



From the Inkwell

In some ways the collection of articles in this edition of *Latter Rain* takes us back to foundational Christian beliefs (***Who Is HE? And Messianic Prophecy***) which draw out some aspects of the “logic” on which we build our Christian faith, but also extends our minds to think of things to come (***The Difference between Incorruptible and Immortal***) which presents the Christian Israelite belief that there is a special blessing in being kept alive until Jesus Christ returns and being physically changed to become immortal, as compared to the wonderful hope of the resurrection, the incorruptible.

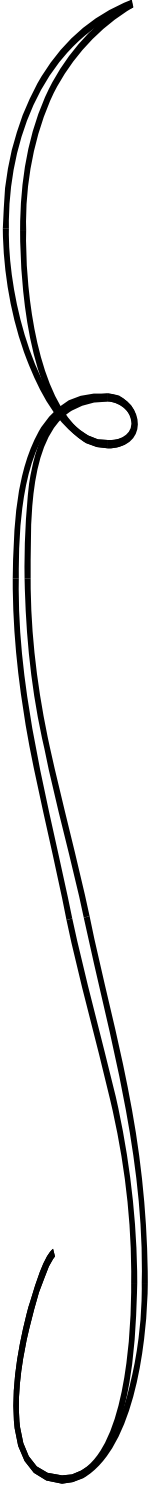
But all this is academic. The most important issue right now for all of us is how we live our lives day by day, accepting God’s will and purpose, to make our lives here and now meaningful, whilst being sustained for the future in hope. Learning how to follow in the footsteps of the Master is a good basis for this (***He was Like Unto Us***) and the personal challenge is thrown out in the article ***Are You the Last Link?*** We believe that we are living in the times when these things will be fulfilled “and it is obedience to God’s Laws and Commands that will prove who are Israel and who are not”.

We trust you enjoy these articles along with the other regular articles and that the reading of this magazine helps you in your Christian walk.

Index

He Was Like Unto Us	2	Debug Your Bible:	
Hymn No. 142	5	Messianic Prophecies	18
Incorruptible and Immortal	6	Jesus the Pattern & Waymark	24
He Walked With God	9	Expand Your Bible:	
Are We A Link?	10	Who Is He?	26
Children’s Story:		Jesus & Christ	27
Learning to be Obedient	14	Vegetarian Recipes:	
Puzzle Page		Carrot & Cheese Bake	
A Voice in the Night	16	Broccoli & Spinach Pasta	28
Statement of Belief	17		

He was Like



What can I do to make the personality of Jesus live in your minds? What can I say to help you to gain a true conception of the birth of Jesus and all that it means to you and me, both now and in the immediate future.

All our lives we have read and been told of the Lord Jesus and unfortunately we cannot fail to relegate Him to the relative obscurity of ‘someone you’ve read about in books’. You might well ask, “And just what do you mean by that?” So let me explain.

When we read a story of things that occurred 2000 years ago we usually read it ‘...as a tale that is told.’ Our approach to our reading is impersonal and our reactions are usually abstract instead of positive. Thus we may read of Jesus, His birth, His miracles, death, resurrection and translations in the same frame of mind as we do a novel, the Greek Mythologies, or Grimm’s Fairy Tales.

What a horrible injustice we are doing our Lord and Saviour. Let me hasten to assure you that if you have associated yourself with “...*profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith*” 1st Timothy 6:20,21, then are ye considerably poorer thereby and ye lack that which every staunch Christian possesses. This unhappy state of affairs is undoubtedly the outcome of a failure to fully comprehend the full implications that are attendant upon keeping oneself in ignorance and unbelief.

First of all it is necessary to realize that none of us lead lives exclusively unto ourselves, and furthermore it is the essence of selfishness to attempt to do so. Almost everything we say or do has some sort of effect upon the people around us whether for good or evil – in that we sin not only against ourselves but also against some or all of the people around us. If we lead good considerate lives, then we make the lives of those who associate with us more liveable. If an unpleasant, hurtful life is lived, then our friends and neighbours suffer for harshness, irritability, selfishness, greed and lasciviousness, gender-like emotions, for after all we get out of life what we put into it.

Hence it is then that if you decide that Christian beliefs are not for you, you are also refusing on behalf of your children. You may be prepared to deny the Immaculate Conception, the Divinity, or Christ and His resurrection for yourself but have you a right to refuse it on behalf of your children? And if you do, have you anything to offer in its place other

unto Us

than the hopelessness of utter oblivion and the uneasy feeling of purposelessness? If you have not, then you are not justified in robbing your children of the tranquility of mind that is the lot of every sincere Christian. This serenity of mind sheds a ray of hope and sunshine throughout their lives – being secure in the knowledge that “...to live is Christ, and to die is gain” Philippians 1:21. In Christ we cannot lose, for “...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...”.

Much of our disbelief springs from our failure to get the story of Christ in its true perspective – we fail to make the people whose lives are recorded in the Gospels live in our mind’s eye, for remember, they were people of like passions as we are for they had the same pleasures, trials, and blessings as we have.

Let us now endeavour to arrive at the purpose of God in Christ. In the days that God first created Adam and Eve, He set them in the Garden of Eden and gave them all things “*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*” Genesis 2:17. Unfortunately, they disregarded God’s instruction, for Satan in the guise of a serpent tempted Eve who gave unto her husband and they both were guilty of transgressing the command of God. When God asked him what he had done, Adam said, “...*The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat*” and Eve said, “...*The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat*” Genesis 3:13. God then and there passed a sentence upon

Satan. “*I will put enmity beteen 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.

God had decreed that there was to be a state of opposition between Satan’s seed (“*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do*” John 8:44), on the one hand, and the ‘woman’s seed on the other. We are all of us born of women, but only one can rightly claim to be the Woman’s Seed. He it was who fulfilled the prophecy made in Isaiah 7:14, “...*Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (ie. God with us).*” In Luke 1:26-38 it is recorded that an angel appeared to a virgin called Mary, and said, “...*Hail, thou that art h i g h l y favoured...blessed art thou among women...The Holy Ghost shall come upon*



thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” Luke 1:28, 35.

Here is a man born of a woman without an earthly father. Here is the man who is in very truth the woman’s seed, Jesus, and enmity was placed between Him on the one hand and Satan and all his followers on the other hand. Satan was to be permitted to bruise His heel, but He was to tread upon Satan’s head.

Just as Adam was required to die for transgressing a law he was unable to keep, so too was Jesus to die that Adam and Eve and all the race of man should enjoy a

resurrection. Speaking upon this theme, we have the remarkable statement made by Micah 6:7, “*Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*” In Genesis chapter 22, God informed

Abraham that He required his son Isaac as a sacrifice and nothing loth Abraham set about doing God’s bidding. He prepared to take the life of his beloved son. When the lad asked his father, “*...Behold the fire, and the wood: but where is the lamb?*” (v7). His father replied, “*My son, God will provide himself a lamb*” (v8). God indeed did provide Himself a Lamb.

Adam imputed sin to God when he said, “*The woman thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree...*” Adam blamed God for making him liable to sin, and although God had of necessity to punish them for their disobedience, He nevertheless took it to heart, hence the cry,

“*Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*” This firstborn was to be born of a virgin, called the Woman’s Seed because He had not an earthly father, and being the Woman’s Seed, He was to bruise the head of Satan as a punishment for his part in the first temptation.

