridiculous. Such a faith is not science, it is mythology. Such equipment, unlearned knowledge, wise behavior and inheritance demands an intelligent origin.

Who is this intelligence? Is it nature? No. Nature is not a person. Nature is blind, deaf and dumb. You need to seek for an intelligent Creator. The Bible calls the intelligent Creator, God. Have you ever considered the wise behavior of ants? They live in colonies with a division of work. Where did this social wisdom come from?

**Go to the ant, O sluggard,
Observe her ways and be wise,
Which, having no chief,
Officer or ruler,
Prepares her food in the summer,
And gathers her provision in the harvest**
(Proverbs 6:6-8).

On the shores of the Mediterranean Sea there are ants which gather grain and store it during harvest time. Ants live in cities and each works with little leadership. This wise behavior demands a wise origin. There is a wise Creator, God.

In science we study behavior, systems, mechanisms and senses. We learn how these mechanisms work, how senses function and what the behavior is. However, this does not in any way explain their origin.

Fish Navigation

Consider the sense of smell for navigation of salmon and the programmed system within them that causes them to swim back up the rivers and streams to where they were hatched. Who programmed them with this system and ability?

Then there are the eels that you see for sale in the shops in Europe. They are hatched in the Sargasso Sea and drift in larval

form on the Gulf Stream about 3,000 miles to Europe. After 10 to 12 years they return from the lakes, farm ponds and ditches of Europe and North America to the Sargasso Sea. How do you account for the origin of such a fine navigational system, programmed into the eels? The sense and knowledge system that this shows demands an intelligent origin.

Bird Navigation

Some birds, such as starlings and meadow larks, navigate by the sun. Other birds, for example, geese and European warblers, navigate by the stars at night. Both systems require keeping track of time. Birds must have an inborn clock. It takes fine equipment for man to navigate. The birds have this designed into them. It would be more logical to believe that a compass, clock and sextant all came about by chance accident than it would be to believe that the navigational systems in birds came about by chance accident. Obviously, you need to admit that there is God, the Designer.

The Pacific golden plovers nest in Siberia and Alaska. They migrate thousands of miles over the water to islands in the Pacific. This requires precise navigation. What is even more amazing is that the adult birds leave first. The young must make the long journey without an experienced guide. Do the parents leave a map with the young? They have only that which is built within. This fantastic behavior and ability demands an intelligent Creator.

It took much intelligence and engineering work to build the guidance systems for missiles. There must be a great intelligence that designed the guidance systems of fish and birds. You need to believe in God and praise Him.

Job said, about 4,000 years ago:

**“But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you;
And the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you.
Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you;
And let the fish of the sea declare to you.
Who among all these does not know
That the hand of the Lord has done this,
In whose hand is the life of every living thing,
And the breath of all mankind?”** (Job 12:7-10).

God said:

**“Even the stork in the sky
Knows her seasons;
And the turtledove and the swift and the thrush,
Observe the time of their migration;
But My people do not know the ordinance of the
LORD”** (Jeremiah 8:7).

Do you believe in God? You need to. Your life is in His hand.

Chapter VIII

The Nature of Humans

How could nonconscious matter have produced conscious beings? How could irrational matter have produced beings capable of rational thought? How can you trust your thinking, if you are only the result of nonconscious, irrational, material causes? How could you be responsible for your decisions and actions if you are only the result of irresponsible material causes? How could amoral matter have created man with a moral sense of right and wrong? Obviously, man must be more than the result of non-conscious, irrational, amoral, material causes.

Do you believe that your brain and mind came from nonliving matter by chance evolution? If this is so, then you cannot trust your thinking. There is no reason for you to be rational. There is no reason for your thinking to be real or logical. Now you may argue with me, but there is no reason to believe that your arguments are logical or true. If atheism is true, then the mind of man was not designed for rational, logical thinking. If atheism is true, the human brain and mind are the results of nonconscious, irrational, unintelligent, illogical, material causes. If atheism is true, you cannot possibly trust your mind to be rational and logical. If atheism is true, you cannot trust your thinking and the thinking of other people. If atheism is true, you cannot believe the arguments made by atheists for atheism.

However, you do argue with other people. This shows that you really believe that you are conscious and rational. You know that you can think. Then you must admit that man's brain and mind were designed for thinking. This shows that man must be

the result of a conscious, rational, intelligent Creator. Either you must deny that you can think and reason, or you must admit that man is the work of an intelligent Creator, GOD! Mathematician Rene Descarte gave the axiom:

I think, therefore, I am a person. And I must have been brought into existence by a being at least as perfect as I am, for the fountain cannot rise higher than the source (Monser, *An Encyclopedia on the Evidences*, p. 35.).

You are able to choose and to decide. You are not just a determined machine. You have a free will. You can even decide what you want to think about. This shows that you are more than a programmed electrical brain.

Think about your behavior. You argue with other people about what is right and wrong. However, by arguing, you show that you accept the fact that there is real right and wrong. It is true that we are ignorant; that is why you argue with the other person in order to convince him of what is really right and wrong. You even condemn others for their evil. You could not do this unless there is objective, absolute evil and good, which shows moral law in the cosmos. If there is not real moral law, it would be foolish to argue with others and to condemn them. It would be foolish to have police and judges. People argue about which system of morality is better, which shows that there is the best, absolute right and wrong.

We need to ask some questions. If everything is only material and the result of material causes, how could there be real right and wrong? How could dumb material produce a moral realm? How could your moral sense have come from dumb

material? If man is only material, how could you say that it is wrong to move a little material, such as to put a hole through your head? Obviously, there is more than only matter and material causes. Your moral sense and the moral law that you argue about, show a Moral Law Giver, God.

Have you ever done something that you believed was wrong and within you this deed was judged to be wrong? Yes, you have a conscience that condemns you. Your conscience is a witness against you. You are guilty of sin and know it. Where did your conscience come from? Certainly not from dumb material. Moral conscience could only have come from a moral Creator, Holy God.

The Bible teaches about the people who did not have the Law that was given to Israel:

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of a Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them...

(Romans 2:14-16).

You know that you are more than just material. You know and have experienced justice, mercy, pity, compassion, love, trust, kindness and faith. These are beyond the material cosmos. You have a spiritual nature, and you experience it. Men have the ability to worship. While men are often ignorant, still they do worship. They worship idols, the material creation, other men, or some philosophy. Where did this spiritual ability to worship and have faith come from? Surely it did not come from material.

God created man. Why is it that men ask the question, does God exist? Even atheists have considered God since they deny Him. Where did men get this ability to believe in God and to worship Him? Surely this spiritual ability did not come from animals or material. There must be a Creator who created man with this spiritual ability and the need to worship.

...He has also set eternity in their heart,...

(Ecclesiastes 3:11).

“...and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His offspring.’ Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:26-31).

You have now read seven evidences of God. Each one stands alone but together they give you seven pillars for your decision to believe in God.

Yes, you can come to know God and believe in Him. Your eternal destiny depends on this.

You know that you are going to die. Maybe you do not believe that you are going to die; however, you will die. It is better for you to get to know God now, rather than after it is too late.

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

Chapter IX

Scientific Foreknowledge

About 3,500 years ago Moses lived in Egypt. He was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22). The science of Egypt at that time had the theory that the earth was hatched out of an egg and that man came from worms in the slime of the Nile river. It is very clear that Moses did not get the information in the first book of the Bible from the science of Egypt. Where did this information come from?

When the first scientists landed on the moon, they did not read scientific theories over the radio back to earth, but rather, they read the first chapter of the Bible. The first verse in the Bible states:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Today we have some scientific theories about the origin of the universe, but they are based upon assumptions, conjectures and guesses. Each theory has its scientific flaws.¹ Not one of them can be accepted. The history of science is a scrap heap of discarded theories. No human scientist was there when the universe was created, therefore, it is outside of human scientific knowledge. The Scientist who was there, when the universe was created, has given us His record of what happened. His book of history is the Bible. Let us now examine scientific foreknowledge in the Bible.

Energy-Material

Not until the twentieth century did science learn that all mat-

ter is made out of energy, power. The atomic bombs proved that the material elements are made out of energy, power. The Bible taught this 2,900 years ago. The Bible was 2,900 years ahead of science. The Bible teaches that the heavens were made by the power of God, by His Word:

**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast (Psalm 33:6,9).**

In the book of Hebrews, the Bible taught long ago that material, what is seen, is made out of what is not seen. Power, energy, is not seen.

**By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible
(Hebrews 11:3).**

Here you have scientific foreknowledge in the Bible. Where did this information come from? Certainly not from the science of the time when the Bible was recorded. God who created the heavens and earth must have given this information.

Expanse

About 2,200 years ago in Alexandria, Egypt, science taught that the planets were held up by solid crystalline spheres.² Long before this, the Bible was written in the Hebrew language. When the Bible was translated from the original Hebrew into the Greek language, this false science influenced the translators. This Greek translation is called the Septuagint. The Hebrew word רַקִּיעַ (rakia) was translated to mean a firm or solid structure

(stereoma). However, the Hebrew word means expanse. The Hebrew lexicons show that “rakia” means expanse.³

You can easily see that the translators were believers in a false scientific theory, which led them to change the meaning of this word to fit the theory. This Greek translation was used in the translation of the Bible into modern languages. In our translations today you will still find “firmament” used in Genesis 1:1-17. It should be translated from the original Hebrew word, “rakia,” with our word “expanse.” In the *Torah of the Jewish Publication Society of America*, 1962, “rakia” is translated “expanse.” This is true also for the *New American Standard Bible*.

Here again we see that the Bible was scientifically accurate thousands of years before men of science discovered that the planets are not held up by a solid structure.

And God made the two great lights; the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. And God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth (Genesis 1:16,17).

Stars

How many stars are there? Do you know? The Bible recorded that God promised Abraham that He would multiply his descendants as the stars of the heavens (Genesis 22:17; 26:4). Now the Bible also stated that the stars cannot be numbered. In Jeremiah 33:22, we read:

“As the host of heaven cannot be counted ...”

However, scientists counted the stars. Hipparchus and

Ptolemy listed 1,056 stars. About 3,000 could be counted. Within a short time after the promise, Abraham had more than 3,000 descendants, and later numbered in the millions. How is it that the Bible said that the stars could not be numbered, and yet scientists counted them? Was the Bible wrong? No, not at all. Science finally learned that there are many more stars.⁴ This was not found out until after the invention of the telescope. The Bible was right after all. Now think about it. Abraham lived about 3,700 years before the telescope. Jeremiah lived 2,200 years before the telescope was invented. Does this not show supernatural knowledge? How could Jeremiah have known that the stars could not be counted? He could not have except God told him. Jeremiah wrote what God said. The Bible is the word of God.

Thus says the LORD...As the host of heaven cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me
(Jeremiah 33:22).

The Bible was 2,200 years ahead of astronomy. You need to believe that the Bible is the word of God.

Round Earth

Before the time of Columbus, many scientists taught that the earth was flat. However, the Bible contained the truth more than 2,100 years before Columbus. Isaiah the prophet wrote the word of God:

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...
(Isaiah 40:22 KJV). (See also Proverbs 8:27.)

Did you notice the expression “circle of the earth?” The

original Hebrew word is חוג (chug), which means circle and sphere.⁵ This Hebrew word contains the scientific truth that the earth is round and is a sphere. Obviously, Isaiah did not get his information from the science of his day, which taught that the earth was flat. His information must have come from a better source. He claims that what he wrote came from the Great Scientist who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them.

