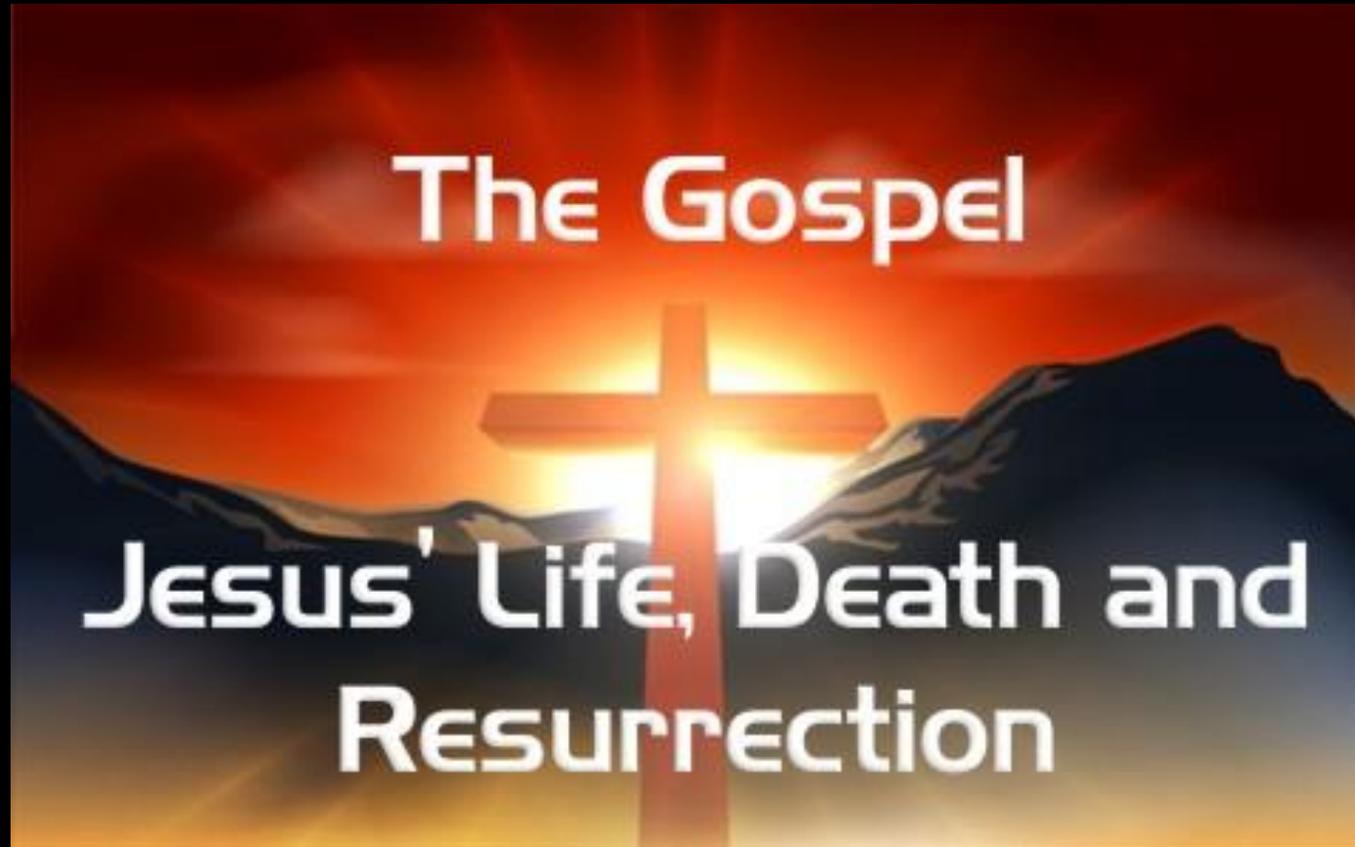


# The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ



Past > Present > Future



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# ***Enter The Ark of Hope***

The Great Controversy between God and  
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**“WORSHIP”**

Who will you Choose?



# ***Get into the Ark*** **Sanctuary**



**And let them  
make me a  
sanctuary;  
that I may dwell  
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

**Psalms 77:13**



# Health Snippet – Trust: Jesus

ORLANDO, Fla., Aug. 27, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- A new survey reveals that 52 percent of American adults believe that Jesus was a great teacher and nothing more.

Trusting in Jesus is not blind faith. **Bible** - "Faith comes by hearing the word of God" ([Romans 10:17](#)). Jesus Christ is the eternal Word of God ([John 1:1](#)) we trust in Him as we hear the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God to save everyone who believes ([Romans 1:16](#)). On this solid rock Jesus, we stand & shall not be moved ([Psalm 62:6-7](#)).

## So, what does it mean to trust in Jesus?

1. Commit Our Ways to Him (His will) - [Proverbs 3:5-6](#).
2. Find Rest in Him (His love) - [Matthew 11:28](#).
3. Take Delight in Him (His promise) - [John 3:16](#).

**Why Does This Matter?** Jesus is the only way to heaven.

- JESUS CAME, DIED, ROSE & ASCENDED FOR HUMANITY.
- JESUS CRUSHED SATAN, BY DYING ON THE CROSS.
- JESUS CREATED AND RECLAIMED LOST MANKIND.
- JESUS HAS ALLOWED US TO IDENTIFY WITH HIM.
- JESUS RULES AND REIGNS WITH PERFECT JUDGEMENT.
- JESUS IS COMING AGAIN TO TAKE HIS BRIDE HOME.
- JESUS WANTS TO LIVE WITH MANKIND FOREVER.