Let us remember that in keeping with the foregoing, the only begotten Son was also to be known as the Lamb of God, for God would provide Himself a Lamb, without blemish (ie. free from sin), and as we are told that ‘without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sins’, therefore existed the necessity that the Son of God should be subjected to an actual

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fulfilling of the Levitical law – that the sacrificial Lamb should be slain and its blood shed that remission of sins may be secured. To finally prove our statements that the Lord Jesus was this sacrificial Lamb, we quote John

the Baptist, “*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29.

Since the days of creation, Christ has always been with His Father as one of the Godhead or Trinity, but when God purposed to absolve the stigma of Adam’s imputation, He sent His Spirit to overshadow the Virgin Mary, the Holy Ghost came upon her and the Holy Babe that was born of her is spoken of by John in 1:13,14, “*Which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten*

of the Father,) full of grace and truth”.

This child of God came not as a conquering king, nor as an all powerful ambassador of our God. His arrival was not that of a flaming meteor across a darkened sky, but the inauspicious birth of a helpless babe in a crowded city, born into the humble household of a carpenter of poorly circumstances.

Jesus as a child would know all the ups and down peculiar to a carpenter’s household. He would have to help care for His younger brothers and sisters, and as soon as able, would have to help Joseph earn a living to help support a large and growing family. Jesus entered this world as we did, taking part in the same pleasures and enjoyments as us.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for us; He so loved us that He sent Him to gain firsthand the knowledge that we, as sinful mortals, have to endure and Jesus so loved His God and us, as fallen kinsmen, that He willingly gave His life for us, assuring us of the greatest gift it is possible to give anyone that has had the misfortune to die. *“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”* John 11:25.

Let us be born-again Christians in a new-found appreciation of our indebtedness to our God and His Christ. Give our hearts to God and press forward to a full and more realistic understanding of Jesus Christ.📖

Hymn No. 142

(Matthew 1:21; Philippians 2:10)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer’s ears;
It calms his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fears.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
It soothes the troubled breast;
‘Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

Blest Name - the rock on which we build,
Our shield and hiding-place,
A never failing treasury fill’d
With boundless stores of grace.

Thou art our Shepherd, Saviour, Friend,
Our Prophet, Priest, and King -
Our Lord, our life, our way and end,
To Thee our thanks we bring.

The Difference between Incorruptible and Immortal

It is apparent that some people are under the misapprehension as to the difference between 'Incorruption' and 'Immortality'. Contrary to common belief, these two words are not synonymous in their meanings. We believe that a correct evaluation of these two words can open up fresh avenues of hope in our Saviour, and provide an incentive for a more earnest striving in the service of the Master.

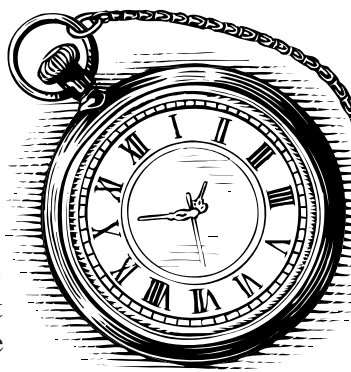
We can conveniently base our study of these two words on the verse written in 1st Corinthians 15:53, "*For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*" A little thought indicates that terms corruption and mortal are terminative states of existence that must be replaced by incorruption in the case of the first, and immortality in the case of the latter. Also let us recognize the presence of the word **must**, as an irrevocable force or compulsion that will not be thwarted.

Reference to Cruden's Concordance shows that 'corrupt' means (a) "to consume, (b) to defile or pollute, (c) to mar, spoil, or infect". Corruption sometimes signifies decay, such as that which bodies are subjected to in the grave (Psalm 16:10). It likewise signifies the

infectious and poisonous nature of sin, which spiritually wastes the soul, being contrary to that integrity and soundness in which we were created." This latter definition is illustrated in Genesis 6:11,12, "*The earth also was corrupt (ie. defiled by sin) before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth*". For they "*changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man*" Romans 1:23.

The race of man has been corrupted by sin, for saith Paul, "*Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" Romans 5:12. It is said, "*For this corruptible must put on incorruption*" 1st Corinthians 15:53. This

It is all a question of time.



body (or temple – 1st Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19,20) is defiled, as a temple it is profaned and it shall God destroy (1st Corinthians 3:17). “*For the wages of sin is death*” Romans 6:23. For he that is dead is freed from sin (Romans 6:7). The body that is defiled by sin is corrupt, and when it dies it goes to corruption. This word here means that the body returns to the dust from whence it came (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

But death is not the end of all existence. “*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. For now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept*” 1st Corinthians 15:19,20. “*...because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe*” 1st Timothy 4:10. That which is sown is not quickened except it die, 1st Corinthians 15:38, “*And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be...*” (v37). It is sown a natural body (as we have); it is raised a spiritual body. Note that “*a spirit hath not flesh and bones*” Luke 24:39. “*There are also celestial (heavenly or spiritual) bodies, and bodies terrestrial (earthly or physical); but the glory of the celestial is one and the glory of the terrestrial is another*”. “*But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him...*” (v38). “*So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption (death being the penalty of sin, and it decays to dust): it is raised in incorruption*” (v42).

The dead or corruptible body must put on incorruption (v53). That is, by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, there must be a resurrection. “*But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?*” (v35). The physical body that has returned to the dust from which it was taken (Ecclesiastes 12:7) does not rise. Job says, “*As the cloud is*

consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his house know him any more” 7:9, 10. Job did not deny the resurrection, for as the substance of a cloud is rain, which falleth upon the earth and riseth as vapours of steam, so too is the substance of the body lost; our spirit goes to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7) and our soul remains in the grave, awaiting the day of resurrection when it will be raised. Of this Job says, “*Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man, to bring back his soul from the pit (grave), to be enlightened with the light of the living*” 33:29, 30. Also 2nd Esdras 7:47, whilst in the grave the soul sleeps in either happiness or torment. Luke 16:22, 23; Isaiah 6:1,2, until the day of judgment, when the spirit returns to awaken the soul to ‘newness of life’ (Romans 6:4). If the person is one of the righteous dead, he partakes of the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5), which is the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:14), and are as the angels of God in heaven (Matthew 22:3). The term ‘incorruption’ here applies, for the resurrected dead have attained to the ‘resurrection and the life’, as promised by Jesus Christ and evidenced when He said, “*Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father...*” John 20:17. The righteous dead remain in this ‘newness of life’ and live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4), thus having attained to the state of incorruption.

Let us now turn our attention to the other portion of 1st Corinthians 15:53, “*...and this mortal must put on immortality*”. The word ‘mortal’ derives from the Latin root ‘morse’ meaning ‘death’. When God made the creature after His likeness (Genesis 1:26) He said, “*Let us make man...*”. The word ‘mortal’ was not prefixed, but after

the transgression of our first parents, they fell from their state of innocency, *“For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of His own eternity. Nevertheless, through envy of the devil came death into the world: and they that do hold of his side do find it”* Wisdom of Solomon 2:23, 24. And God in time implemented His punishment upon them for disobedience, *“The day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”*. Thus man fell from being made immortal to become mortal, that is, liable to die, or to better express it, subject to death, because of the evil in our blood.