1. Thomas H. Leith, "Modern Scientific Cosmogonies," *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation*, XVI (September, 1964), pp. 74,77.

See also: John C. Whitcomb, Jr. *The Origin of the Solar System, of the International Library of Philosophy and Theology, Biblical and Theological Studies*, ed. by J. M. Kik (Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1964).

2. E.W. Maunder, "Astronomy," *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, I, p. 315.
3. F. Brown, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907, 1953 corrected), p. 956.
4. Frederick H. Giles, Jr., "The answer to Astronomy's Final Enigma," in *Behind the Dim Unknown*, ed. by John Clover Monsma (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons 1966), p. 143.

See also: Henry Morris, *The Bible and Modern Science* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1968), p. 5.

5. Benjamin Davidson, *The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon* (London: Samuel Bagster & Sons), p. 249.

See also: Ehud Ben-Yehuda and David Weinstein, *Pocket English-Hebrew, Hebrew-English Dictionary* (New York: Washington Square Press, 1961), p. 252.

Chapter X

Foreknowledge of Medical Science in the Bible

During the middle ages, garbage and sewage were thrown into the streets of Europe. This practice bred flies, rats and disease. Typhoid, cholera, leprosy, and bubonic plague killed millions. Science had no solution. In the ghettos where the Jews lived, this was not the case. Why? Because the Jews were practicing the laws of sanitation that were given in the Bible. Not until finally, the church led in introducing the practice of quarantine from the Bible, and cities turned to sewage disposal as taught in the Bible, were these diseases brought under control.

In the 1840's Ignaz Semmelweis caused an international stir. He required the doctors under him to wash their hands before they examined another patient in the hospital. This practice reduced the spread of child bed fever. However, these doctors had him fired and forced out of Vienna.¹ Today, such methods of sanitation are rigidly enforced in hospitals all over the world. Did you know that the Bible commanded such sanitation more than 3,400 years before Ignaz Semmelweis? Yes, the Bible was way ahead of human science. How could this have been?

Washing

Let us now look at some of the laws given in the Bible. When a person had gotten well, the Bible commanded:

“The one to be cleansed shall then wash his clothes and shave off all his hair, and bathe in water and be

clean. Now afterward, he may enter the camp, but he shall stay outside his tent for seven days. And it will be on the seventh day that he shall shave off all his hair: he shall shave his head and his beard and his eyebrows, even all his hair. He shall then wash his clothes and bathe his body in water and be clean” (Leviticus 14:8,9).

These are the same practices that are used today by medical science. However, do you understand that the Bible commanded this long before medical science started to do the same thing? The Bible was 3,400 years ahead of medical science in practices of sanitation.

Did Moses get these laws from the science of Egypt? No, impossible. The Egyptians at that time used dung for medicine.² Science did not know about bacteria until the work of Leeuwenhoek, which was 3,100 years after the Law was given to Moses. How do you account for this? Is it possible that God gave the Law to Moses, as the Bible claims? This appears to be the only logical conclusion.

No Trichinosis

Many people suffered from fever, headache, diarrhea, and sore muscles. Not so long ago, science learned that this was caused by worms living in the muscles. These worms come from eating pork, the meat of swine, that is not cooked enough. This is called trichinosis. Now consider this. The Bible, in the Law of God to Israel, had forbidden the eating of swine more than 3,400 years ago. We shall read again from the Bible:

...and the pig, for though it divides the hoof, thus making a split hoof, it does not chew cud, it is unclean

to you. You shall not eat of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you (Leviticus 11:7,8).
(See also Deuteronomy 14:8.)

As long as the people of Israel obeyed the Law, they were free from trichinosis. Where did Moses get this knowledge of parasitology? Certainly, it was not from the science of his day. He must have gotten the Law from God. Do you believe in God? You need to.

Fat

Just in recent years, science has discovered that it is bad for the circulatory (blood) system to eat animal fat. The fat plugs up the arteries. This is just a recent discovery. Now listen again to what the Bible commanded the people of Israel in the Law:

It is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall not eat any fat or any blood (Leviticus 3:17).

“Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You shall not eat any fat from an ox, a sheep, or a goat. Also the fat of an animal which dies, and the fat of an animal torn by beasts, may be put to any other use, but you must certainly not eat it’” (Leviticus 7:23,24).

Again we find that the Bible was 3,400 years ahead of science. This shows scientific foreknowledge on the part of the author of the Bible. No mere human could have known what this shows in this law. Moses claims that these laws came from God who created all things. These laws must have come from God.

We have seen three cases of scientific foreknowledge in the Bible so far concerning medical science. The Bible even com-

manded sewage disposal in Deuteronomy 23:12-14.

Quarantine

Now we shall look at another case of scientific foreknowledge in the Bible. During the 1800's, science discovered that germs caused disease. The science of bacteriology is rather young. With this understanding of the spread of disease, quarantine is used to stop the spread of disease. However, the Bible commanded quarantine about 3,300 years before the science of bacteriology. We read in the Law of Israel:

...then the priest shall isolate the person with the scaly infection for seven days (Leviticus 13:26,31).

You can see that the Bible is the Word of God. You have the evidence. If you are objective, scientific, you will conclude that Moses got his information from a source higher than man, from a Scientist that knew more than human scientists. This Scientist, the Bible calls God. He knows science because He created science. He created the human body. He also created your spirit. Will you put your faith in Him?

1. S. I. McMillen, *None of These Diseases* (Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1967), pp.12-16.
2. Papyrus Ebers, quoted by S. E. Massengill, *A Sketch of Medicine and Pharmacy* (Bristol, Tenn.: S. E. Massengill Co., 1943), pp. 16-17.

Chapter XI

The World-Wide Flood

Historical Evidence

Similar stories of a world-wide flood have been among peoples all over the world: Romans, Babylonians, Gypsies, Mongols, Africans, Australian Aborigines, Hindus, Polynesians, and American Indians. Dr. Richard Andree found and recorded eighty-eight flood histories.¹ These must have had their common origin in a historical event, the world-wide flood.

Inland Seas

When Marco Polo went through Central Asia he noted lakes which are now dried up. Fossil seas are evidence that sea water covered the earth. In different parts of the world, basins show that they were once filled with salt water. Examples are: Han Hai (Interior Sea) in China, the inland basin in India, and the basin in the high tableland of Tibet.² Each year the Caspian Sea shrinks; the fact that it is becoming less salty shows that its source was sea water. In the United States the Great Basin was once filled with salt water, Lake Bonneville. Great Salt Lake is the small remains. Old shore lines are apparent, showing the great size of Lake Bonneville. Inland salt seas show that the world was once covered over with sea water.

Polystrata Tree Trunks

Tree trunks have been found in different parts of the world that were covered with layer upon layer of water laid sediments that became rock.³ If it had taken millions of years for the layers (strata) to be deposited, the upper parts of the trees would have

rotted away before the upper strata were deposited. This clearly shows that the strata were laid down in rapid succession.

Sedimentary Rocks

Water laid materials formed rock layers which cover much of the earth's surface. These parallel strata do not have evidence of erosion between them. They must have been laid down rapidly without time for erosion in between. Vast areas were covered. Nothing like this is happening today. Even the largest rivers cover only small areas in their floods and deltas. Where did all the water laid materials come from that became sedimentary rock? Sedimentary rocks are not now being laid down on the bottoms of oceans. There was a world-wide flood that tore the surface of the world covering vast areas of the world with stratum upon stratum in rapid succession without time for erosion in between.⁴ Tides swept the earth. Volcanic eruptions sent forth great waves of water, tsunamis, and spewed forth lava, ash and dust upon the earth. The great fountains of the great deep burst forth.⁵] The waters above the earth came down.⁶

Fossils

Forests were smashed and compressed by waves and layers of water laid deposits, forming coal. Coal is found all over the world on every continent even in Antarctica near the South Pole and on Spitsbergen (Svalbard) near the North Pole. Various kinds of sea life are often found on top of and between layers of coal. Corals and deep sea crinoids often alternate with coal layers. This shows that the waves were from the ocean that smashed the trees and vegetation and then deposited them over vast areas in layer upon layer. Vast areas of the earth are covered with water-laid vegetation that became coal under high pressures from

the materials above.⁷

Vast amounts of animals and fish were buried by water-laid material before they had time to rot. Fossil fish show by the prints of their bodies in the rocks that they were fleeing for their lives when they were suddenly covered over with mud that became rock. Soft plants and worms were covered so rapidly that you can see the fossil prints in the rocks. Yes, the fossils tell us that there was a great flood that swept the earth.

Fossil whales have been uncovered in Michigan. Fossil sharks have been found in the rocks of Ohio. Fossil fish beds are located near Kemmerer, Wyoming at about 7,000 feet above sea level. These creatures were entrapped by raging waves of water and materials that became rock.⁸

Animal bones have been found in great numbers in hilltop strata and cracks (fissures). Agate Springs, Nebraska is one example, where it is estimated that 9,000 animals were buried in one stratum.⁹

A very remarkable classical example of such an isolated hill is found in Burgundy, France, in the valley of the Soane. The hill is about 1,030 feet above the surrounding plain with steep flanks on all sides. A fissure near the top of the hill is crowded with animal skeletons. No skeleton is entire, the bones are fractured, are thrown together in disorderly fashion, and are unweathered and ungnawed.¹⁰

Fossils show that the strata were laid down rapidly by waves of water with mud that became rock.

Charles Darwin wrote in his *Journal of the Voyage of the Beagle* under the date of January 9, 1834:

It is impossible to reflect on the changed state of the American continent without the deepest astonishment. Formerly it must have swarmed with great monsters: now we find mere pigmies, compared with the antecedent, allied races....What then has exterminated so many species and whole genera? The mind at first is irresistibly hurried into the belief of some great catastrophe; but thus to destroy animals, both large and small, in Southern Patagonia, in Brazil on the Cordillera of Peru, in North America up to Bering's Straits, we must shake the entire framework of the globe.

The bones and skeletons of dinosaurs are found in many parts of the world, deposited in water-laid strata. Some dinosaurs were swept into piles by the water and mud that became rock. In a park near Vernal, Utah you can see the dinosaur skeletons in water-laid rock. Dinosaur bones are even found in water-laid rock on the North Slope of Alaska, above the Arctic Circle. The climate of Alaska was warm before the flood, when there were waters above the expanse. Dinosaur fossils have been found in Antarctica. Millions of dinosaurs perished in the world-wide flood. Dr. Austin, geologist, wrote:

The Morrison Formation of the Rocky Mountain region also is tremendously extensive, occurring from New Mexico to Canada and from Kansas to Utah. It is world-famous for its dinosaur fossils. Morrison formation dinosaur skeletons are often articulated, requiring that muscles and ligaments of the large animals were present at the time they were rapidly buried. Sedimentary formations indicating cata-

strophic flood processes are not confined to North America but occur on other continents as well.¹¹

Geologist Clifford L. Burdick reported the discovery of two human skeletons, *Homo sapiens*, imbedded in Cretaceous rock near Moab, Utah.¹² (Dinosaur fossils are found in Cretaceous rock.) Humans perished in the flood just as dinosaurs and other creatures did. Also, notice that the evolutionary time table is not scientific.

Before the flood, different kinds of animals lived in different locations and elevations. These different life zones caused them to be buried by the great waves of the flood in different locations and at different levels as the water level rose and as the strata were built up.¹³

Mountains

Today there is about 48 times as much water in the oceans as there is land above sea level. Much of the world's mountains rose after the flood, as shown by their twisted and bent sedimentary strata. Strata were bent without fracturing which shows that they were still soft when uplifted.¹⁴

Psalm 104:6-8:

...The waters were standing above the mountains.