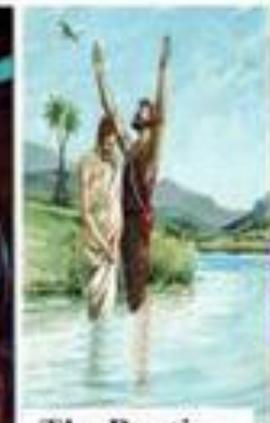
## the LIFE of CHRIST



The Star



The Birth



The Baptism



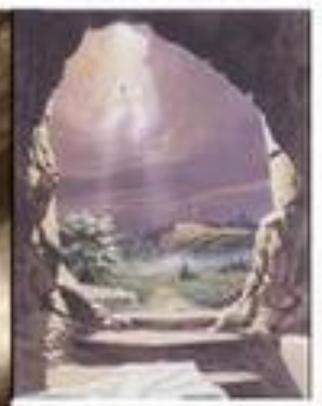
40 Days of Meditation



The Miracles



The Crucifixion



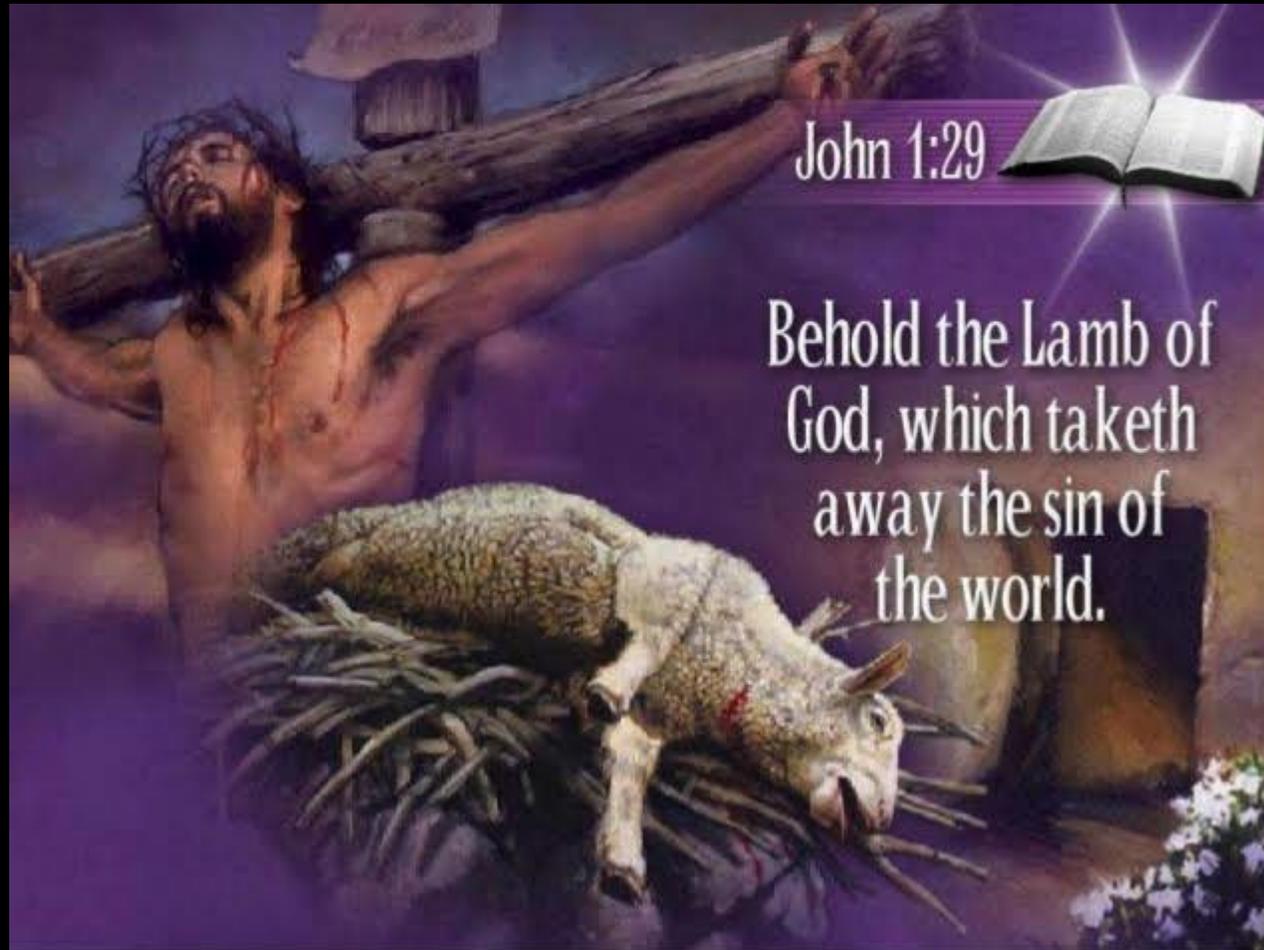
The Resurrection



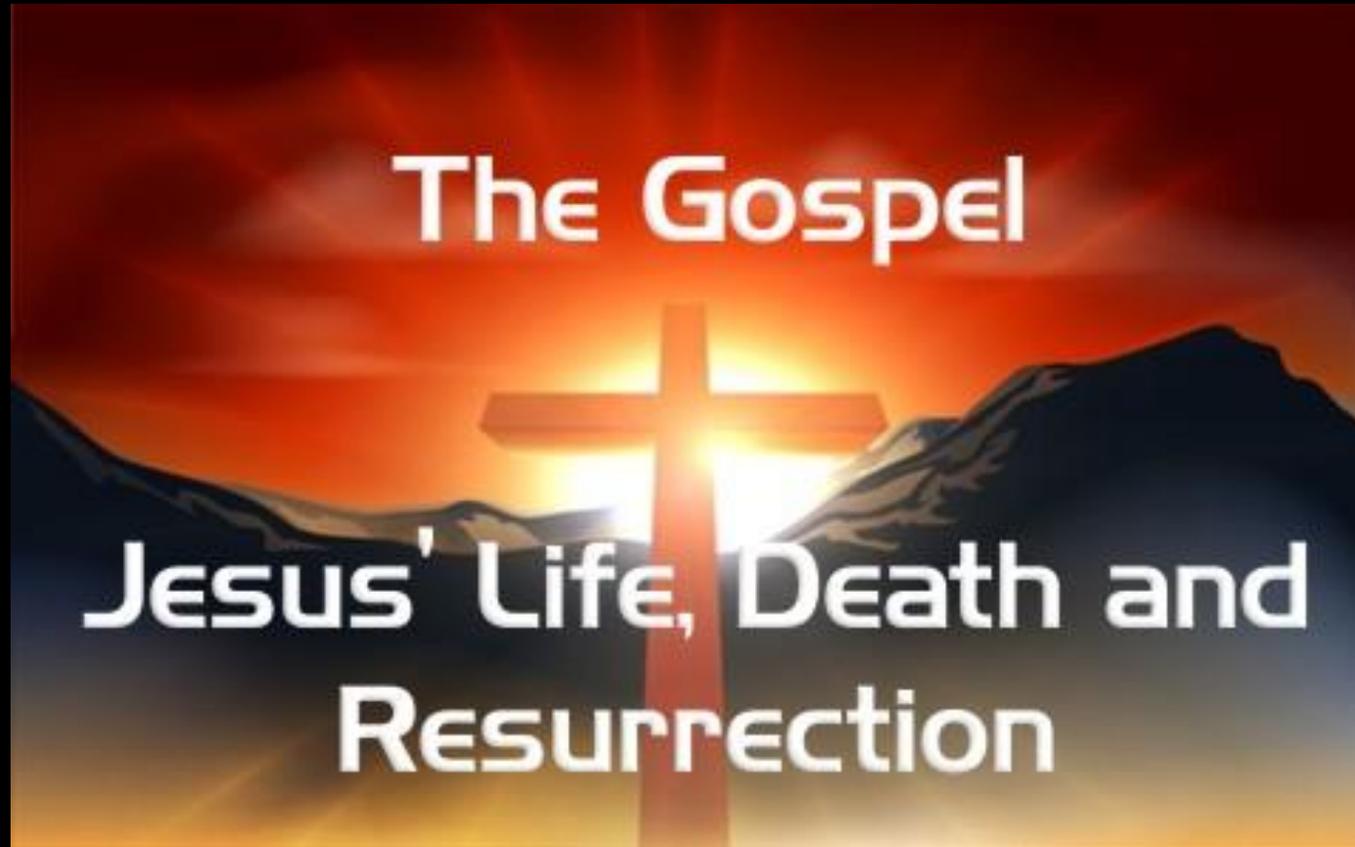
# Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



# Yes we Can!



# The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ



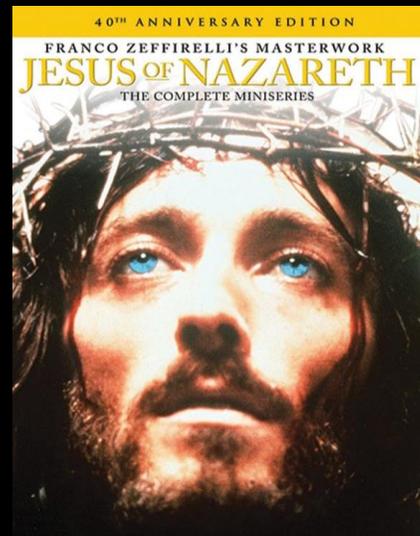
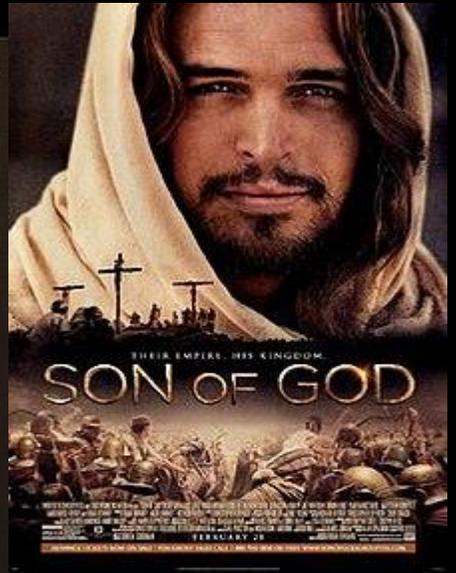
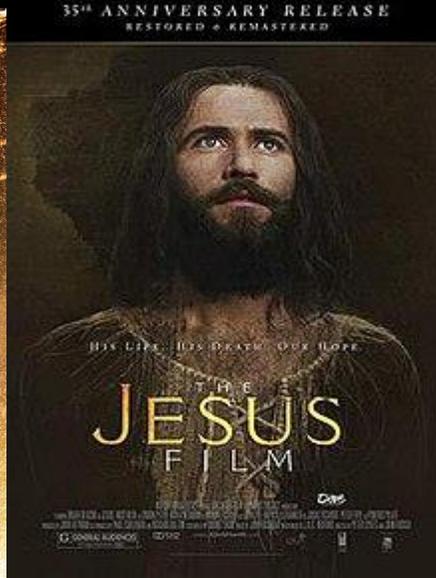
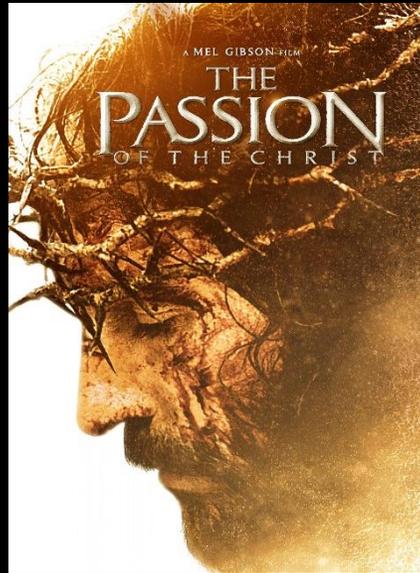
Past > Present > Future



# Introduction

IN RECENT TIMES, THE POPULAR MEDIA AND THE ACADEMIC WORLD HAVE TURNED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO JESUS. MOVIES, TELEVISION DOCUMENTARIES, JOURNAL AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES HAVE BECOME VEHICLES OF DEBATES AND DIFFUSION OF MATTERS REGARDING JESUS, SUCH AS HIS PASSION, HIS TOMB, AND HIS FAMILY.

Unfortunately, many of these efforts to understand Jesus have largely been undertaken out of mere academic interest or popular curiosity, and within a sceptical mind-set. For true Christians, however, Jesus is not a mere object of academic research or sheer curiosity. Indeed, Jesus is at the centre of the message in His work to redeem the fallen creation. So it is not surprising that one of our fundamental beliefs deals with the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.



# Introduction (cont'd)

An open door leads into the centre of the universe, heaven. A voice calls "Come in and see what goes on here!" In the Spirit, the apostle John looks into the throne room of God.

A dazzling emerald rainbow encircles the central throne, and lightning, thunder, and voices issue from it. Dignitaries—arrayed in white garments and wearing golden crowns—are seated on lesser thrones. As a doxology fills the air, the elders prostrate themselves in adoration, casting their golden crowns before the throne.

An angel, bearing a scroll sealed with seven seals, cries: "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" (Revelation 5:2). With dismay John sees that no one in heaven or earth is worthy to open the scroll. His dismay turns to weeping until one of the elders consoles: "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals" (Revelation 5:5).



# Introduction (cont'd)

Looking again to the majestic throne, John sees a Lamb that had been slain but now is alive and empowered with the Spirit. As this lowly Lamb takes the scroll the living creatures and elders strike up a new anthem: "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9, 10). **Every created being in heaven and on earth joins their song:** "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." (Revelation 5:13).



# What is so important about this scroll?

It records the rescue of the human race from its enslavement to Satan and portrays the ultimate victory of God over sin. It reveals a salvation so perfect that those captive to sin can be released from their prison house of doom simply through their choice.

Long before His birth in Bethlehem the Lamb cried out: "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the Book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart" (Psalms 40:7, 8; Hebrews 10:7). It was the coming of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world that effected the redemption of humanity (Revelation 13:8).



REVELATION 5:1-7

**THE LION IS THE LAMB**



# God's Saving Grace

The Scriptures reveal a God who has an overwhelming concern for the salvation of humanity. The members of the Godhead are allied in the work of bringing people back into a union with their Creator. Jesus highlighted God's saving love, saying, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

The Scriptures declare that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). He reaches out to humanity "with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). The God who extends the invitation to salvation is all-powerful, but His love necessitates His permitting each person to have freedom of choice in responding (Revelation 3:20, 21).

Coercion, a method contrary to His character, can have no part in His strategy.



Titus 2:11



# The Divine Initiative

When Adam and Eve sinned, God took the initiative in searching for them. The guilty pair, hearing the sound of their Creator, did not run joyfully to meet Him as they had done before. Instead, they hid. But God did not abandon them. Ever so persistently He called, "Where are you?" With deep sorrow, God outlined the consequences of their disobedience—the pain, the difficulties that they would encounter. Yet in their absolutely hopeless situation He revealed a wonderful plan promising ultimate victory over sin and death.

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



# Grace or Justice?

**Later**, following Israel's apostasy at Sinai, the Lord revealed His benevolent-but-just character to Moses, proclaiming:

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

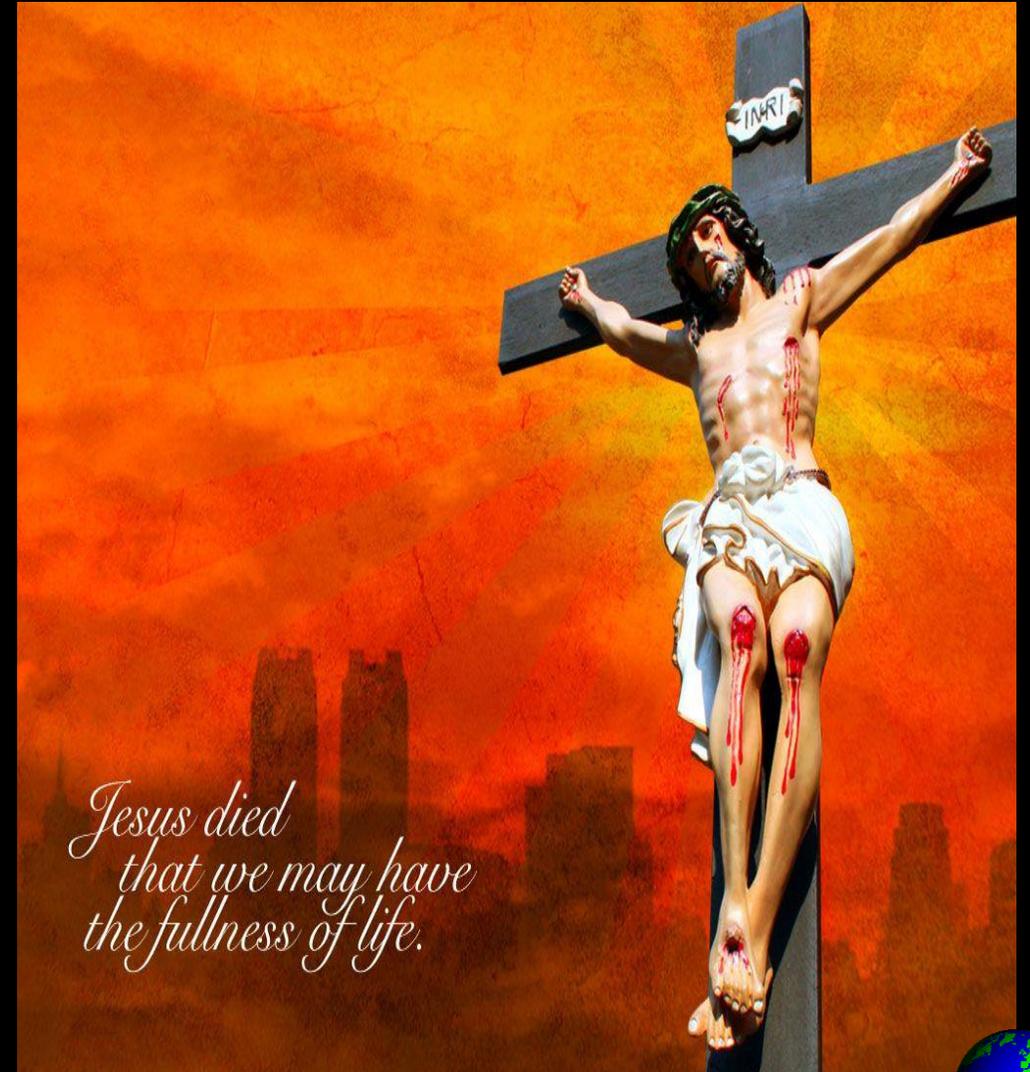
**God's character reveals a unique blending of grace and justice, of a willingness to forgive and an unwillingness to clear the guilty. Only in the person of Christ can we understand how these qualities of character can be reconciled to each other.**



# To Forgive or to Punish?

During the times of Israel's apostasy, God often pleaded longingly for His people to acknowledge their iniquity and return to Him (Jeremiah 3:12-14). **But they spurned His gracious invitations** (Jeremiah 5:3). **An unrepentant attitude that mocks forgiveness makes punishment inevitable** (Psalms 7:12).