Paul says, *“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption”* 1st Corinthians 15:50. But Jesus says, *“...a spirit hath not flesh*

and bones as ye see me have” Luke 24:39. Jesus Christ ascended into heaven (Acts 1:10). He entered into heaven with a body of flesh and bone (no blood – since it was shed upon the cross, for when the soldiers found that He was already dead, *“...one of the soldiers with a spear, pierced his side, and forthwith came out blood and water”* John 19:34. This same Jesus testified from heaven, *“I am he that liveth and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore”* Revelation 1:18.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified:

and whom he justified, them he also glorified” Romans 8:29, 30.

Jesus Christ will be the firstborn among many brethren (in fact 144,000 of His kinsmen), *“And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand...”*, and so on all the twelve tribes by name, twelve thousand from each tribe (Revelation 7:4-8). *“And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount*

Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that

Man ‘fell’ from being made immortal to become mortal ie., subject to death.

song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women, for they are virgins...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth... here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:1, 3, 4, 12. *“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life”* Romans 2:7. They will be conformed or made like unto His present physical image.

Paul says, *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed”* 1st Corinthians 15:51. *“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the*

trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (v52) from mortal to immortality, by their blood being made flesh, after being cleansed from the evil (Joel 3:21). “That he should still live forever and not see corruption” Psalm 49:10. “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus... who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body” Philippians 3:14, 21. “But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light

through the gospel” 2nd Timothy 1:10.

We conclude then, that the incorruptible glory is like unto the angels, to be enjoyed by all who are reselected from the dead by the grace of God through the Lord Jesus, but immortality is attained only by obedience to both ‘the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory” 1st Corinthians 15:53, 54.📖

He Walked With God

He “walked with God!” Could grander words be written?
Not much of what he thought or said is told;
Not where or what he wrought is even mentioned;
He “walked with God” - brief words of fadeless gold!

How many souls were succoured on his journey -
Helped by his words, or prayers, we may not know;
Still, this we read - words of excelling grandeur -
He “walked with God”, while yet he walked below.

And, after years, long years, of such blest walking,
One day he walked, then was not, God sad “Come!
Come from the scene of weary sin-stained sadness!
Come to the fuller fellowship of home!”

Such be the tribute of thy pilgrim journey
When life’s last mile thy feet have bravely trod -
When thou hast gone to all that there awaits thee,
This simple epitaph - “He walked with God!”



Are We A Link?

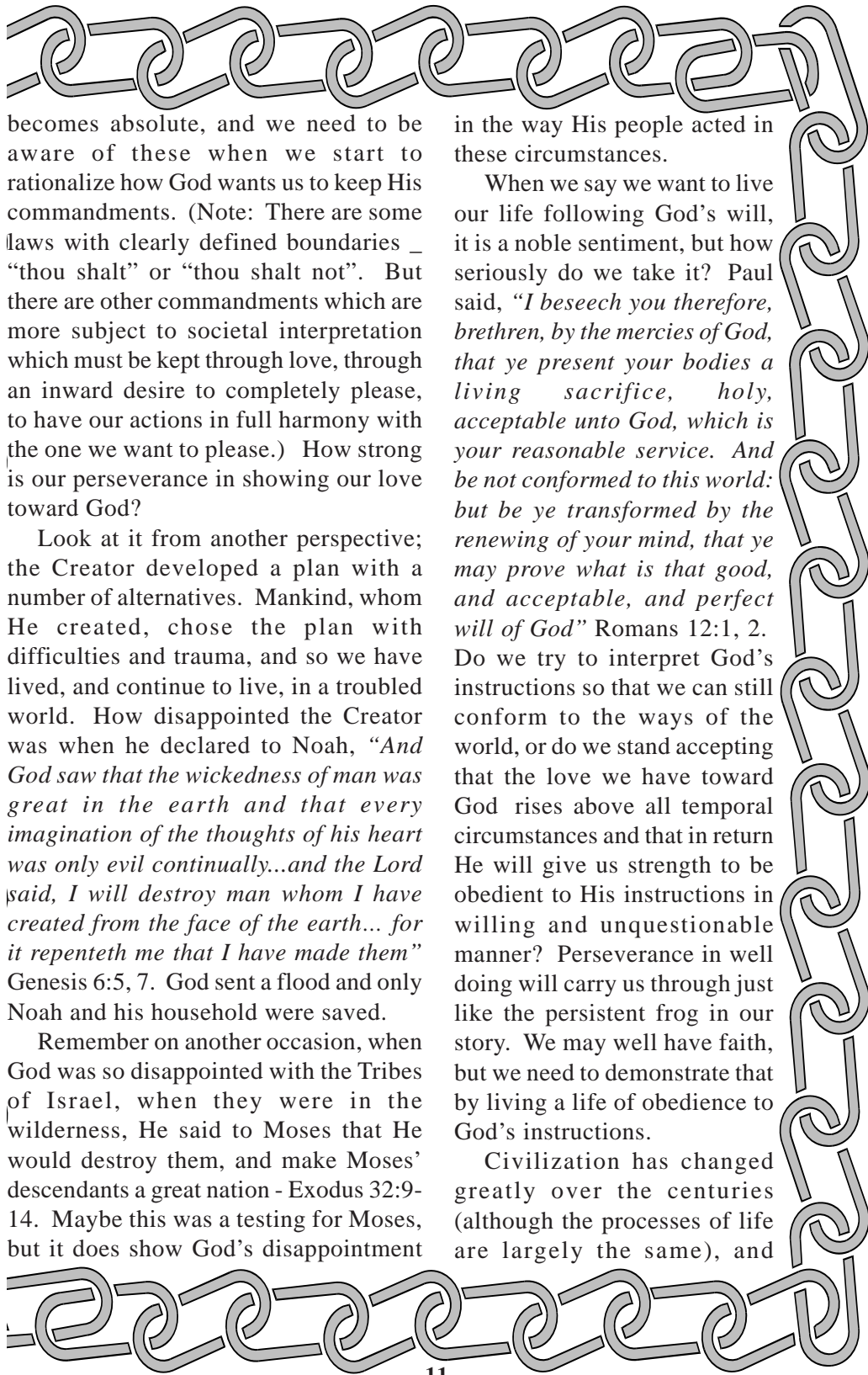
Sometimes we feel alone, deserted, and that we are the only one with problems and difficulties, but when we study history, and delve into its depths, an amazing similarity of households, towns, nations and even civilizations emerges, and we come to realize that there are many who have “been there before” and have experienced what we are going through.

What we do in this situation is what governs how we will cope and even survive. I recollect the sermon of two frogs who fell into a container of cream. They struggled to get out knowing that if they persisted long enough there would be a chance of survival. Then one, even though he knew if he kept going he would be saved, gave up! The second frog kept on swimming and swimming even though nothing seemed to be happening, and eventually the cream thickened, turned to butter, and he had a lump of butter to stand on from which he could jump to safety. The motto is faith with works has a greater reward than faith without works.

God told Moses to tell the

Children of Israel, *“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations”* Deuteronomy 7:6-9. Notice that God made a promise to these people, and the condition that He will keep that promise or covenant with them is *“that they love him and keep his commandments.”*

Using the logic of this world, how easy it is to rationalize commands into conditions that suit us, instead of what God wants from us. God’s ways are pure, and without deviation, and if we are going to attain to the purity of love toward Him that He shows toward us, we must not deviate from the path God has shown us. I know there can sometimes be many shades of gray before a matter



becomes absolute, and we need to be aware of these when we start to rationalize how God wants us to keep His commandments. (Note: There are some laws with clearly defined boundaries – “thou shalt” or “thou shalt not”. But there are other commandments which are more subject to societal interpretation which must be kept through love, through an inward desire to completely please, to have our actions in full harmony with the one we want to please.) How strong is our perseverance in showing our love toward God?