At Thy rebuke they fled;

At the sound of Thy thunder they hurried away.

The mountains rose; the valleys sank down

To the place which Thou didst establish for them.

Was the Ice Age Caused by the Genesis Flood?

Meteorologist Michael J. Oard concluded that the oceans were warm at the time of the flood. Volcanic ash and dust in the

atmosphere reduced the heat from the sun. Moisture from the warm oceans produced snow on the cold northern lands. Possibly the Ice Age was caused by the Genesis Flood.¹⁵

The Historical Record of the Bible

The history of the world-wide flood is recorded in Genesis chapters 6,7, and 8. The Septuagint Text indicates that the flood took place about 3400 B.C.¹⁶ The sinfulness of mankind caused God to send the flood. Genesis 7:19-24 clearly states that the whole world and mountains that then existed were covered over by waters of the flood. All people outside of the ark perished because of their sins and rejection of God. The world-wide flood tells us about God, about His judgment on sin.

Jesus Messiah spoke about the flood and His return on the day of judgment:

Matthew 24:37-39: “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (NKJB).

Jesus put His seal of approval on the historicity of the flood. If you believe in Jesus then you will believe that there was a world-wide flood in the days of Noah. If the flood had only been local, there would have been no need for building the ark; Noah and his family could have left the local area. If the flood had only been local, the ark would have been flushed down to the Persian Gulf rather than landing on the mountains of Ararat.

The Apostle Peter spoke about the scoffers of our time:

2 Peter 3:5-7: For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men (NKJB).

Yes, the world-wide flood in the days of Noah show us that the day of judgment is coming for us also. Jesus the Messiah will return. You and I will stand before the judgment seat of Messiah (2 Corinthians 5:10). This world will be burned up. Now is the time to repent, to turn to Messiah.

2 Peter 3:9,10:“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up (NKJB).

You can be saved from fire and judgment. Noah and his family were saved from the judgment and destruction that came upon the world in their time.

1 Peter 3:20-22: ...when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. And corresponding

to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven.

1. Richard Andree, *Die Flutensagen, ethnologisch betrachtet*, cited by Alfred M. Rehwinkel, *The Flood* (Saint Louis: Condordia Publishing House, 1951), p. 129.
 Byron C. Nelson, *The Deluge Story in Stone, A History of the Flood Theory of Geology* (Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1931), pp.170-190.
 Arthur C. Custance, "Flood Traditions of the World," in *A Symposium on Creation IV*, edited by Donald W. Patten (Grand Rapids: Baker Book house, 1972), pp. 9-44.
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Chapter XII

Archaeology and the Bible

The world famous archaeologist, William Foxwell Albright, wrote:

“Biblical Historical data are accurate to an extent far surpassing the ideas of any modern critical students, who have consistently tended to err on the side of hypercriticism.”¹

The Hittites

The Hittites are mentioned about 40 times in the Bible. In the 1800's critical scholars said that the Hittites had never existed. However, when archaeologists investigated the ruins of cities in Turkey, they found the records of the Hittites.² Archaeologists and linguists worked hard and long to be able to translate the writings of the Hittites. The critics were wrong, while the Bible is right. The British Orientalist Archibald Henry Sayce wrote:

The mention of “the kings of the Hittites” in the account of the siege of Samaria by the Syrians (2 Kings 7:6) was declared to be an error or an invention; but it was only the ignorance of the critic himself that was at fault.³

The Writings of Moses

Critical scholars believed that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible. They believed that Hebrew was not written until after about 800 B.C. At Ras Shamra, Syria, a French expedition found a temple library containing writing in several languages. There was material in an alphabetic Semitic

language from the time of Moses.⁴ Sir Flinders Petrie found alphabetic inscriptions at Serabit el-Khadem in Sinai, which date to the time of Moses.⁵ You can understand that Spinoza and other critics of the Bible were very wrong. The Bible is right.

More than 17,000 tablets have been found at Ebla, Syria. They are from 2250 B.C. and earlier. Archaeologist Clifford Wilson analyzed this find in his book: *Ebla Tablets, Secrets of a Forgotten City* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 1979).

Sargon

In the Bible, Sargon was mentioned as king of Assyria (Isaiah 20:1). Sargon's name was not found in ancient literature. This caused critical scholars to say that Sargon never existed.⁶ They believed that the Bible was wrong. P. E. Botta excavated near the ancient capital of Assyria, Nineveh, from 1842 to 1845. What he uncovered was Khorsabad. In this city, Botta found the palace of Sargon.⁷ The critical scholars were proven wrong. There was a king of Assyria named Sargon. The Bible is right. Isaiah had recorded that Sargon, the king of Assyria, had sent his army to capture the city of Ashdod (Isaiah 20:1). On the walls of Sargon's palace was found recorded the same event.⁸ The Bible is right.

Belshazzar

In the Bible, the book of Daniel recorded that Belshazzar was king when the Medes and Persians took Babylon. Hitzig, a modern liberal, wrote in his commentary on Daniel that Belshazzar never existed.⁹ This was because ancient historians wrote that Nabonitus was the last king of Babylon. However, archaeologists have dug up clay tablets in the ruins of Babylon that stated that Nabonitus entrusted the kingship to his son Belshazzar,

while he went to Tema in Arabia.¹⁰ Belshazzar was king when Babylon fell, just as recorded in Daniel 5. This also explains why Belshazzar proclaimed Daniel to be the third ruler in the kingdom (Daniel 5:29), instead of second. Daniel was third after Nabonitus and Belshazzar. There is evidence that Belshazzar was the son of Nitocris, who was the daughter of Nebuchadnezzar.¹¹ Belshazzar was at least the “son of” Nebuchadnezzar in the sense of being his successor.¹² The critics were wrong in saying that Belshazzar never existed. You can see that this was based on ignorance and not believing the Bible. What is even worse is that some still have been teaching such falsehoods. The Bible is right.

Ancient Israel and the House of David

Scholars of the “deconstructionist” approach believed that the history of Israel before the Babylonian captivity is fictional. Philip R. Davies presented this view in his book: *In Search of ‘Ancient Israel’* (Sheffield, England: JSOT Press, 1992). However, in 1993, an inscription was found in a stone stele by archaeologists at Tel Dan. “House of David” and “King of Israel” are in the inscription written in paleo-Hebrew script of the ninth century B.C. It shows that the Kingdom of Israel, the Kingdom of Judah and King David are historical. You can read about this in “‘David’ Found at Dan,” in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, March/April 1994, pp. 26-39, and in *Biblical Dan* by Professor Avraham Biran (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1994, pp. 274-278). The “deconstructionist” scholars’ faith is fictional, but the Bible is historically accurate.¹³ Yes, the stones cry out! Those who claimed that King David never existed, are wrong.

William Dever, professor of Near Eastern archaeology and

anthropology wrote an article: "Save Us from Postmodern Malarkey," in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, March/April 2000, pp. 28-35,68. Among the archaeological evidences of early Israel, he presented the Victory Stele of pharaoh Merneptah from about 1210 B.C. Written in stone is the name "Israel." Yes, early Israel as a people existed historically at that time. The postmodern deconstructionists revisionists are wrong. The Bible is right.

Politarchs

In the book of Acts in the New Testament, Luke called the rulers of the city of Thessalonica, "politarchs," in the Greek language (Acts 17:8). Critical scholars called this a mistake, as no officials were known to have been called by this title. However, at least 17 inscriptions have been found in Thessalonica using the title "politarchs."¹⁴ Again archaeology has proven the critical scholars wrong in their ignorance. The Bible is right.

The Book of Acts Is Accurate

Sir William Ramsey (1851-1939) had accepted the views of F. C. Baur, Tübingen school of criticism, against the book of Acts. But his work as an archaeologist in Asia Minor showed him that the critics were wrong, and the book of Acts is accurate.¹⁵ He wrote:

...but more recently I found myself often brought in contact with the book of Acts as an authority for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor.¹⁶

The Gospel of John

Critics F. C. Baur and Van Manen speculated that the Gospel of John was not written until after A.D. 150. However, fragments of the Gospel of John have been found that date "early 2nd cen-

ture.”¹⁷ The Dead Sea Scrolls have shown that the Gospel of John fits the language, the geography, the culture and historical context before A.D. 70. The destruction of Jerusalem destroyed all that, making it impossible for people living after A.D. 150 to have correctly gotten all those details.¹⁸

Archaeologist W. F. Albright wrote:

In the same way, the form-critical school founded by M. Dibelius and R. Bultmann a generation before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has continued to flourish without the slightest regard for the Dead Sea Scrolls. In other words, all radical schools in New Testament criticism which have existed in the past or which exist today are pre-archaeological, and are, therefore, since they were built in der luft (“in the air”), quite antiquated today.¹⁹

Conclusion

Modern scholars were not present when the events happened that are recorded in the Bible. Too often critical scholars have based their conclusions on presuppositions, assumptions, conjectures, philosophy and egotistical unbelief. On the other hand, the science of archaeology has shown the Bible to be historically accurate. Dr. Nelson Glueck, a leading archaeologist, wrote:

As a matter of fact, however, it may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible.²⁰

Voltaire, the French skeptic said, "In less than a hundred years the Bible will be discarded and Christianity swept from the earth." Voltaire died in 1778. The hundred years has long ago passed, but the Bible stands. Voltaire's house in Paris has been used for many years by the Bible Society.

Thomas Paine wrote a book which he said would destroy the Bible. Payne died in 1809. The Bible stands stronger than ever.

Isaiah wrote:

A voice says, "Call out."

Then He answered, "What shall I call out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

When the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

Surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever

(Isaiah 40:6-8).

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Chapter XIII

Prophecy and Fulfillment in History

In the Bible there are prophecies that are being fulfilled in our time in detail before our very eyes. These are empirical evidences that it was not just men who wrote the Bible. Detailed knowledge of future events is impossible for human beings.

We will look at prophecies in the Bible concerning Israel, Egypt, Babylon, Tyre and Edom. These prophecies have been fulfilled in history and are fulfilled before our eyes in our time.

These prophecies were given in a historical context. The prophets that were used to give these prophecies were Hebrews and lived at least 1900 years ago. As you observe these predictive prophecies given in detail in a historical context and then observe their detailed fulfillment in history and in our time, you will understand that this is beyond the natural abilities of mere men. And you will want to consider the combined impact of all of these prophecies together, noting their detailed accuracy. The mathematical probability of all of these being fulfilled in detail in history and until our time is beyond guesswork or chance. The prophets claimed that they received their prophecies from God who created the heavens and the earth. They quoted what God revealed to them.¹ The proof of the truthfulness of their claims can be seen in the detailed fulfillment in our time.

Isaiah 42:8,9:

**“I am the LORD, that is My name;
I will not give My glory to another,**

**Nor My praise to graven images.
Behold, the former things have come to pass,
Now I declare new things;
Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you.”**

Isaiah 46:9,10:

**“...Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and
there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the
beginning, And from ancient times things which have
not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be estab-
lished, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’.”**

Edom and Edomites

The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, who was the brother of Jacob. This nation lived in the land south of the Dead Sea. The prophets foretold their destruction and desolation:

...and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah... (Joel 3:19 KJV).

Therefore thus saith the Lord God: I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it: and I will make it desolate from Teman; (Ezekiel 25:13 KJV). (Before 570 B.C.)