**Though God is merciful, He cannot forgive those who cling to sin** (Jeremiah 5:7). **Pardon has a purpose.** God wants to change sinners **into saints**: "*Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon*" - Isaiah 55:7. **His message of salvation clearly sounds throughout the world**: "*Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other*" - Isaiah 45:22.

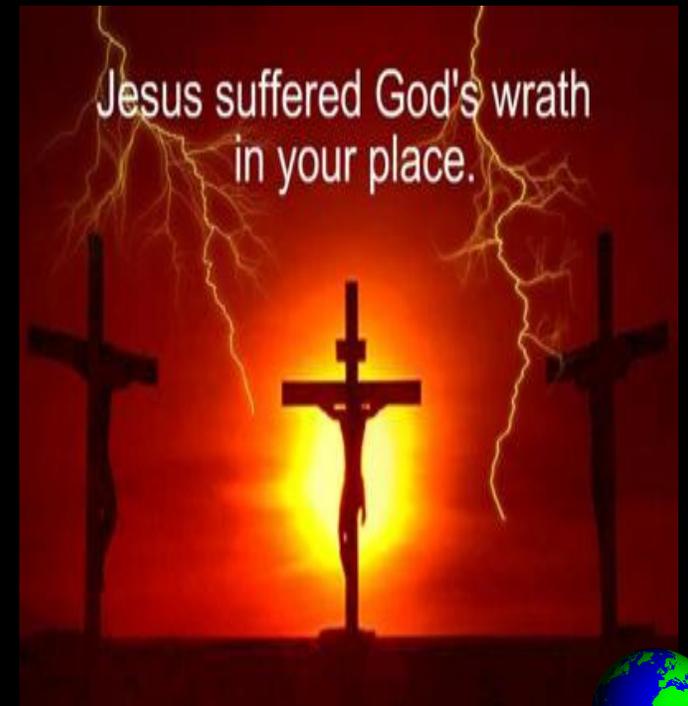
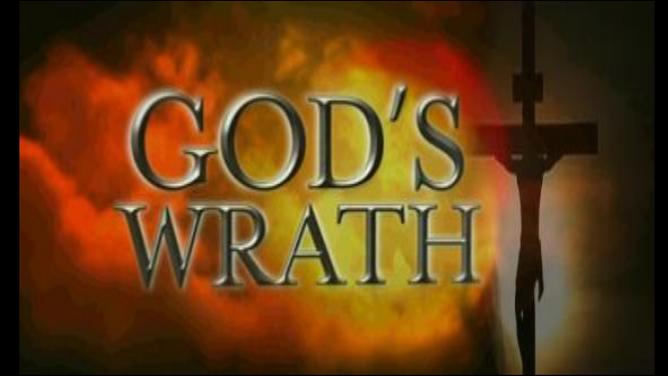


# God's Wrath Against Sin

The original transgression created in the human mind a disposition of enmity against God (Colossians 1:21).

Consequently we deserve the displeasure of God, who is "a consuming fire" against sin (Hebrews 12:29; Habakkuk 1:13). The solemn truth is that "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23), all are "by nature children of wrath" (Ephesians 2:3; 5:6) and subject to death "for the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Divine wrath is what Scripture calls God's reaction to sin and unrighteousness (Romans 1:18). Deliberate rejection of God's revealed will—His law—provokes His righteous anger or wrath (2 Kings 17:16-18; 2 Chronicles 36:16). G.E. Ladd wrote, "Men are ethically sinful; and when God counts their trespasses against them, he must view them as sinners, as enemies, as the objects of the divine wrath; for it is an ethical and religious necessity that the holiness of God manifests itself in wrath against sin." Yet at the same time, God yearns to save the rebellious world. While He hates every sin, He has a loving concern for every sinner.



# The Human Response

God's dealings with Israel culminated in the ministry of Jesus Christ, who gave the clearest insight into "the exceeding riches" of divine grace (Ephesians 2:7). Said John, "We beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Paul wrote, "Christ Jesus," has become "for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 1:30, 31). **Who therefore can despise "the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering?" No wonder Paul points out that it is "the goodness of God" that leads to repentance (Romans 2:4).** Even the human response to God's offer of salvation does not originate with human beings, but with God. **Our faith is but a gift of God (Romans 12:3); as is our repentance (Acts 5:31).** **Our love arises in response to God's love (1 John 4:19).** **We cannot save ourselves from Satan, sin, suffering, and death. Our own righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).** "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ....For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:4, 5, 8, 9).



# JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, IS BORN A HUMAN ON EARTH

Jesus came to experience life as we do, as 100% human. Out of love for every single one of us, He chose to be stripped of His glory (Philippians 2:6-8), and was given no advantage over us when it came to living a life without sinning (Isaiah 53:2).

*“The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...”* (John 1:14), but this made Him no less divine. Jesus was still 100% God (John 1:1).

This concept, that Jesus is 100% God and 100% human, can be mind boggling. But this was necessary in God’s plan to deliver us from the grip of sin while the “Great Controversy” rages on—meaning both good and evil surround us daily, warring against one another.

So, Jesus, as part of the Godhead, had to live a perfect life. Then His innocent blood could cover our sins and make it possible for us to inherit eternal life.

Philippians 2:6-8 says that even though Jesus is God, He set His divine nature aside and took on human nature. He came to serve us—to show us God’s love for us and live as our example. He came to minister to people through his perfectly obedient life. He obeyed the Father in every way, even when it led to a humiliating death on a cross.

THE BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH,  
RESURRECTION, AND  
RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST



# JESUS FACED THE SAME STRUGGLES WE FACE

If Jesus had any advantage through His divinity, His life, death, and resurrection would not have served its purpose! Christ came to prove the love and fairness of God the Father.

His death in our place would mean nothing if He used His divinity to overcome sin. He faced every temptation and hardship known to man (Hebrews 4:15) and relied solely on the Holy Spirit for His strength.—And we have access to this same power (Romans 8:26-27).

Jesus can relate to any of our struggles because of what He went through for our sake.

Think about how His life went:



# HE WAS BORN IN HUMBLE CONDITIONS

All the way back in the Garden of Eden, right after Adam and Eve's sin, God gave them the promise of a saviour. In spite of the many prophecies foretelling Jesus' mission to be "The Lamb of God," most of the world was looking in the wrong direction. **They were looking for a powerful king who would free them from the oppression of the Romans.**

**But Scripture was clear: He was to be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6) in the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). His mother, Mary, gave birth to Him in a stable, and laid Him in a manger (Luke 2:7).**

**The only welcome he received was from humble shepherds at the prompting of angels (Luke 2:15-20).**



# HE DID NOT GROW UP AMONGST PRIVILEGE

From His meagre beginnings, He was raised in Nazareth, a town of insignificant if not poor reputation (John 1:46).

From what we know in the Bible, Jesus grew up among the poor. He spent time with His mother learning from the scriptures. He worked alongside his father, learning his trade (Mark 6:3).

He spent time growing interpersonal relationships. And we know that He was aware of His mission at an early age (Luke 2:49).

*“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man”*  
- Luke 2:52.



# HE GREW UP WITH ALL ISSUES OF LIFE

## HE WAS HOMELESS AND PENNILESS

As an adult, Jesus focused on His ministry instead of gaining wealth or setting up a home.

He “became poor” (2 Corinthians 8:9), with “nowhere to lay His head” (Luke 9:58).

## HE WAS BULLIED BY RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Jesus was constantly quoting Scripture, preaching love, healing the sick, and encouraging people to repent of their sins and focus on God.

Yet, the Pharisees did not like the amount of influence He had..

Their pride and hypocrisy led them to watch Jesus’ every move (Mark 2:16) and try to find ways to incriminate Him (Luke 13:12-16).

## HE WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF

Jesus even dealt with direct temptation from Satan, who tried to get Him to doubt who He was and what He was on earth to accomplish (Matthew 4:1-11).



# CHRIST'S MINISTRY ON EARTH

When Jesus was around 30 years old, He began His dedicated ministry. With His mission to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10), He lived the rest of His life “taking the form of a servant” to everyone (Philippians 2:7).

Though disadvantaged in every earthly way, Jesus gave freely. He gave his time. He gave His energy. He gave peace and healing. He gave love.

There are so many examples of Jesus healing the sick. He healed the blind (Matthew 20:30), deaf, mute (Mark 7:31-37), and crippled (Luke 5:17-26). He healed the diseased (Mark 5:25-34) and leprous (Luke 17:11-19).

He also cast out demons (Matthew 8:16) and even raised the dead (Luke 7:11-17).

“The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing” - Matthew 15:30-31.



# Christ's Ministry of Reconciliation

The good news is that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19). His reconciliation restores the relationship between God and the human race. The text points out that this process reconciles sinners to God, not God to sinners. The key in leading sinners back to God is Jesus Christ. God's plan of reconciliation is a marvel of divine condescension. He had every right to let humanity perish.

As we have already noted, it was God who took the initiative in restoring the broken relationship between humanity and Himself.

"When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son" (Romans 5:10). Consequently "we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation" (Romans 5:11).

The process of reconciliation has been associated with the term *atonement*. "The English word 'atonement' originally meant 'at-one-ment,' that is, a state of being 'at one,' or in agreement. Accordingly 'atonement' denoted harmony of a relationship, and when there had been estrangement this harmony would be the result of a process of reconciliation. Understood in terms of its original meaning, 'atonement' properly denotes a state of reconciliation that terminated a state of estrangement."



# Christ's Ministry of Reconciliation (cont'd)

Many Christians limit the term *atonement* exclusively to the redeeming effects of Christ's incarnation, suffering, and death. In the sanctuary services, however, atonement not only involved the killing of the sacrificial lamb but also included the priestly ministering of its shed blood in the sanctuary itself (Leviticus 4:20, 26, 35; 16:15-18, 32, 33). According to this Biblical usage, then, atonement can refer to both Christ's death and His intercessory ministry in the heavenly sanctuary. There, as High Priest, He applies the benefits of His complete and perfect atoning sacrifice to achieve the reconciliation of humans to God.

Vincent Taylor also observed that the doctrine of atonement has two aspects: "(a) the saving deed of Christ, and (b) the appropriation of His work by faith, both individual and communal.

These two together constitute the Atonement.

"From this insight he concluded that "atonement is both accomplished *for us* and wrought *in us*."