Look at it from another perspective; the Creator developed a plan with a number of alternatives. Mankind, whom He created, chose the plan with difficulties and trauma, and so we have lived, and continue to live, in a troubled world. How disappointed the Creator was when he declared to Noah, “*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...and the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth... for it repenteth me that I have made them*” Genesis 6:5, 7. God sent a flood and only Noah and his household were saved.

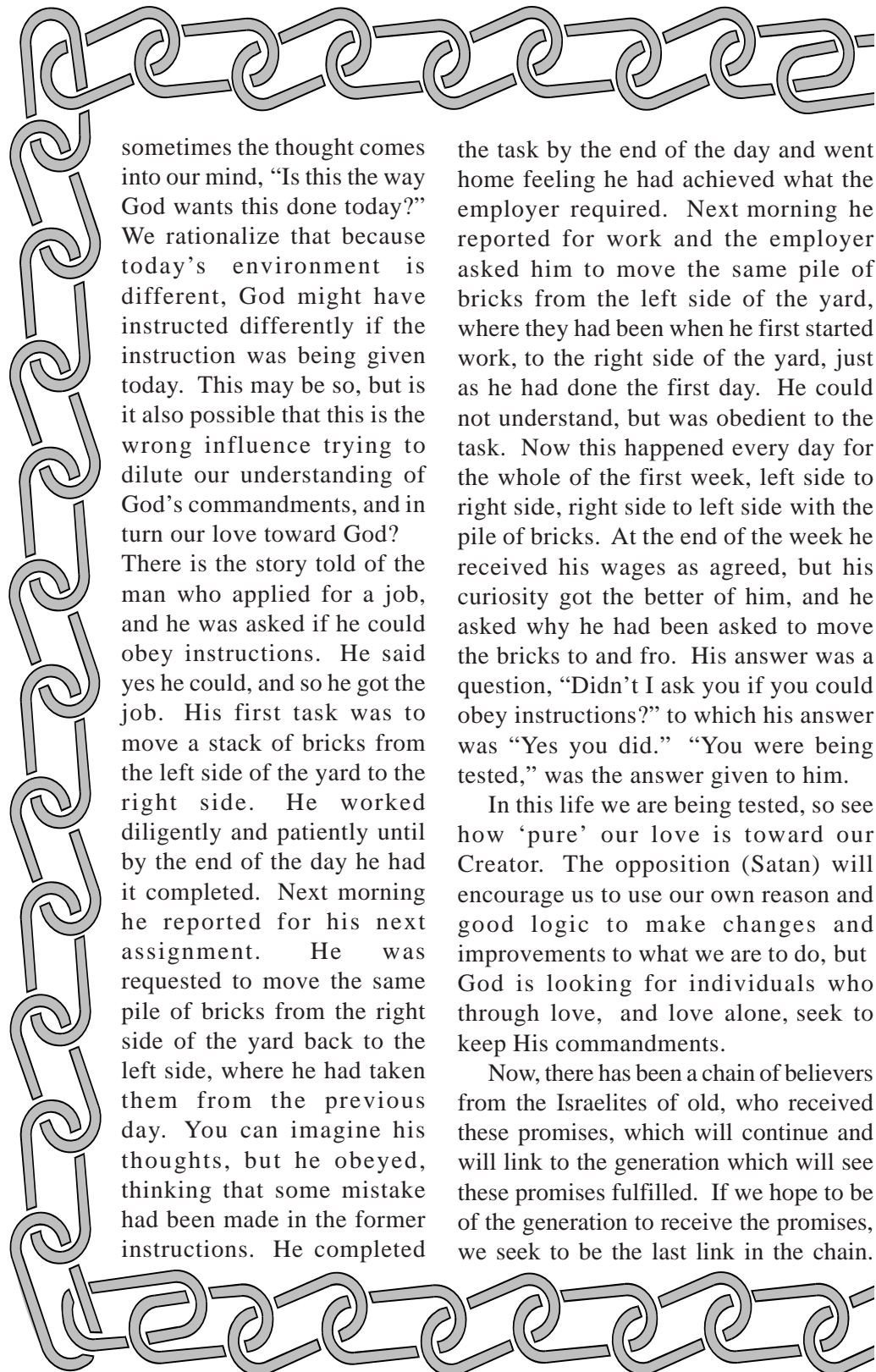
Remember on another occasion, when God was so disappointed with the Tribes of Israel, when they were in the wilderness, He said to Moses that He would destroy them, and make Moses’ descendants a great nation - Exodus 32:9-14. Maybe this was a testing for Moses, but it does show God’s disappointment

in the way His people acted in these circumstances.

When we say we want to live our life following God’s will, it is a noble sentiment, but how seriously do we take it? Paul said, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God*” Romans 12:1, 2.

Do we try to interpret God’s instructions so that we can still conform to the ways of the world, or do we stand accepting that the love we have toward God rises above all temporal circumstances and that in return He will give us strength to be obedient to His instructions in willing and unquestionable manner? Perseverance in well doing will carry us through just like the persistent frog in our story. We may well have faith, but we need to demonstrate that by living a life of obedience to God’s instructions.

Civilization has changed greatly over the centuries (although the processes of life are largely the same), and