Also Edom shall be a desolation:.. (Jeremiah 49:17 KJV). (Before 540 B.C.)

...and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it (Obadiah 18 KJV).

After Jerusalem was taken into Babylonian captivity, Nabataean Arabs took Edom.¹ Edomites then lived in southern

Judea. In 164 B.C., the Jews defeated them, and in 120 B.C. the Jews conquered these Idumeans.² In about A.D. 69, an army of 40,000 greatly depopulated them.³ And the Edomites disappeared from history just as the prophets had foretold.

The Romans conquered the Nabataeans in Edom in A.D. 106. They changed the trade route so that it ran through Palmyra instead of Petra (Sela), the capital of Edom. This cut off the country's income, and it lost its importance.⁴ After the Byzantine period, it became a desolation until this day.

You can visit the land of Edom today. It is desolate from Teman (Maan) in the north on to the south, just as the Old Testament prophets foretold. Tourists visit the remains of the city Petra (Sela). For centuries Edom has been a desolation in fulfillment of the judgment of God. The Edomites have not existed as a people since the time of the New Testament apostles, in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets. The Bible is the inspired Word of God.

The Philistines

The Philistines lived in the southwestern part of the land of Canaan, on the plains along the Mediterranean Sea. Their cities were Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, and Gerar. They fought much against Israel. This is recorded in the Bible from the book of Judges to 2 Chronicles. The word of God prophesied against the Philistines that God would destroy them. In about 765 B.C., the prophet Amos recorded:

Amos 1:6-8:

Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they took cap-

tive the whole captivity To deliver them up to Edom. But I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, Which shall devour its palaces. I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, And the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn My hand against Ekron, *And the remnant of the Philistines shall perish,” Says the Lord GOD* (NKJB). (Also: Zephaniah 2:3-7; Jeremiah 47:4,5; Isaiah 14:28-31.)

God used the Babylonians in 604 B.C. to destroy the Philistines (2 Kings 24:7). The judgment of God came upon the Philistines. They were destroyed and taken away to punish. (Lawrence Stager, “The Fury of Babylon.” *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Jan./Feb.1996, pp. 56-77.) Today, Arabs live in Gaza, and Israelis live in Askelon and Ashdod. Ekron, Gath and Gerar are ruins. You can visit and see for yourself. The remnant of the Philistines perished, just as foretold by God in Amos.

Tyre

Tyre was a great Phoenician city on the coast just north of Israel. But the people were idol worshippers; their prince called himself God, and they rejoiced over Jerusalem’s trouble. God foretold the destruction of Old Tyre:

Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee...and I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be built no more; for I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord God
(Ezekiel 26:3,14 KJV).

Nebuchadnezzar besieged Old Tyre for thirteen years before it fell, in about 573 B.C.⁵ Tyre submitted to the Persians in about

525 B.C.⁶ Then the prophecies were finally fulfilled in 332 B.C. when Alexander the Great took the island just offshore:

Alexander announced that he would visit their island and sacrifice to their Heracles. They replied that it would be more proper to sacrifice in the ancient temple of Baalmelqart on the mainland at Old Tyre; when he insisted that he must visit the island, they declared that they would admit neither Persian nor Macedonian into their city.⁷ Possessing no fleet, Alexander demolished Old Tyre, and with the debris built a mole 200 feet in breadth across the straits, and erected tower and war engines at its further end.⁸

Alexander the Great made Old Tyre like the top of a rock when he cleared it to build his roadway out to the island. Since that time, Old Tyre has not been rebuilt, just as the prophet of God had foretold.

Old Tyre has been like the top of the rock since the time of Alexander the Great. The fishermen dry their nets there. You can visit there and see for yourself the literal fulfillment of the prophecies of the Bible. For 2,300 years, Old Tyre has not been rebuilt, just as the judgment of God said. The Bible is the inspired word of God.

Babylon

Babylon was a great city on the Euphrates River. Under Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took the people captive to Babylon in 586 B.C. Isaiah and Jeremiah foretold the desolation of Babylon:

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of

the Chaldees excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there (Isaiah 13:19,20 KJV). (Before 680 B.C.)

Because of the wrath of the Lord it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues (Jeremiah 50:13 KJV).

In 539 B.C., Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians. Its decline was gradual. The Parthians destroyed much of the city. In about A.D. 75 the merchants moved.

With the departure of the merchants, Babylon was left to its doom. Shortly afterwards the Latin author Pliny stated that the temple of Marduk was still standing but that in every other respect the place had become a desert. In A.D. 116 the Roman emperor Trajan wintered in the city during his campaign against the Parthians. Attracted to it by its widespread fame, he found nothing but mounds and stones and ruins.⁹

The Germans excavated Babylon's ruins. Their maps show the desolation.¹⁰ Arab villages are outside of what was Babylon. For 1900 years Babylon has been uninhabited. You can visit the ruins of Babylon in order to see the literal fulfillment of the Bible prophecies. The Bible is the inspired word of God.

Egypt

At one time the Egyptian Empire included Canaan, Syria and Lebanon, reaching to the upper Euphrates. The future of Egypt

was foretold in detail:

It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations (Ezekiel 29:15 KJV).

...and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put fear in the land of Egypt (Ezekiel 30:13 KJV).

History shows the fulfillment of these prophecies. Egypt has not ruled over the nations since the time of the prophet Ezekiel. Egypt has been ruled by the Persians, the Greeks, the Romans, Constantinople, the Saracen Arabs, the Mamelukes, the Turks, the French, and the English. In recent years, Egypt has not had princes.¹¹

For 2,500 years Egypt has been a base nation, just as the prophet foretold. You can visit Egypt and see that it is truly one of the basest of nations. The Bible is the inspired word of God.

Israel

The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans was foretold in Deuteronomy 29:49-68, and Daniel 9:26,27. These prophecies were fulfilled in A.D. 70. Josephus recorded the detailed fulfillment of the siege and destruction of Jerusalem including the mother eating her child.¹² The scattering of Israel among the nations, if they disobeyed God, was foretold:

And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: ... (Leviticus 26:33 KJV).

And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the

other:...and among these nations shalt thou find no ease... (Deuteronomy 28:64,65 KJV).

Israel ceased to exist as a nation from A.D. 70 until 1948. The Jews have truly been scattered among all people, from one end of the earth even to the other during 1900 years. Among the nations they have found no ease, but have been persecuted, just as the scriptures foretold. The nations of the world have persecuted them and killed them. During World War II, Hitler had six million Jews killed.

The amazing thing is that the Jews have survived. This was foretold in Jeremiah:

For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet I will not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished (Jeremiah 30:11 KJV).

The Babylonians, Philistines and Edomites do not now exist. But the Jews still exist in spite of dispersion and persecution, just as was foretold.

Babylon, Nineveh, Old Tyre and Petra are desolate. They have not been rebuilt. But Jerusalem now stands. Here is empirical evidence!

You can see the fulfillment of prophecy with your own eyes. The Old Testament was written before Christ. It was translated into Greek before Christ. 1900 years of history and conditions which can be seen today testify to the supernatural inspiration of the writers of the Bible. They claimed that they wrote the word which the one living God gave to them. That is demonstrated.

The Return to Israel

Israel became a nation again in 1948. From A.D. 70 on, the Jews were scattered among the nations, and Israel ceased to be a nation. However, in our time, the Jews have been returning to Israel, and Israel has again become a nation after 1878 years. The Bible prophets foretold all this in detail, hundreds of years before it happened.

The prophet Isaiah foretold that God would gather His people, Israel, a second time during the time of Messiah, the root of Jesse. Let us read this prophecy which was given about 700 B.C., about 2700 years ago.

Isaiah 11:10-12:

**Then it will come about in that day
That the nations will resort to the root of Jesse,
Who will stand as a signal for the peoples;
And His resting place will be glorious.
Then it will happen on that day that the Lord
Will again recover the second time with His hand
The remnant of His people, who will remain,
From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar,
Hamath,
And from the islands of the sea.
And He will lift up a standard for the nations,
And will assemble the banished ones of Israel,
And will gather the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth.**

You will notice that after the nations have resorted to the root of Jesse, a branch from his roots, Messiah (Isaiah 11:1), then the Lord will a second time recover and assemble the people of Israel and Judah from all over the world. This has happened and is

happening right now. (See also Joel 3:1,2,7; Amos 9:14,15; Hosea 3:4,5; Jeremiah 23:5-8; Zechariah 10:6-10; Ezekiel 39:25-29.)

Jesus was a prophet of God. In Luke, chapter 21, Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, which happened in A.D. 70. Let us read one important verse of what Jesus said about the Jews:

Luke 21:24: and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Notice: Jesus foretold that the Jews would be led captive into all nations. That happened and the Jews have continued to be in all nations even until our time. Jesus foretold that Jerusalem would be trampled under foot of the Gentiles. That was fulfilled in history. How long did Jesus say that the Gentiles would have Jerusalem? "Until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." By this statement, Jesus showed that the Jews would get Jerusalem back. When was this fulfilled? On June 7, 1967, Israel took back Jerusalem; Jewish soldiers stormed into the city. The prophecies of Jesus were fulfilled in detail. Here is empirical data, historical proof that God exists, that God has spoken through His prophets and that Jesus is a prophet of God. They are proof that God has revealed Himself to man. They are proof that God rules in history and judges mankind.

For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21 ASV).

And so we have the prophetic word made more sure,

to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19).

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Chapter XIV

Messiah

The prophets of Israel foretold much about the coming of Messiah, the anointed one. Daniel prophesied about Messiah during the Babylonian captivity (Daniel 9:24-27). The time for the coming of Messiah was set. From the command to rebuild Jerusalem, a period of sixty-nine sevens ($69 \times 7 = 483$) was decreed until Messiah. Messiah would be “cut off,” and then Jerusalem would be destroyed again:

Daniel 9:24-27 (NKJB):

**“Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.
Know therefore and understand,
*That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,*
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.
And after the sixty-two weeks *Messiah shall be cut off,*
but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
*Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.***

**The end of it shall be with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.
Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one
week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who
makes desolate,
Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate.”**

Notice that Messiah would be cut off BEFORE the city and sanctuary would be destroyed again. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. Messiah had to have come before A.D. 70. Those who wait now for Messiah are too late. He must have come before A.D. 70 just as prophesied in Daniel.

Daniel 9:24-27 gives the time from the command to restore and build Jerusalem which was 457 B.C., Ezra 7:6,7 and 9:9. From this starting point until Messiah are seven sevens plus sixty two sevens which is a total of 483. This prophecy set the coming of Messiah at A.D. 26, the time of the baptism of Jesus. Our Dionysian calendar has an error; Jesus was born about 4 B.C. In verse 27, He would make a covenant with many for one week, the seventieth week. But in the middle of the week He would bring an end to sacrifice and offering. This Jesus did when He offered Himself once for all on the cross, Hebrews 9:12-28.

Messiah — “Cut Off” — “Pierced”

In Daniel 9:26 we read: “...Messiah shall be cut off...” This same statement is made in Isaiah 53:8: “...he was cut off out of

the land of the living for the transgression of my people ...”
All of Isaiah 53 is about the *individual* who would be a sin offering for *many*. Daniel 9:24-27 foretold of the making an end of sins and the reconciliation for iniquity, with Messiah being cut off. Isaiah 53 shows that He would be cut off for the sins of God’s people, the many (Isaiah 53:8,12).