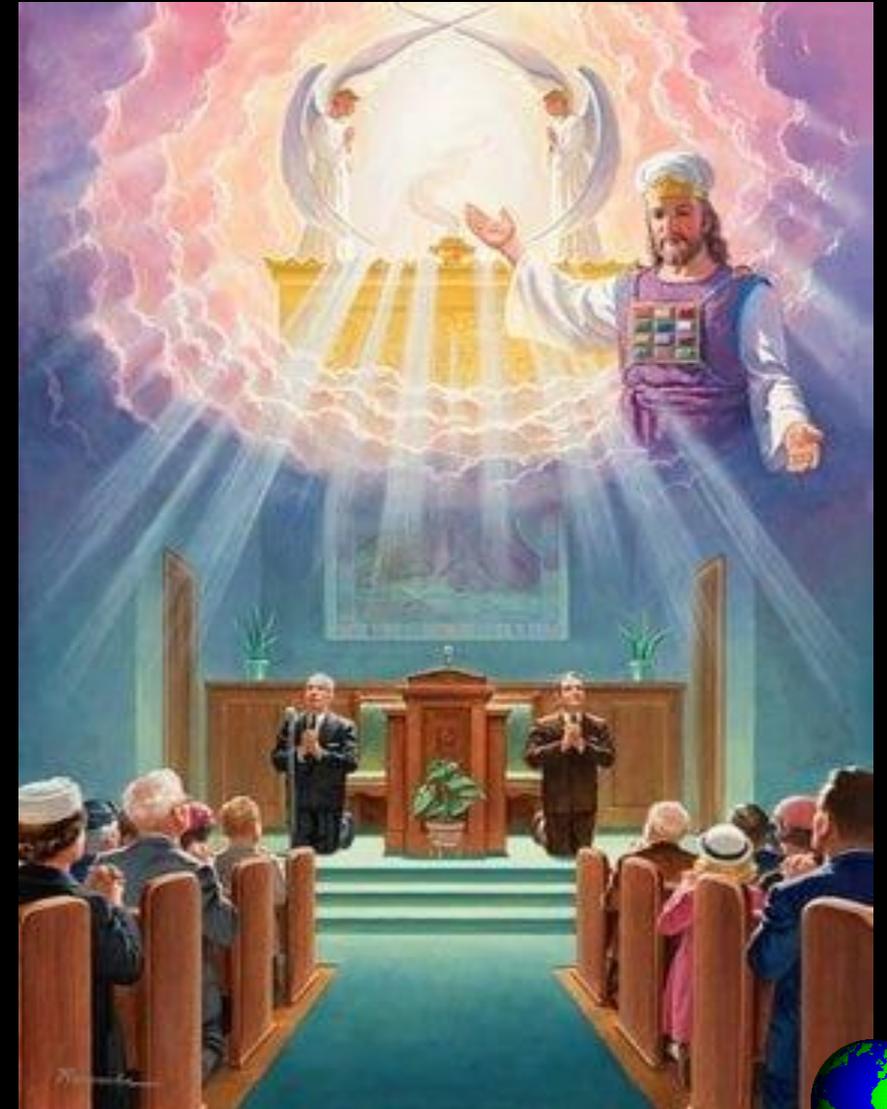
# Christ's Atoning Sacrifice

Christ's atoning sacrifice at Calvary marked the turning point in the relationship between God and humanity. Though there is a record of people's sins, as a result of the reconciliation God does not count their sins against them (2 Corinthians 5:19). This does not mean that God dismisses punishment, or that sin no longer arouses His wrath. Rather, it means that God has found a way to grant pardon to repentant sinners while still upholding the justice of His eternal law.

When Christ died, the veil in the temple separating the Holy from the Most Holy Place was torn (Matthew 27:50-51). The sacrificial system that had pointed to Christ's death had been fulfilled.

We no longer have a need for a priest, but can approach God directly because of what Jesus did for us (Hebrews 10:16-22). The Holy of Holies is now accessible to all.

Sin had separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2), but Jesus chose us in spite of the cost. He loves us and takes pleasure in us, and it was His will that we be restored into a loving relationship with Him (1 John 4:10).

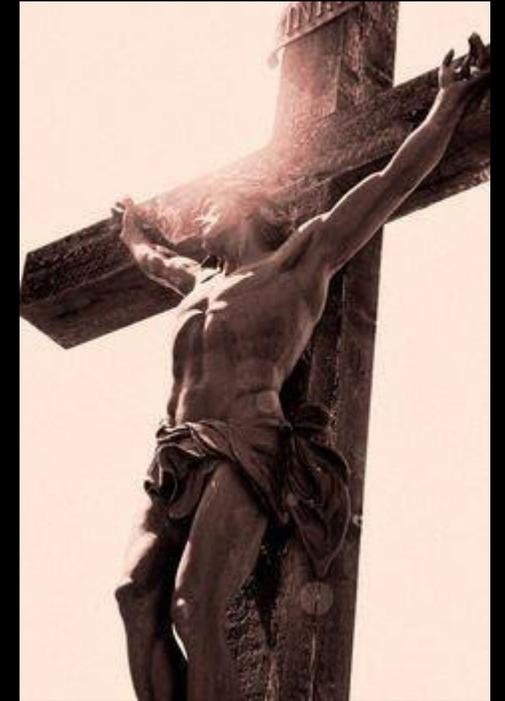


# Christ's Death a Necessity

For a loving God to maintain His justice and righteousness, the atoning death of Jesus Christ became "a moral and legal necessity." God's "justice requires that sin be carried to judgment. God must therefore execute judgment on sin and thus on the sinner. In this execution the Son of God took our place, the sinner's place, according to God's will. The atonement was necessary because man stood under the righteous wrath of God. Herein lies the heart of the gospel of forgiveness of sin and the mystery of the cross of Christ: Christ's perfect righteousness adequately satisfied divine justice, and God is willing to accept Christ's self-sacrifice in place of man's death."

Persons unwilling to accept the atoning blood of Christ receive no forgiveness of sin, and are still subject to God's wrath. Said John, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).

Therefore, the cross is a demonstration of both God's mercy and His justice. "God presented him [Christ] as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies the man who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25, 26).

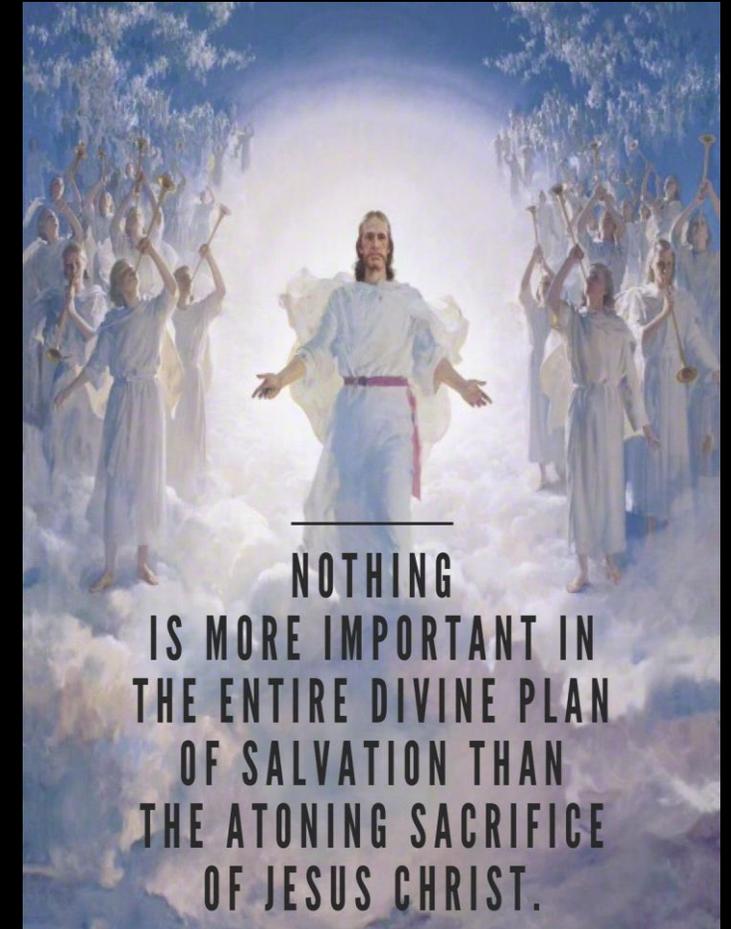


# What Does the Atoning Sacrifice Accomplish?

It was the Father Himself who presented His Son as "a sacrifice of atonement" (Romans 3:25, Greek, *hilasterion*), "a propitiation". The New Testament use of *hilasterion* has nothing to do with the pagan notion of "placating an angry God" or "appeasing a vindictive, arbitrary, and capricious God." The text reveals that "God in His merciful will presented Christ as the propitiation to His holy wrath on human guilt because He accepted Christ as man's representative and the divine Substitute to receive His judgment on sin."

From this perspective one can understand Paul's description of Christ's death as "an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma" (Ephesians 5:2; Genesis 8:21; Exodus 29:18; Leviticus 1:9). "Christ's self-sacrifice is *pleasing* to God because this sacrifice offering took away the barrier between God and sinful man in that Christ fully bore God's wrath on man's sin. Through Christ, God's wrath is not turned into love but is turned away from man and borne by Himself."

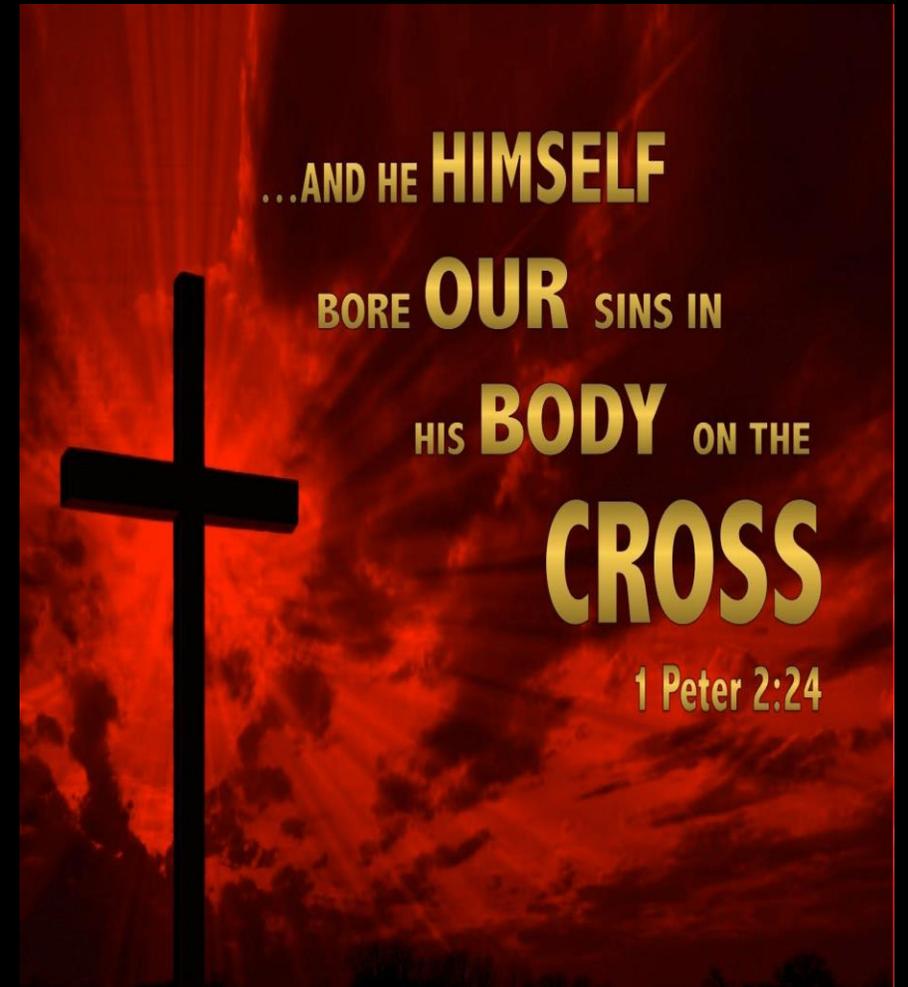
Romans 3:25 also reveals that through Christ's sacrifice sin is expiated or purged. Expiation focuses on what the atoning blood does to the repentant sinner. He experiences forgiveness, removal of personal guilt, and cleansing from sin.



# Christ the Vicarious Sin-bearer

The Scriptures present Christ as the "sin-bearer" of the human race. In profound prophetic language Isaiah stated that "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;... and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.... It pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief, ... [He was] an offering for sin, ... and He bore the sin of many" (Isaiah 53:5, 6, 10, 12; Galatians 1:4). Paul had this prophecy in mind when he said, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3).

These texts point to an important concept in the plan of salvation: The sins and guilt that have defiled us can be transferred to our Sin-bearer, making us clean (Psalms 51:10). The sacrificial ceremonies of the Old Testament sanctuary revealed this role of Christ. There, the transfer of sin from the repentant sinner to the innocent lamb symbolized its transfer to Christ, the Sin-bearer.