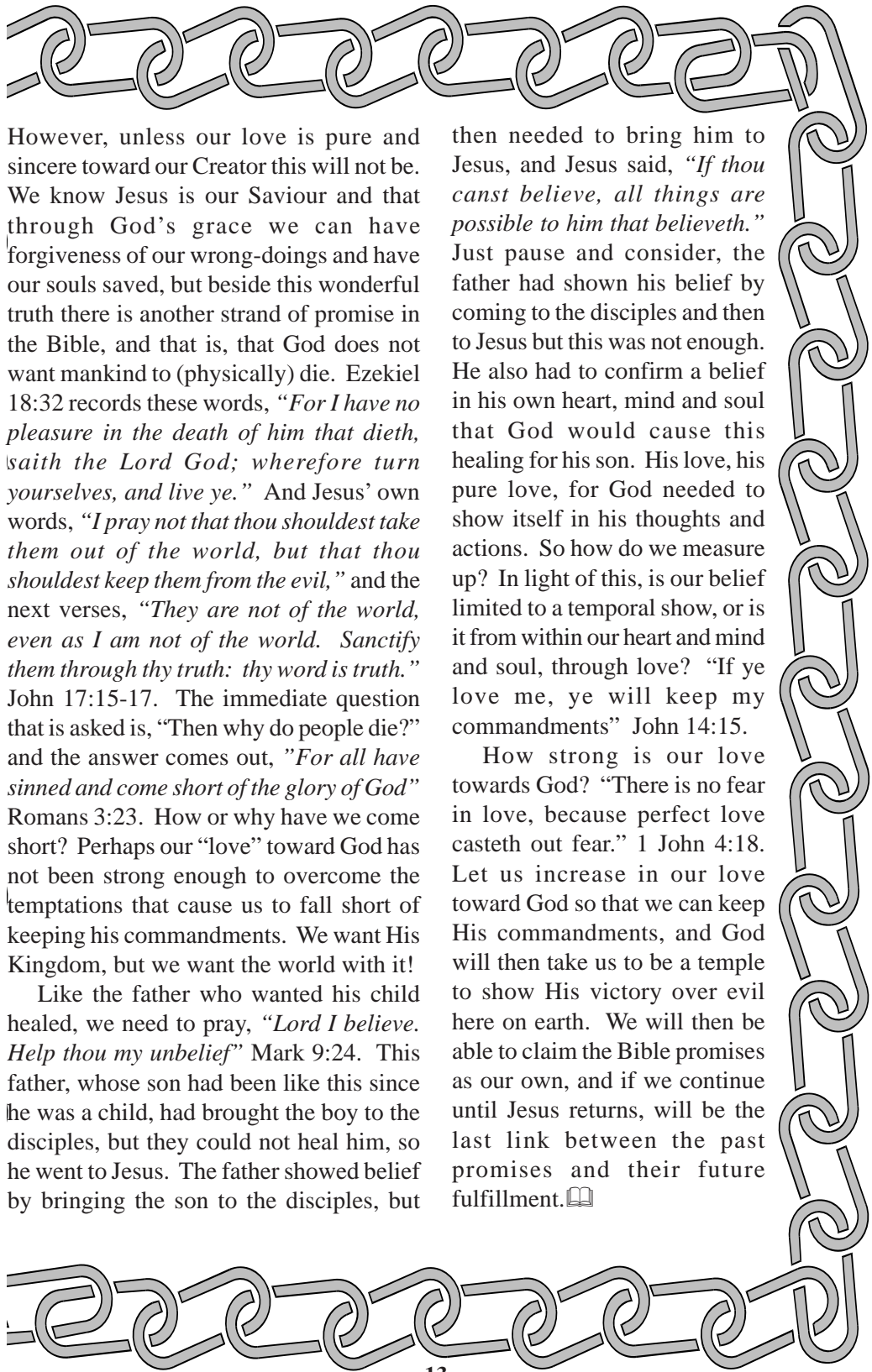


sometimes the thought comes into our mind, “Is this the way God wants this done today?” We rationalize that because today’s environment is different, God might have instructed differently if the instruction was being given today. This may be so, but is it also possible that this is the wrong influence trying to dilute our understanding of God’s commandments, and in turn our love toward God? There is the story told of the man who applied for a job, and he was asked if he could obey instructions. He said yes he could, and so he got the job. His first task was to move a stack of bricks from the left side of the yard to the right side. He worked diligently and patiently until by the end of the day he had it completed. Next morning he reported for his next assignment. He was requested to move the same pile of bricks from the right side of the yard back to the left side, where he had taken them from the previous day. You can imagine his thoughts, but he obeyed, thinking that some mistake had been made in the former instructions. He completed

the task by the end of the day and went home feeling he had achieved what the employer required. Next morning he reported for work and the employer asked him to move the same pile of bricks from the left side of the yard, where they had been when he first started work, to the right side of the yard, just as he had done the first day. He could not understand, but was obedient to the task. Now this happened every day for the whole of the first week, left side to right side, right side to left side with the pile of bricks. At the end of the week he received his wages as agreed, but his curiosity got the better of him, and he asked why he had been asked to move the bricks to and fro. His answer was a question, “Didn’t I ask you if you could obey instructions?” to which his answer was “Yes you did.” “You were being tested,” was the answer given to him.

In this life we are being tested, so see how ‘pure’ our love is toward our Creator. The opposition (Satan) will encourage us to use our own reason and good logic to make changes and improvements to what we are to do, but God is looking for individuals who through love, and love alone, seek to keep His commandments.

Now, there has been a chain of believers from the Israelites of old, who received these promises, which will continue and will link to the generation which will see these promises fulfilled. If we hope to be of the generation to receive the promises, we seek to be the last link in the chain.

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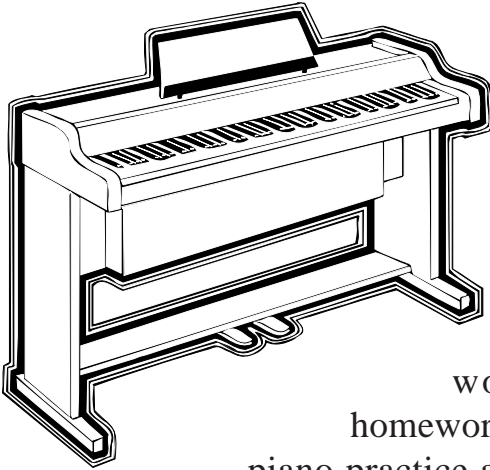
However, unless our love is pure and sincere toward our Creator this will not be. We know Jesus is our Saviour and that through God's grace we can have forgiveness of our wrong-doings and have our souls saved, but beside this wonderful truth there is another strand of promise in the Bible, and that is, that God does not want mankind to (physically) die. Ezekiel 18:32 records these words, "*For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God; wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*" And Jesus' own words, "*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil,*" and the next verses, "*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*" John 17:15-17. The immediate question that is asked is, "Then why do people die?" and the answer comes out, "*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" Romans 3:23. How or why have we come short? Perhaps our "love" toward God has not been strong enough to overcome the temptations that cause us to fall short of keeping his commandments. We want His Kingdom, but we want the world with it!

Like the father who wanted his child healed, we need to pray, "*Lord I believe. Help thou my unbelief*" Mark 9:24. This father, whose son had been like this since he was a child, had brought the boy to the disciples, but they could not heal him, so he went to Jesus. The father showed belief by bringing the son to the disciples, but

then needed to bring him to Jesus, and Jesus said, "*If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*" Just pause and consider, the father had shown his belief by coming to the disciples and then to Jesus but this was not enough. He also had to confirm a belief in his own heart, mind and soul that God would cause this healing for his son. His love, his pure love, for God needed to show itself in his thoughts and actions. So how do we measure up? In light of this, is our belief limited to a temporal show, or is it from within our heart and mind and soul, through love? "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" John 14:15.

How strong is our love towards God? "There is no fear in love, because perfect love casteth out fear." 1 John 4:18. Let us increase in our love toward God so that we can keep His commandments, and God will then take us to be a temple to show His victory over evil here on earth. We will then be able to claim the Bible promises as our own, and if we continue until Jesus returns, will be the last link between the past promises and their future fulfillment.📖

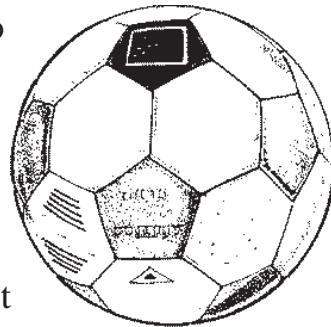
Learning to be



Peter was an eight year old boy who lived with his Mother and Father and his sister Jessica. He was a very happy boy except for one thing. He didn't like Mummy and Daddy always telling him what to do. When he came home from school they would ask him if he had homework to do. Then there was always piano practice and his jobs around the house.

They allowed Peter to have some time to play and relax, but it was just that Peter felt like he was old enough to make up his own mind about what he wanted to do and when he wanted to do it.