**But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.
All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him (Isaiah 53:5,6).**

**But the Lord was pleased
To crush Him, putting Him to grief;
If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,
He will see His offspring,
He will prolong His days,
And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in
His hand (Isaiah 53:10).**

The crucifixion of Messiah was foretold about 1,000 years ahead of time.

Psalm 22:1:

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?...

Psalm 22:14-18:

**I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;**

**It has melted within Me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.
For dogs have surrounded Me;
The assembly of the wicked has enclosed Me.
They *pierced My hands and My feet*;
I can count all My bones.
They look and stare at Me.
They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots (NKJV).**

The inhabitants of Jerusalem were to look upon the LORD whom they would pierce. The LORD said:

And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, *so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced*; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born (Zechariah 12:10).

Jesus came at the right time, which was before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. He was cut off, **pierced** by nails for our transgressions, just as the prophets foretold. Jesus fulfilled Isaiah chapter 53. Since A.D. 70, there has not been a temple in Jerusalem where sacrifices could be offered, resulting in Passovers without offering lambs, and Days of Atonement without sacrifices of atonement. Why is this? Because, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Isaiah 53:6,7). Messiah made atonement for our iniquity (Daniel 9:24).

The Promise to Abraham

God made promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).

Genesis 22:18:

“And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

The word *seed* in this prophecy is singular. God promised that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in the seed of Abraham, not just Israel, but all nations. Is this singular seed of Abraham, Messiah? Yes, Jesus is the fulfillment (Galatians 3.) The promise is for all nations (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15).

God's Prophecy to Moses

Moses lived about 1400 B.C. God used Moses to lead His people Israel out of Egyptian slavery. God said to Moses:

Deuteronomy 18:18,19:

“I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.”

God foretold that there would be another prophet like Moses: Moses was a deliverer from slavery. He was also a lawgiver. Who is this prophet to come after the time of Moses and be like Moses the deliverer and lawgiver? Is this Messiah? Yes, Jesus (Acts 3:22). In Hebrew, Yeshua.

Jesus said:

“Do not think that I will accuse you before the

Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" (John 5:45-47).

Do you believe?

King David's Lord

David was king of Israel about 1000 B.C. He was also a prophet of God (2 Samuel 23:2). God promised David to establish David's kingdom and throne forever (2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 89:4; Psalm 132:12). In Psalm 110, David prophesied that one would rule from the right hand of God. David even called Him **Lord**. Messiah is both a descendant of David and his Lord. As David's Lord, Messiah is more than human, He is also deity. In Psalm 45:6,7, the Anointed, Messiah, is called **God**. In Psalm 16:10, David prophesied that Messiah would not undergo decay, which showed that Messiah would be resurrected (Psalm 16:10). The second Psalm is about the Lord and His Anointed, Messiah.

Psalm 2:7: "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee.'"

Yes, the LORD has a begotten Son. IT is JEHOVAH who has a **begotten Son**. This cannot refer to David, because David was not a son begotten of God. Jesse begot David. Then also notice the next verse:

Psalm 2:8: "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession."

God foretold that the Kingdom of Messiah, the Son of God, would include the nations and the ends of the earth. David's kingdom did not include the nations and the ends of the earth. However, the Kingdom of Messiah includes the nations and the ends of the earth. You can understand that in Psalm 2:7, God was speaking to His Son, Messiah. **“Thou art My Son, Today, I have begotten Thee.”**

The King of Isaiah

Isaiah prophesied from about 740 B.C. until about 681 B.C. In Isaiah 9:6,7, Isaiah foretold about a son who would be born and be the king on the throne of David:

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, *Mighty God*, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the *throne of David* and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and *forevermore*.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

This Son is called **Mighty God**. He is king, Messiah on the throne of David. Yes, Isaiah foretold the kingdom of Messiah, Jesus. Jesus was raised from the dead and rules from the right hand of God on the throne of David (Acts 2:30-36). The kingdom came with power on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-41). Christians are in the kingdom of Messiah (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:5,6).

Daniel Foretold the Kingdom of God

In Daniel chapter 2 the prophet Daniel gave the meaning of the king's dream. Four kingdoms were listed: Babylon, Medo-Persian, Macedonian, and Roman. Daniel foretold that God would set up an eternal kingdom during the days of the Roman kingdom:

Daniel 2:44:

“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.”

The kingdom of Messiah was indeed set up during the days of the Roman Kingdom, just as Daniel foretold.

Colossians 1:13:

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

The kingdom of Messiah was in existence when Colossians was written. Messiahans, Christians are in the Kingdom of Messiah (Revelation 1:5,6,9).

The ascension and coronation of Messiah were foretold in a vision to the prophet Daniel, recorded in Daniel 7:13,14:

**“I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.**

**Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed” (NKJB).**

The Son of Man is Messiah Jesus. He ascended with the clouds of heaven to the Ancient of Days, God, and was given dominion and glory and a kingdom. King Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of God ruling and reigning (Psalm 110:1,2; Acts 2:30-33; 1 Corinthians 15:25,26; Hebrews 10:12,13). All peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

The Word

Deuteronomy 6:4:

“Hear, O Israel. The LORD is our God, the LORD is one.”

In the Bible the Hebrew word for *God* is ELOHIM. It is a plural word but verbs that are used with it are in the singular form. For example:

In the beginning, God (ELOHIM) created (singular form) the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

In the second verse of the Bible, the *Spirit of God* is mentioned. So then there is God and the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is mentioned in Psalm 51:11 and in Isaiah 63:10,11.

Then God said, “Let *Us* make man in *Our* image,

according to *Our* likeness”... (Genesis 1:26).

Notice the plural forms *Us* and *Our*, speaking of God’s image and God’s likeness.

In Deuteronomy 6:4, we have read, “the LORD is *one*.” The Hebrew word for *one* is “ACHAD.” This is the same Hebrew word that is used in:

Genesis 2:24: For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one (ACHAD) flesh.

ACHAD is used here meaning *one*, but a composite one. Two become one in marriage.

God (ELOHIM) is one (ACHAD), a composite one. ELOHIM is a plural form word that uses singular verbs. Referring to God, plural form pronouns are used, *us* and *our*. Yes, the LORD is one, a composite one.

Psalm 33:6:

**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host....**

So there is the *word of the LORD*.

In Isaiah 48:12-16, Isaiah wrote down what a person said, who is not Isaiah.

Isaiah 48:12,13:

**“Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called;
I am He, I am the first, I am also the last.
Surely My hand founded the earth,
And My right hand spread out the heaven;
When I call to them, they stand together.”**

Who is speaking here? He is the first and the last. He founded the earth. Notice what He said in verse 16:

**“Come near to Me, listen to this:
From the first I have not spoken in secret,
From the time it took place, I was there.
And now *the Lord YHWH (Jehovah) has sent Me, and
His Spirit.*”**

So then, who is He who founded the earth, and spread out the heavens? He was sent by the Lord Jehovah, so He is not the LORD (Jehovah). Look again at Psalm 33:6. He must be the *word of the LORD* by whom the heavens were made. Yes, the word of the LORD is “He,” a person (Isaiah 48:12-16).

Yes, God, ELOHIM, is a composite one. There is the Spirit of the LORD and there is the Word of the LORD, with the Father — the LORD (Jehovah).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being (John 1:1-3).

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His Glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Jesus (Yeshua) the Messiah said:

“I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form (Colossians 2:9).

God Promised the New Covenant

God spoke to Jeremiah the prophet in Jerusalem about 587 B.C. and foretold that He would give a New Covenant.

Jeremiah 31:31-34:

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD.’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the LORD, ‘for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.’”

The New Covenant is not like the old Covenant with Israel. God promised that He would put His law in the hearts of His people. His people would know Him. He would forgive their sins, and He would remember their sins no more.

Has God kept His promise of a New Covenant? Yes, read Hebrews 8 and 9. You must admit that the priesthood of the Old Covenant is gone. The sacrifices of the Old Covenant are gone. It has been impossible since A.D. 70 to keep the Old Covenant.

Why did God allow the Roman army to destroy Jerusalem and the temple? Since then the only real passover lamb is Messiah, Jesus who was offered once for all for the forgiveness of our sins (Hebrews 9:28). The only atonement is Messiah, Jesus. He is the Messiah of Daniel 9, the promised Seed of Abraham, the Prophet promised to Moses, David's Son and Lord, the King foretold by Isaiah, God's Servant who bore our sins (Isaiah 53).

Would you have your sins forgiven? Would you be in Messiah's kingdom? Would you dwell in the house of the Lord forever with Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah and Daniel?

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

Chapter XV

What Happened to the Body?

Secular History

The historical fact that Jesus the Messiah lived cannot be doubted. The Roman historian Carius Cornelius Tacitus wrote about A.D. 100 in his book, *Annals*:

They had their denomination from Christus, who in the reign of Tibertius was put to death as a criminal by the procurator Pontius Pilate. *Annals* 15.44.

Tacitus did not like Christians; however, he did record the death of Jesus. Men who try to say that Jesus was a myth are unscientific. They are either ignorant or dishonest.

Bitter enemies of Jesus wrote against Him in the Jewish *Talmud*.¹ This proves that Jesus lived. A Greek by the name of Celsus wrote against Jesus. He also accepted the fact that Jesus lived.

For more information see the book: *The Historical Jesus — Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*, by Gardy R. Habermas, (Joplin, Missouri: College Press, 1996).

History of the Life of Messiah

Four men wrote separate gospels of Jesus. While they recorded common events, each recorded events and details which were not recorded by the others. Together, the four give us a sum of historical data. You need to read all four histories.

Matthew was a tax collector. He left a well paying work in order to follow Jesus. Matthew was an eyewitness of the life of

Jesus. He recorded what he saw and heard.

Church historian Eusebius Pamphilus quoted an early Christian writer named Papias who had listened to the apostle John:

Of Matthew he has stated as follows: “Matthew composed his history in the Hebrew dialect, and every one translated it as he was able.” (*Eusebius’ Ecclesiastical History*, 3.39.16; 3.24.6.)

Papyrus fragments of The Gospel According to Matthew are in the library of Magdalen College, Oxford, England. They are dated at about A.D. 60. A book documents this: *Eyewitness to Jesus — Amazing New Manuscript Evidence About the Origin of the Gospels*, by Carsten Peter Thiede and Matthew D’Ancona, (New York: Doubleday, 1996). The Gospel According to Matthew was written about A.D. 60 or before.

Mark was an evangelist, who worked with Paul and Peter (1 Peter 5:13). Papias, an early Christian, said that Mark wrote the history of Jesus from the apostle Peter.² Peter was an eyewitness.

A papyrus scroll fragment of *The Gospel According to Mark* has been found in cave 7 of Qumran. It is 7Q5 papyrus scroll fragment of Mark 6:52-53. This is discussed in the book: *Eyewitness to Jesus — Amazing New Manuscript Evidence About the Origin of the Gospels*. pp. 29-52. Since the Tenth Roman Legion destroyed the settlement of Qumran in A.D. 68, papyrus scroll fragment 7Q5 must be dated before A.D. 68. *The Gospel According to Mark* was written before A.D. 68.

Luke was a Greek medical doctor. Let us read his introduction:

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word have handed them down to us, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught (Luke 1:1-4).

Luke wrote what eyewitnesses testified. Luke was with the apostle Paul in Israel for two years (Acts 23:33-26:32). This gave Luke the opportunity to also get information from the other apostles and other eyewitnesses.

Luke wrote the gospel history before he wrote the book of *Acts*. *Acts* ends abruptly in A.D. 63. *The Gospel of Luke* was written before A.D. 63.