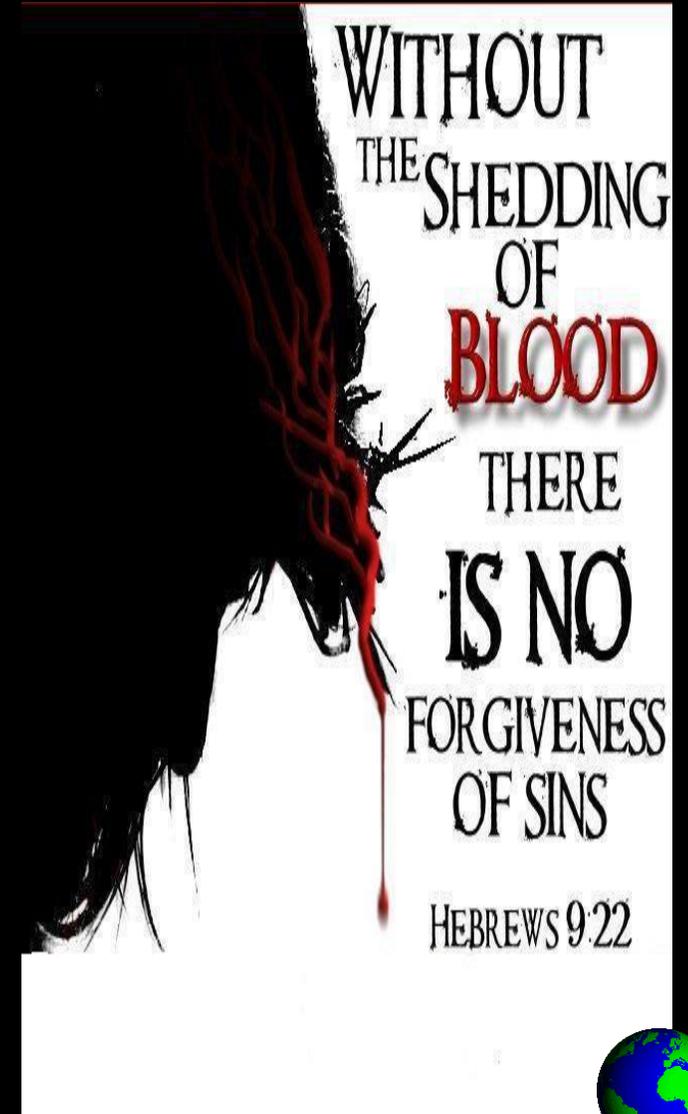
# What is the Role of the Blood?

The blood played a central role in the atoning sacrifices of the sanctuary service. **God made provision for the atonement when He said, "The life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you...to make atonement for your souls,"** (Leviticus 17:11). After the killing of the animal the priest had to apply its blood before forgiveness was granted.

The New Testament reveals that the Old Testament ceremonies for obtaining forgiveness, purification, and reconciliation through substitutionary blood were fulfilled in the atoning **blood of Christ's Calvary sacrifice.** In contrast to the old ways, the New Testament says, "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the Living God!" (Hebrews 9:14).

**The shedding of His blood accomplished the expiation for sin** (Romans 3:25). **John said that because of His love, God "sent His Son to be the propitiation [hilasmos] for our sins"** (1 John 4:10).

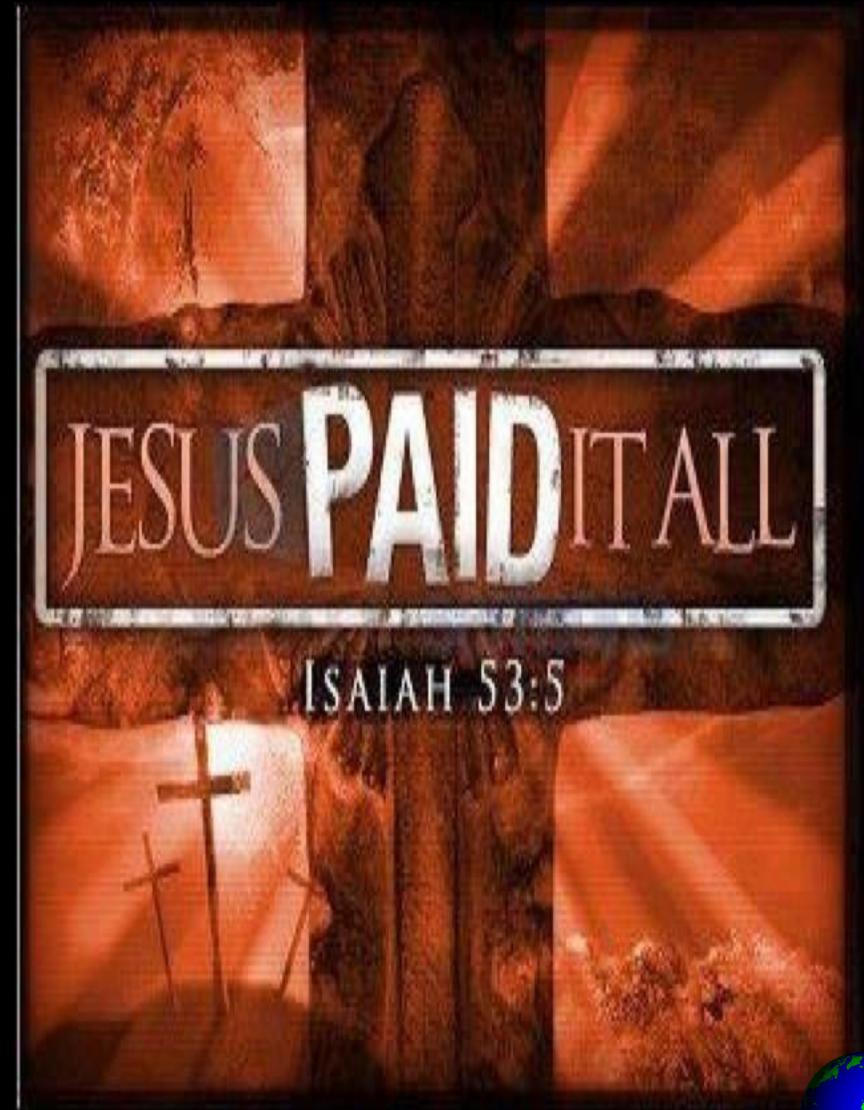
In summary, "God's objective act of reconciliation has been accomplished through the propitiating and expiating blood (self-sacrifice) of Christ Jesus, His Son. **Thus God 'is both the provider and the recipient of the reconciliation.'**"



# Christ the Ransom

When human beings came under the dominion of sin they became subject to the condemnation and curse of God's law (Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:10-13). **Slaves of sin** (Romans 6:17), **subject to death, they were unable to escape.** "No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him (Psalms 49:7). **Only God is invested with power to redeem.** "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death" (Hosea 13:14). **How did God redeem them?**

Through Jesus, who testified that He "did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28, 1 Timothy 2:6), **God "purchased" the church with "His own blood"** (Acts 20:28). In Christ "we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:24). **His death was to "redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works"** (Titus 2:14).

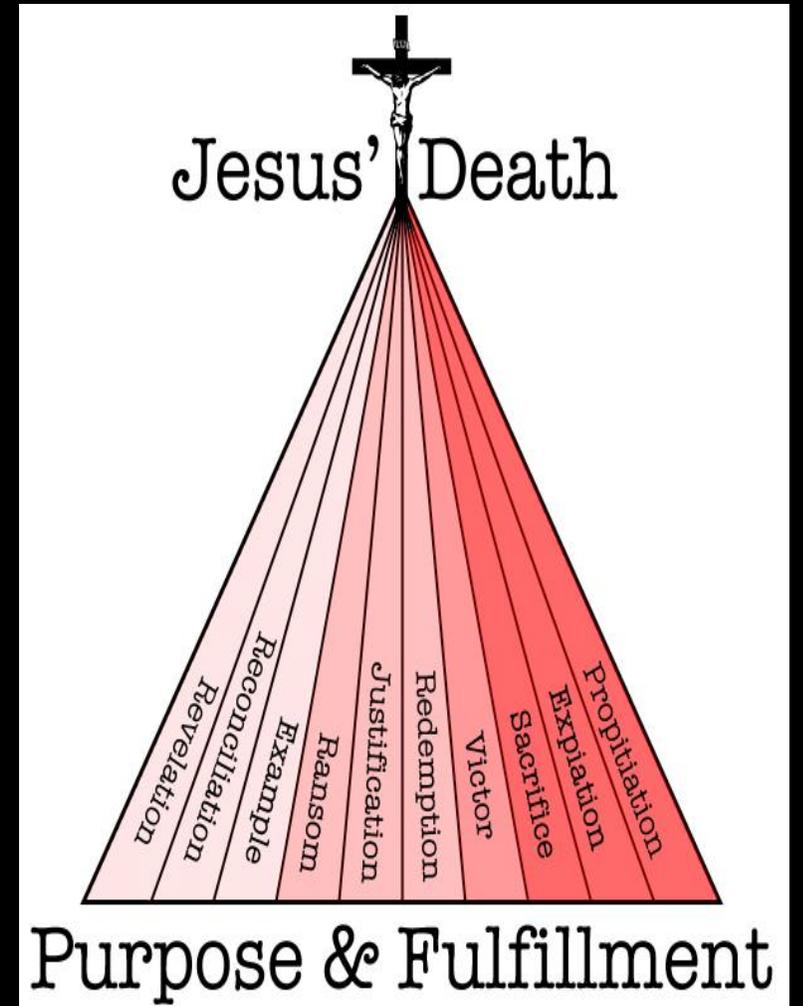


# What Did The Ransom Accomplish?

Christ's death ratified God's ownership of humanity. Said Paul, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; see also 1 Corinthians 7:23).

Through His death, Christ broke the dominion of sin, terminated the spiritual captivity, removed the condemnation and curse of the law, and made eternal life available to all repentant sinners. Peter said believers were redeemed from "aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers" (1 Peter 1:18). Paul wrote that those delivered from the slavery of sin and its deadly fruit are now in the service of God with its "fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Romans 6:22).

To ignore or deny the ransom principle would be "to lose the very heart of the gospel of grace and to deny the deepest motive of our gratitude to the Lamb of God." This principle is central to the doxologies sung in the heavenly throne room: "for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9, 10).



# Christ the Representative of Humanity

Both Adam and Christ—"the last Adam," or "the second Man" (1 Corinthians 15:45, 47)—represent all humanity. While the natural birth saddles each person with the results of Adam's transgression, everyone who experiences the spiritual birth receives the benefits of Christ's perfect life and sacrifice. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22).

Adam's rebellion brought sin, condemnation, and death to all. Christ reversed the downward trend. In His great love, He subjected Himself to the divine judgment on sin and became humanity's representative. His substitutionary death provided the deliverance from the penalty of sin and the gift of eternal life for repentant sinners (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 3:18).