Peter was always complaining about this and his Mum and Dad usually told him that they didn't want to hear it. You can imagine his surprise when one day Mummy said, "All right Peter, you can take care of yourself. If

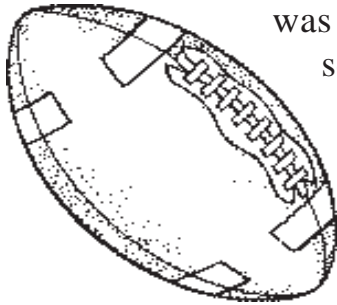


you are so critical of the way Daddy and I do it, then you make up your own plans. You can do your homework, jobs and piano practice when you like and we won't interfere."

Peter couldn't believe it. It was too good to be true. The first day was fun. He lounged around and played all day. "I'll have a holiday today," he thought, "and then I'll do everything tomorrow."

Obedient

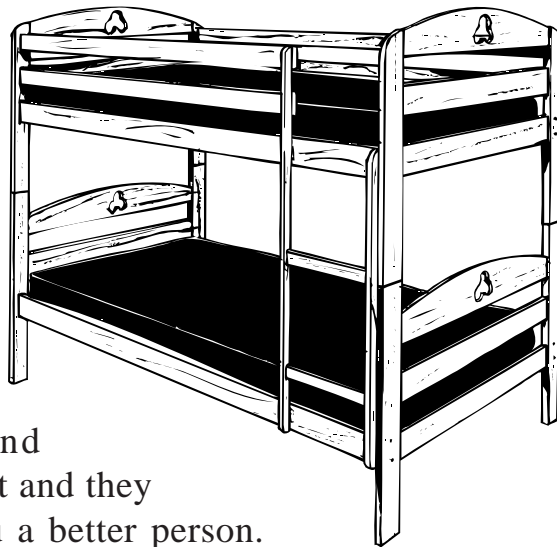
But he didn't feel like doing anything - he just wanted to relax. Before long he was behind in everything. When he went to his piano lesson Mrs. Crotchet, the piano teacher,




was cross because he hadn't practised. His school work started falling behind, his room was a mess and his jobs weren't done. Finally he realised how much better off he was when Mummy and Daddy were helping and guiding him. He went to his parents and said sorry. Things soon returned to normal.

Whenever he felt like complaining he remembered the trouble he was in before and thought better of it. It was nice to have his parents help again and not have to work out all these things on his own.

You see boys and girls, our parents love us and want to help us. Sometimes you might get sick of doing jobs and doing what you're told, but Mummy and Daddy know what is best and they are helping to make you a better person.



In this way, when you grow up and start making your own decisions about what you do, you will make the right ones.

It makes God happy when we are good to our parents and appreciate their help, as they love us and want to help us every day. 

Puzzle Page

A Voice in the Night

A little boy heard a voice in the night.

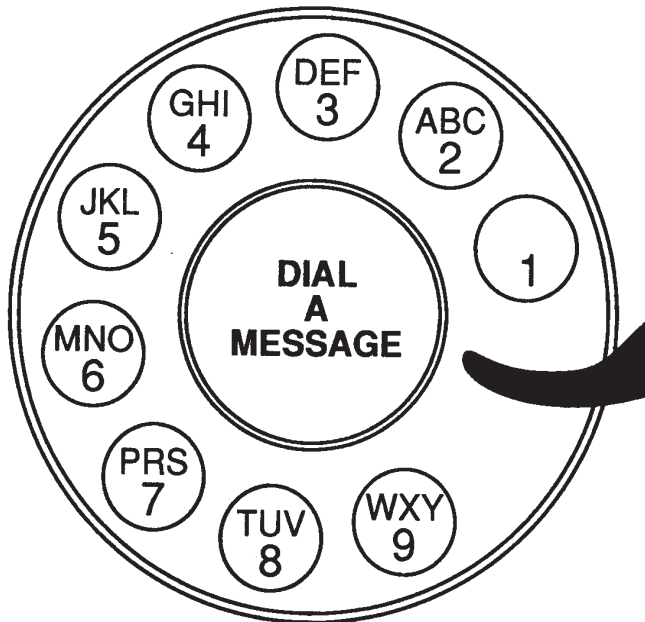
Dial-a-message to find out what the voice said.

7-3 2-1 6-1 8-2 3-2 5-3 7-3 2-1 6-1 8-2 3-2 5-3

How to dial-a-message:

The first number tells you what circle to look at on the phone. The second number tells you which letter to write down.

e.g. 7-3 is "S" (the third letter on the "7" circle).



Dial-a-message to find out what the boy answered back.

7-3 7-1 3-2 2-1 5-2 ; 3-3 6-3 7-2 8-1 4-2 9-3

7-3 3-2 7-2 8-3 2-1 6-2 8-1 4-2 3-2 2-1 7-2 3-2 8-1 4-2

Statement of Belief

The Christian Israelite Church beliefs can be fully supported by the Scriptures. Here is an outline:

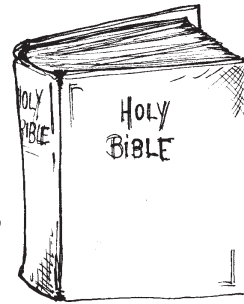
We Believe

- * In God Almighty creator of all things (Genesis 1:1).
- * In the existence of Satan, the Devil, in whom God allowed iniquity to be placed (James 2:19; Ezekiel 28:14,15).
- * That God created a spirit-existence in which the devil manifested evil and caused some of the spirits to rebel against God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Jude 6).
- * That God created our physical world, to which each person comes with a body and a soul made alive by a spirit from the spiritual creation (Luke 9:55; Genesis 2:7).
- * That God gave His people instructions on the way they should live, which instructions were "*for their good always*" (Deuteronomy 6:24).
- * That all have sinned and come "*short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23; 2nd Corinthians 5:19).
- * That God has reconciled the (whole) world to Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus (John 3:16,17).
- * That through belief in the sacrifice of Jesus believers are counted as righteous before God, and can be assured of the resurrection of their souls (a Spiritual body) at Jesus' return (1st Timothy 4:10; 1st Corinthians 15:44).
- * That there will be a small number who will fully prove their faith by a work of true obedience to God's instructions and will thereby receive the prize of the highest calling of God, the redemption of spirit and soul and body - this living mortal Body made Immortal without seeing death (1st Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 14:1-5; Hebrews 11:39,40).
- * That Jesus Christ will return to this earth again, subdue the power of Satan and reign forever and ever (Revelation 19, 20).
- * That the return of Jesus Christ is near and we are living in the period described in Scripture as the latter days (Matthew 24; Mark 13 and Luke 21).
- * That there are promises in the Scriptures especially to Israel - God's chosen people (1st Peter 2:9).
- * That although Israel of old did not accept the challenge of spiritually being God's peculiar people, a remnant of their descendants will come forward in the latter days to fulfill the obligations and receive the promises (Revelation 7:1-8).
- * That the Mission of the Christian Israelite Church is to awaken the lost ten tribes of Israel to this special inheritance to be the physical Immortal "Bride of the Lamb" and to be the vehicle for the task of bringing them all together at God's appointed time (Matthew 10:5,6; Revelation 19).

We believe that God is the absolute Judge and Arbiter and that we as His servants have an obligation to respond to what He puts in each heart, and that whilst we seek to proclaim and discuss our beliefs, we have no right to contend with other people about them.