John had been a fisherman. He left his work to follow Jesus. He was an eyewitness of the life of Jesus the Messiah. The Dead Sea scrolls have shown that John was accurate concerning conditions at that time.³

Irenaeus, an early Christian writer, wrote:

Afterwards, John the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon His breast, did himself publish a gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia (Against Heresies 3.1.1.). See also: Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History 3.23.1-6; 3.24.11-14.

Irenaeus had learned about John from Polycarp. Tertullian and Clement of Alexandria agreed. It is obvious that those men were in a better historical position to know who the author was

than any modern critical scholars.

The Gospel According to John is the most important book in the world for you to read. You will come to know Jesus the Son of God.

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name (John 20:31).

The Works of Messiah

As you read the four gospels you will have a history of the works of Jesus the Messiah. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind and raised the dead. These works proved to Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus said:

But the witness which I have is greater than that of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me (John 5:36).

Do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, "You are blaspheming." because I said, "I am the Son of God"? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; But if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father (John 10:36-38).

The Teaching of Messiah

As you read the four gospels, you will have the teaching of Jesus the Messiah. The teaching of Jesus is a witness for you.

John 7:15-17:

The Jews therefore were marveling, saying, "How has this man become learned, having never been educated?" Jesus therefore answered them, and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself."

The officers therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks" (John 7:45,46).

Jesus Died on the Cross

...but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true (John 19:33-35).

The blood solids had already begun to separate from the liquid. This was a definite sign that Jesus had already died. The Roman centurion certified Pilate that Jesus was already dead (Mark 15:44,45).

The Tomb Was Empty

The chief priests and Pharisees were afraid that the disciples of Jesus would steal the body, since they knew that Jesus had said, **"After three days I will rise again."** The Jewish leaders sent guards to make the sepulchre secure. They sealed the great

stone door of the grave (Matthew 27:62-66). The disciples would have had to go past the watchmen, to break the seal on the stone, to roll back the great stone, and to carry out the body past the guards; all this, without awakening the guards. Can you believe that? No, impossible! Consider also, that if the disciples had taken the body of Jesus, they surely would NOT have given their lives for preaching what they would have known to be a lie. However, most of the apostles died because they preached that Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead, which is what they had witnessed. You can understand that the disciples of Jesus did not take the body of Jesus. What happened to the body? The tomb was empty. The Jewish leaders did not have the body. How do you account for this? Yes, He was raised.

Eyewitnesses

The historical records claim that Jesus appeared to the apostles and other disciples, showing Himself alive and raised from the dead. Let us now consider these appearances. Jesus appeared after His resurrection first to Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18; Mark 16:9). He appeared also to the other women who had gone to the tomb on that first day of the week (Matthew 28:9,10). The apostles did not believe the women. Luke recorded that Jesus walked with two disciples on the way to Emmaus, and revealed himself to them (Luke 24:13-31). Jesus appeared to Peter who had denied Him (Luke 24:34). Then Jesus came into the room where the apostles were, but Thomas was not there (John 20:19-23). Thomas was a scientific person. He did not believe the others. He said, **“Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe”** (John 20:25). Thomas would not be misled by a vision or hallucination.

And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:26-28).

The apostles had fled and hid in fear of the chief priests and Pharisees, but after having seen Jesus they became bold eyewitnesses of His resurrection. If Jesus had not bodily appeared to the disciples, they would not have risked their lives to preach the resurrection of Jesus. You cannot account for the change in the apostles, except that they had really seen Jesus alive from the dead in His resurrected body. They had even met Jesus at the Sea of Galilee and ate breakfast with Him (John 21:1-23). While with Him on a mountain in Galilee, He commanded them to preach the good news to all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

Later, the apostles witnessed the ascension of Jesus from this earth at the mount called Olivet, just outside of Jerusalem (Acts 1:1-12). About ten days later, on the Day of Pentecost, Peter and the apostles preached boldly that Jesus was raised from the dead. They did this in Jerusalem where the people had cried out to have Jesus crucified. If their evidence had not been strong, the chief priests and Pharisees could have stopped them. However, the empty tomb was close by.

Peter said:

"This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses ...Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and

Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:32-36).

The witness of fulfilled prophecy and the testimony of the apostles were so strong that 3,000 Jews accepted the fact of the resurrection of Jesus. They believed in Jesus the Messiah and were immersed in His name for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:37-41). The first Christians were Jews.

The Congregation in Jerusalem as a Witness

If the chief priests and Pharisees would have had an answer or real evidence against the testimony of the apostles, the congregation of Messiah could not have been started and grown in Jerusalem. However, the number of Jewish Christians in Jerusalem grew to 5,000 men (Acts 4:4). Even a great number of priests became obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7). How do you account for this? The congregation of Messiah in Jerusalem where Jesus had been crucified shows the validity of the evidence of the resurrection and fulfilled prophecy. The existence of the congregation of Messiah in Jerusalem would have been impossible if Jesus had not been raised from the dead. The first Christians were Jews. The good news of the death of the Son of God for our sins was then taken by Jewish Christians to the nations of the world. My friend, this is history. You need to accept the historical evidence. You can have eternal life in Jesus the Messiah.

Will You Believe?

Jesus said:

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be con-

demned” Mark 16:16).

John 8:24:

I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins.

Acts 2:38:

And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1. Robert T. Herford, *Christianity in Talmud and Midrash* (Clifton, NJ: Reference Book Publishers, 1965).
2. *Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History* 3.39.15.
3. W. F. Albright, *The Archaeology of Palestine* (Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1960), pp. 239-249.

Chapter XVI

Rabbi Saul

A young man of Israel named Saul studied in Jerusalem. He was a descendant of Benjamin and was extremely zealous of his ancestral traditions (Romans 11:1). He was advancing well in Judaism (Galatians 1:14). He studied under a leading teacher of the law in Jerusalem. Saul even persecuted Christians in Jerusalem entering house after house dragging men and women off to prison (Acts 8:3). He tried to destroy the church of God (Galatians 1:13). Saul was present when a Christian named Stephen was dragged out of Jerusalem and stoned to death (Acts 7:58). Later Saul got authority from the Jewish officials in Jerusalem to go after Christians in Damascus (Acts 9:1). He took some men with him and left Jerusalem.

Later Saul told Jews in Jerusalem about this journey to Damascus. Now let us listen to Saul himself as he told about this journey:

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, just as you all are today. And I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished. And it came about that as I was on my way, approaching

Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ And I answered, ‘Who art Thou, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.’ And those who were with me beheld the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. And I said, ‘What shall I do Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise and go on into Damascus; and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.’ But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. And a certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing near said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very time I looked up at him. And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear an utterance from His mouth. For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’” Acts 22:3-16.

We have read what Saul himself said to Jews in Jerusalem. Do you believe his testimony?

and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” And all

those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” but Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Messiah (Acts 9:20-22).

Saul left Damascus and spent time in Arabia (Galatians 1:17,18).

Then He returned to Damascus.

And when many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him (Acts 9:23).

Even the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize Saul (2 Corinthians 11:32).

But his disciples took him by night, and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket (Acts 9:25).

Saul then went to Jerusalem.

And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death (Acts 9:29).

Saul spent the rest of his life preaching and teaching that Jesus is the Messiah who died for our sins. How do you account for this great change in the life of Saul? Did he teach about Jesus for personal gain? No, we cannot say that. Saul was stoned, beaten, and imprisoned for his testimony about Jesus. You must

admit that Saul was honest, and was not after money. Saul testified to Jews and Gentiles from Jerusalem to Rome (Acts 9:20-28:29). He taught in synagogues (Acts 13:14-43; 17:2; 18:4; 19:8). He was later arrested in Jerusalem and brought before the Jewish Council (Acts 23:1). He was then accused by the Jews before the governor, Felix (Acts 24:13). He was left in prison for two years (Acts 24:27). After those two years the chief priests brought charges against Saul before the new governor, Festus (Acts 25:1-3). Festus laid Saul's case before King Agrippa (Acts 25:14). Saul's defense before King Agrippa is recorded in Acts 26. Let us read his conclusion.

Acts 26:22-29:

“And so, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He should be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles’ And while Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad.” But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth. For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do.” And Agrippa, replied to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.” And Paul said, “I would to God, that whether in a short or long

time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains.”

Saul had appealed to Ceasar. Saul was taken to Rome for trial. On the way they were shipwrecked (Acts 27). In Rome Saul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:30).

Do you understand that Saul suffered much for what he preached and taught? Saul wrote to Timothy:

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me, His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God. Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day (2 Timothy 1:8-12).

Consider now! Saul had been an enemy of Jesus. He, like many Jews, did not believe in Jesus to be the Messiah. He did not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. But Saul saw Jesus. Jesus showed Himself to Saul. Saul gave up his position as Pharisee and spent the rest of his life preaching what he knew to be the truth. He was an eyewitness to the fact of the resurrection of Jesus. You need to accept Saul's witness. You need to

believe in Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of God, as foretold by David in the 2nd Psalm, and in Isaiah 9:6,7.

At the close of his life, Saul was again imprisoned. Before he was executed by the Romans, Saul wrote these words to Timothy:

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Saul gave his life for his witness to the resurrection of Jesus. He stands as a witness to you. The only way that you can account for the change in the life of Saul from a persecutor to a preacher of Jesus the Messiah, is that Jesus appeared to Saul. You need to believe in Jesus. He gave His blood for the forgiveness of your sins. You too can have eternal life in Messiah, a crown of righteousness.

When Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, Saul believed. Saul was brought into Damascus, and he was three days without sight and neither ate nor drank (Acts 9: 9).

Ananias was told to go to Saul:

“...for behold, he is praying” (Acts 9:11).

From this we can understand that Saul repented. He fasted and prayed for three days. Was he saved? No, he was still in his sins. He believed, fasted, and prayed, but he was not yet in Messiah. He was still in his sins. Ananias said to Saul:

“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

Calling on the name of the Lord includes being baptized, immersed, to wash away your sins. Jesus said:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord;’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

Saul an apostle, was an eyewitness of the resurrection of Messiah Jesus. Jesus appeared to Saul and appointed him an apostle (Acts 26:14-18).

Jesus said to Saul:

“But arise, and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you” (Acts 26:16).

Saul was an apostle of Christ, the apostle Paul (Galatians 1:1). What he wrote was inspired by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:13). What he wrote is the word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13). What he wrote are commandments of God (1 Corinthians 14:37). What he wrote are Scriptures (2 Peter 3:15,16). Paul’s epistles are to be read to churches (Colossians 4:16). Paul’s epistles are to be read to all the brethren (1 Thessalonians 5:27).

“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

Chapter XVII

To Know God

Hosea 6:3:

**So let us *know*, let us press on to *know* the LORD.
His going forth is as *certain* as the dawn;
And He will come to us like the rain,
Like the spring rain watering the earth.**

Can we know that God exists? Can we know Him?

Romans 1:19,20:

because that which is *known* about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been *clearly seen*, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

The creation is empirical data that you can see. You can understand. You can know about God from creation:

1. His invisible attributes.
2. His eternal power.
3. His divine nature.

These are evident from looking at creation. Yes, we can *know* about God, and *know* that God exists. Atheists are without excuse. God's invisible attributes, His eternal power, and His divine nature are *clearly seen*.

Psalms 19:1:

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their

expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Isaiah 6:3:

...The whole earth is full of His glory.

Psalms 100:3:

Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

You can refuse to have God in your *knowledge* (Romans 1:28). But you are without excuse.