Scripture clearly teaches the universal nature of Christ's substitutionary death. By "the grace of God," He experienced death for everyone (Hebrews 2:9). Like Adam, all have sinned (Romans 5:12), therefore, everyone experiences death—the first death. The death that Christ tasted for everyone was the second death—the full curse of death (Revelation 20:6)



DEATH



LIFE



# Christ's Life and Salvation

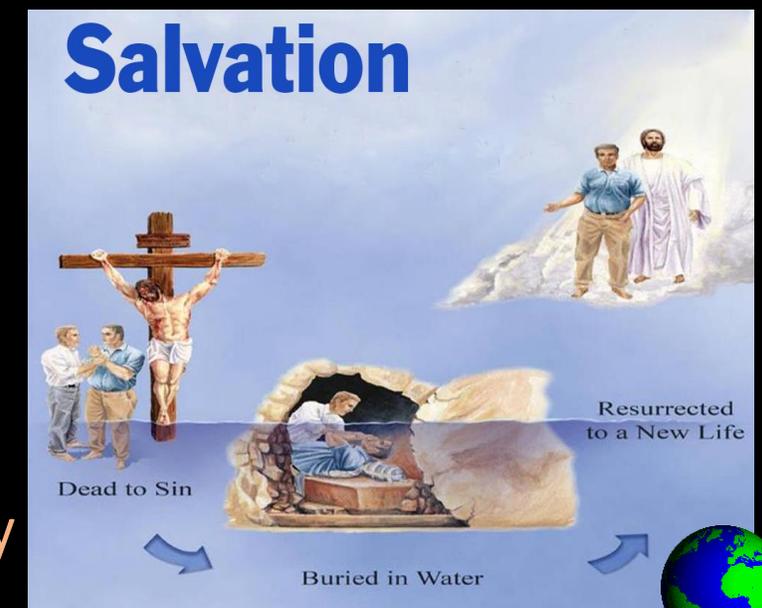
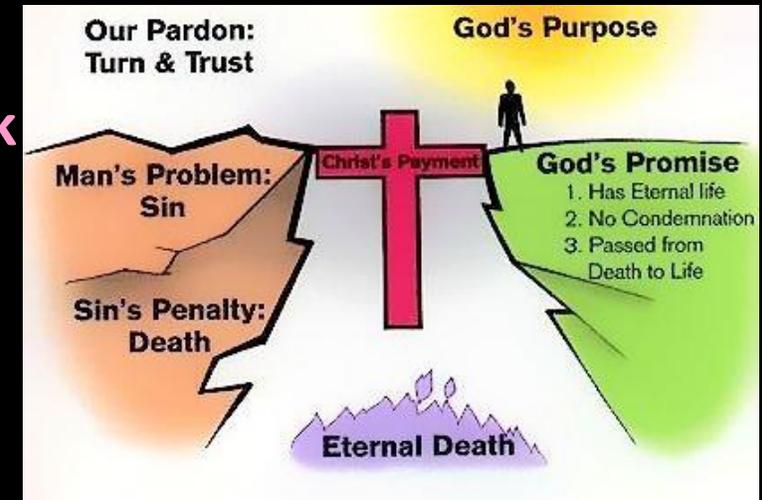
"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:10). It took Christ's life, as well as His death, to bridge the chasm gouged by sin. Both are necessary and contribute to our salvation.

Jesus lived a pure, holy, and loving life, relying completely on God. This precious life He shares with repentant sinners as a gift. His perfect character is portrayed as a wedding garment (Matthew 22:11) or a robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) that He gives to replace the filthy rags of human attempts to achieve righteousness (Isaiah 64:6).

Jesus took the time to have private conversations with those who needed Him (John 3:1-21). He felt the needs of the people.

He fed the hungry (John 6:1-14). He touched the untouchable (Matthew 8:3). He ate dinner with the outcasts of society (Luke 15:1). He welcomed the involvement of children (Matthew 19:14).

Down to every last moment, each part of Jesus' life and ministry was a demonstration of the Father's love for us (John 14:9-11).



# What Can Christ's Perfect Life Do for Us?

In spite of our human corruption, when we submit ourselves to Christ, our heart is united with His heart, our will is merged in His will, our mind becomes one with His mind, our thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. We are covered with His garment of righteousness. When God looks at the believing, penitent sinner He sees, not the nakedness or deformity of sin, but the robe of righteousness formed by Christ's perfect obedience to the law. None can be truly righteous unless covered by this robe.

In the parable of the wedding garment the guest who arrived in his own clothes was not cast out because of unbelief. He had accepted the invitation to the banquet (Matthew 22:10). But his coming was not enough. He needed the wedding garment. Similarly, belief in the cross is not enough. To be presentable before the King, we also need Christ's perfect life, His righteous character.

As sinners we not only need the debt to be cancelled, we need our bank account restored. We need more than release from prison, we need to be adopted into the family of the King. The mediatorial ministry of the resurrected Christ has the twofold objective of forgiving and clothing—the application of His death and life to our life and our standing before God. Calvary's "It is finished" marked the completion of a perfect life and a perfect sacrifice. Sinners need both.

JESUS  
ANSWERED,  
"I AM THE WAY  
AND THE TRUTH AND  
THE LIFE.  
NO ONE  
COMES TO  
THE  
FATHER  
EXCEPT  
THROUGH  
ME."  
JOHN 14:6



# The Inspiration of Christ's Life

Christ's life on earth also gave humanity a model of how to live. Peter, for instance, recommends as an example to us the way He responded to personal abuse (1 Peter 2:21-23). He who was made like us, and was tempted in all points as we are, demonstrated that those who depend on God's power have no need to continue in sin. Christ's life provides the assurance that we can live victoriously. Paul testified, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Christ's current ministry is rooted in His death and resurrection. While the atoning sacrifice at Calvary was sufficient and complete, without the resurrection we would have no assurance that Christ had successfully finished His divine mission on earth. That Christ has risen confirms the reality of life beyond the grave and demonstrates the truthfulness of God's promise of eternal life in Him.

You may be weak,  
**But JESUS is Strong!**

Build your life  
on the sure foundation of Jesus.

For Jesus is  
the Rock of Faith,  
the Rock of Hope, and  
the Rock of Strength  
that you can depend on!

In every situation, look to the Lord,  
and He will take away  
your weaknesses,  
your doubts and  
your fears.

It is in the courage you get from His promises  
that you will find your strength,  
that you will find your faith.

Then when the storms of life come,  
you will be standing on  
the sure foundation of

**Jesus, the Rock!**

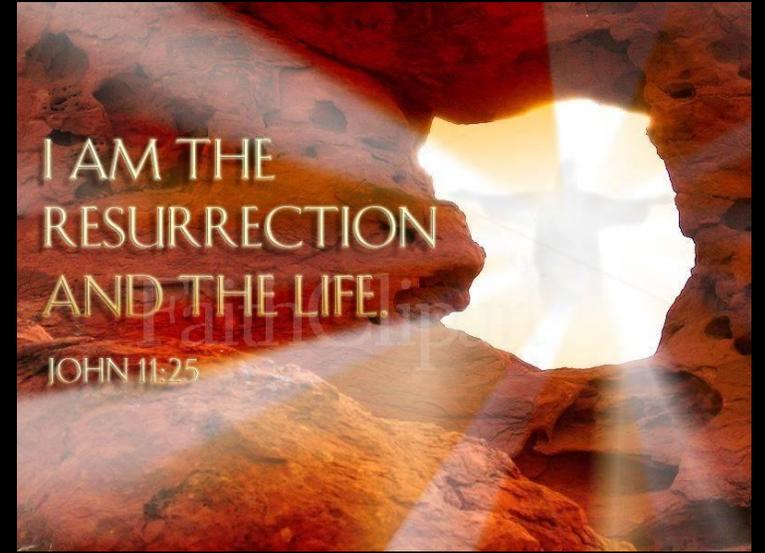


# Christ's Resurrection and Salvation

"If Christ is not risen," Paul said, "then our preaching is in vain and your faith is also vain" and "you are still in your sins!" (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17). Jesus Christ was physically resurrected (Luke 24:36-43), ascended as the God-man to heaven, and began His crucial intercessory work as Mediator at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 8:1, 2).

Christ's resurrection gave a meaning to the cross that the shattered disciples could not see on crucifixion Friday. His resurrection transformed these men into a mighty force that changed history. The resurrection—never detached from the crucifixion—became central to their mission. They proclaimed the living, crucified Christ, who had triumphed over the forces of evil. Herein lay the power of the apostolic message.

Wilbur M. Smith commented, "The resurrection of Christ is the very citadel of the Christian faith. This is the doctrine that turned the world upside down in the first century, that lifted Christianity pre-eminently above Judaism, and the pagan religions of the Mediterranean world. If this goes, so must almost everything else that is vital and unique in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ: *'If Christ be not risen, then is your faith vain'* (1 Corinthians 15:17)."



## A. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SALVATION

Scriptural References:

**Acts 2:24** .Whorn God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it..

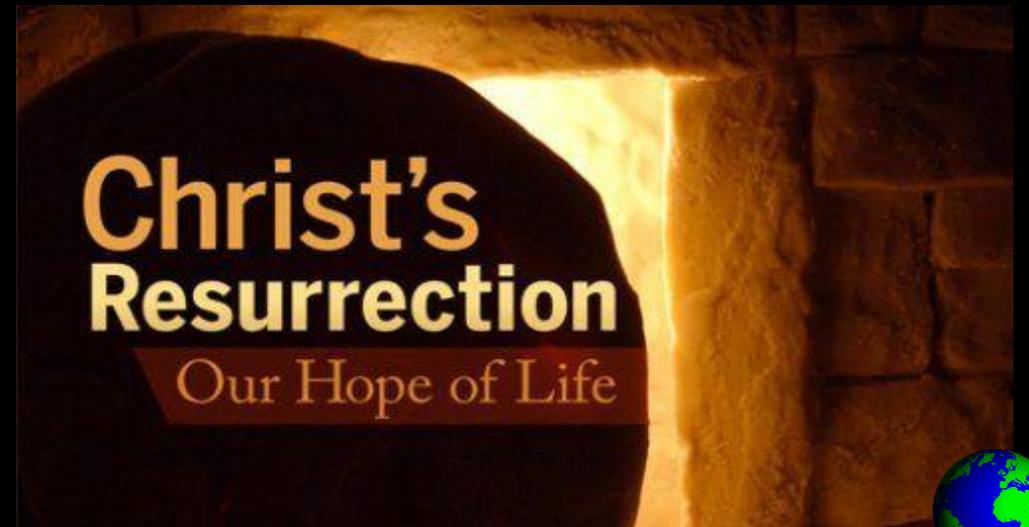
**Acts 3:15** .And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses..



# Reconciliation Throughout the Universe

Christ's atoning ministry affects not only the human race but the entire universe.

Paul reveals the magnitude of Christ's salvation in and through the church: *"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,"* (Ephesians 3:10). **He further asserts that it pleased God through Christ** *"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."* (Colossians 1:20). **Paul revealed the astounding results of this reconciliation:** *"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (Philippians 2:10, 11).



# The Vindication of God's Law

Christ's perfect atoning sacrifice upheld the justice and goodness or righteousness of God's holy law as well as His gracious character. Christ's death and ransom satisfied the demands of the law (that sin needed to be punished), while justifying repentant sinners through His grace and mercy.

Paul said, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:3, 4).

Jesus has crushed the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). When He said, "It is finished," His work of salvation was done (John 19:30).

He took Sabbath rest in the grave. Then He rose again the next day to triumphantly sit on His throne at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:3).



# Justification

Reconciliation becomes effective only when forgiveness is accepted. The prodigal son was reconciled with his father when he accepted his father's love and forgiveness.

"Those who accept by faith that God has reconciled the world to Himself in Christ and who submit to Him will receive from God the invaluable gift of justification with its immediate fruit of peace with God. (Romans 5:1). No longer the object of God's wrath, justified believers have become the objects of God's favour. With full access to the throne of God through Christ, they receive the power of the Holy Spirit to break down all the barriers or dividing walls of hostility between men, symbolized by the hostility which exists between Jew and Gentile. (See Ephesians 2:14-16)"