Debug Your Bible:

OT Messianic Prophecy



What is a messianic prophecy? It is a prophecy made in connection with the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It is amazing when you look at the Old Testament how many prophecies there were that were fulfilled with the coming of Jesus Christ. The Israelites would have been well accustomed to these prophecies and looked for signs of their fulfillment.

The table below shows the Old Testament book and how many Messianic prophecies are contained in these books. The surprising ones are Psalms (90 prophecies) and Isaiah (114 prophecies), some of these we will look at in more detail later. The other amazing fact is that Jesus fulfilled every single one of these earlier prophecies.

Various statisticians have looked at the odds of fulfilling **all** these prophecies and these figures are astounding. Just looking at the odds of the fulfillment of 7 of these prophecies leave us with a huge figure, let alone the odds of fulfilling all 324 Old Testament prophecies. Without God this would be impossible, but with God **all** things are possible.

In Isaiah 9:6 we can find at least 8 Messianic prophecies in one verse.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”. And in Isaiah 53:1-12 has 38 messianic prophecies in the passage.

<u>Messianic Prophecy</u>	<u>Odds without God</u>
Jesus would be a descendant of David	10 ⁴ (1 in 10,000)
Jesus would be born in Bethlehem	10 ⁵ (1 in 100,000)
Jesus would be a miracle worker	10 ⁵ (1 in 100,000)
Jesus would present Himself as King	10 ⁶ (1 in 1,000,000)
Jesus would be betrayed by a friend for 30 coins	10 ⁶ (1 in 1,000,000)
Jesus would be crucified	10 ⁶ (1 in 1,000,000)
Jesus would present himself as King 173,880 days from the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem	10 ⁶ (1 in 1,000,000)
Total Probability of 7 prophecies being fulfilled (without God)	10 ³⁸ (1 in a 100 billion, billion, billion, billion)

Old Testament Prophecies	
Genesis	18
Exodus	9
Leviticus	6
Numbers	3
Deuteronomy	5
Ruth	1
1 st Samuel	1
2 nd Samuel	3
2 nd Kings	1
1 st Chronicles	3
Job	1
Psalms	90
Song of Solomon	1
Isaiah	114
Jeremiah	6
Ezekiel	2
Daniel	10
Hosea	1
Joel	1
Micah	3
Haggai	2
Zechariah	29
Malachi	5
TOTAL	324

This table shows the number of Messianic prophecies in particular Old Testament books.

and may his prayers condemn him. May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.” “With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood), For, said Peter, It is written in the book of Psalms, May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it, and, May another take his place of leadership.”

The Messiah would be preceded by a messenger - Isaiah 40:3, *A voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* Prophecy fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-2: *“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

To be born of a Virgin - Isaiah 7:14, *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 1:18 and Luke 1:31-35, *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost”. “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee:*

Now let’s have a closer look at just some of these prophecies that have been fulfilled:
Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ

“And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me” Luke 24:44

Judas’s position to be taken by another
 - Psalm 109:7-8, Acts 1:18-20.
“When he is tried, let him be found guilty,

therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God”.

The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2, *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 2:1: *“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.”*

The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah - Genesis 49:10, *“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”* Prophecy fulfilled Luke 3:23-34, Matthew 1:1-16 showing the lineage of Jesus.

The flight to Egypt - Hosea 11:1, *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 2:14-15, *“When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.”*

The Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a colt - Zechariah 9:9, *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”* Prophecy fulfilled Luke 19:35-37, *“And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice*

and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen.”

Betrayal of Jesus Christ by a close friend (Judas) - Psalm 41:9, *“Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”* Prophecy fulfilled Mark 14:10, *“And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.”*

Forsaken by His disciples - Zechariah 13:7, *“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.”* Prophecy fulfilled Mark 14:50; Matthew 26:31, *“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled. And they all forsook him, and fled.”* “Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.”

Price paid for His betrayal - Zechariah 11:12, *“And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it was the word of the LORD. And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.”* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 26:15, *“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.”*

What would be done with the betrayal money - Zechariah 11:13, *“And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said*

unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.” Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 27:3-7, “Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.”

Jesus’ scourging predicted - Isaiah 50:6, “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.” Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 27:26, 30; Matthew 20:19; Mark 15:15, “Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. ... And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.” “And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.” “Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.”

False witness against Christ - Psalm 27:12; Psalm 35:11, “All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him? False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.” “Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.” Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 26:59-61; Mark 14:56, “Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.” “And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.”

Parting of His garments; cast lots for them - Psalm 22:18, “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.” Prophecy fulfilled John 19:24, “Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall

be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did."

Christ would not speak in His own defence at His trial - Isaiah 53:7, *"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 27:13, 14, *"Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly."*

Gave Him vinegar to drink - Psalm 69:21, *"They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; John 19:29, *"They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink." "And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not." "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."*

Feet and hands would be pierced - Psalm 22:16, *"My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet."* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 27:35; John 20:25, 27, *"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might*

be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots." "The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, 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. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."

His side would be pierced - Zechariah 12:10, *"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."* Prophecy fulfilled John 19:34, *"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe."*

Family and friends would observe - Psalm 38:11, *"My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me. My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off."* Prophecy fulfilled Luke 23:49; Matthew 27:55, *"Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned. And all*

his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.” “Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedees children.”

Christ’s intercession for the transgressors - Isaiah 53:12, *“Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”* Prophecy fulfilled Luke 23:34, *“And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”*

Not one of His bones would be broken - Psalms 34:20; Exodus 12:46, *“He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.”* *“In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.”* Prophecy fulfilled John 19:33, 36, *“But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were*

done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.”

The place of Jesus burial - Isaiah 53:9, *“He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.”* Prophecy fulfilled Matthew 27:57-60, *“When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.”*

Risen from the dead - Micah 7:7,8 , Psalm 16:10, 11, *“Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.”* *“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”* Prophecy fulfilled Acts 2:29-36, *“Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath*

God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

References:

www.messianic-prophecy.net

The Signature of God, Grant R. Jeffrey, 1996.

It would certainly defy the logic of man to turn a blind eye to all these fulfilled prophecies and say that there was no reason to believe. However, despite the fact that God has set these things before us, many people in the world refuse to search and acknowledge them as truth. And the wonderful hope for believers is that there are also many prophecies in the Scriptures about His second coming that have yet to be fulfilled. Do you believe?📖

Jesus, the Pattern and Waymark

It was written of Him, *“Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption”*. He is called the Holy One from the beginning, then know that God chose from His own creation one to serve Him in spirit and in truth, and from that same stock of Israel, the natural olive, He is now choosing 144,000, a seed that will also serve Him. These people will not be wild olive branches, but from the twelve tribes, an equal number of each tribe, but John describes those who will receive the salvation of the soul as being composed of all nations on the earth. *“After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude which no man could number of all nations and kindreds and tongues and people”*.


The common salvation has been preached for nearly 2,000 years, but those who seek it rest satisfied with a free gift of grace by faith, but now at the fullness of the Gentiles the natural branches of

Israel will seek to be grafted to the vine, Christ, that the branch of Christ may be grafted into them, according to the saying of our blessed Lord: At that day ye shall know that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, you in Me, and I in you. If we have this Branch that is now come to gather the people we shall then dwell between the root and the branch, or be the boll of the tree, the branch bearing the fruit in us, eternal life. Jesus, the Holy One, is the great pattern, and to His Bride He says, *“The works that I do shall ye do also, yea, and even greater works than these shall ye do because I go unto My Father”*. Man having taken of the wild vine in the beginning, fell, subject to death. Satan told them in the beginning that they should not surely die, but the true vine said, *“In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”*. Nearly 6,000 years have rolled by, and we discern who told the truth. The evil one will soon be crushed and a remnant plucked as

brands from the burning. Israel is God's son, even His firstborn, Jesus having been the firstborn among many brethren, and they are to be heirs of God and joint heirs with Him.