To Know God Read the Bible, His Word

How can we know God? He has revealed Himself in His word, the Bible. He has told us about Himself. If you want to know God, read and study the Bible. How do we know that the Bible is the word of God? Detailed prophecies, which have been fulfilled and are being fulfilled in history give us the empirical proof that the Bible is what it claims to be: the word spoken by God through His prophets and apostles.

The prophecies about Israel foretold the history of Israel. These prophecies have been fulfilled in detail in history. This is a way of knowing that God exists and that He is the LORD, which in Hebrew is יהוה, YEHOWAH (JEHOVAH).

Ezekiel 36:38:

“...Then they will *know* that I am the LORD.” (See also Ezekiel 36:36; 37:28; 39:28.)

You can read the prophecies for yourself and read their fulfillment in history. You can also see their fulfillment by visiting Israel, Babylon, Tyre and Egypt. These are empirical data, proof that God exists and that He has spoken through His prophets, His

Messiah, and apostles.

You can learn to know God by reading how He dealt with people in history, which is recorded in the Bible.

Psalm 9:16:

**The LORD has made Himself *known*;
He has executed judgment ...**

Exodus 14:30:

**Thus the LORD saved Israel
that day from the hand of the Egyptians,
and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.**

Also, God has told us about Himself in the Bible. He has revealed Himself. For example let us read:

Exodus 3:14:

**And God said to Moses,
“I AM WHO I AM”; and He said,
Thus you shall say to the sons of
Israel, “I AM has sent me to you.”**

Deuteronomy 6:4:

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”

Isaiah 44:6:

**“Thus says the LORD the King of Israel
And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last,
And there is no God besides Me.”**

Read the Bible and God will tell you about Himself.

Psalm 46:10:

Be still, and *know* that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth (KJV).

God Has Spoken to Us

God said to Moses:

Deuteronomy 18:18:

“I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”

You can ask who is this prophet like Moses that has also given us the word of God? Jeremiah the prophet foretold that there would be a New Covenant, as recorded in Jeremiah 31:31. God gave the law through Moses, the Old Covenant. God has given the New Covenant through the prophet like Moses, Messiah, Jesus. Jeremiah foretold that during the New Covenant time we would *know* God.

Jeremiah 31:34:

“And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD’ for they shall all *know* Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

God has spoken to us through His Son:

Hebrews 1:1,2:

God...in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

The Word Became Flesh, Know Him, Know God

John 1:1:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14:

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:18:

No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

Messiah came to this world, as Isaiah foretold in 7:14, **“God with us.”** Isaiah the prophet also foretold that He would be called, **“Mighty God”** (Isaiah 9:6). Messiah not only brought us the New Covenant, but He also is God with us. Get to know Jesus. Jesus said:

John 14:7-11:

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you *know* Him, and have seen Him....” (See also John 8:19; 12:44,45).

Jesus told His apostles about His death and that they would behold Him. Jesus said:

John 14:20:

“In that day you shall *know* that I am in My Father and you in Me, and I in you.”

Yes, Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive. He showed Himself to His apostles. We have the historical testimonies of the eyewitnesses. The first Christians were Jews. Many who had crucified Jesus were converted by the resurrection. The beginning of the congregation of Messiah in Jerusalem is a witness to you.

The Faithful Christian Knows that He Knows God

Faithful Christians are examples to you. They have experienced life in Messiah, the forgiveness of their sins, fellowship with God and the Holy Spirit, the providence of God and answered prayers (John 7:17).

1 John 3:24:

And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we *know* by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”
(See also 1 John 4:13.)

1 John 5:10:

The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

1 John 2:3:

And by this *we know* that we have come to *know Him*, if we keep His commandments.

Yes, Christians stand as witnesses to you of what God has

done with them.

Acts 2:36, 38:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel *know for certain* that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified.”...And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Chapter XVIII

Will You Then Believe?

The evidences of God are before your eyes in creation. The Bible is a divine demonstration that God has spoken to you. God has shown Himself to mankind in sending Messiah, His Son to this earth to die for our sins. God raised Him from the dead. Will you then believe?

Hebrews 11:1:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The assurance is there in the evidences. Is there a conviction in your heart? Do not let false teaching blind you to the truth. Do not let your sins keep you from coming to God.

Hebrews 11:6:

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

The Eternal Good News

Lord Jesus the Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, and He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-8). He paid the redemption price to buy you back out of the slavery of sin (Romans 3:24). The guilt of your sins He bore in His body on the cross, that you might die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Peter 2:24). You have been storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, but Jesus the Messiah made atonement, a propitiation in His blood

(Romans 2:5; 3:25).

2 Corinthians 5:21:

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:20:

...WE BEG YOU ON BEHALF OF CHRIST, BE RECONCILED TO GOD.

Salvation Is Through Faith

The Hebrew prophet Habakkuk wrote:

“...But the righteous will live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4).

This is quoted in Romans 1:16, 17:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

This greatest gift, redemption, justification, the forgiveness of your sins, a propitiation in His blood is through your faith in Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

Romans 3:24, 25:

being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness,

because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.

Repent

Repent means to change your mind. This produces a turning from sin to doing the will of God. Do not let your sins keep you from eternal life.

Acts 17:30,31:

“Therefore having over-looked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

Confess Your Faith in Jesus the Messiah

Romans 10:10:

For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation (NKJB). (See also Matthew 10:32, 33)

Be Immersed Into Jesus the Messiah

for the Forgiveness of Sins

How does the believer get into Jesus the Messiah?

Romans 6:3:

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

You need to be baptized into Messiah through your own faith.

Colossians 2:12:

having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him *through faith* in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Notice that baptism is a burial under the water and then you will be raised up with Jesus the Messiah to walk in newness of life. Since baptism is through faith, infant baptism is not valid. Salvation is through faith, your own faith. When you are raised up, you then have the forgiveness of your sins. There must first be the baptism into death and the resurrection before you have the new life.

Romans 6:4:

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:13:

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.

The blood of Messiah was poured out “...for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28). You need to be baptized in the name of Jesus the Messiah *for the forgiveness of sins*.

Acts 2:38:

And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the for-

giveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

It is also promised that you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. You can read more about this in: John 3:5; John 7:37-39; Luke 11:13; Acts 5:32; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:1-26; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 1:13,14; Ephesians 5:18.

“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

You Will Meet Jesus the Messiah on the Day of Judgment

2 Corinthians 5:10:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (See also Matthew 25:31-46.)

Do You Want To Be in Heaven or Hell Forever?

King David stated that he would dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6). The Hebrew prophet Daniel wrote:

Daniel 12:2:

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”

Isaiah, the Hebrew prophet wrote about the new heavens and the new earth (Isaiah 66:22). He also mentioned hell “**...For**

their fire shall not be quenched ...” (Isaiah 66:24). Jesus quoted this verse when speaking about people being cast into hell (Mark 9:43-49). He also spoke about heaven and hell in Matthew 25:41,46. Heaven is described for us in Revelation 21 and 22 and hell in Revelation 20:10-15. Surely you want to have eternal life in heaven with Jesus the Messiah.

Matthew 25:46:

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Romans 2:4-11:

...the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil.

Chapter XIX

The Chief Cornerstone

What is the foundation of your life? What is your life built upon? When a building is built, it is necessary to have a good foundation. The chief cornerstone must be right. The rest of the stones must line up with the chief cornerstone.

King Solomon built a temple for the worship of God in Jerusalem. It was rebuilt after the Babylonian destruction. But God gave a prophecy through Isaiah about 700 B.C. that God Himself would lay a chief cornerstone, a sure foundation.

Isaiah 28:16:

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

**“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,
A tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation;
Whoever believes will not act hastily”** (NKJB).

Isaiah 8:14, 15:

**“He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling
and a rock of offense To both the houses of Israel,
As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall
and be broken, Be snared and taken”** (NKJB).

Notice that God Himself would lay a stone for a foundation, a cornerstone, a sure foundation. When was this fulfilled? What is this building? What does belief have to do with this cornerstone, this foundation? This stone is called “He” — a person!

This foundation cornerstone was also prophesied in:

Psalm 118:22:

**The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.**

When Jesus was talking with the Jewish chief priests and elders, He quoted this verse. He applied this verse to Himself.

Matthew 21:42:

Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE?’” (Greek: *head of the corner.*)

Yes, Jesus is the CHIEF CORNERSTONE that the religious leaders rejected.

Jesus also said:

Matthew 21:44: **“And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust”** (Isaiah 8:13,14).

God laid in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation, who is Messiah, Jesus. Then not long after that, the Romans came and destroyed the temple Herod had built.

Are you willing to believe in Jesus the Messiah as the *head cornerstone*?

One time Jesus and His disciples were at Caesarea Philippi. This is a beautiful area in northern Israel. Caesarea Philippi is at the base of Mount Hermon, which is a great rock to the northeast. Jesus used this setting to talk to them about a rock:

Matthew 16:15-18:

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Simon Peter answered and said, “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon *this rock* I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.”

That Jesus is *the Christ, the Son of the living God*, is the *this* that had been revealed to Peter. *This rock* that the church was to be built upon is Jesus *the Christ, the Son of the living God*.

In Matthew 16:18:

1. *Peter* in Greek is *Petros*, a stone, which is masculine in gender.
2. *Rock* in Greek is *petra*, a large rock, which is feminine in gender.
3. Therefore, Peter is not the rock that the church is built upon.

Jesus did not say that He would build the church upon Peter. Jesus built the church upon what Peter had confessed, that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

Peter and John were brought before the Jewish rulers, elders, scribes and the high priest. They had preached about Jesus the Messiah at the temple portico when a lame man had been healed.

Acts 4:7-12:

And when they had placed them in the center, they

began to inquire, “By what power, or in what name, have you done this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNERSTONE**. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”

Peter said that Jesus the Messiah is the cornerstone.

Do you believe that Jesus is the Head Cornerstone? *The Chief Cornerstone? A Precious Corner stone? A sure foundation?*

Peter himself quoted these verses that we have read that prophesied about Messiah being the sure foundation, the chief corner stone, a stone of stumbling and **ROCK** (Greek *petra*) of offense:

1 Peter 2:4-8:

And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For

this is contained in Scripture:

“BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve,

“THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNERSTONE,” and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”...

Peter quoted Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, and Isaiah 8:14. In 1 Peter 2:8, Jesus the Messiah is called the Rock, *petra*, by Peter.

1 Corinthians 10:4:

and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock (*petra*) was Christ.

The House of God, the Temple of God

As we have read in 1 Peter 2:4-8, the spiritual house of God has Jesus the Messiah as the Chief Cornerstone and Christians as living stones. What is this spiritual house? We read in:

1 Timothy 3:15:

“...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (NKJB).

The congregation of the living God is the house of God made up of living stones, Christians, and Jesus the Messiah as the Chief Cornerstone.

1 Corinthians 3:11:

For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The temple that Solomon built was destroyed by the Babylonians. The rebuilt temple was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. But God laid a stone for a foundation, a chief corner stone, which is Jesus the Messiah. Jesus built the house of God, His church, the temple of God.

Ekklesia is the Greek word which is translated *church*. It means the called out, assembly, congregation. Church in the New Testament is never a physical building, but rather Christians.

Ephesians 2:19-22:

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone in whom the whole building being fitted together is growing into a *holy temple* in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

You can believe in Jesus; you shall not be disappointed. He is a sure foundation, the chief cornerstone. You can trust in Him. You can become a living stone in the house of God, the church that Jesus built. Do not reject Jesus as religious leaders did. He is the chief cornerstone that God has laid in Zion. Do not stumble on this stone. **“And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”**

Messiah Is Head Over All Things to the Church

Ephesians 1:20-23:

which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places...And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as *head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.* (See Colossians 1:15-19.)