THE LORD KNOWS HOW  
TO RESCUE THE  
GODLY FROM TRIALS

2 PETER 2:9

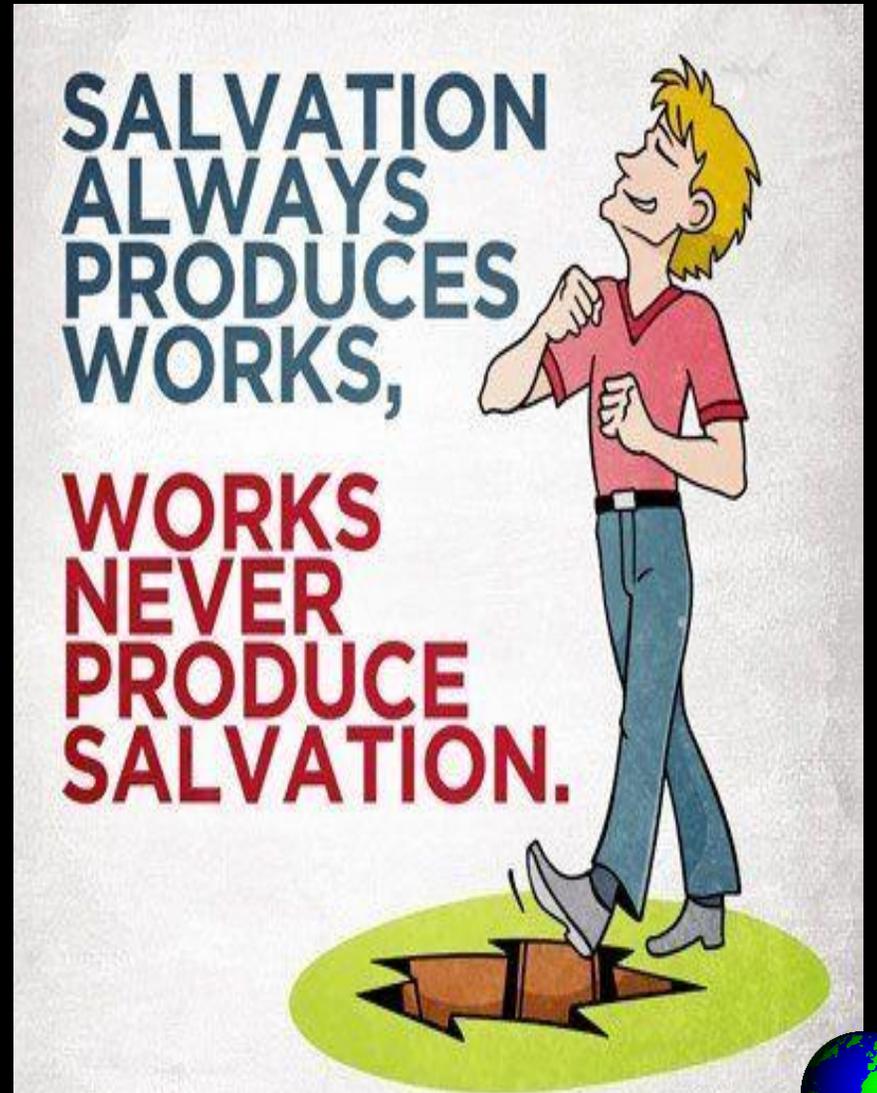


# *The Futility of Salvation by Works*

Legal religion will not answer for this age. We may perform all the outward acts of service and yet be as destitute of the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit as the hills of Gilboa were destitute of dew and rain. We all need spiritual moisture, and we need also the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness to soften and subdue our hearts. {6T 417.3}

God's ministry of reconciliation reveals the futility of human endeavours to obtain salvation through works of the law. Insight into divine grace leads to the acceptance of the justifying righteousness available through faith in Christ. The gratitude of those who have experienced forgiveness makes obedience a joy; works, then, are not the ground of salvation, but its fruitage.

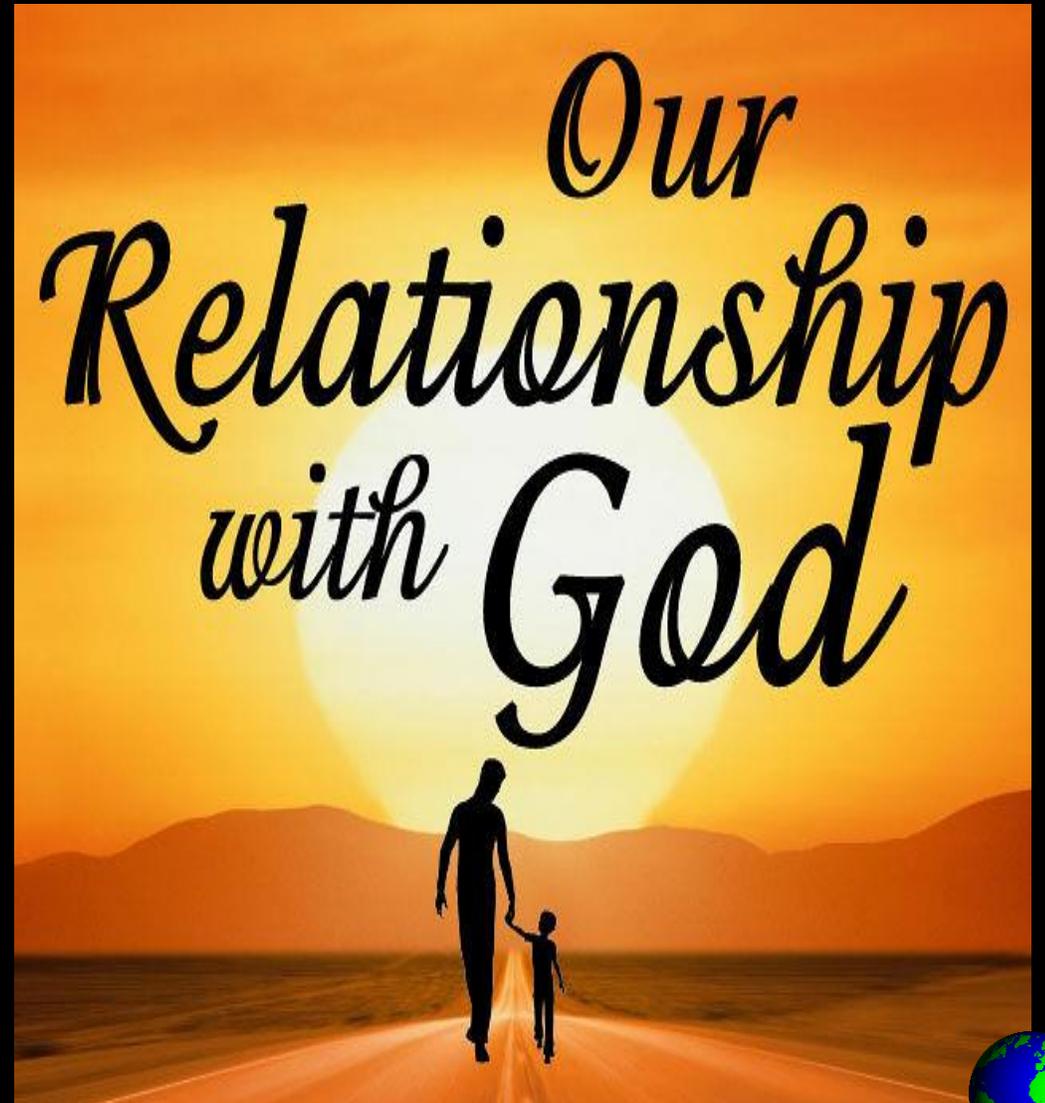
How may we become perfect? The Holy Spirit brings us to the perfection of Christ. By faith, Christ's perfect character becomes ours. People can never claim that perfection independently, as if it were their innate possession of theirs by right. Perfection is a gift of God.



# ***A New Relationship With God***

Experiencing God's grace, which offers Christ's perfect life of obedience, His righteousness, and His atoning death as a free gift, leads to a deeper relationship with God. Gratitude, praise, and joy arise, obedience becomes a delight, the study of His Word a joy, and the mind a ready dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. A new relationship between God and the repentant sinner takes place. It is a fellowship based on love and admiration, rather than one of fear and obligation (John 15:1-10).

The more we understand God's grace in the light of the cross, the less self-righteousness we will feel and the more we will realize how blessed we are. The power of the same Holy Spirit that was operative in Christ when He rose from the dead will transform our lives. Instead of failure, we will experience daily victory over sin.



# The Motivation for Mission

“Christ was constantly seeking to dispel the common misunderstandings about God. God was pictured by religious leaders as harsh, exacting, and judgmental. But Jesus, “God with us,” touched, healed, and restored people, indicating that illness is very often not a judgment by God, but the natural, inevitable result of humanity’s fallen condition, resulting from the wrong choice of our first parents. It was His purpose to restore our relationship with God and to make us whole.”

The amazing love revealed in God's ministry of reconciliation through Jesus Christ motivates our sharing the gospel with others. When we have experienced it ourselves, we cannot keep secret the fact that God will not count sin against those who accept Christ's sacrifice for sins. We will pass on to others the moving gospel invitation "Be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:20, 21).

## MOTIVATION FOR MISSION: SO...WHY DO WE GO?

- Jesus crossed a border, left his world to journey into ours.
- By my baptism, I have been configured to Him.
- Jesus calls me and sends me forth, just as he went forth.
- **My faith motivation** is to be a witness to what I have personally heard and seen and experienced.
- **My goal:** I go in humility, with an open heart, an open and critical mind. I go as a seeker, to journey with others, to listen, to be with, and to share my faith, compassion, and love.
- **My responsibility:** I come back to serve my world, to open others to my life changing experience, to be better a witness.



# Seventh-day Adventists Believe...

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. **The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow.** (Genesis 3:15; Psalms 22:1; Isaiah 53; John 3:16; 14:30; Romans 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15, 19-21; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 2:15; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.) - Fundamental Beliefs, 9



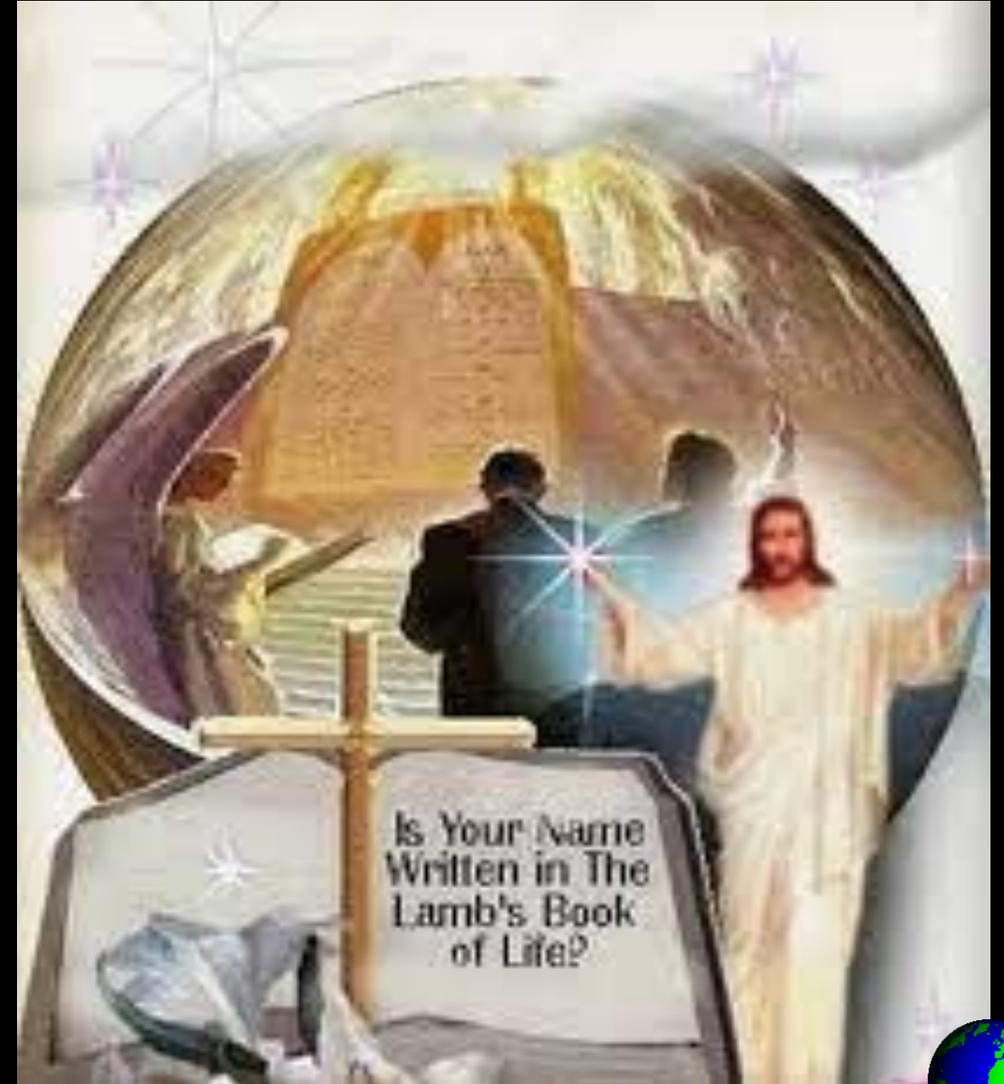
# Summary

While Satan maliciously called God's perfect and loving character into question, in His infinite wisdom God allowed sin to play out so that no one would ever doubt His goodness again. **Evil at the height of its power met love at the height of His power on the cross, and God won!**