Jesus, it must also be understood, was the firstfruits of those that slept, for besides showing the natural immortal body of flesh and bone to His disciples with closed doors, He also showed a spiritual body, like unto the resurrection glory, unto Mary at the sepulchre, when He exclaimed, "*Touch Me not, for I am not yet ascended to My Father*". "*If the Spirit of Him that raised up (the soul of) Jesus from the dead (to show a spiritual body) dwell in you, He that raised up (the body of) Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal body by His Spirit that dwelleth in you*". The Gentiles, being wild olives, bear of their own kind, death, not having subdued the evil, being content with the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, repentance, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. But now that that which is perfect is come that which is in part will be done away, and Israel will

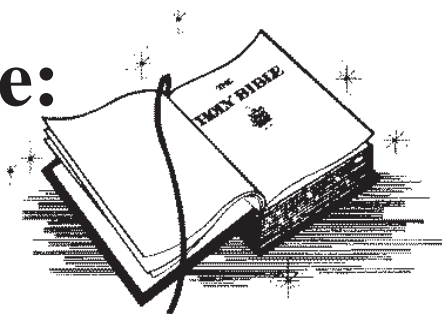
no longer be content to see in part or be saved in part, but will seek to reach the standard, "*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect*". The House of Israel will be immortalised at the coming of the Lord, changed in a moment from mortal to immortal; their body, soul, and spirit will not be separated, but their spirit will enter and become the life of their bodies, with the Spirit of Christ and Jerusalem Above, reigning with Christ a thousand years or during the Millennium, at the end of which time the work of God will be completed and Satan no more shall mar or destroy.

If Jesus is the pattern or waymark to Israel, and if He fulfilled Law and Gospel, they must do likewise. Christ is the Saviour of all men, but every man in his own order. Christ and His Bride, Israel, the firstfruits, afterwards they that are Christ's at His coming; then cometh the end when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father, when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. Then will He see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. 

The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness;
to your opponent tolerance;
to a friend your heart;
to your child a good example;
to a father deference;
to your mother conduct that will make her proud of you;
to yourself respect;
to all men charity.

Expand Your Bible:

Who Is He?



Three words make up this sentence and before you read any further, stop and repeat the sentence three times, each time putting emphasis on a different word.

Each sentence then sounds so different and puts a completely different slant on the question

This question of whom Jesus was, was

upon the lips and in the minds of so many folk in Jesus' day – and not only then but right down through the ages.

The answer as to who He was depended to a large extent as to who you were.

To the ordinary townsfolk it was quite simple. He was the son of Mary and Joseph. He had brothers and sisters and when his father was alive he had helped him in the carpenter's shop. He was a good son. True, He had become a preacher and teacher, but He had always been that way inclined. Many of the older folk remembered an



incident when Jesus was a young lad and he had been found in the Temple questioning the priests. His lineage could be traced back many generations, even to King David, so his genealogy checked out well, so they knew who He was.

To many who heard Him teaching He gave a new concept of life and a new outlook to an oppressed people. He taught that all men were of equal worth – slave or master, and that the things of the spirit were of much more value than earthly treasures. He showed people the inner joy of a God-filled life. No teacher had ever taught like this or with so much authority before and the common people were very impressed. They knew who He was.

The Roman occupiers of Judaea thought of Him as a threat because He seemed to influence so many people. In His teachings He spoke of a new kingdom which concerned them a lot. The kingdom He spoke of, He said, was not of this world, but that seemed a very strange concept to them. To the Roman soldier, this world was one that needed to be ruled. In the troubled and restless area of Judaea, which they occupied, the Roman rule wanted no more trouble from the Jews, so they monitored the words and actions of Jesus carefully. They knew who He was.

To most of the Jewish hierarchy, from High Priest to the lower order, Jesus was a thorn in the flesh, a real nuisance. They knew who He was.

He had even had the audacity to challenge them on some of their ideas and was very critical of their self-righteousness, their opulent lifestyle and their money-making schemes. He was a nuisance disturbing their set ways. He

made all sorts of unusual and puzzling statements, even saying at one stage, ‘where I go ye cannot come’.


Jesus was aware of all the thoughts that were in people’s minds and thought it was time to find out what impression His words had had on His followers and the disciples, so He asked the question, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?’

Matthew 16:14-17 gives the answer, *“And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”*

Jesus then told his disciples they must not tell anyone of this revelation as He knew the time was not right for it.

In John 7:40-53 we read that He taught certain things that upset many people causing them to stop following Him. After this He asked His disciples, ‘Will ye also go away?’

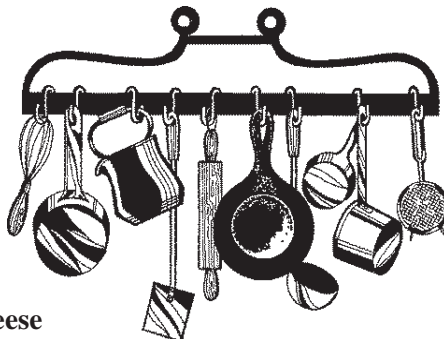
Simon Peter, as always the most forthright of the disciples, answered, ‘To whom shall we go. Thou hast the words of eternal life’.

Just as people in Jesus’ day were confronted with the questions, ‘Who is He?’ and ‘What think ye of Christ?’, so are we challenged as to our thoughts. We are really no different to the disciples and people of Jesus’ day, having to choose our answer, remembering what Jesus told Peter that God had revealed these things to him. 

Vegetarian Recipes

Carrot and Cheese Bake

- 6 large carrots**
- 1 cup vegetable stock**
- 2 spring onions**
- 2 tblspns lemon juice**
- 1 tsp grated lemon rind**
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten**
- 125g grated Gruyere/Gruyere/Tasty cheese**
- ½ cup finely chopped parsley**



Place carrots, stock, onions, lemon juice and rind in pan. Slowly bring to the boil, reduce to a simmer and cook until carrots are just tender. Place carrots in a bowl. Add eggs, parsley and cheese. Mix well to combine.

Pour mixture into a well-greased spring-form tin. Bake at 180degC for 20-25 minutes or until set. Remove from oven, cool slightly. Release from tin and cut into wedges.

Serves 4-6.

Broccoli and Spinach Pasta

- 400g Penne pasta**
- 30g butter**
- 1onion, diced**
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg**
- 250g broccoli separated into florets**
- ½ cup vegetable stock**
- 6 spinach leaves, shredded**
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese**
- ½ cup grated Cheddar cheese**

Cook pasta in boiling water until just tender. Drain and place in a greased, ovenproof dish and keep the dish warm. Melt butter in a large pan. Add onion and cook for 3-4 minutes. Add nutmeg, broccoli and spinach. Add vegetable stock.

Cover and cook over low heat for 5 minutes. Spoon vegetables over pasta, top with cheeses and bake at 180degC for 5 minutes or until the top is golden brown and the cheese melted.

Serves 4-6.