Christ is the head of His body, the church. Christ is head over all things to the church. No man can be head of the church that Jesus built. Since Jesus is head over all things to the church, no man can even be head over the earthly part. The church is His body. He is the head. His body does not have two heads. As you read the New Testament, you learn how Jesus built His church, the original orthodox, universal church. We need to have the church that Jesus built, the original, orthodox, universal church. This church needs to be the way Jesus built it. Since Jesus is the Messiah, the King, the Lord and the Head, we need to obey Him. In the New Testament, you will not find a pope, patriarch, metropolitan, primate, exarch, president, cardinal, or archbishop in the church that Jesus built. Such titles and offices are not from God. They are not a part of the original, orthodox, universal church that Jesus built. Jesus is head over all things to His church. He is Messiah, Lord, King and Head. Will you follow Christ Jesus? Is He your Lord? Jesus is now ruling and reigning. He is seated on the throne at the right hand of God in heaven. Where is the headquarter of the church that Jesus built? Rome, Constantinople, Moscow, Athens, Brooklyn, Salt Lake City or Jerusalem? No, none of these! Headquarter is where the

head is, in heaven on the throne at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:30-33; Hebrews 10:12).

1 Peter 3:22:

who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

Matthew 28:18-20:

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Yes, Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. He is head over all things to the church in heaven and on earth. No man is to take His place. We need to get back to the way the church of Christ was in the beginning with Christ as the only head over all things to the church.

Messiah Is the Only High Priest Between God and Man

Hebrews 7:17:

For it is witnessed of Him, "THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK" (Psalm 110:4).

Hebrews 10:12:

but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

Jesus is the only high priest between God and man. He offered Himself for our sins once for all time. All Christians are priests:

1 Peter 2:9:

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

No man can be High Priest today, only Jesus the Messiah. All Christians are priests. No man can be a priest over Christians between them and Messiah.

What about the religious titles that men use today?

Jesus commanded:

“But do not be called *Rabbi*; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone of earth your *father*; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called *leaders*; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ” (Matthew 23:8-10).

It is wrong to use such religious titles. It is against the commands of Messiah. It is sinful to call a man by the religious title Father. Christians are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Messiah Is the Only Mediator Between God and Men

1 Timothy 2:4:

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave

Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.

Mary is not a mediator. Jesus is the only mediator between God and men.

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is the chief corner stone, a sure foundation, a rock of offense, the head over all things to His church, the only high priest, and the only mediator between God and men. On the Day of Judgment you will not stand before a rabbi, a pope, a patriarch, a president or Mohammed. You will be judged by Jesus the Messiah (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:16; Acts 17:30, 31).

Jesus loves you. He is the only one who died for your sins. He was buried and raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. Right now He wants to save you from your sins, from eternal punishment. Will you obey Him?

Hebrews 5: 9, 10:

And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Galatians 3:26, 27:

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Chapter XX

Congregation of Messiah

Jesus the Messiah built His congregation. His church (Matthew 16:18). The New Covenant recorded the word of God concerning the church, and how the church was built. We are responsible to follow this covenant. You will be judged according to this New Covenant (2 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 7:22; 8:1-13; 9:15; 13:20).

Hebrews 12:22-25: But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and the church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to spirits of righteous men made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood ...

We need to follow the New Covenant. The church needs to be the way that Jesus built it. **“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God ...”** (1 Peter 4:11 KJV). **“...that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written ...”** (1 Corinthians 4:6). The New Covenant ends with a warning:

Revelation 22:18,19: I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which 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 tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Organization of the Congregation

How did Jesus the Messiah build His church? How did He organize His congregation? He is head over all things to His church which is His body (Ephesians 1:22,23). He has only *one* body, one church (Ephesians 4:4). We are to obey Jesus as Lord and Head.

Ephesians 4:11: And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.

Apostles — Witnesses — and Prophets

Jesus chose twelve men whom He taught. They were eye-witnesses of His resurrection (Acts 1:8; 1:15-26; 26:15-17). The apostles preached the gospel, the good news that Jesus died for our sins, was buried and was raised from the dead on the third day. Read the book of Acts.

Apostles were eye-witnesses of His resurrection. The apostles were guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to the apostles:

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into *all the truth*; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will disclose to you *what is to come*”
(John 16:13; 14:26).

The apostles were guided into all the truth, and what is to come. What the apostles wrote is bound in heaven (Matthew 16:19; 18:18). This we have in the New Testament including the book of Revelation. That leaves nothing for other men to come up with at later times. When Jude wrote, the one faith had been

delivered. **“...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”** (Jude 3).

We need to read and obey *all the truth* that is in the New Covenant. The seed of the kingdom of God is the word of God (Luke 8:11). The church did *not* produce the New Covenant. The New Covenant produced the church.

Paul was chosen by Christ to be an eye-witness, an apostle (Acts 26:15-17; Galatians 1:1). He was driven by the Spirit to write the word of God (1 Corinthians 2:13; 14:37; 2 Peter 3:15, 16). This you can read and understand (Ephesians 3:1-5). We are required to read, understand and obey the New Covenant, the New Testament.

There were prophets in the beginning of the church. We can read about this in 1 Corinthians 14:1-3; Acts 11:27; 13:1; 21:9-11; Ephesians 3:5; 4:11. Prophets edified, exhorted, consoled, taught the word of God and foretold future events. Apostles and prophets are a part of the foundation of the church, the house of God (Ephesians 2:20). God gave the New Covenant through Messiah and the Spirit to the apostles and prophets. Peter warned us about false prophets (2 Peter 2).

The apostle Paul warned:

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man *be careful* how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10,11).

We need to follow the plan, the specifications, the pattern given in the New Covenant for the congregation of Messiah, the

church. No one has authority to change it. You will stand before Jesus the Messiah on the Day of Judgment.

Evangelists — Preachers

Philip was called an evangelist in Acts 21:8. He preached the good news of Messiah (Acts 8). Timothy was called an evangelist in 2 Timothy 4:5. The books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are to evangelists. Evangelists are to preach the word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-4:5). They are to teach and read scripture (1 Timothy 4:13-16). Evangelists are to teach and train (2 Timothy 2:2). Evangelists are to set in order congregations and appoint elders (bishops) (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). They are to preach, baptize and start new local congregations, as shown in the book of Acts.

2 Timothy 4:1-5: “I SOLEMNLY charge you...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction....”

Bishops — Elders — Shepherds — Pastors

The apostles and evangelists appointed bishops in each congregation when men were qualified (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5-9). Bishops are overseers, Greek *episkopos*. Bishops are also called elders, shepherds and pastors. There were bishops, more than one, in each congregation:

Philippians 1:1: Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers (bishops) and deacons:

It is wrong to have only one bishop in a congregation. It is

wrong to have one bishop over several congregations. Elders, Greek *presbuteros*, means men who are older. Elders, bishops, are shepherds of the congregation (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4.; 1 Timothy 5:17-20).

Acts 20:28: “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

The word *pastors*, Greek *poimen*, means shepherds, feeders. The qualifications for bishops are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and in Titus 1:5-9. Notice that bishops must be married men with believing children (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

1 Peter 5:1-4: Therefore, I exhort the *elders* among you, as your fellow-elder...*shepherd the flock of God among you, not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over these allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock...*

Bishops are to shepherd the flock among them — to teach, to oversee and to protect.

Teachers

Teachers are to teach the word of God for equipping the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 12:28). The church in Antioch had five men who were called teachers (Acts 13:1). As Christians learn and grow they should become teachers (Hebrews 5:12). Faithful men are to be trained to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). Bishops must be able to teach (Titus 1:9). Fathers are to

teach their children (Ephesians 6:4). Older women are to teach and to train the younger women (Titus 2:3-5). Women are *not* to teach men (1 Timothy 2:11,12; 1 Corinthians 14:34-37). All Christians are to teach lost souls (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:4).

Deacons

Deacons are servants in the work of the congregation (Philippians 1:1). The qualifications for deacons are given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Deacon is a Greek word, *diakonos*, that means servant. An example of such service is in Acts 6:1-6.

Names

The disciples of Messiah are called:

Christians	Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16.
Saints	Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2.
Children of God	Galatians 3:26, 27.
Brethren	1 Corinthians 2:1; Colosians 1:2.
Priests	1 Peter 2:5, 9.

Local congregations are called:

Churches of Christ	Romans 16:16.
Church of God	1 Corinthians 1:2.

The congregation of Messiah is called:

Body of Christ	Ephesians 1:22,23; Colosians 1:24.
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Bride of Christ	Revelation 19:7.
Church of the first-born	Hebrews 12:23.
House of God	1 Timothy 3:15.
The church of the living God	1 Timothy 3:15.
“My church” (church of Christ)	Matthew 16:18.

Christians are forbidden to call themselves after the names of men (1 Corinthians 1:10-17). We must not use names that are not given in the New Covenant. Denominations are wrong (Matthew 15:13).

The Work of the Congregation of Messiah

The New Covenant teaches us what the work of the congregation is:

To Teach all Nations — To Preach the Gospel to Everyone

The church is **“the pillar and support of the truth”** (1 Timothy 3:15). Jesus the Messiah commanded to go teach all nations, to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16). Congregations send missionaries, evangelists, and support them (Acts 13:1-3; Romans 10:13-15; Philippians 4:15; 3 John 5-8).

To Teach and Train Christians

Christians are to be taught to observe all that Messiah commanded (Matthew 28:20). The congregation should be devoted to the apostles doctrine (Acts 2:42). In Ephesus there was daily teaching (Acts 19:9,10). The Bible is to be read, taught and preached (Colossians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 3:15-4:5).

To Help Christians and Others in Need

Christian widows indeed are to be helped (1 Timothy 5:4-16; Acts 6:1-6). Christians who are in need are to be helped: the hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, prisoners (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 11:29; 2 Corinthians 8, 9). Orphans are to be helped (James 1:27). In writing to churches: **“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith”** (Galatians 6:10).

Worship Under the New Covenant

Israel worshipped God under the Old Covenant, under the law. Under the New Covenant, worship is different. Jesus said: **“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth”** (John 4:24; See John 4:19-26; John 1:17; 16:30; 17:17. Our worship must be in truth, that which is given in the New Covenant:

The Lord's Supper — The Breaking of Bread

Jesus commanded to eat the broken bread and to drink the fruit of the vine in remembrance of His body and blood (Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). The breaking of bread is a part of worship (Acts 2:42). When are Christians to meet and break bread? On each first day of the week (Acts 20:7). The main purpose for meeting is to break bread. The Lord's supper is not a sacrifice-mass because Christ was offered once for all (Hebrew 7:27; 9:12; 10:10). This is a sharing, in remembrance, a proclamation (1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:24-26).

Reading, Preaching — Teaching the Word of God

God speaks to His people through His word (Colosians 4:16; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Timothy 4:6-16).

Prayer

In prayer Christians praise God, give thanks, petition, and talk to God (1 Timothy 2:1-8; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Acts 2:42).

Singing

“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19; See also Colosians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; 1 Corinthians 14:15). Instrumental music is not part of worship in truth under the New Covenant.

Giving — Offering — Sharing

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13:16; See also 1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 8, 9; Galatians 6:6).

Jesus the Messiah said:

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23,24).

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