**Satan had a claim over all of us because we are all sinners, but Jesus broke the bonds of sin and death.**

*"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."* - **1 John 3:8.**

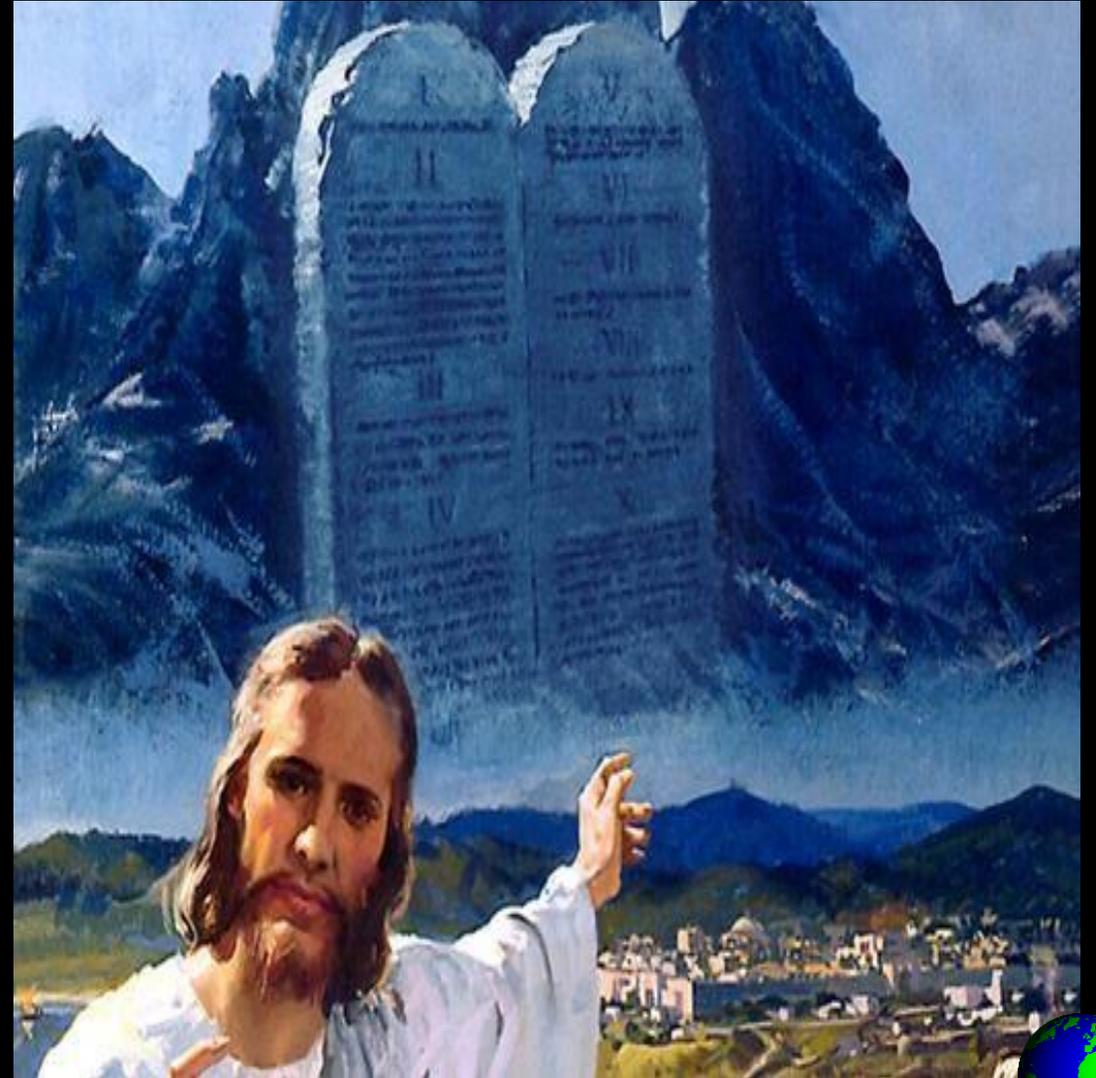
**Jesus has overcome sin.** He promises that His blood has covered our transgressions (**Colossians 1:20**). **That is why we can look forward to His second coming and the judgement day.**



# Summary (cont'd)

Jesus' perfect life, selfless death, and triumphal resurrection is the Gospel—the good news. His story is one of healing, hope and love; a story we sinners so desperately need. Jesus was sent to this earth to reveal God's true character. Understanding God's character is the foundation of having a real relationship with Him. God the Father sent Jesus to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10) because He loves you.

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



# Conclusion of the whole matter

**1** [Thessalonians 4:14](#) - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

**15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

**16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

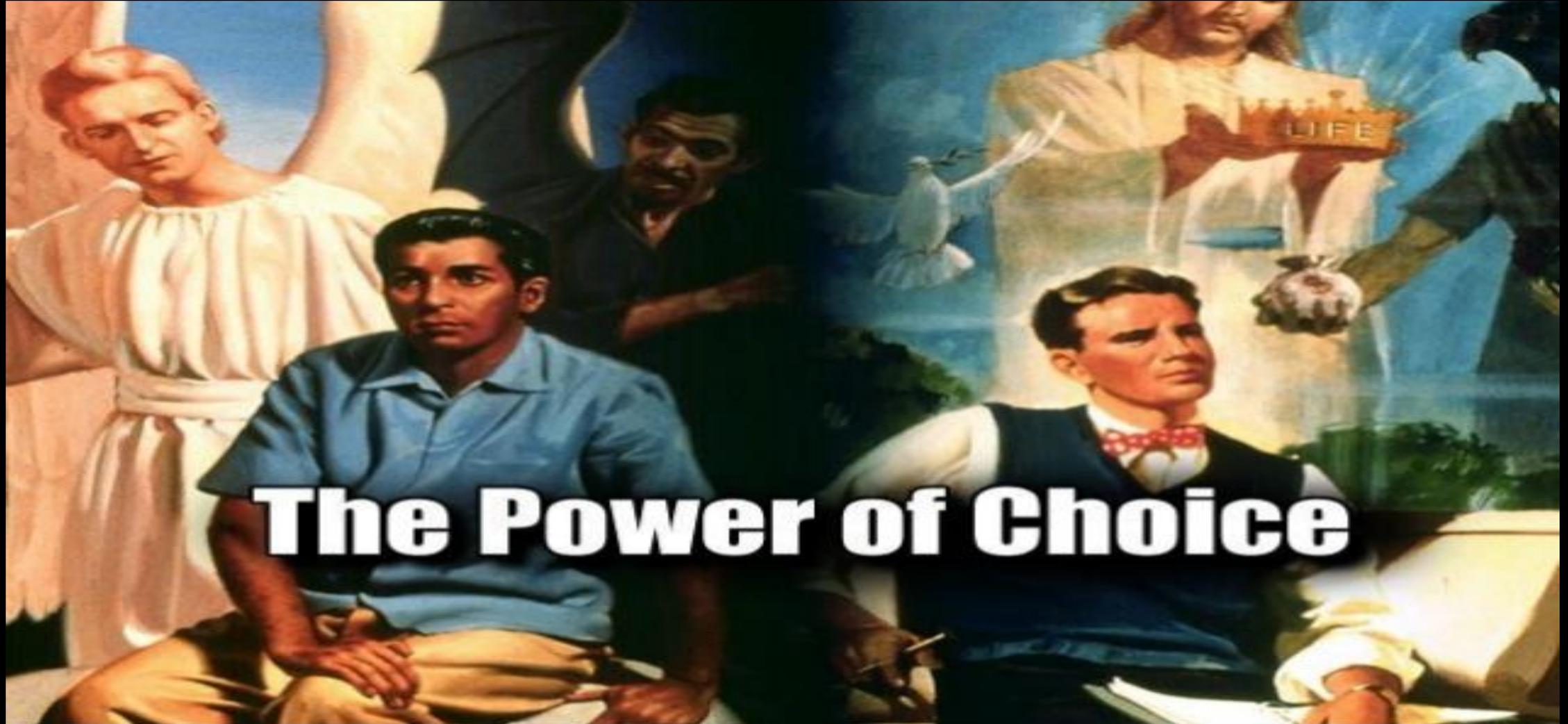
**17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

**18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

• See also [Revelation 20:6](#)

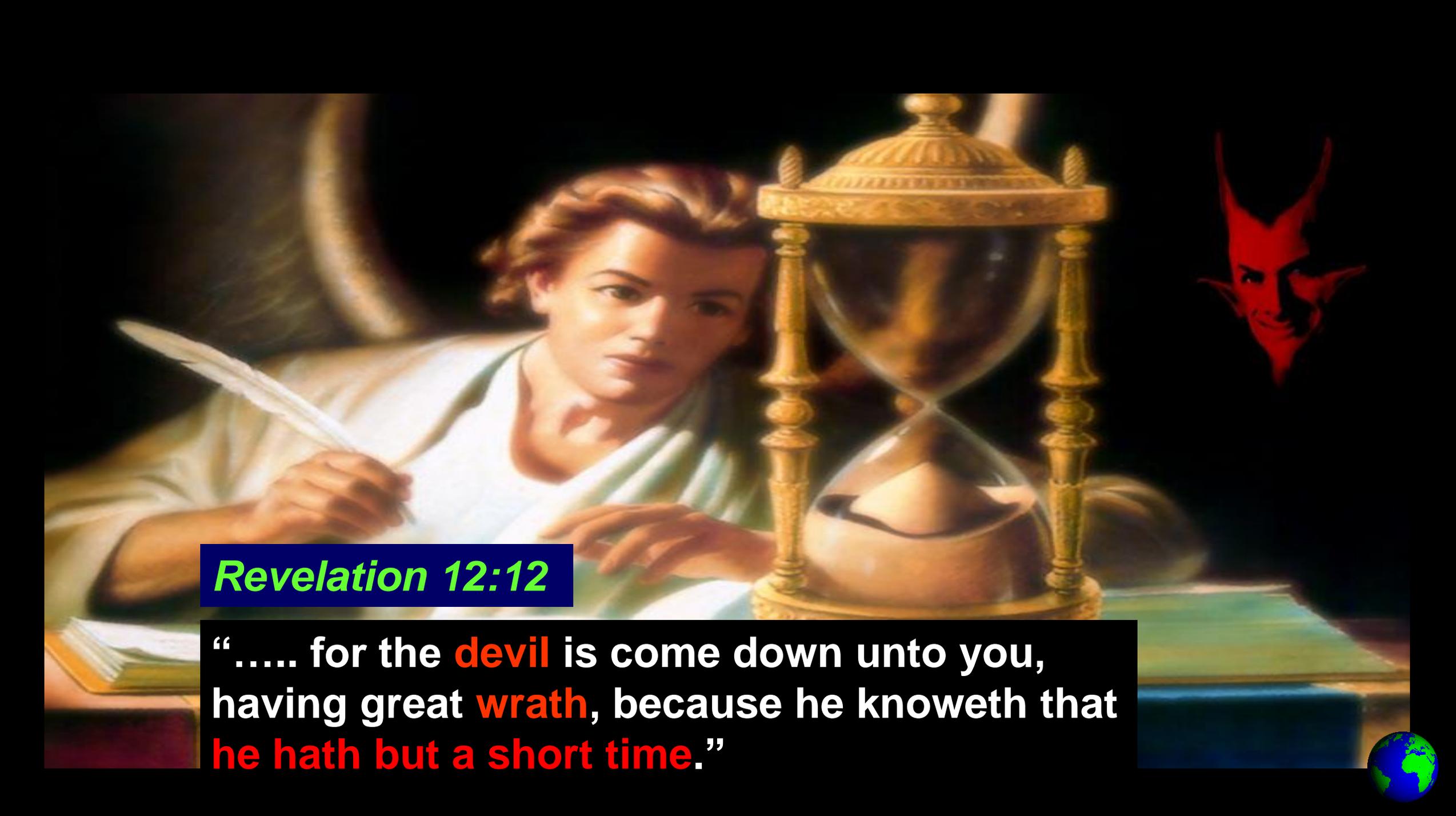


*God has given all:*



**The Power of Choice**



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

**Revelation 12:12**

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



# Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



**Psalms 77:13**

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –  
Revelation 3:20





**THE END**



**ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?**